

## Matters Arising 142

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 31st July to 4 Aug 2023.

### Falling at the First

Q 8 4  
A J 8 3  
J 7 6  
A J 4

On Thursday, playing in 3NT against a small diamond lead, two Norths fell at trick one by calling for the K from table.

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Had they played the 5 they have a certain diamond trick - if West plays the A the K is good, if West plays Q then declarer has K and J left with only the A to beat them, and if West plays small the J wins T1.

J 10 6  
K Q 4  
K 5

K 9 7 6 5  
Unfortunately for these declarers East had led from Q 10 x x x, so West was able to beat the K with their A and return the suit, taking the first 5 tricks.

With Jxx opposite Kx, or Kxx opposite Jx, declarer leaves opening the suit to the defence. Then following the adage *second hand plays low* secures a trick for declarer.

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

With only one way to take the club finesse (unless willing to play West for 10 x) declarer wraps up 5 clubs and 4 hearts as soon as they gain the lead.

### Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (8 tables) Tim Harrison & Richard Brazier

Tuesday F2F (6 tables): Andrew Peill & Steve Barron

Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Hilary Parker & Gay Talbot

Thursday (6½ tables): Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris

Total 25½ tables for the week.

The club season ends on 31st July, so time to see who won what over the last 12 months, and who ran them close.

#### Ellis Cup (Championship Teams)

- 1 Russell White & Jeremy Harris,  
Bob Boyd & Steve Barron
- 2 Martyn Harris & Robin Rose,  
Dave Harrison & Gillian Whyte
- 3 Babs Matthews & John Farmer  
Tim Matthews & Ian Reeves

#### Carson Cup (Championship Pairs)

- 1 Mike Howse & Martyn Harris
- 2 Jeremy Harris & Russell White
- 3 Ken Orford & Steve Douglas

#### Monday Cup (players below Advanced Master)

- 1 Ken Orford & Steve Douglas
- 2 Phillip Burley & Sarah Bullock
- 3 Amanda Etherington & Andrew Peill

#### Hargreaves Cup (Tues F2F players below 8 NGS)

- 1= Debbie & Roger Wilkinson
- 3 Helen Finch

#### Summer Plate (Tues BBO, handicapped)

- 1 Amanda Etherington & Martyn Harris
- 2 Hilary Storey & Jacky Truelove
- 3 Catherine & Roger Preston

#### Wraight Cup (Below Advanced Master, handicap)

Autumn: Judith Johnstone & Anne Urquhart  
Spring: Hilary Pickup & Jackie Beavon

#### Betty Limb (Individual)

- 1 Martyn Harris, 2 Pat Downes, 3 Andrew Peill

#### Pro-Am

- 1 Martyn Harris & Alison Jones
- 2 Chris Banks & Margaret Pook
- 3 Andrew Smith & Helen Finch

#### Monday Averages

- 1 58.06 Mike Howse & Martyn Harris
- 2 56.58 Russell White & Jeremy Harris
- 3 54.61 Richard Brazier & Tim Harrison

#### Tuesday BBO averages

- 1 57.35 Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell
- 2 56.93 Babs Matthews & Felicity Kay
- 3 56.74 Michael Cox & Sandra Bell

#### Thursday Averages

- 1 60.57 Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris
- 2 56.75 Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell
- 3 54.76 Ina Gray & Pat Downes


## Courtesy No Trump

In an ideal world a 1NT response to a suit opening shows a balanced hand with 6–9 points and no suit you wish to bid at the 1 level.

However a second type of hand is also possible - that being too strong to pass, too weak to bid a new suit at the 2 level and having no suit that can be bid at the one level. This sort of hand can be any shape, and the 1NT response on this type is referred to as the courtesy NT, for you are keeping the bidding open as a courtesy to your partner.

Different partnerships will have their own views as to the minimum strength for bidding a new suit at the two level - I very rarely go below 10 points.

Monday's hand 15 was a classic case:

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

North opens 1S, South makes a courtesy NT response. North has an easy rebid of 2D and South bids 2H. South's refusal to pick between the two suits offered is a classic sign of a courtesy response. Realising that South must have a string of hearts North passes. North's high cards and South's trumps combine well to produce a good score.

Half the field of 8 tables were unable to put the brakes on before reaching game variously in 3NT, 4H or 4S, presumably after South made a 2 level response to sound stronger than they were. None of these games made.

## Forcing Rebid


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

This is board 7 from Monday. Assuming North-South are silent throughout, how should East-West bid the hand?

1C – 1S – 2C seems a fairly simple start. It appears that half the Easts present then lost patience and rebid 3NT. A diamond lead and offside QC put paid to that contract's chances.

2H is a possible rebid, but fails to reflect the strength of the hand, for having opening strength as responder, East expects game.

3H seems easily the best choice. This jump is game-forcing, promises at least 5 spades to have bid them first as well as 4+ hearts. West knows of the 5–3 spade fit and can bid 3S or 4S according to style and assessment of reserves of strength.

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

Despite the 4–1 trump break 4S makes and on most defences it is easy to do so for the loss of AH and QS.

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