

# Matters Arising 104

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 7 - 11 Nov 2022

## Competitive Game

K 10 8 4 3 2  
3  
6 3  
K Q 4 3

On Thursdays last board several Norths found themselves in 4S on the lead of KH after West opened 1NT and East contested vigorously in hearts.

24

A J 5  
8 5 2  
A 9 8 7 5  
10 2

North still wants to make their 17 point game, so needs a plan. A heart and AC are sure losers, as is a diamond for declarer has no prospects of parking their 3 on a winner from the table. That means picking up trumps without loss, a task that some attempted immediately. However this is not good enough, for there is still the problem of North's two small clubs - where do they go?

One could try ruffing both of them, though

- a) one of the defenders will also be able to ruff the second one, and
- b) using two trumps from the table for ruffing severely limits your options for playing the trump suit.

The alternative is to ruff just one, with the other disappearing under the enemy Ace. For this to work West must hold the Ace and you will need to lead clubs twice from table as with two small on table West is unlikely to rise with the Ace first time. Thus we need both of dummy's Aces as entries to lead clubs. The club ruff will put us back on table to tackle trumps.

The KH wins trick 1 for the defence, with East continuing with the QH. Ruff, diamond to A and a small club from table. West plays low. North plays the King and this holds.

A trump to table's A comes next, with both defenders following. Now the second club lead from table draws the Ace from West, who continues with AH. Clearly that suit was originally 6-3.

Ruff and lead the low club towards table. There is no need to cash the Queen first; that can wait until after we have drawn trumps. East discards something red, so we have an easy ruff.

The last task is to tackle trumps. Finesse or drop? Hearts were 6-3 one way and clubs 5-2 the other. That leaves five spades/diamonds in each hand, suggesting playing for the drop.

However we also know West has at least one more

trump for their 1NT opening, and if East was now holding the bare Q they would surely have used it to ruff our 3rd club - remember AS from table has gone. The Q is marked West, and we can afford to ruff the third club with the J to make taking the spade finesse and drawing any remaining trump easy.

K 10 8 4 3 2  
3  
6 3  
K Q 4 3

Q 9 6  
A 10 4  
Q 2  
A J 9 7 6

24

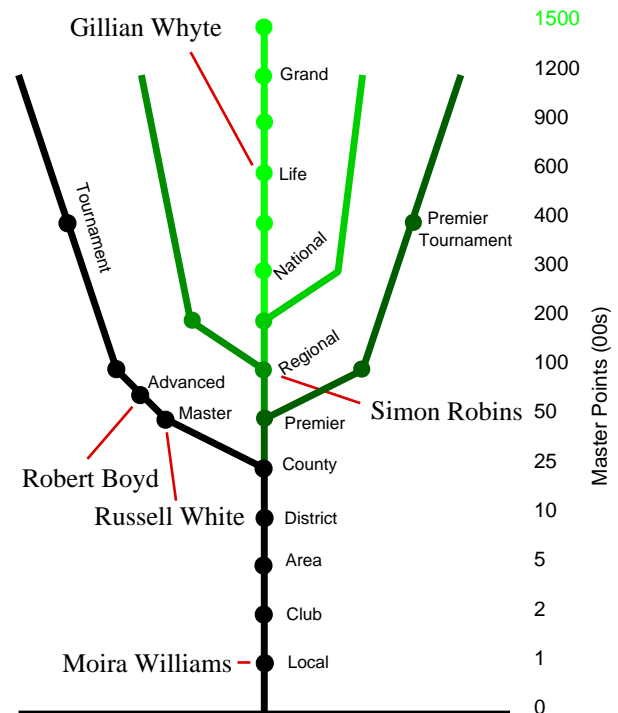
7  
K Q J 9 7 6  
K J 10 4  
8 5

A J 5  
8 5 2  
A 9 8 7 5  
10 2

4H is an easy make for East, losing just a club, a diamond and a spade. Several East-Wests found the 5H sacrifice, an unusual option when holding the majority of the points.

## Around The Club

Five members of the club gained Master Point promotions in October. Their new positions on the Master Point Tree are shown below.



This weeks winners were

Monday (8 tables): Richard Brazier & Tim Harrison

Tuesday F2F ( 4 tables): Roger & Debbie Wilkinson

Tuesday BBO (10 tables, Mitchell):

John MacLachlan & Robin Rose

Pat Downes & Ina Gray

Thursday (9 tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Total 31 tables for the week, with numbers possibly boosted by the three main sessions being heats of the Children in Need simultaneous pairs.

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