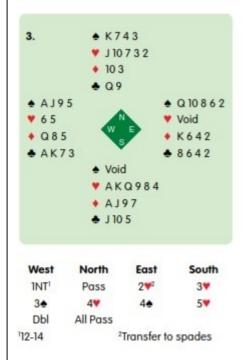
## BRIDGE MAGAZINE DEFENSE QUIZ - Feb 2016 - original - Here By Julian Pottage



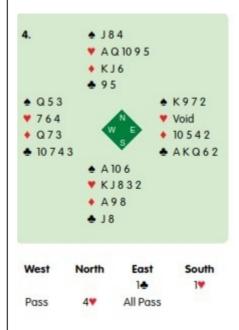
Partner leads the **♠**K and switches to the **♦**5. What do you do after your **♦**K holds?

Someone must hold the •A. Either partner has underled it or declarer is holding up. While the latter seems more likely - partner could more naturally have switched to the •A than a low one - maybe you are not 100% sure. If you return a diamond and the •A goes up, a third round of diamonds may flush out partner's holding and set up a discard for the •Q. A spade switch involves the same risk. Declarer might ruff and then set up a diamond winner via a ruffing finesse. Reverting to clubs is best. You do expect the •A to stand up.

Even if partner has opened an offbeat 1NT with a 6-card club suit, neither the •A nor the •A can run away.

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Partner leads the ♠3. You win with the ♠Q and cash the ♠A, on which go the ♠J, ♠4 and ♠9. What do you lead next?

If both opponents are out of clubs, you do not want to play a third round, thereby giving a ruff and discard. You need to switch. While dummy's spades are weaker than its diamonds, the point is that any diamond finesse is working anyway.

Leading a spade with the honours spread around the table is the Greater risk. The diamond switch is safer Both on the actual layout And if partner had the ♠10-x-x and ♦A-x-x.