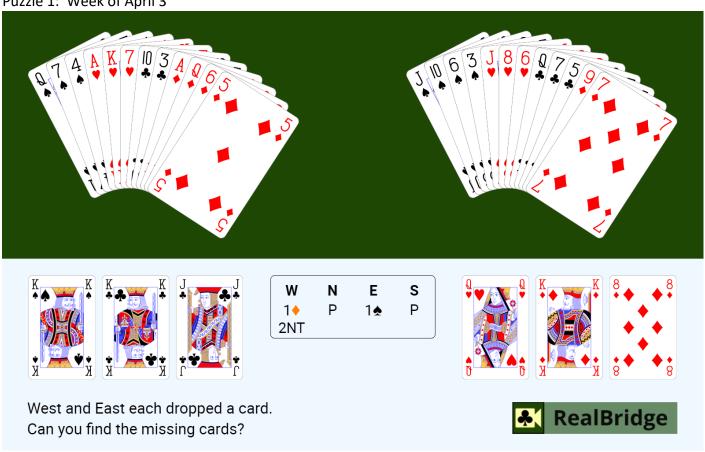


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Puzzle 1: Week of April 3



Cards to choose from are directly located under the hand missing them.

Answer on next page: My answer assumes opening 1NT is 15-17 points, and 2/1 bidding system.

Answer to Real Bridge Puzzle 1:

W's choices of dropped cards: ♠K, ♣K, ♣J

The dropped card must be at least 3 points as with less, they would have opened 1NT with that hand. It can't be the AK, as with that they would have raised partner's spades. Therefore, they dropped the AK!

E's choices: ♥Q, ♦K, ♦8

The dropped card must have point value as without more points they do not have enough to respond. If it was the \bigvee Q, they would have both 4 hearts and 4 spades and would bid them up the line bidding $1\bigvee$ first. Therefore, the dropped card must be the \bigvee K.

Extra credit answer to the question, "What is East's next call?":

3NT: With the dropped ◆ K back in East's hand they have 7 points added to partner's known 18 or 19 makes for 25 or 26 points and a game bid!