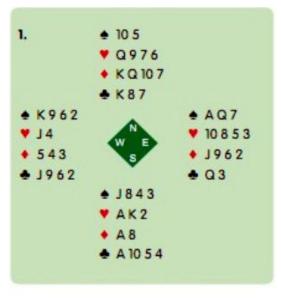
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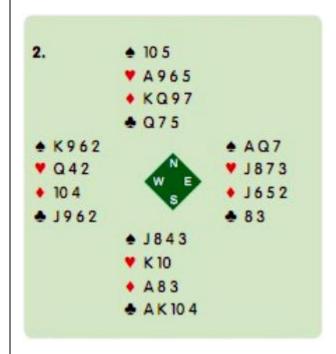
By JULIAN POTTAGE



West	North	East	South 14
Pass	14	Pass	INT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
15-17			

Parter leads the ♠2. You win with the ♠A, cash the ♠Q and continue with the ♠7. Partner wins with the ♠9 and cashes the ♠K. Dummy discards two clubs. What do you do?

A count of points tells you that partner can have up to three more. These could be the VK or the missing jacks. The discards from dummy strongly suggest the latter. In this case, you cannot afford to part with a red card. You must keep parity with dummy's lengths. If, later on, declarer unblocks the K and cashes the A, you will discard the same suit as dummy.



South	West	North	East
1 Club	Pass-	1 Diamond	Pass
1 NT *	Pass	3 NT	All Pass
* = 15-17			

Again partner leads the \$2 from K-9-6-2 while dummy discards two clubs. What is your discard strategy?

A count of points tells a similar story to the previous deal. West might have a king or, if not, the ♥Q and, you hope, the ♣J. This time you cannot tell which. You should start by discarding a club. You will beat the contract easily if partner holds the ♣K.

On the actual layout, if declarer later unblocks the ♠Q, comes to hand with the ♦A and cashes two top clubs, you will know that partner must have a heart honour. In this case, you must discard two hearts, keeping three diamonds with dummy. It is too bad if South has the same high cards and a 4-3-2-4 shape as then there will be a genuine squeeze.