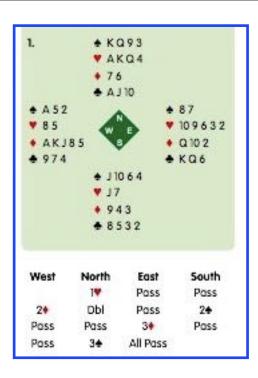
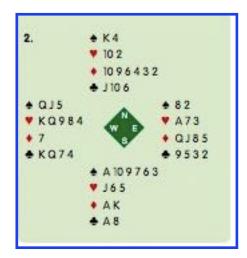
Mr Bridge > Defence > Julian Pottage - June 2018.



You lead the A, collecting the 6, 2 and 3. What is your plan?

The hand on your right must be very weak while partner should have a little something. If, as is reasonable to hope, the **AK-Q** are with partner, you might beat the contract and emerge with a plus score.

Since you may need to lead clubs twice from your side of the table, you should switch to a club at trick two. Partner, after winning the first club, can put you back in with a diamond to play a second round of clubs



West	North	East	South
			1.
27	Pass	Pass	2+
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

You lead the \forall K, collecting the \forall 2, \forall 3 and \forall 5. What is your plan?

If partner holds the ♥A – you cannot be sure – declarer could be holding up – then almost all the other high cards will be on your right. Since partner did not raise hearts first time, it is quite possible that the unseen hands started with three hearts each. Indeed, if you play count signals on the king, you will know this.

Your side will need to get in two rounds of trumps to stop a heart ruff. Fortunately, yours are good enough to make the first lead from your side. Switch to the ♠Q. You will then allow partner to win the second round of hearts to play a second round of trumps.