

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DEFENSE QUIZ - March 2016 - original - [Here](#)

By Julian Pottage

1.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

You lead the ♥4: ♥3, ♥K and ♥7. Partner returns the ♥8: ♥Q. What should you do?

The answer comes from your reading of the heart position. With four hearts to start with, partner would not return the eight. It would be normal to return a low heart, whatever was originally the fourth best. This confirms that declarer has another heart, in which case the suit is not ready to run. If you take your ace, you will make two heart tricks and no more.

To maintain communications with your partner, you should duck the second heart, playing the ♥2 to confirm the five card suit. This should leave partner with a third heart to lead and so set you up for running the suit later.

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2.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

You lead the ♥J, losing to South's ♥K. At trick two, declarer leads the ♣Q. What do you do?

Are you tempted to grab the ♣K lest it fall under the ♣A on the next round? Unless you have shown your opponents your cards, you need not worry about that. Put yourself in declarer's shoes. With a finesse position in trumps, it would be natural to win the first trick in dummy or cross to the ♦A to start trumps from dummy. Declarer has not tried a finesse because there is none to take - East holds the ♣A. To avoid the risk of crashing the ♣K with the ♣A, duck the first trump.