

Matters Arising 120

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 27 Feb - 3 Mar 2023

Bouncer

K 10 9 7 6 10 7 2 9 A 10 9 6		8 4 2 A Q J 10 5 4 K Q 5 4
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On this deal from Monday North passed and the bidding then proceeded around the table 1D – X – 1S – 2H. Further aggressive bidding from East and South left West in 4S facing the KH lead. Over to you.

The bidding suggests that South has most if not all the remaining high cards, so there is a good chance the AS is onside. With a normal trump break that means 3 spade tricks, AH and 4 clubs (probably). That is 8 tricks. Two more could come from heart ruffs, but whilst declarer can return to hand via AC to achieve one ruf, there is no way back for a second one. That would be one off.

A different plan is needed. If South has both top diamonds, quite possible on the bidding, then there is a ruffing finesse available to set up diamonds for heart discards.

At T2 lead a small diamond towards the 9. In the unlikely event that the 9 holds we can revert to our original thoughts as we now have 2 entries to ruff the hearts. More probable though is that South wins and plays Ace other spade to reduce ruffing possibilities.

Declarer wins, crosses to dummy with KC and leads QD with intent to discard a heart if South follows low, and to repeat the process. If South covers West ruffs, returns to table via a club and runs the diamonds. The defence can ruff in with their boss trump when they like, but will win no more.

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

We have often met hands where we don't draw trumps as we need one or more for ruffs. Here declarer leaves trumps alone so that those on table can act towards the defence like a menacing night club bouncer: *make my day punk, lead a heart.*

Negative Double

K Q 4 K 7 A Q J 10 3 2 7 2	
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Thursday board 3, and a non-vulnerable North dealt and opened 1D on the above hand.

If East overcalls 1H and South contributes 1S what does North know about the South hand?

Clearly South has spades and enough to reply, but a negative double also shows spades. For many partnerships the difference between

1D – 1H – 1S and 1D – 1H – X

is that the former promises 5 spades and the latter 4.

The same would be true for the difference between


1C – 1H – 1S and 1C – 1H – X.

However the difference between

1C – 1D – 1S and 1C – 1D – X

is that the latter shows both majors whereas the former shows only spades, and hence possibly only four.

Armed with the knowledge of an 8 card spade fit North knows not to simply rebid diamonds, and is well placed to cope with further enemy interference such as a heart raise by West.

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

Monday (6½ tables): Ken Orford & Steve Douglas

Tuesday BBO (7½ tables):

John MacLachlan & Robin Rose

Tuesday F2F (5½ tables): Alison Jones & Mary Simms

Thursday (7½ tables):

Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris

Total 27 tables for the week.

Piling up the master points in February were

Mondays:	Chris Banks	55
	Martyn Harris	51
	Ken Orford & Steve Douglas	38
Tuesdays F2F:	David Harris	42
	Helen Finch & Moira Williams	30
	Philip Russell	
Tuesdays BBO:	Hilary Storey	66
	Ray & Irene Gregory	
	Jacky Truelove	60
Thursdays:	Jackie Stable & Linda White	36
	Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell	
	Martyn Harris & Alan Wearmouth	

I welcome any comments or queries sent me at 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