

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DEFENSE QUIZ - December 2015 - original - [Here](#)

By Julian Pottage

1.

	♠ J1064		
	♥ AK		
	♦ K7		
	♣ KJ853		
♠ A		♠ KQ2	
♥ Q1082		♥ 954	
♦ 6543		♦ J982	
♣ A1076		♣ 942	
	♠ 98753		
	♥ J763		
	♦ AQ10		
	♣ Q		

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

Partner leads the ♥2, won in dummy. At trick two comes the ♠J. What do you do?

All the clues point in one direction. If declarer holds the ♠A, it is hard to see how you can beat the contract if you cover. At most your side will take a trump and whatever aces your partner holds. Ducking in the hope that for some reason declarer overtakes offers your only chance. If partner holds the ♠A, you do not want to crash honours. This is likely to happen because it is usual to respond 1♥ with 4-4 in the majors, so the ♥2 lead marks South with four hearts and thus five spades.

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2.

	♠ K4		
	♥ Q		
	♦ AKQ82		
	♣ KQ1095		
♠ 76		♠ Q10852	
♥ AKJ98754		♥ 102	
♦ 63		♦ 54	
♣ 7		♣ A842	
	♠ AJ93		
	♥ 63		
	♦ J1097		
	♣ J63		

West	North	East	South
4♥	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5♦
All Pass			<sup>1</sup> Minors

Partner leads the ♥K (king from ace-king at 5-level or higher). What is your plan?

With the singleton heart and plenty of trumps in dummy, your play to the first trick should be suit preference. Holding an ace in the lowly club suit, you play the ♥2.

What do you do after partner switches to the ♣7? You can make your ♣A and will need one more trick to defeat the contract. For two reasons you should aim for a club ruff rather than a spade trick (with the ♠A). First, the 4♥ opening would be heavy with an ace as well as an ace-king. More importantly, your partner could have cashed the ♣A before trying the club. Showing faith in what is going on across the table, you should take the ♣A and return a club. As it happens, partner would switch to a club even without reading the ♥2 as a signal. This is because switching to a club just needs you to hold the ♣A whereas a spade switch needs to find you with the ♠A-Q.