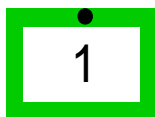


Matters Arising 140

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 17 - 21 July 2023

1NT

K 10 4
Q J 10 3
10 9 7 6
10 4



8 3 2
7 6 5
8 5 3
A K Q 7

On Monday seven of eight tables saw North declare in 1NT, probably after a 1 bid auction.

The most popular lead was 5S. Should West play their K at trick one or keep it for later?

West can see the 2, 3 and 4 of spades, so clearly the 5 is East's smallest one. This is not a second from rubbish lead but almost certainly fourth from strength. It is highly likely that East has at least one of the AQ, and even if they hold only the J as strength then playing the K won't cost.

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

The KS holds and West returns the 10 (the 4 would look too much like the return of an original fourth best). East is charmed and clears the suit.

On the fourth round West signals their liking for hearts, for example by discarding 10C as a McKenney signal which under that convention being the discard of a high card asks for the higher of the remaining suits. Declarer is restricted to six tricks.

Yet two out of the four declarers faced with the 5S lead were allowed to make 8 tricks. Whether this was through a reluctance of West to play their KS at trick 1 or because of a lack of a discard system to ask for a heart switch is not known.

Curiosity

This apparently unremarkable hand appeared on Tuesday, with North playing in hearts at all six tables. They all made 8 tricks. This didn't stop five different scores appearing on the traveller.

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

Only one East decided their hand wasn't worth a take-out double. At their table 1H was passed out, so the eight tricks were worth 110 to NS.

At another table the double was passed out, so with the help of a doubled overtrick NS scored 260.

A third table saw South raise to 2H over the double, which for most players is a nuisance bid denoting at best a marginal raise to 2 without the double. North was in no doubt that they had game on, and duly had to enter -100 on their scorecard.

1H - X - 1S - 2C was the start at the next table. It is useful to play XX after the double as 9+ points (or thereabouts) with no fit, so that a simple change of suit response is limited by the failure to redouble. North felt the quality(?) of their hearts warranted a jump rebid of 3H. South left them to it for -50.

Another North also felt that K grot to six justified a jump rebid in the same auction as above (is my bias showing?), and then bid 4H when East competed with 4C. Another -100

Finally we had

1H - X - 1S - 2C

2H - 3C¹ - 3H² - 4C³

4H³ - P - P - X⁴ all pass,

with the 8 tricks being worth -300.

¹ this makes, so ² better than defending ³ into murky territory ⁴ having pushed oppo into game, will get a bad score anyway if it makes.

Accepted

What happens if an incorrect bid or play is spotted at the time? Your reaction may well be that it gets corrected, but this is not always the case.

On Thursday one auction started 1D – 1C, with attempts to correct the insufficient bid being rebuffed by the next hand choosing to accept it:

Law 27 A1 Any insufficient bid may be accepted (treated as legal) at the option of offender's LHO. It is accepted if that player calls.

This gives rise to unexpected possibilities such as responder sowing support at the one level (eg 1D – 1C – 1D) or opener being able to rebid their suit at the one level in an auction such as 1S – 1C – 1H – P – 1S.

Calls out of rotation can also be accepted:

Law 29 A Following a call out of rotation offender's LHO may elect to call thereby forfeiting the right to any rectification.

Law 53 deals with accepting leads out of turn, and includes: *Prior to the thirteenth trick, any lead faced out of turn may be treated as a correct lead ...*

Law 55 deals with Declarer leading from the wrong hand: *If declarer has led out of turn from his or dummy's hand then either defender may accept the lead as provided in Law 53 If the defenders choose differently then the option expressed by the player next in turn to the irregular lead shall prevail.*

With respect to that last one it is worth noting that whilst dummy may try to prevent an irregularity they may not draw attention to one until play is completed. Thus they can warn declarer not to lead from the wrong hand in advance of such irregularity, but once such a play has been may not through word or manner suggest that there has been an irregularity.

Finally as ever it is always worth calling the director if an irregularity occurs to make sure you are aware of all the options available to you even though at club level it is not unusual for the players to forego so doing.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (8 tables) NS: Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell
EW: John Nicholls & Brian Smith

Tuesday F2F (7½ tables): Debbie & Roger Wilkinson

Tuesday BBO (6½ tables): Michael Cox & Sandra Bell

Thursday (3 tables teams): Brian Smith & Carl Penson
Ray Gregory & John Ellwood

Total 25 tables for the week.

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