

Article 25a Answers to another Quiz on Defence

This Quiz is based on hands provided by Julian Pottage.

You are East in the defensive positions playing match-points with only N/S vulnerable

The declarer and partner's hands, which you cannot see at the table, are in italics to assist the explanation

Hand 1

N/S Game

Dealer: West

	♠ Q642 ♥ K8642 ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ										
♠ <i>107</i> ♥ <i>Q5</i> ♣ <i>J4</i>	<table style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E			S	♠ KJ95 ♥ <i>Void</i> ♦ A1073 ♣ 87653
	N										
W		E									
		S									
	♠ <i>A83</i> ♥ <i>AJ10973</i> ♦ <i>K</i> ♣ <i>1092</i>										

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
3♦	Db1	5♦	5♥
p	p	p	

Partner leads the ♦Q followed by ♦5, ♦A and ♦K. What do you return?

The bidding, your partner showing 7 diamonds, and play at trick one confirms that a ♦ return will give a ruff and discard which is usually a bad idea. Under leading your ♠K surely is a bad idea if declarer has the ♠A as seems likely on the bidding. You want to retain the ♠K to overtake dummy's ♠Q which you cannot do if you lead towards it.

The best lead is therefore a ♣ to the solid ♣ suit since it gives nothing away and gives you the opportunity of maximising tricks in the ♠ suit.

Hand 2

N/S Game

Dealer: North

♠ J642
♥ AKQ2
♦ QJ106
♣ Q

♠ Q7 ♥ 86 ♦ A942 ♣ J10954	N W E S	♠ 1095 ♥ J754 ♦ K7 ♣ A863
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♠ AK43
♥ 1093
♦ 853
♣ K72

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
	1♥	p	1♠
p	3♠	p	4♠
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♠J followed by ♠5, ♣A and ♣K. What do your return?

You have more options here because you hold some trumps and it is very unlikely that both opponents do not have any more clubs. With dummy having a singleton ♣ it is not unreasonable to give declarer a guess in the trump suit by leading a trump. The problem is that dummy's holding in the red suits could make sufficient tricks without declarer requiring ruffs of the clubs.

If declarer holds the ♦A then your partnership will never make any ♦ tricks; hence, it is best to switch to the ♦K lead hoping partner has ♦A and a few others then you can make two ♦ tricks and a ruff

Hand 3

N/S Game

Dealer: South

♠ AKJ82

♥ AQ2

♦ Q106

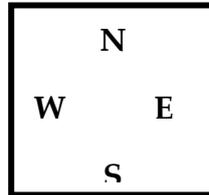
♣ 97

♠ 9764

♥ 5

♦ A94

♣ QJ1043



♠ 105

♥ K864

♦ KJ72

♣ 8653

♠ Q3

♥ J10973

♦ 853

♣ AK2

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
p	1♠	p	2♥
p	4♥	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♣Q won by ♣A. Declarer leads the ♥J at trick 2 with W and dummy playing low. What is your defensive plan now?

You have to think this through carefully and particularly consider the bidding auction. How many trump do you think your partner has? South overcalled 2♥ and north supported with 4♥. Therefore I would expect a 5-card in South and 3 card suit in North. Hence my partner only should have the singleton. If you take the ♥K you then have to decide whether to lead away from the ♦K without having seen a discard from partner. But who is likely to have the ♦A?

The ♣Q is surely the top of a sequence, therefore South has ♣AK and to bid game surely has at least 9hcps but could not open, so probably a maximum of 10/11hcps. He surely has ♥J to have responded at the 2 level and cannot have ♦A or would have had an opening hand. So partner must have the ♦A and by leading low and getting a ♦ return you make 3♦ tricks to put the contract back (leading a low card suggests to partner you have an honour in that suit). If declarer had only a doubleton ♦ at least they cannot make an overtrick

Hand 4

N/S Game

Dealer: South

♠ A1082

♥ Q72

♦ Q75

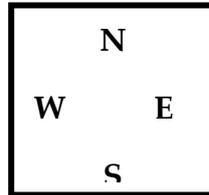
♣ QJ7

♠ 74

♥ J10853

♦ A104

♣ 1054



♠ K5

♥ 964

♦ K962

♣ K863

♠ QJ963

♥ AK

♦ J83

♣ A92

W

N

E

S

p

3♠

p

1♠

4♠

All Pass

Partner leads the ♥J, won by the declarer's ♥A. Declarer leads ♠Q followed by ♠4, ♠2, and ♠K. What is your defensive plan?

This time you have two Kings from which you may be tempted to lead.

Looking at dummy's ♣QJ suggests that a ♦ switch is probably less risky than ♣s, but do you really need to take any risk?

Dummy has a balanced hand so where can declarer discard any losers? Hence there is no reason to worry about leading a ♥ or a ♠. As it transpires a lead of a minor suit card will allow declarer to make the contract as declarer would be able to discard a loser in the other minor on the third round of hearts. Having led a major declarer **now goes one back** since they lose 2 diamonds and a club.