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TEST YOUR DEFENCE - March 2015 - original - [Here](#)

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1.

♠ K 9 6 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ J 9 6 2	N W E S	♠ 10 5 ♥ Q 9 7 6 ♦ K Q 10 7 ♣ K 8 7	♠ A Q 7 ♥ 10 8 5 3 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ Q 3
		♠ J 8 4 3 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ A 10 5 4	

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

¹15-17

Partner leads the ♠2. You win with the ♠A, cash the ♠Q and continue with the ♠7. Partner wins with the ♠9 and cashes the ♠K. Dummy discards two clubs. What do you do?

A count of points tells you that partner can have up to three more. These could be the ♥K or the missing jacks. The discards from dummy strongly suggest the latter. In this case, you cannot afford to part with a red card. You must keep parity with dummy's lengths. If, later on, declarer unblocks the ♠K and cashes the ♠A, you will discard the same suit as dummy.

2.

♠ K 9 6 2 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ J 9 6 2	N W E S	♠ 10 5 ♥ A 9 6 5 ♦ K Q 9 7 ♣ Q 7 5	♠ A Q 7 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ 8 3
		♠ J 8 4 3 ♥ K 10 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ A K 10 4	

South	West	North	East
1 Club	Pass-	1 Diamond	Pass
1 NT *	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

* = 15-17

Again partner leads the ♠2 from K-9-6-2 while dummy discards two clubs. What is your discard strategy?

A count of points tells a similar story to the previous deal. West might have a king or, if not, the ♥Q and, you hope, the ♠J. This time you cannot tell which. You should start by discarding a club. You will beat the contract easily if partner holds the ♠K.

On the actual layout, if declarer later unblocks the ♠Q, comes to hand with the ♦A and cashes two top clubs, you will know that partner must have a heart honour. In this case, you must discard two hearts, keeping three diamonds with dummy. It is too bad if South has the same high cards and a 4-3-2-4 shape as then there will be a genuine squeeze.