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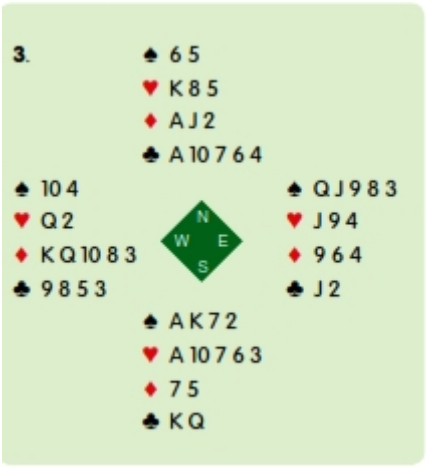
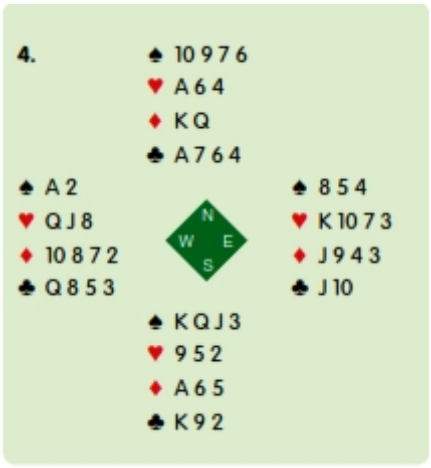
Thanks to MrBridge and David Huggett

PLAY QUIZ - Dec 2016 - original - Here



You are declarer in an optimistic 6♥ and West leads the ♦K. How do you plan the play?

The contract isn't a great one to be fair, but it does stand some chance. With an almost certain trump loser, you have to find a way of ridding yourself of your losing diamond and the two small spades, so it looks as though you will need some luck in the club suit as well as a 3-2 trump break. So cash the two top clubs in hand at tricks two and three and then play the two top trumps ending in dummy. As it happens, both defenders follow suit and the club jack appeared at trick three, so now all you have to do is play the ace of clubs and throw your losing diamond. Whether East ruffs or not makes no difference as you can continue to play club winners. (The jack of clubs appearing doubleton was a bonus, but a 3-3 break would have been just as useful, together with some other layouts.)



You are declarer in 4♠ and West leads the ♥Q. How do you plan the play?

One thing you cannot afford to do is to try to draw trumps immediately because the defenders will take the trump ace, two hearts and a club at the end, so you have to get rid of one of your losers early on. Win the heart ace, cash both diamonds in dummy and enter the closed hand with the king of clubs. Then you play the ace of diamonds throwing a heart from dummy and only now is it safe to tackle the trump suit. You can win whatever they return and will ultimately make four trump tricks, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs.