

# Matters Arising 134

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 5 - 9 Jun 2023

## Rebid

Q 8 North had an awkward rebid on Monday's  
 Q 7 board 1, with South having responded 1S  
 A K Q J 6 to the 1D opening. Not that other suit  
 A 8 7 6 responses would have made life any  
 easier. What would you bid next?

The book rebid is 2C, for North is not strong enough to make a game-forcing jump to 3C and doesn't want to rely on Qx H as a stop for NT. Many players are uncomfortable with this, feeling that this is, or at least ought to be, a sequence showing a weak hand.

In Acol this bid of a third suit is a wide-range bid from a light opening to just short of being able to game force, and as such partner is expected to keep the bidding open if at all possible.

For many though the practical rebid is 2NT, with a certain amount of finger-crossing.

	Q 8	
	Q 7	
	A K Q J 6	
	A 8 7 6	
7 6 2	1	K 9 3
A 4 3		J 10 9 5 2
10 9 8		7 5
K Q 9 4		J 5 3
	A J 10 5 4	
	K 8 6	
	4 3 2	
	10 2	

Possible auctions are

1D	1S	1D	1S	1D	1S
2C	2D	2NT	3NT	2NT	3D <sup>3</sup>
2H <sup>1</sup>	3NT <sup>2</sup>			3NT	

<sup>1</sup> Fourth suit forcing

<sup>2</sup> South couldn't be much better than this for their simple preference, so knows to bid game.

<sup>3</sup> Forcing, hoping that North has secondary support for spades.

As spades are divided 3-3 with the K inside it is possible to make both 6D and 6S, but 3NT looks the right place to play, and with overtricks available will outscore 5D.

## Two-way Finesse

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

Imagine you are East on this hand from Thursday, playing in 4S on a club lead. North wins with the Ace and returns the suit. Naturally you win with the King. Now what?

There is a two-way finesse in trumps, and if you can get it right the reward will probably be 11 major suit tricks to go with KC. Two overtricks. Having already lost an Ace you cannot hope for more.

But you can fear less. If you finesse against the QS in the North hand only to find it South, a diamond switch could leave you looking at 4 losers: KC, QS and two diamonds.

Thus unless you have spotted a very strong inference that QS is North play S for the QS since if you are wrong and North gets in they cannot hurt you by leading diamonds. North is what we refer to as the safe hand - losing the lead to them cannot be fatal bar an unexpected ruff.

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

At trick 3 you run the JS losing to the Q in the North hand. You will make 10 or 11 tricks depending on whether or not North now takes AD, for you are ready to discard all your diamonds and the last club on dummys hearts after drawing trumps. Even a third club forcing dummy doesn't hurt: ruff, cash KS, return to hand with QH, draw last trump, overtake JH and run the suit.

## Delayed Finesse

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

Your task on this hand from Thursday is to make 4H on the lead of the 3C. You play small from table and South contributes the 7. You don't duck.

The danger here is that you might lose three diamonds and a club. You could of course play diamonds immediately, hoping to ruff your fourth one with JH, but it seems likely that a defender will spot what you are up to and lead a trump at some point.

What do we make of the lead? Looks like 4th best, so that South has a doubleton, and with South contributing the 7 their other card seems favourite to be either the 9 or the 4 since with either K 7 or 10 7 the higher card looks the more likely play.

One line is thus draw trumps - it takes four rounds - and lead our second club honour. North covers with the K and we duck, feeling pleased when South produces the 9 which of course we regarded as a 50-50 chance.

North switches to a spade say, but we ruff and finesse the 8C, which with the 10 North holds. Phew, the clubs weren't K 4 3 North and 10 9 7 South. Now AC discarding a diamond, and set up a diamond trick whilst we still have a trump left. We make 4 natural trumps, 2 spade ruffs, 3 clubs and a diamond.

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

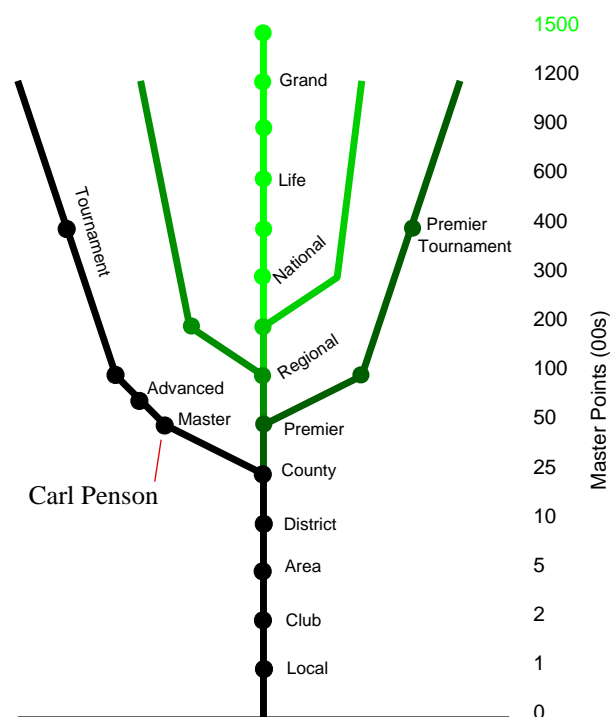
Other lines can work. For example after drawing trumps play a diamond towards the K, and when this holds play a small diamond back, ducking from both hands. The A tumbles and you make 6 trumps and 2 tricks in each minor suit. If on the other hand the KD is beaten by the A we have to fall back on diamonds being 3-3. Overall though this doesn't seem to have as good a chance of success as the 50% inferred by the play of trick 1.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were  
 Monday (7 tables): Russell White & Jeremy Harris  
 Tuesday F2F (5 tables): Jean Dale & Ralph Rogerson  
 Tuesday BBO (6 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory  
 Thursday (4½ tables):  
 Martyn Harris & Alan Wearmouth

Total 25 tables for the week.

Carl Penson was promoted to Master during May.



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