


Mr Bridge

Defense quiz by Julian Pottage

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1.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	


Partner leads the ♠A. What is your plan?

Expecting partner to hold the ♠K with the ♠A, you begin a high-low with the ♠8. Then, on the second round, you complete it with the ♠5. On the third round, unless partner leads the ♠Q (or the ♠A having taken the ♠Q at trick two), you will ruff.

If declarer must follow suit, it will not matter how high you ruff. If not, it is important that you ruff with the ♠10. This forces out a high trump on your left and could promote a trump trick for partner.

You wait to score the ♥K later, exiting with the ♠4 if the ♠10 wins.

2.

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

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

Partner leads the ♥5. What is your plan?

Given the bidding, you can reasonably hope that the lead is from the ♥K. This being so, you can foresee overruffing the third round of hearts or making a trump trick later, if dummy ruffs high. Should you simply win with the ♥A and return the ♥9?

If you return a heart straight away, an astute declarer will call for dummy's diamond on the third round of hearts. You will lose your ♦A.

You need to cash the ♦A before returning a heart. Then dummy will surely ruff the third heart high. As the cards lie, this ensures you a trump trick. Even if partner did not have the ♠9, declarer would need X-ray vision to take a firstround finesse. You do, of course, plan to play low, not splitting your honours.