

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DEFENSE QUIZ - July 2016 Board 3 - original - [Here](#)

By Julian Pottage

3.

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣

All Pass

You lead the ♣3: ♣5, ♣10 and ♣A. After the ♠K and ♠Q comes a low spade to the ♠A. What is your plan?  
 Assuming declarer has not opened 1NT with a singleton, a club discard is safe as partner started with four clubs too. While a diamond discard may be safe as well, you do not need to risk finding declarer with J-10 doubleton.

The bigger decision is when to play your ♥A. Since declarer has bid hearts and the opposing hands are flat, there is no rush. If partner has the ♥J but not the ♥10, declarer will have a guess whether to finesse dummy's ♥9 if you keep ducking smoothly.

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4.

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

♠ 7	♠ 7
♥ A 8 6 5 4 3	♥ A 8 6 5 4 3
♦ K 6 5	♦ K 6 5
♣ A K 5	♣ A K 5

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

All Pass

You lead the ♦10, covered by the ♦J, ♦Q and ♦K. What is your plan when declarer lays down the ♥A?

Dummy's spades threaten to provide discards for declarer's club losers. If South holds the ♠K, you can do little about it. Perhaps East has the ♠K. In this case, your side will make two spade tricks unless South has a singleton.

If partner does have ♠K-x-x-x, you must duck the first spade to protect the ♠K from a ruffing finesse.

You should also keep your spades so that declarer cannot ruff down your ace. You can, however, spare a diamond or two and a club. You will duck the ♠A later |