

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

TEST YOUR DEFENCE – June 2014 – original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :North Vul :	NORTH ♠ J1053 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ Q ♣ 963	
WEST ♠ 86 ♥ 1062 ♦ A765 ♣ AK104	Deal 3	EAST ♠ Q4 ♥ 854 ♦ J9843 ♣ J82
	SOUTH ♠ AK972 ♥ J3 ♦ K102 ♣ Q75	

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 Heart	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	2 Spade	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

You lead the ♣A, on which partner plays the ♣2 (low discourages). How do you continue?

Since you can see that any trump finesse is working for declarer, you need to get busy. Dummy's heart suit will surely take care of declarer's club losers. Although you would prefer the next club lead to come from the other side of the table, if you are playing matchpoints you cannot afford to risk underleading your ♦A. Declarer, who has shown opening values, probably holds the ♦K, in which case twelve tricks and a bottom (for your side) will result. Just cash the ♣K and ♦A. You still have some chance of beating the contract if partner has the ♠A or ♠Q-x or a singleton club.

Dealer :	NORTH ♠ 10953 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ J8 ♣ Q6	
WEST ♠ A6 ♥ 1062 ♦ 976 ♣ A9543	Deal 4	EAST ♠ Q4 ♥ 864 ♦ K10543 ♣ J82
	SOUTH ♠ KJ872 ♥ J3 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K107	

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 Heart	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	2 Spade	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

You lead the ♦7, covered by the ♦J, ♦K and ♦A. Declarer crosses to the ♥A and runs the ♠10. Having won, what do you do?

As on the previous deal, dummy's heart suit poses a threat.

Prospects are bleaker this time because the diamond finesse has already worked for declarer and it looks as if a trump finesse is working too. At matchpoints, you should simply cash the ♣A and continue the suit just in case partner holds the ♠K.