

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :South Vul :	NORTH ♠ 862 ♥ 10932 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ J3	
WEST ♠ K9743 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 64 ♣ A72	Deal 3	EAST ♠ QJ5 ♥ Q852 ♦ 10982 ♣ 95
	SOUTH ♠ A10 ♥ K7 ♦ K73 ♣ KQ10864	

South	West	North	East
1 Club	1 Spade	X	2 Spade
3 Club	All Pass		

You lead the ♠4 to the ♠J and ♠A. Declarer leads the ♣4 to the ♣J and then back to the ♣K, partner following. What do you do?

For a start, take your ♣A. Declarer could just play a third round if you duck. Now the 'lead through strength' rule suggests a diamond switch. However, if partner holds the ♦K, there is no rush to lead the suit. Moreover, if declarer holds the ♦K, you want to cash out your side's winners in the majors. If partner holds the ♥K, you can lead hearts from your side of the table safely. When declarer holds it, partner needs to lead the suit. You can arrange this if you recall the play to trick one. The ♠J drove out the ♠A, so partner holds the ♠Q. Continue with a low spade.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 92 ♥ QJ104 ♦ Q85 ♣ AK103	
WEST ♠ Q10743 ♥ A6 ♦ AJ94 ♣ QJ	Deal 4	EAST ♠ J65 ♥ 752 ♦ K62 ♣ 9652
	SOUTH ♠ AK8 ♥ K983 ♦ 1073 ♣ J84	

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 Spade	X	Pass
3 Heart	All Pass		

You lead the ♠4. Partner plays the ♠J, which loses to the ♠A. Declarer leads the ♥3 to the ♥Q and then low to the ♥K. After winning, what do you do?

South has turned up with the ♠A and the ♥K. Furthermore, assuming partner played third hand high at trick one, South has the ♠K too. That is 10 points, which marks East with the ♦K because South did not open. Wishing to finesse or backward finesse against dummy's ♦Q, you switch to the ♦J. No other switch enables you to make three diamond tricks and save the overtrick. |