



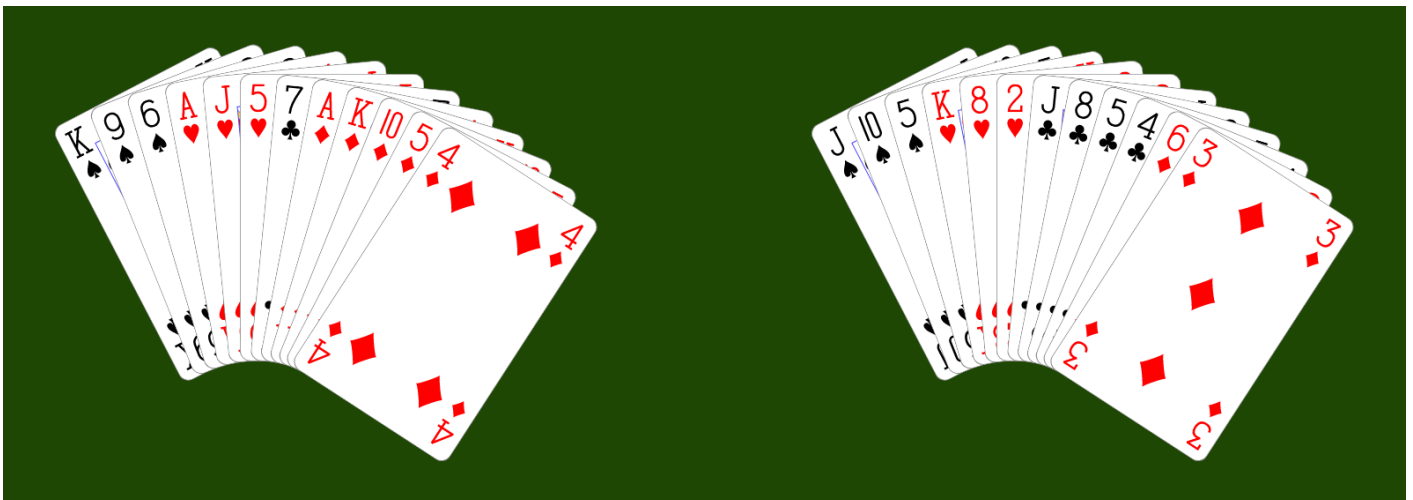
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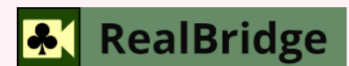
Puzzle 8 (week of May 22) – again answers are based on opening 1NT of 15-17 and 2/1 Bidding System.



W	N	E	S
1♦	P	1NT	P
3NT			



West and East each dropped a card.
Can you find the missing cards?



Don't read on to page 2 if you don't know the answer yet!

Answer to Real Bridge Puzzle 8:

E's choices of dropped cards: ♠A, ♥Q, ♣Q

East is showing 6 to 9 points and denying a four card major suit. Any of the choices would give East the right range of points, but with the ♠A or the ♥Q, East would then have bid the four card major. Therefore, **it must be the ♣Q** that was dropped, giving East enough point to not Pass but not enough points to bid the club suit at the 2 level. Thus East would make that bid of desperation, 1NT.

W's choices: ♣A, ♠Q, ♦2

West holds 15 HCP without the dropped card. If the dropped card was the ♠Q, this would give West 17 HCP but still an unbalanced hand and while the opening bid would still be 1♦, now West would not have enough points to jump to game nor would he have the balanced hand the NT agreement would have implied. The ♦2 has the same problem, not enough to jump to game and also not balanced, with the ♦2 West would have rebid diamonds. If the ♣A belongs in West's hand then West has 19 HCP and a balanced hand, too many points to open 1NT and not enough to open 2NT, so the opening bid must be 1♦. With 19 HCP and a balanced hand they can jump to game with the 3NT bid. Therefore, **it is the ♣A that West has dropped.**