

## 284. A little light reading

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North  
♠ 1075  
♥ 32  
♦ AKQJ4  
♣ 763

West  
♠ K62  
♥ 9865  
♦ 2  
♣ Q10852

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Good raise to 3♠

1. West leads the ♦2: ace – three – five.
2. Declarer plays dummy's ♠10: eight – two – king.

What do you play next as West?

The natural inclination is to switch to a heart at trick 3. After all, didn't partner open 1♥? If you did that, disappointment is just around the corner, since the full deal looks like this:

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♥ 32  
♦ AKQJ4  
♣ 763

West  
♠ K62  
♥ 9865  
♦ 2  
♣ Q10852

East  
♠ 8  
♥ KJ1074  
♦ 9853  
♣ AK4

South  
♠ AQJ943  
♥ AQ  
♦ 1076  
♣ J9

If you did switch to a heart at trick 3, declarer captures East's honour, draws trumps, pitches the club losers on the extra diamond winners in dummy and makes 12 tricks.

If West switches to a club at trick 3, East wins with the ♣K, gives West a diamond ruff, regains the lead with the ♣A and gives West another diamond ruff. Then 4♠ is two down instead of making two overtricks.

How can West tell? West led the ♦2. East played the ♦3, lowest card for the lowest suit, clubs. The ♦3 cannot be low-like. That makes no sense, looking at those diamonds in dummy. What about the ♦3 being a count signal? Does anyone really think West cares about how many diamonds East holds?

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	♥ 32	
	♦ AKQJ4	
	♣ 763	
West		East
♠ K62		♠ 8
♥ 9865		♥ KJ1074
♦ 2		♦ 9853
♣ Q10852		♣ AK4
	South	
	♠ AQJ943	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ 1076	
	♣ J9	

East 'knew' the ♦2 was a singleton and so what did West need to know? The location of East's entry. Thus, East needed to give a suit-preference signal at trick 1, lowest card for the lowest suit.

What if East did have the ♥A? Then East would have played the ♦9 at trick 1, high card for the high suit, excluding trumps.

How did East 'know' the ♦2 lead was a singleton? The ♦2 was either a singleton or bottom from 10-7-2, 10-6-2 or 10-7-6-2. If the ♦2 lead was not a singleton, declarer would have taken discards at once on the diamonds. As declarer did not take any discards (and did not show out of diamonds at trick 1), declarer was not the one with shortage in diamonds. If declarer had no losers to discard, there was no defence anyway.

Finally, suppose trick 1 had started ♦2 lead, ♦4 from dummy. Which diamond should East play?

Declarer's play must mean that declarer had the ♦10 and so there is no point playing third-hand-high. If it started ♦2: four . . . East should again play the ♦3 as suit-preference for clubs.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 87		
	♥ 96		
	♦ KJ108		
	♣ KJ1043		
West			
♠ J9643			
♥ A			
♦ 9654			
♣ 972			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. West leads the ♠4: seven – ace – ♥2.
2. South plays the ♥K: ace – six – five.

What do you play next as West?

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

*Sometimes I wish I had the wisdom of a 90-year-old, the body of a 20-year-old and the energy of a 3-year-old.*