

# Matters Arising 102

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal Online 24 - 28 Oct 2022

## Tuesday Games


Tuesday was notable for the number of game contracts that gave declarer problems. Let's start with board 9.

A K 9 6 2 A Q 6 7 5 2 Q 2		J 4 K J 10 9 5 4 A 10 3 5 3
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East plays in 4H on the lead of QD. At several tables North had opened a weak 2D, so the Q is marked singleton, but this is no reason to assume terrible breaks in other suits.

Declarer can count 6 trump tricks, AK S and AD. Just one more trick needed, which comes courtesy of spades provided they are no worse than 4-2 and trumps no worse than 3-1.

Win AD, cash JH. Then AK S and a spade ruff, high if North follows. Return to table via a trump and ruff another spade if the suit hasn't broken. Back to table again via trumps for a discard on the long spade.

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

With spades 4-2 drawing trumps and then hoping for a 3-3 spade break doesn't work.

The analysis says that declarer can make 5H. How does this happen? Through Q 10 spades being onside. Win AD at trick one and lead JS with intent to run if South ducks. South will in fact probably cover, so win on table and return to hand via the trump suit. Now another spade with intent to finesse the 9. When this holds ruff a small spade high, draw trumps on table and you get two discards on the spades.


I have to say this line looks unnecessarily risky in comparison to the one I gave above, but shows what can be done if needed.

It was South's turn to declare 4H on board 17, this time facing KC lead.

Declarer can count 5 natural trump tricks, AK S and AC. That is 8 tricks. Two more will have to come from ruffs, the AD being onside, or from spades.

With a singleton diamond on table there is certainly scope for two ruffs on table. Win trick one with AC and lead the diamond. Your King gets clobbered by West's Ace, and West cashes QJ C.

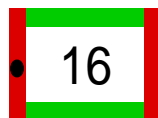
That is it for the defence though as your last club and two diamonds between them can disappear one on a spade honour and the other two by ruffs.

6 4 2 4 A J 10 5 2 K Q J 3		A K 10 8 5 Q J 8 2 6 A 9 4 Q J 9 3 9 6 5 Q 9 7 4 10 2 7 A K 10 7 3 K 8 3 8 7 6 5
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Drawing trumps first leaves only one trump on table so at some point declarer loses an extra trick in the minors.

In an echo of board 9 declarer can tackle spades instead. After taking AC at trick one declarer takes AK S and ruffs a third one high. Then AH and another to the Q and ruff another spade high. Back to table using declarer's last trump and the long spade provides a resting spot for a minor suit loser. Declarer wins AC, 3 spade tricks, 3 natural trump tricks, 2 spade ruffs in hand and dummy's last trump either naturally or as a ruff. Again, with AC removed early from the table, drawing trumps before tackling spades leaves declarer short of entries to table to make this line work.

A Q J 10  
 K 10 2  
 10 8 5  
 5 3 2




K 8 7 6  
 A  
 A K Q J 9 6  
 K 4

Making 4S for North on a heart lead hand 16 was a trivial task, so overtricks are the focus of attention here. Indeed barring a 5-0 trump break declarer can count 4 trumps, 6 diamonds and 2 heart tricks, so finding a 13th is the problem.

Trick 2 is a spade to the 10, and when both defenders follow declarer has a sure 13 tricks. Seen it?

Ruff a small heart with KS, draw trumps. Dummy's two clubs disappear one on declarer's last trump and the other on KH.

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

Once again a determination to draw all the trumps first and then think about the hand left some declarers a trick short of the possible total.

## Around The Club

Ken Orford has given up a few days recently to attend a course on tournament directing. Those who know his diligence won't be surprised he passed the final exam with room to spare.

This weeks winners were  
 Monday (5½ tables): Janice Mitchell & Janice Hornby  
 Tuesday F2F (4 tables): Debbie & Roger Wilkinson  
 Tuesday BBO (7½ tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell  
 Thursday (8 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Total 25 tables for the week.

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