


Defense quiz in Mr Bridge megazine

By Jullian Pottage - Dec 2016 Read original - [Here](#)

1.

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


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

¹6-10 with six spades

Partner leads the ♣7. You win with the ♣Q. What is your plan?

You can see two club tricks and a trump trick. Even if partner has both red queens, it is hard to see how you can make any extra tricks in the side suits. Partner will not have led the ♣7 from a suit headed by the J-10. Since the lead is likely be top of a doubleton rather than second from a poor suit, you cash the ♣A and continue with a third club, hoping for a ruff. If all follow to three rounds of clubs, perhaps partner holds a singleton ♠Q or ♠K. You would duck the first trump, of course.

2.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
3♥	4♣	2♥	3♣
		All Pass	

Partner leads the ♥A. What is your plan?

Since you are keen to cash the ♥K, you begin by playing an encouraging ♥9. After taking the ♥K at trick two, you must find a safe exit card. Neither black suit is safe to lead. Partner might hold the jack in either suit - and nor do you wish to spare declarer a possible two-way finesse in trumps. Since any diamond finesse is working anyway, the suit is safe to lead. Having exited safely with a diamond, you will not cover the ♠10 but you will cover the ♣Q - the latter promotes partner's ♣J.