

Defense quiz in Mr Bridge megazine

By Jullian Pottage - Dec 2016 Original - [Here](#)

3.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♣2: ♣4, ♣Q and ♣8. What do you return and why?

The lead is easy to read. Partner would not lead low from a doubleton, which means that it was a singleton. If you return a club, your partner will be able to ruff. Does it matter which club you return? When delivering a ruff you should give a suit-preference signal to say which suit you would like back. With nothing in diamonds but with the ♠Q facing partner's likely ♠K, you have a clear preference for a spade. So return the ♣10, high to ask for the higher-ranking suit. Although declarer can later ruff the third of clubs high to avoid a second ruff, at least your side scores a spade trick to stop a possible overtrick.

4.

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

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dbl	Rdbl ¹	2♥
Pass	4♥	4NT ²	Pass
5♣	5♥	All Pass	

¹An unspecified 5+-card suit

²Both minors

Partner leads the ♣K (from A-K or K-Q at the five level or higher). What do you play on this trick and if partner switches to the ♦A?

With the singleton in dummy, your signal at trick one should be suitpreference, so play the lowly ♣5 to show interest in the lower-ranking diamond suit. Then, to reinforce your interest in diamonds, you encourage with the ♦J under the ♦A. Your side thus takes the first three tricks.

Note that if you fail to signal effectively for diamonds, your partner might try placing you with a void in spades and attempt to give you a ruff. Your diamond winners then run away.