

Do You Always Win The Post Mortem If You Return Partner's Suit?

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We want to have partnership harmony and aim to please partners as often as we can. Too many times we play by rote and we don't always "Think Bridge" and we just play cards. Every bridge hand is a puzzle, and we try to think of the clues we are given in order to master the puzzle.

Most of the time when partner leads a suit, we want to return it if it makes sense to do so. We often hear, you can never go wrong when you lead or return Partner's suit. Well nothing is absolute and if you used the auction or clues to help you decide returning partners suit suit might not be the best tactic, you will keep more partners than lose them. Here is a prime example of how "Thinking Bridge" and using the information at hand will guide you in making the right play.

You are East, you're dealt this hand:

♠752 ♥62 ♦KQJ1062 ♣107

and the bidding goes:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	p	1♦	P
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

Trick 1

Partner leads the ♠Q and Declarer wins with the ♠A.

		EAST
	♠Q	♠752
♠A	♠2	♥62
	♠3	♦KQJ1062
		♣107
	SOUTH	
	♠863	
	♥QJ104	
	♦A3	
	♣J862	

Trick 2

Declarer leads diamonds and you duck.

	EAST
♦9	♠752
♦8 ♦K	♥62
♦3	♦KQJ1062
	♣107
SOUTH	
♠863	
♥QJ104	
♦A3	
♣J862	

Trick 3

You win the second diamond.

	EAST
♦4	♠752
♦7 ♦Q	♥62
♦A	♦KQJ1062
	♣107
SOUTH	
♠863	
♥QJ104	
♦A3	
♣J862	

Trick 4

What card do you play and why?

	EAST
	♠752
?	♥62
	♦KQJ1062
	♣107
SOUTH	
♠863	
♥QJ104	
♦A3	
♣J862	

Partner led the ♠Q. Usually that will deny holding the king. It can be from an interior sequence AQJx, but it should not contain the king. Declarer played the ace already. To defeat the contract, we will likely need tricks from hearts or clubs. Hearts seems our best shot. Switch to the ♥Q.

Here's the full board;

	NORTH	
	♠QJ109	
	♥A983	
	♦94	
	♣543	
WEST		EAST
♠AK4		♠752
♥K75		♥62
♦875		♦KQJ1062
♣AKQ9		♣107
	SOUTH	
	♠863	
	♥QJ104	
	♦A3	
	♣J862	