

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By Julian Pottage

3.

	♠ K1072		
	♥ 1093		
	♦ AJ82		
	♣ Q4		
♠ A53		♠ 6	
♥ J87		♥ Q642	
♦ K976		♦ Q104	
♣ J86		♣ K9752	
	♠ QJ984		
	♥ AK5		
	♦ 53		
	♣ A103		

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♣

Partner leads a low trump. Declarer wins cheaply and plays a second round, won by partner's ace. What do you discard?

Given that the bidding (probably a 5-4 trump fit) did not really call for a trump lead, it is likely that partner was just trying to play safe.

This time you cannot tell whether a club switch is good. It will work well if partner holds the ♣A or, less likely, the ♣J-10. I say less likely since with the jack and ten of clubs partner might have started with the ♣J. A club switch could be costly if declarer has the ♣A-10 and guesses right. While discouraging hearts could be wrong if partner has the king and jack, a low heart seems your best discard. Partner then exits safely with a trump.

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4.

	♠ 972		
	♥ 9863		
	♦ AKQ		
	♣ Q109		
♠ AKQ53		♠ 106	
♥ 1072		♥ Void	
♦ J10		♦ 9875432	
♣ 764		♣ AJ32	
	♠ J84		
	♥ AKQJ54		
	♦ 6		
	♣ K85		

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

Partner leads the ♠A followed by the ♠K and ♠Q. What do you discard on the third round?

Are you tempted to discard the ♦2 and hope partner works out to switch to a club? The snag is that partner might hope for the ♥K, ♥Q or ♥J in your hand. If you have any heart honour, playing a fourth round of spades for you to ruff will promote a trump trick.

While it is rare to signal with an honour, the ♣J will get the job done. The risk of blowing a second undertrick is slim since the bidding makes South hot favourite to hold the ♠K. |