

MrBRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 102 ♥ J9652 ♦ QJ7 ♣ K104	
WEST ♠ J9743 ♥ Q4 ♦ K95 ♣ QJ5	Deal 1	EAST ♠ Q85 ♥ K1073 ♦ 643 ♣ 862
	SOUTH ♠ AK6 ♥ A8 ♦ A1082 ♣ A973	

South	West	North	East
1 Club	Pass	1 Heart	Pass
2 NT*	Pass	3 NT	All Pass
* 18-19			

You lead the ♠4. Partner covers the ♠10 with the ♠Q, which holds. Back comes the ♠8 won by the ♠A. Declarer now leads the ♣3. What is your plan?

When you have touching honours and are in second seat, you do not automatically want to play low. Often, it is a good idea to 'split' your honours to make sure they pull their weight. Here you should play the ♣J (or the ♣Q). With your entries in each minor, you will get to set up and run the spades.

If you played low mistakenly, declarer might well decide to call for the ♠10 from dummy, in which case you lose your club trick.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 82 ♥ K86 ♦ Q1083 ♣ K943	
WEST ♠ Q9743 ♥ Q1054 ♦ 5 ♣ J105	Deal 2	EAST ♠ AJ5 ♥ J73 ♦ J974 ♣ Q62
	SOUTH ♠ K106 ♥ A92 ♦ AK62 ♣ A87	

South	West	North	East
1 Diamond	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

You lead the ♠4. Partner wins with the ♠A and returns the ♠J, which holds. Declarer wins the third round with the ♠K, cashes the ♦A-K and leads the ♠7. What do you do?

Again, you must decide whether to split your club honours. This time, you have a different reason for wanting to play high. Can you see what it is?

While your side is making only one club trick if partner holds Q-x-x whatever you do, your play will determine which of you wins that trick. You are the one with long spades to cash and so want to win the defensive club trick yourself. You thus play the ♠10.

Suppose dummy plays the ♣K to keep you off lead. Partner may then need to play ball, working out that the ♣Q is dead if declarer holds the ♣A-J and so dump the ♣Q. In any case, playing the ♠10 stops declarer from having an easy ride.