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**TEST YOUR DEFENCE - September 2013 - original - [Here](#)**

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ QJ63 ♥ K10 ♦ 973 ♣ A1062	
WEST ♠ A87 ♥ 942 ♦ QJ1052 ♣ 84	Board 1	EAST ♠ 1054 ♥ QJ73 ♦ K6 ♣ K92
	SOUTH ♠ K92 ♥ A865 ♦ A84 ♣ KQ5	

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
1 NT *	Pass	3 NT	All Pass
* 15-17			

Partner leads the ♦Q. What is your plan?

The lead of the queen shows Q-J-10 or Q-J-9. Since you can see the nine in dummy, it must be the former. You should overtake with the king and, if it holds, continue the suit.

Keeping the king would lead to a blockage if declarer takes the ace on the first or third round.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ AQJ3 ♥ K10 ♦ J83 ♣ Q1062	
WEST ♠ 87 ♥ 942 ♦ KQ1052 ♣ K84	Board 2	EAST ♠ 654 ♥ J873 ♦ A7 ♣ J973
	SOUTH ♠ K1092 ♥ AQ65 ♦ 964 ♣ A5	

South	West	North	East
1 NT *	Pass	2 Club **	Pass
2 Heart	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 Spade	All pass		
* = 12-14      ** = Stayman			

Partner leads the ♦K. What is your plan?

This time, you know that partner has the ♦K and the ♦Q but not the ♦J. Since you have some worthless trumps, you can afford to overtake with the ♦A and return the suit. Although this sets up the ♦J, you intend to ruff the third round. This strategy proves essential as the cards lie because declarer threatens to discard a diamond from dummy on the third round of hearts and partner lacks a quick entry outside diamonds.

In a no-trump contract, you would have to let the ♦K hold and try to unscramble the blockage later.