

# 262. Playtime

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North  
♠ K107  
♥ J3  
♦ AQ864  
♣ 953

South  
♠ AQ2  
♥ Q72  
♦ K3  
♣ AQ1074

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♥8 (fourth-highest). Plan the play. Which heart do you play from dummy?

*How many tricks do you have on top?*

Three spades, three diamonds, the ♣A, plus you will have a heart trick.

*What did you do even before I asked that question?*

First thing to do when dummy appears: Count dummy's points (10), add your own (17), total (27) and deduct from 40 (13). The answer (13) is the number of points missing.

*Where will almost all of the points be?*

With West, because of the 1♥ opening.

*What cards can you be confident West has?*

The ♥A, ♥K and ♠K. Otherwise West would only have 10 HCP including three jacks, hardly the stuff for a 1♥ opening at adverse vulnerability.

You have 7 tricks on top, plus a heart trick.

*Where might you find the ninth trick?*

Diamonds might be 3-3. If not, you could finesse the ♣Q. But wait. Haven't we already established the West has the ♣K? If so, the club finesse will fail.

*What do you know from the lead of the ♥8?*

Given it is fourth highest, the Rule of 11 (11 – 8, the card led) tells you that the other three hands have only three cards higher than the 8. You can see two of them and so East has only one card higher than the eight.

*What card have you played from dummy at trick 1?*

You win trick 1 and test the diamonds. There will be overtricks if the diamonds are 3-3. You play ♦K, ♦A, ♦Q. East follows on the third diamond, but after playing ♦5, ♦10, West discards the ♣6 on the ♦Q. What now?

This was the full deal:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K107	
	♥ J3	
	♦ AQ864	
	♣ 953	
West		East
♠ J93		♠ 8654
♥ AK1085		♥ 964
♦ 105		♦ J972
♣ KJ6		♣ 82
	South	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ Q72	
	♦ K3	
	♣ AQ1074	

After the ♥8 lead, it is normal with this heart layout to play low in dummy to ensure a heart trick. If you do that here, the defence can prevail. Imagine you play the ♥3. As West had led the ♥8, East will play low and you will win with the ♥Q. If you play ♦K, ♦A, ♦Q and a fourth diamond, East wins (West discarding ♣6, ♠3) and plays a heart. You lose four hearts and a diamond. If you play ♦K, ♦A, ♦Q and then exit with the ♥J, West wins and can beat you by playing the ♥5. East wins with the ♥9 and shifts to a club. You cannot make more than 8 tricks.

Since you have placed West with the ♥A, ♥K, you can win trick 1 with the ♥J. Then you test the diamonds, ♦K, ♦A, ♦Q. When West discards a spade or a club, you cash the spades, ♠A, ♠Q, ♠K. This is the position, with the lead in dummy:

	North	
	♠	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 86	
	♣ 953	
West		East
♠		♠ 8
♥ AK105		♥ 96
♦		♦ J
♣ KJ		♣ 82
	South	
	♠	
	♥ Q7	
	♦	
	♣ AQ107	

You exit from dummy with the ♥3. You remember (from the Rule of 11) that East began with only one heart higher than the 8. If East plays the ♥6, you cover with the ♥7. If East plays the ♥9, you cover with the ♥Q. This ensures that East does not come on lead. West wins and can cash three more hearts. At the end, West is left with ♣K-J and you have ♣A-Q. Thus, you make two club tricks and nine tricks in all.

There are layouts where this line will fail. Maybe West began with six hearts and ♣K-6 and bared the ♣K on the third diamond. Now when you exit with the ♥3, West takes five hearts tricks. C'est la vie. The recommended line is your best chance for success. No one can promise you eternal happiness.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

North

♠ 32

♥ 54

♦ AJ10864

♣ AKQ

South

♠ AQJ10876

♥ Q3

♦ 3

♣ J109

West	North	East	South
1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♦	2♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 5+ hearts

(2) 3-card raise

West leads the ♦5: ace – two – three. You play the ♠2 and East discards the ♣3. Plan the play.

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*My friend was explaining electricity and I was like watt?*

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