

## MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

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TEST YOUR DEFENCE - November 2016 - original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

	♠ AK10		
	♥ 82		
	♦ Q86		
	♣ K10852		
♠ 975	♦ N W E S	♠ Q643	
♥ J9743		♥ 105	
♦ AJ92		♦ K54	
♣ A		♣ 9763	
	♠ J82		
	♥ AKQ6		
	♦ 1073		
	♣ QJ4		

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

You lead the ♥4, on which go the ♥2, ♥10 and ♥K. Declarer leads the ♣Q to your ♣A. How do you continue?

You should start by counting declarer's points. Partner's ♥10 at trick one enables you to place the ♥A-K-Q on your right. It looks as if the ♣Q-J are there too. That comes to 12 - so no room for the ♦K in a maximum of 14. If partner holds the ♦10 and ♦K, a switch to the ♦2 should work. If, however, declarer holds the ♦10, you need to lead the ♦J so that partner does not have to play the ♦K on a low card. Whatever your opponent does, you can cash four diamond tricks to beat the contract by one.

2.

	♠ AJ6		
	♥ J1072		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ 9632		
♠ K1085	♦ N W E S	♠ Q74	
♥ AQ		♥ 8654	
♦ 102		♦ 87654	
♣ Q8754		♣ J	
	♠ 932		
	♥ K93		
	♦ AK93		
	♣ AK10		

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
All Pass		Pass	3NT
15-17			

You lead the ♣5: ♣2, ♣J and ♣K. Declarer crosses to the ♦Q (♦4 from East) and calls for the ♥J. After the ♥6, ♥3 and ♥Q go on this, how do you continue?

Counting points is important again. Partner's ♣J at trick one and inability to beat the ♦Q mark the A-K in both minors on your right. If, as seems to be the case from declarer's line of play, the ♥K is there too, that accounts for all the possible 17 points shown. Placing partner with the ♠Q but perhaps not with the ♠9, what should you do? You lead the ♠10. This enables partner to wait to play the ♠Q on the ♠J and means the suit is ready to run when you get back in with the ♥A.