

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By Julian Pottage

1.

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

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

Partner leads the ♠5: ♠6, ♠Q and ♠4. You return the ♠8: ♠10, ♠J and ♠K. What is your plan when declarer calls for the ♦Q?

Assuming declarer holds the ♦A, you cannot make a trick with your ♦K whatever you do. If you duck, the ♦Q holds the trick and the ♦A swallows your ♦K on the next round. If you cover, the ♦A takes your ♦K at once. The difference between covering and not is that covering obliges declarer to use two honours on the same trick. If your partner holds ♦10-x-x or ♦9-x-x-x, covering will create a slow winner for partner. In the former case, you will cut down on overtricks; in the latter case, you might well beat the contract.

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2.

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

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

Partner leads the ♠5: ♠J, ♠K and ♠2. You return the ♠10: ♠9, ♠4 and ♠7. What is your plan (including in diamonds) from here?

Your immediate question is what to do at trick three. It looks as if declarer is holding up the ♠A. Continuing the suit looks, and is, right. Partner can easily hold an entry via the ♥A.

The main issue is what to do after declarer crosses to dummy with a spade and calls for the ♦Q. Do you cover? Your diamond length and poor spot cards should tell you what to do. You will make your ♦K if you save it; you have nothing to gain by covering. Partner might even hold the singleton ♦A so you will duck.