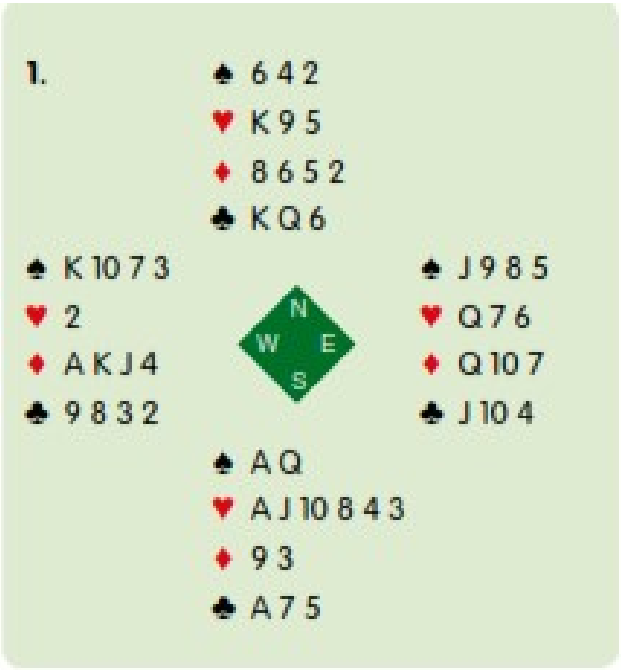
Mr Bridge
Play quiz by David Huggett
June 2017. Original - Here

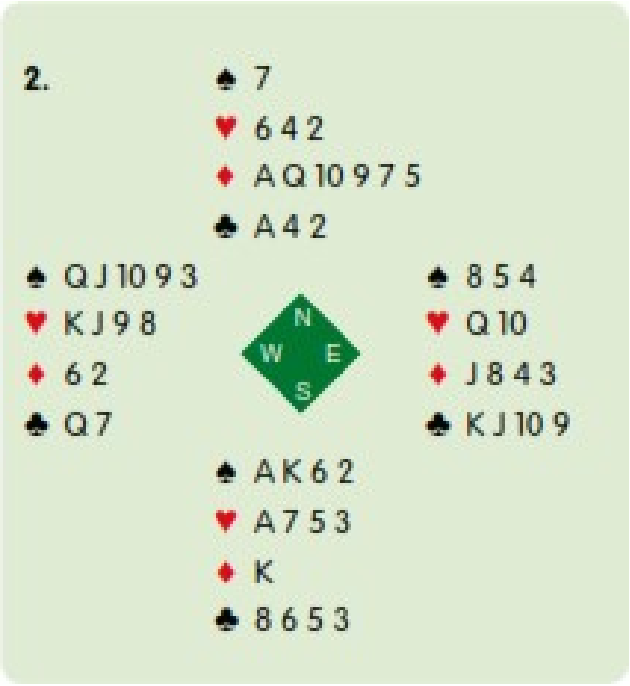
1.



You open after three passes and finish in 4♥. West leads the ♦A-K and another to East's ♦Q. How do you plan the play?

Apart from the two diamond tricks already lost you have potential losers in spades and hearts, if the spade finesse fails and if the queen of trumps doesn't appear early. In fact, things could hardly be better. Remember, West has passed as dealer and therefore cannot be expected to hold as many as twelve points and he has already show up with seven. This means he cannot hold both the king of spades and the queen of trumps. So you can either cross to dummy and take a spade finesse, knowing that East must hold the heart queen if it fails or take a heart finesse through East first, playing that hand for the spade king if that fails.

2.



You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠Q. How do you plan the play?

It is absolutely imperative when you are declarer to count your tricks to see how many you have and, as a consequence, how many you need to develop. First, you must win the first trick as you really don't want a club or a heart switch. Second, it would be all too easy to cash the king of diamonds at trick two and cross to dummy with the ace of clubs, with the expectation of bringing in all the diamond suit. The chances of that happening are good, but not cast iron and a much better plan is to realise from the outset that you need only five diamond tricks to fulfil your contract. Therefore, overtake the king of diamonds with the ace and continue playing the suit. Unless you are very unlucky, you will make at least five tricks in that suit and at least nine in total.