

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

With Larry Matheny

Many mistakes are made by playing too quickly at trick one. This is true for declarer as well as for the defenders.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-43		♠ 10962			
		♥ A75			
		♦ A98			
Vul N/S		♣ Q92			
♠ K			♠ QJ3		
♥ 10964			♥ KJ83		
♦ 742			♦ J653		
♣ AKJ76			♣ 83		
		♠ A8754			
		♥ Q2			
		♦ KQ10			
		♣ 1054			

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
DBL	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BIDDING: In a typical matchpoint auction, the N/S pair was pushed to the three-level.

Play: West led the ace of clubs and East, wanting to make sure dummy's queen would not take a trick, encouraged with the eight. West continued with the king and a third club for East to ruff. East exited with the queen of spades but declarer was now in control. She won the ace, eliminated diamonds, and then threw East in with the jack of spades. East had to return a heart or give a ruff/sluff by leading a diamond. On the low heart return declarer won the queen and made her contract losing only 1 spade and 3 clubs

East should slow down and realize a heart shift was needed. After seeing the discouraging three of clubs, West would shift to the 10 of hearts and the defense would come to five tricks. While East may not be able to see the end position that occurred, it must seem right to get a heart shift from partner. Ruffing the queen of clubs with what is probably a natural trump trick may not be best.