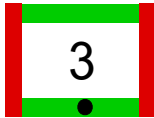


Matters Arising 158

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 20 24 Nov 2023

2NT

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



A K J 4
A Q 4 3
K 7 5
K 5

On Monday five of the seven tables saw South declare in 3NT, after the auction 2NT – 3NT presumably. A club lead to East's A and one back left declarer understandably nervous about the suit and thus reluctant to take major suit finesses. There are 9 easy tricks though, so the contract didn't fail.

Four small in a major is no bar to using Stayman.

2NT – 3C – 3H – 3NT – 4S is one obvious auction, with South able to bid 4S at the end as partner must have a major to have used Stayman, and since North doesn't like hearts they must hold spades.

Puppet Stayman users will bid 2NT – 3C – 3D – 3H – 4S.

3C asks for a 5 card major, 3D denies a 5 card major but promises at least one 4 card one (3NT would deny both 5 and 4 card majors). 3H says North has 4 spades, bidding the major they don't hold so that South always declares - with both majors North normally bids 4D over 3D.

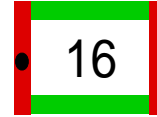
	9 7 6 3		
	9 5		
	A Q J 9 2		
	9 4		
5 2			Q 10 8
J 8 7 2			K 10 6
10 4			8 6 3
Q 8 6 3 2			A J 10 7
	A K J 4		
	A Q 4 3		
	K 7 5		
	K 5		

With spades 3–2 and both major suit finesses working South has no trouble making 12 tricks - KC, 2 hearts, 5 diamonds and 4 trumps.

Interesting question: Declarer in 3NT can see that 4S makes 10 tricks even if both major suit finesses fail. Should they then risk finesses to beat the people in 4S, or rely on most being in 3NT with them for a near average score?

1NT

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



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

On Thursday all 6 tables saw East declare in 1NT on the lead of 5C. North won T1 with QC and returned the suit. Many lines were chosen. Most failed.

Declarer can see 3 spade tricks AD and a club winner. A common ploy was to play on hearts, presumably because of the high cards there. However dummy lacks a sure entry, so it looks as if 1 heart trick is the most declarer would be allowed unless KD is South. And if KD is South the diamonds look a better bet.

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

As soon as declarer gets on lead they lead a small diamond towards the Q, crossing to hand via a spade first if they are put on table with KC. Whether South holds off or rises with KD, the 3–3 break leaves declarer with 4 diamonds, 3 spades and a club, though if they are asked to guess the heart situation by South they may only make 7 tricks. Seven tricks though would still have been above average.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (7½ tables): Mike Howse & Martyn Harris

Tuesday F2F (7½ tables): Roger & Debbie Wilkinson

Tuesday BBO (6½ tables):

Mary Sapsford & Vanessa Cordwell

Thursday am (6 tables):

NS: Philip Russell & Sam Rayner

EW: Jo Ainsworth & Carolyn Raner

Thursday (6 tables): Shirley & David Harris

Total 33½ 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