

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :South Vul :	NORTH ♠ K103 ♥ K932 ♦ KQ74 ♣ 74	
WEST ♠ J752 ♥ 8 ♦ J85 ♣ AJ852	Deal 3	EAST ♠ AQ9 ♥ 765 ♦ 10932 ♣ Q96
	SOUTH ♠ 864 ♥ AQJ104 ♦ A6 ♣ K103	

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
4 Heart	All pass		

Partner leads the ♠2 and dummy plays low. What is your plan? You should begin by examining the lead. The two tells you two things. The first is that the spades must be breaking 4-3 as the two is the lowest spade. The low size of the two conveys further information. With a collection of small cards, it would be normal to lead second highest rather than fourth highest. You thus put partner with the jack.

Knowing where the ♠J is, you finesse the ♠9 with confidence. A glance at the weak clubs in dummy tells you what to return: a club, the ♣6. Declarer tries the ♣K, which loses to the ♣A. Remembering that your ♠9 won the first trick, partner switches back to spades. You can then finesse the ♠Q before cashing the ♠A and ♠Q to beat the contract by two. The second undertrick could come in very handy at matchpoint scoring.

Dealer :West Vul :	NORTH ♠ K84 ♥ 1092 ♦ AQJ7 ♣ 874	
WEST ♠ J107 ♥ Q8 ♦ K853 ♣ AQJ2	Deal 4	EAST ♠ A98542 ♥ 3 ♦ 982 ♣ 1096
	SOUTH ♠ Q ♥ AK76543 ♦ 104 ♣ K53	

South	West	North	East
--	1 NT	Pass	2 Heart
3 Heart	Pass	4 Heart	All Pass

Partner leads the ♠J and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

Your immediate decision is your play to the first trick. The lead marks the queen on your left, while the auction marks partner with at least two spades and declarer with an unbalanced hand. The chance that the ♠Q is singleton seems high. Even if the ♠Q is doubleton, it could be right to grab the ♠A because declarer may have discards coming on dummy's diamonds. Having taken the ♠A, felling the ♠Q, you switch to the ♠10. Whatever declarer does, your side makes three club tricks, which beats the contract. A second undertrick comes if partner figures out to play a fourth club. You uppercut with ♥J and promote the ♥Q. |