

## Matters Arising 151

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 2 - 6 Oct 2023

### Three in One

K 6 5 4  
10 9 6 5  
A Q 9 5  
K

24

A Q 7 2  
K Q 7  
10 8 3  
A 10 5

Tuesday's last hand provided three talking points.

First, what should North open, assuming they don't devalue the singleton KC to rate the hand a pass?

There are many schools of thought when it comes to opening 4-4-4-1 shaped hands, but playing a weak NT I dislike opening the suit above the singleton on a weak hand for you are then struggling for a rebid if partner

replies in your singleton. Here if you open 1D and partner bids 2C you would be forced to rebid your 4 card diamond suit for you are nowhere near strong enough to rebid 2NT (15+) nor to reverse into a major. Admittedly the alternatives are not much better:

1S - 2C - 2R is normally taken to guarantee 4 spades, and after 1H - 2C - 2D we tend to expect 5 hearts.

My choice is 1H for it doesn't undermine the idea that 1S is always either 5+ spades and/or 15+ points. Further if the auction does go 1H - 2C - 2D at least I will have shown two of my suits.

Next, how does South handle a 2C overcall from East?

If North opened 1H then X is ideal, effectively saying "I would have responded 1S". North rebids 2S (not a reverse but showing a fit) and South happily bounces to game.

Had North opened 1D life is harder as South has only one of the missing majors. 3NT may be the chosen call. Suppose though that South held

A Q x x   K J x   x x   x x x x

Far too strong to want to lie down to the overcall, can't bid NT or support partner's diamonds, and doesn't want to bid 2S, pushing partner to the 3 level with no known fit. The answer again seems to be X, and we see that 1D - 2C - X may only be 4-3 in the majors, though 1C - 1D - X will be 4-4 as with just one major you can bid it easily at the 1 level.

Finally to the play in 3NT on a club lead. There is no shortage of potential tricks - 3, probably 4 in spades, 2 in clubs, and usually 1 or 2 in hearts. which can become 3 if the J co-operates. Plus whatever can be gleaned from diamonds. Whilst there might be 3 heart tricks depending on the J, 3 diamond tricks depend on West holding either J or K, with 4 likely if West holds both.

After winning T1, cross to hand with a spade honour and run the 8D.

K 6 5 4  
10 9 6 5  
A Q 9 5  
K

J 9  
J 8 3 2  
K J 6 4 2  
4 3

24

10 8 3

A 4

7

Q J 9 8 7 6 2

A Q 7 2  
K Q 7  
10 8 3  
A 10 5

Few Wests will cover the 8 here, so it holds. The 10 comes next, to J and Q. East shows out confirming 4 tricks in the suit, but declarer first switches to a heart to set up a trick there. Declarer comes to 12 tricks via 4 each in spades and diamonds and 2 each in the other suits. Declining the ladder finesse by playing the QD on the first round fares less well. Note that there is no hurry to cash the spades for they may be useful for communications later.

As the cards lie 3NT outscores 4S for both make 12 tricks, but give East 2 red suit entries and spades will be superior to NT.

### Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (6 tables): Russell White & Jeremy Harris

Tuesday F2F (6½ tables):

Philip Russell & Audrey Cunningham

Tuesday BBO (7½ tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Thursday am (6 tables)

NS: Helen Finch & Moira Williams

EW: Penny Henderson & Hanna Burke

Thursday BBO (4 tables): David & Janet Owen

Total 30 tables for the week.

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