

## Defense quiz in Mr Bridge magazine

By Jullian Pottage - Jan 2017 Original - [Here](#)

3.

<p>♠ A J 10 ♥ 7 6 ♦ J 10 9 7 ♣ 7 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K 9 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ K J 9 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 5 3 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ A 8 6 5 3 ♣ A</p>	
<p>♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ A K Q 9 3 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10 2</p>			

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

You lead the ♦J. Partner takes the ♦Q with the ♦A, cashes the ♣A and switches to the ♠6. What do you do?

With your ace-jack-ten, are you thinking of inserting the ten to save the ace for capturing the queen later? One reason why this will not work is that dummy has a doubleton spade and can potentially ruff spades later. Another is that dummy has a source of tricks in clubs. Indeed you should ask yourself why partner cashed the ♣A, setting up the suit.

The only rational explanation for partner's sequence of plays is a singleton ♣A. You thus take the ♠A and lead a club.

4.

<p>♠ A J 10 9 ♥ J 8 3 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ Q 8 2</p>	<p>♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ K ♦ Q J 3 ♣ A K J 9 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A K 10 2 ♣ 10 6 5 3</p>	
<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ 7</p>			

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You lead the ♦6: ♦J, ♦K and ♦4. Partner returns the ♠8, on which declarer plays the ♠4. What is your plan?

Again you must decide whether to hold back the ♠A to deal with declarer's ♠Q. This time you cannot envisage giving partner a ruff. Even so, you should take the ♠A. This is because you can tell from the bidding and dummy's clubs that you are not going to make two spade tricks. To open 3♥ vulnerable, South is sure to hold a seven-card heart suit. This leaves only six cards in the side suits.

You take the ♠A and revert to diamonds. Your luck is in when partner has the ♦10 and declarer has to follow to a third round.