

# Matters Arising 101

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 17 - 21 Oct 2022

## Around The Club

The club's biggest face to face turnout since the lockdown occurred on Thursday, with 9 teams contesting the first round of the Ellis cup, beating the 7 tables for the Betty Limb Individual earlier in the month. The record won't stand until Christmas though as at the time of writing there are already 72 people down for the club's Sixtieth Anniversary and Christmas Celebrations.

After the November round of the Ellis Cup the four teams with the highest total IMP scores over the 2 rounds will qualify for the knock-out stages with the semi-finals and finals played on the same night.

Currently leading the way are Babs Matthews, John Farmer, Ian Reeves and Tim Matthews with 71 IMPs, with the other qualifying places currently held by Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell, Robin Rose and Martyn Harris on 34, Mike & Stella Howse and Alan & Carolynne Farmer on 17, Russell White, Jeremy Harris, John Nicholls and Robert Boyd on 15.

Barring a meltdown in November one suspects that the leaders have enough to qualify for the finals but catching the others is still very much possible for a team having a good second round.

Other winners this week were

Monday (6 tables): Chris Banks & Hilary Parker

Tuesday F2F (5 tables): Margaret & Dennis Pook

Tuesday BBO (8½ tables 2 winner movement):

Hilary Storey & Jacky Truelove

Amanda Etherington & Martyn Harris

Thus there were a total of 28½ tables in play at the club this week.

The 16th running of the Westmorland Teams League is now complete with Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell, Robin Rose and John Maclachlan winning division one, and Pat Downes & Ina Gray in the team that won division 2. Season 17 is imminent, so any new teams wishing to play let Brian Smith know.

Finally I'd like to point out that over ¾ of that cake was greedily consumed on the night of presentation by sundry hangers-on, such was the quality of Amanda's creation. No doubt the rest would have disappeared then too had anyone the courage of Oliver to ask for more.

## Taking Advantage

There was considerable unanimity over board 2 on Monday, will all six tables seeing East declaring in 3NT, and all six Souths leading 6D.


A 9 8 7 6		3 2
K J		A Q 10 5
A K 9 3		J 7 5
6 2		A 9 8 4

At some point though the paths diverged, with three declarers making 9 tricks, the other three 10.

With 4 heart tricks, two black Aces and AK D declarer has 8 tricks on top, and allowing the opening lead to run guarantees the JD will be the 9th trick. Nice not to have worries over making the contract for once.

Low from dummy draws the 2 from North, so declarer wins with the 7. North's 2 looks like singleton or doubleton 4 2, for surely they would have helped partner by playing something larger if possible. Consequently South has Q 10 under dummy's A K 9, and we can make 3 more tricks in the suit by finessing, and this is true even if declarer carelessly won the first trick with the J rather than the 7.

Trick 2 sees the JD led and run unless covered. If covered declarer wins on table, cashes KH and overtakes J and plays a third diamond. Note that all suits are still totally under control. South is powerless with 10 under K 9. Declarer wraps up 4 tricks in each red suit and the two black Aces for 10 tricks without breaking sweat.

	K 10	
	9 7 4 3 2	
	2	
	Q J 10 7 3	
A 9 8 7 6		3 2
K J		A Q 10 5
A K 9 3		J 7 5
6 2		A 9 8 4
	Q J 5 4	
	8 6	
	Q 10 8 6 4	
	K 5	

Being Monday we'll never know whether those who made 10 played it that way or got lucky with the play of a black suit.

## All Ruffs Lead To Tick

9 7 5  
A J 8 4  
A J 9 7 6  
2

No prizes for guessing that South often found themselves in 4S on this deal from Monday. The 4D was a popular lead.




A J 6 4 2  
2  
Q 5 3  
A K 6 4

Clubs and hearts can provide three top tricks, so it looks as if diamonds and spades will need to do the bulk of the work.

That lead could be 4th from length, so East has singleton 2, MUD (x 4 2), top of a doubleton or singleton.

Suppose we run scared of a singleton and rise with the A. Now a cross ruff looks right, so we are counting on our other three side suit winners, 2 club ruffs, 3 heart ruffs and AS for our other 9 tricks. This does need both hearts and clubs 4-4, but here goes.

	9 7 5	
	A J 8 4	
	A J 9 7 6	
	2	
K 10 3		Q 8
K 10 7 6 5		Q 9 3
4		K 10 8 2
10 9 8 5		Q J 7 3
	A J 6 4 2	
	2	
	Q 5 3	
	A K 6 4	

AC, KC, AH, heart ruff, club ruff. So far so good. Heart ruff, club ruff. The clubs are 4-4. Heart from table, East ruffs with the Q. At this point declarer is looking at

A J 6 -- Q 5 --

and needs 2 tricks. It is tempting to over-ruff with the A, but better to discard a diamond for if ever West is forced to lead either a spade or a heart you are bound to score both your top two trumps.

Suppose instead we duck the opening lead and East wins with the K. That is two of their five diamonds gone, so the rest must fall under our AQJ. The suit is ready to run. Consequently on a switch we want to draw enemy trumps as quickly as possible, so A other trump with intent to lose 2 trumps and KD, and making 3S, 1H, 4D, 2C. If a diamond is returned and ruffed declarer relies on West having started with three trumps to balance their singleton diamond. So when in next trick declarer continues A and another trump with intent to lose a diamond, a ruff and a trump, making 4S, 1H, 3D and 2C.

Given the demands it puts on the enemy distribution to

succeed after rising with AD at trick one, I think I prefer to let the opening lead run, but on the night both duck and rise worked. But rise and draw trumps doesn't work, for that why you have only 1 heart, 2 club and three natural spade tricks leaving diamonds to produce 4 on the 4-1 split.

I welcome any comments or queries sent me at [martyn@orpheusmail.co.uk](mailto:martyn@orpheusmail.co.uk) though they may be used in future issues should I choose to produce such. Or they may not. You have been warned.

NB, I do try replying to mails raising a specific point, so if I seem to ignore you do check your spam folder after a day or three.

*Martyn Harris*  
spadeilike on BBO