

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE


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TEST YOUR DEFENCE – Sept 2015 – original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

	♠ KQ94		
	♥ 7		
	♦ AKJ95		
	♣ K84		
♠ A8	♦ 1082	♠ J1032	
♥ KJ94	♣ J1072	♥ A532	
	♦ 765	♦ Q63	
	♥ Q1086	♣ 95	
	♦ 74		
	♣ AQ63		



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♣2, your ♣9 losing to the ♣Q. Declarer leads the ♦4 to the ♦2, ♦J and your ♦Q. What do you return?

Even if partner holds the ♣A, you are not going to get far with a club return because the ♣2 lead means only a fourcard suit. Given the extreme weakness in dummy, a heart switch is better. Should you lead the ace or low? Since you might need to regain the lead to allow your side to take two finesses against declarer's holding of Q-x-x-x or J-10-x-x, you should lead low: the ♥2. Your Low card says that you want the suit back, not that there is much else for partner to try anyway.

2.

	♠ KQJ74		
	♥ J92		
	♦ J10		
	♣ KQ9		
♠ 85	♦ Q972	♠ 10932	
♥ A84	♣ J1082	♥ 65	
	♠ A6	♦ A643	
	♥ KQ1073	♣ A53	
	♦ K85		
	♣ 764		



West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♣2, your ♣9 losing to the ♣Q. Declarer leads the ♦4 to the ♦2, ♦J and your ♦Q. What do you return?

Even if partner holds the ♣A, you are not going to get far with a club return because the ♣2 lead means only a fourcard suit. Given the extreme weakness in dummy, a heart switch is better. Should you lead the ace or low? Since you might need to regain the lead to allow your side to take two finesses against declarer's holding of Q-x-x-x or J-10-x-x, you should lead low: the ♥2. Your low card says that you want the suit back, not that there is much else for partner to try anyway.