

Not many questions BUT you might need a week to get to the bottom of some of them

1) To set the scene - this is more complex than you might first think.  
 Obviously you ought to hold the Ace of clubs up ( until the declarers clubs have run out ) – so e.g if declarer had only 1 club you should take the Ace straight away ; if declarer has 2 clubs you would duck the first round and win the second ; and if declarer has 3 clubs we cant stop them getting across to the dummy. So we need to know how many clubs declarer has. Partner has made a distributional signal in clubs to tell us how many clubs they ( partner ) holds. You Remembered that distributional signals are played when declarer or dummy lead ? Good. Partner played the 2 of clubs so DOES NOT HOLD TWO clubs.(with 2 clubs they would have played a high low ).  
 So partner has 1 club or 3 clubs ( and you don't know which ).  
 BUT .... If partner has 1 club declarer has 3 clubs and it is irrelevant what we play ( as declarer can always cross to dummy ) ; if partner has three clubs though that means declarer has 1 club precisely and therefore we must take our Ace clubs on the 1<sup>st</sup> round . And that's what we do. Just like a beginner would win their Ace clubs straight away so do we. After a little more thought.

2) so we win the J hrts . This is what we have now after the first 2 tricks

654  
 A9  
 J109  
 872

And the Ace hrts is a winner and we could cash it ....BUT it isnt the setting trick and there is the possibility that declarer still has left in hearts Q5.  
 If we cash the Ace hrts we help declarer make their Q HRts.  
 All in all you do better to put hearts on hold ; lead the J diamonds and wait for any heart tricks you might yet get.

3) N	E	S	W
1S	2D	<i>pass</i>	Pass
<i>Dble</i>	Pass	<i>2H</i>	Pass
<i>Pass</i>			

North reopens with a takeout double and N/S reach a safe enough contract

4) N	E	S	W
1NT	Dble	2D	Pass
<i>Pass</i>	<i>2H</i>		

East could pass actually but assuming they fancy a bid they have to call a suit. A double would still be a penalty double.

4) ( wrongly numbered 4 again ) - win Ace spades; because of the lack of entries to dummy we have to either : (i) Play A + K + Q diamonds and hope the 3 is a winner ( about a 36% chance) OR (ii) play the 3 hrts to the Q for a finesse ( a 50% shot).  
 The heart finesse is the correct play.

5) This time there are entries so we can test suits to see what happens – naturally we will make sure we dont lose the lead.  
 Ace spades; A + K clubs ( if everyone has followed the clubs are 3—2 and we can cash the Q clubs and return to the K hrts and play the winning last two clubs ); if someone didn't follow to the K clubs we next test the hearts by playing A + Q + K. If everyone followed the 8 hrts is a winner and we have 9 tricks. Finally if even that didn't work we will have to instead lead the 6 diamonds to the Q for a finesse.