

Mr Bridge magazine

Defense quiz by Julian Pottage

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1.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

You lead the ♠K: ♠A, ♠2 and ♠3. At trick two, the ♠5 goes to the ♠2, ♠Q and ♠K. What is your plan?

Your partner's discouraging ♣2 and South's 2NT rebid suggest that the ♣J is on your right. You do not want to cash the ♣Q and set up the ♣J. Should you switch to a diamond? On the bidding, partner cannot really have the ♦A-J. Leading a diamond is very risky if partner has the ♦A but not the ♦J: your initial pass has given away that you cannot have the ♠K, the ♠K-Q and the ♦A. You should just exit passively with a trump or a heart, leaving the diamond suit alone.

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Board No 2

2.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

You lead the ♥10: ♥A, ♥6 and ♥4. At trick two, the ♦4 goes to the ♦8, ♦Q and ♦K. What is your plan?

On the previous deal, the balanced opposing hands made defending passively correct. This time both opponents have a long suit. You can ill-afford to sit back waiting for tricks.

Your only real chance to beat the contract - your objective at teams or rubber bridge - is to underlead the ♠A. If partner has the ♠Q but not the ♠J, declarer must guess whether you have led from the ♠Q (and play low from dummy) or the ♠A (and put up the ♠K).