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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :East Vul :	NORTH ♠ J98 ♥ Q873 ♦ KQ95 ♣ J10	
WEST ♠ 64 ♥ 104 ♦ AJ643 ♣ K875	Deal 3	EAST ♠ AQ10732 ♥ K2 ♦ 107 ♣ 432
	SOUTH ♠ K5 ♥ AJ965 ♦ 82 ♣ AQ96	

East	South	West	North
2 Spade*	3 Heart	Pass	4 Heart
All Pass		* Weak	

Partner leads the ♠6 and dummy plays low. What do you do?

With the ♠4 and ♠5 missing and spades not supported, the ♠6 is likely to be from a doubleton. In any case, even if it was a singleton, the ♠A and ruff would leave you in need of two more tricks. Your trump holding means that declarer cannot draw trumps quickly. It may well be necessary to play the suit from dummy. This being the case, you can afford to bide your time. To keep open the possibility of a trump promotion on the third round of spades, you should thus play the ♠10 at trick one.

When declarer wins and plays on diamonds, partner steps in smartly with the ♦A and continues spades. Whatever declarer does on the third round of spades, your side ends up with a trump winner of some description.

Dealer :West Vul :	NORTH ♠ J5 ♥ 1092 ♦ AKQ532 ♣ K7	
WEST ♠ AQ9653 ♥ 4 ♦ 94 ♣ J1083	Deal 4	EAST ♠ 107 ♥ Q75 ♦ J1076 ♣ A954
	SOUTH ♠ K82 ♥ AKJ863 ♦ 8 ♣ Q62	

South	West	North	East
-	2 Spade*	3 Diamond	Pass
3 Heart	Pass	4 Heart	All Pass
* Weak			

Partner leads the ♣J and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

Having got used to holding back an ace, you may feel tempted to do so now - here to stop the ♣K and ♣Q from making separately. A glance at dummy's diamonds should warn you of the need to think differently.

Since partner might well have led a singleton diamond, the odds are that the singleton is on your left and that discards are coming. Take the ♣A and switch to the ♠10. You score the ♥Q as you overruff the third spade. This defence would also work if partner held the ♠K and ♥A. |