

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

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By JULIAN POTTAGE

3.

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| ♠ 10 3 | | |
| ♥ Q 2 | | |
| ♦ Q 8 2 | | |
| ♣ A Q J 9 4 2 | | |
| ♠ J 9 7 6 5 | ♠ Q 8 4 2 | |
| ♥ K J 8 7 5 4 | ♥ A 10 6 | |
| ♦ 7 | ♦ A 6 | |
| ♣ 8 | ♣ 10 6 5 3 | |
| | ♠ A K | |
| | ♥ 9 3 | |
| | ♦ K J 10 9 5 4 3 | |
| | ♣ K 7 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1♦ |
| 2♥ | 3♣ | 4♣ | 5♦ |
| All Pass | | | |
| *Both majors, at least 5-5 | | | |

Partner leads the ♣ 6, your ♥ Q losing to the ♠ A. Declarer leads the ♠ J, to which West follows. What do you do? \

third will be a king in partner's hand. If you had to guess, you would try for the ♠ K because the odds are declarer does not hold ♠ A-K doubleton. You might think of holding up the ♠ A to get a signal. This would be a mistake as declarer may well hold seven trumps and have no reason to play a second round. The safe way to find out which king partner holds is to take the ♠ A and then lead the ♠ A. If partner plays a discouraging low heart, you try a spade. On the actual layout, you will see the ♣ 8 or ♠ J and know to continue hearts.

4.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| ♠ K J 3 | | |
| ♥ K 8 2 | | |
| ♦ K 2 | | |
| ♣ J 8 4 3 2 | | |
| ♠ Q 10 9 8 5 | ♠ A 7 4 2 | |
| ♥ J 10 9 7 5 4 | ♥ A Q 6 | |
| ♦ Void | ♦ Q J 10 | |
| ♣ Q 6 | ♣ 10 9 5 | |
| | ♠ 6 | |
| | ♥ 3 | |
| | ♦ A 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 | |
| | ♣ A K 7 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1♦ |
| 2♥ | 2NT | 4♣ | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | All Pass |
| *Both majors, at least 5-5 | | | |

Having doubled, you have thoughts of taking the contract more than one down. You would have preferred a heart lead for sure – but you must not let this cloud your judgement. As on the previous deal, partner has bid with few high-card points and could easily have a 6-5 shape. If you do not cash the ♠ A at trick two, declarer's heart could well go away on the ♠ K. Even if partner is 5-5, declarer might get one heart away on the ♠ K and another on the fourth club. You can try a club after you have made sure of your ♠ A.

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