

## Matters Arising 108

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 5 - 9 Dec 2022

### Lots To Do


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

Do you consider it would be unusual for West to declare this hand from Thursday in 4S?

This sort of question is important when playing pairs for if you believe most of the field will be in a lower scoring contract then simply making yours will do, whereas if the contract looks normal you need as many tricks as possible whilst still playing with the odds.

It seems to me that 4S is a normal contract for these hands, so West should be looking for chances to make extra tricks. As such they will want to lead trumps from table to finesse against the King, play diamonds to set up a ruff on table and take either the club finesse and/or the ruffing finesse in hearts. As that covers all the suits the opening lead must help with one of these tasks.

The 3C lead looks like 4th best, so you rise with the 10 hoping for an early entry to dummy, but South produces the Q. An entry to table can be forced in diamonds unless the AD is South and the diamonds break badly, so declarer now leads a small diamond at trick two towards the K, which holds. A second diamond sets up the ruff which the defence forces you to take. Back on table you tackle trumps.

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

When the dust settles you discover you have lost just one trick, in diamonds. Different defences open up different options, but on the night even those who faced the lead of the AD still tackled trumps from hand, unnecessarily losing a trick to the King.

### 2 is Enough

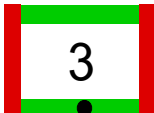
2 I have decided to indulge myself by including a hand from private play. Sitting third in hand I hear partner open 2C (8 J 9 7 6 5 3 playing tricks in any suit) which is doubled on my right to show clubs. Interesting! Although I have positive values I have no suit I wish to bid, and 2NT might make me declarer when partner almost certainly turns up with spades. Thus I pass, knowing I may need to catch up later.

Partner rebids 3S. This doesn't merely mean that he holds a better than normal 2 level opening; it specifically sets the suit. We are playing in spades. I can bid 4S with a bust, 3NT with scattered minor honours, but anything else is a cue-bid.

4H, cue bidding AH. 5C from partner, which is presumably either AC or a void. 5D, showing KD or singleton. (Had I held the AD this would have been shown first).

5H from partner, K or singleton. Partner surely also holds AD as we have shown enough controls for 6 which is where he would have signed off lacking AD. We are looking for 6 or 7.

However I cannot be sure there is no red suit loser, for the lead of a trump would stop a diamond ruff. I like my 9H nad 10D, but really I need a red Q. Reluctantly I sign off in 6S, knowing that my 2 is adequate trump support.

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

There turns out to be options for making 7, though I'm content to have reached 6 with expectation rather than merely hope that it would make. Even on a trump lead 6S makes if the heart finesse works, hearts are 3-3 or the diamonds are guessed correctly.

How would you have bid the hand?

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (5½ tables): David Harris & Robert Harvey

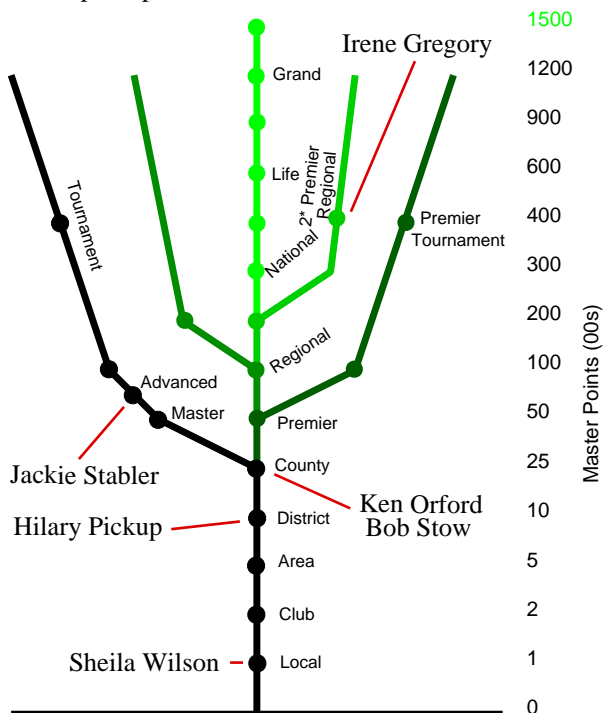
Tuesday F2F (3½ tables): Bob Boyd & Dorothy Bayliss

Tuesday BBO (6½ tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Thursday (5 tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Total 20½ tables for the week.

Irene Gregory, Jackie Stabler, Ken Orford, Bob Stow, Hilary Pickup and Sheila Wilson have all achieved master point promotions:



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