

Matters Arising 147

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 4 - 8 Sept 2023

Plan A

K 7
Q J 7 4
A Q 10 5
A J 4




J 10 9 6 3
K 8 6
9 2
K 3 2

You are North, and after opening 1H declare in NT on the lead of 10H. Whether in 1NT or 3NT you will want to make as many tricks as possible. There seem to be 5 certain tricks - AKC, AD and 2 hearts, with plenty of options beyond that. Get planning.

It is unusual for declarer's suit to be led, and then it is often an indication that the leader believes their suit to be better than declarer's. West follows with the 2.

We'd like to finesse against the QC and KJ D as well as lead towards the KS, though that would need 4 entries on table. Which suit promises to allow us to generate the most extra tricks? Whereas the finesses if successful generate one extra trick each there is the promise of three extra tricks in spades provided we can reach dummy to cash them once they have been set up. The opening lead suggests there is an entry to dummy in hearts either via KH or finessing against the 9, for the lead hints at both A and 9 East. The KC is a second entry, so we can use one to help set up the suit and the other to enjoy it.

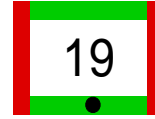
Obviously win T1 in hand and lead KS. Suppose this holds. Follow up with the 7 losing to the Q. If West wins and leads a minor you get to try a finesse, if East wins and continues hearts you discover whether you do have a heart entry to table. East does win and you do have a heart entry. Now JS forces out the A, with KC as entry to enjoy the long spades, after which you can try a safe diamond finesse - safe because if it loses East cannot continue the suit. Consequently you will have time to knock out AH for a third heart trick.

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

With all minor suit finesses working you make 3 spades, 3 hearts, 2 clubs, AD and whichever finesse you choose for 10 tricks.

Plan B

A 8 7
A 2
A Q J 7 2
A K 10




Q 9 5
K 6 4
10 5 3
Q 9 7 3

You are West, and the auction 2NT - 3NT drew forth the lead of 5H from North. Over to you.

1 spade, 2 hearts, 3 clubs comes to 6 tricks. We can surely get at least 3 diamond tricks, so our contract is not in danger. We would like to take the diamond finesse, repeatedly if the K doesn't appear on the first round, and give ourselves a chance of making dummy's long club. If the finesse works and the clubs break (or JC comes down in 2) there are 12 tricks. Go for them.

Win T1 on table with KH and run 10D, with intent to repeat the finesse if it works.

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

It does. Repeat the finesse and reel off the diamonds. The clubs behave too and 12 tricks are indeed yours.

Plan C

8 5 3
Q 9 2
9 3 2
J 9 6 3



Q J 4
A K J
K Q J 10 7 4
7

South is in the hot seat this time, declaring in 3D after East opened 1C. West leads KC to T1 and follows up with the 5C at T2.

Your plan please.

Five diamond and three heart tricks should be easy. It is the ninth trick that is the problem. The defence might be kind and give you a trick in the black suits, but such generosity cannot be relied upon.

Spades could provide a trick if East has at least one of the spade honours, and indeed this must be a good chance for West has already produced the KC and East opened. To achieve a spade trick though we must expect to have to lead the suit twice from table. One entry is via hearts, overtaking the J with the Q. The other entry will have to be 9D, so the A will have to be singleton or doubleton, though you could play for West to hold it.

8 5 3	22	K 10 2
Q 9 2	22	7 6 4
9 3 2	22	A
J 9 6 3	22	A Q 10 8 4 2
A 9 7 6	22	Q J 4
10 8 5 3	22	A K J
8 6 5	22	K Q J 10 7 4
K 5	22	7

Ruff the second club and lay down KD. East wins and continues clubs shortening your trumps without setting up a club on table. Now a diamond to table - you didn't use all your small trumps up ruffing the clubs did you? - and lead a spade to the J and K. West probably exits with their last trump, though has nothing better to do, and you can now enter dummy via hearts to lead another spade, enabling you win a precious spade trick regardless of whether East rises with their K or not.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (7½ tables): Robert Harvey & David Harris

Tuesday F2F (7 tables):

NS: Robert Boyd & Mike Casson

EW: Ralph Rogerson & Sheila Alcock

Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Thursday am (4 tables)

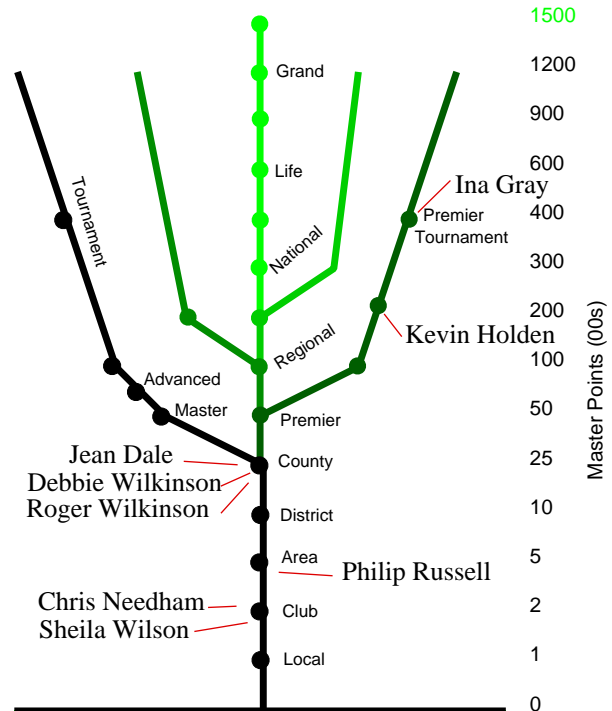
NS: Hilary Claxton & Val Cawood

EW: Jane Morgan & Ann-Marie Smith

Thursday (6 tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Total 29½ tables for the week.

August was a good month for Master Points promotions. Ina Gray became a Premier Tournament Master; Debbie and Roger Wilkinson both became County Masters, as did Jean Dale; Philip Russell is now an Area Master, and Chris Needham and Sheila Wilson are Club Masters. Kevin Holden, a frequent visitor to the club, has been promoted to 3* Premier Master.



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