

# Matters Arising 130

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 8 - 12 May 2023


## Showing Support

A K 5 2  
5 3  
K 10 4  
A K 10 9

On Thursday 4 out of 5 Souths elected to open the South hand (left) 1C, and heard their partner respond 1S. Now what?

Raise partners suit is the obvious answer. How far? To 3S. A jump raise is invitational to game, effectively saying *bid 4 unless you are minimum*. You should come to this conclusion to bid 3S whether relying on points, when it is only when holding 6 or 7 points you want partner to stop, or the losing trick count, when you want partner to stop if holding 9 losers which tends to correspond to a minimum responding hand.

However two of the four chose a simple raise to 2S, suggesting little if anything beyond minimum opening values. Their partners passed, missing game.


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

Whilst there is a case for North continuing over 2S, South has failed in their duty to express strength when showing a fit. That is what the different raises are for.


The bad trump break is balanced by AD being onside, and the defence should not come to more than a trump and one trick in each red suit provided declarer seeks to ruff hearts on the table.

## Ace!

East opened 1H on this hand from Tuesday. South joined in with X, 2NT (unusual) or 2D, after which West bid 2S and East insisted on hearts. South led KC, and at all four tables North ducked and East made their game contract, possibly with an overtrick.

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

Aces are made for bashing Kings, enemy ones, but sometimes their use as an entry is so important that friendly Kings need to be bashed too. Strong heart bidding from East surely means there are no defensive tricks there, and there seems little future in the black suits. The only chance seems to be in diamonds, so overtake the KC and switch to 10D.

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

The diamond switch is devastating, assuming that if East ducks South has the presence of mind to overtake, take their Ace and enjoy the sight of North discarding. A diamond ruff then defeats the contract.

More to the point, with singleton club on table can overtaking KC cost given dummy and the bidding?

The moral is never play small simply because partner will win the trick as sometimes it is more important that you get on lead. And that applies with spot cards as well as spectacular plays with honours.

## Right Suit, Wrong Lead

7 6 5      On Tuesday four Souths had to find a lead  
 K 3 2      against 1NT when East's opening was  
 A Q J 8 7      passed out. Choosing to attack diamonds  
 K 6          was universal.

	A 10 3	
	10 4	
	9 6 3	
	Q 9 8 5 4	
Q J 4 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">12</span> </div>	K 9 8
J 8 7 6		A Q 9 5
K 5 2		10 4
3 2		A J 10 7
	7 6 5	
	K 3 2	
	A Q J 8 7	
	K 6	

Unfortunately some players have an almost religious attachment to leading fourth best, and three such adherents paid the price when the 8D ran to declarer's 10, with table's K later providing a second trick in the suit.

With 3 top honours why give declarer a chance to win 2 tricks, when an honour lead removes that possibility unless declarer or dummy holds 4 cards in the suit?

Here the standard lead is not 4th best but top of an interior sequence, the QD. Declarer can win with dummy's K and knock out either KH or AS. However the defence take their 4 diamond tricks and lead a club to set up a trick there for when they get in when declarer tackles the second major. One down.

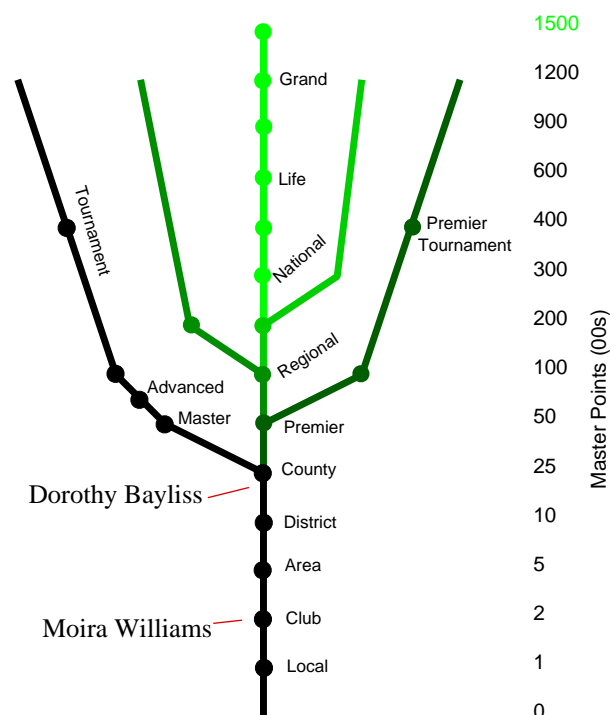
On the 8D lead though the defence only comes to 3 diamonds AS and KH for declarer can establish both majors whilst the defence establish diamonds. Try it.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were  
 Monday (7½ tables): Tim Harrison & Richard Brazier  
 Tuesday F2F (5 tables): Sarah Bullock & Andrew Peill  
 Tuesday BBO (7½ tables):  
     Amanda Etherington & Martyn Harris  
 Thursday (5 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Total 25 tables for the week.

There are 2 Master Point promotions to report for April:  
 Dorothy Bayliss and Moira Williams.



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