

# Matters Arising 167

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC Jan 22 - 26 2024

## Count Declarer

K 7 4 2		East led the 3H against 5D
K J 5		by North on this hand from
9 6 2		Thursday, the auction
A Q 10		starting 1S - 2D - 2S.
A Q J 10 5		North won with the Ace
7 6		over West's King and drew
K 5		trumps in 3 rounds, East
J 8 4 3		making two discards.

Next a spade finesse, losing to West's King. Now what from West?

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

On the night West cashed AC and tried another one. Declarer was charmed. The club was ruffed and declarer's losing hearts disappeared on dummy's spades.

The 3H looks fourth best, marking North with 3 or 4 hearts. Declarer has also shown 7 diamonds, and probably has 2 spades - with 3 they would have supported partner and with a singleton they would have tackled the suit before using up the diamond entry to the table. That marks declarer with at most one club. Moreover if East has 4+ poor hearts they would lead second best not fourth best, so should hold the Q, being the only card of quality they could be showing. Having counted declarer's hand the correct defence of J and another heart is easy to find. East will count the heart suit and realise the only other possible trick will be in clubs, switch accordingly and take the contract two off on the back of KS, 2 hearts and a club.

Elsewhere South played in 4S on KH lead. Declarer won on table and took the spade finesse, which West won. The defence could now only come to 1 heart and 1 club trick. Ducking the spade leaves declarer in a mess - play another round of trumps and they have multiple club losers, don't and they can't run many diamonds. West can't count declarer's hand this time, but must be hopeful of clubs to come if dummy's last trump goes.

## Disappearing Trump Trick

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

On Tuesday all 5 tables played this hand in 4H after South opened INT, 4 times by South, once by North.

Two Souths received a spade lead. East can see 13 points both in dummy and in their own hand. Factor in declarer's 1NT opening and West is known to have not very much. Despite this after rising with the A East returned the suit. In short order declarer discarded dummy's singleton club on the third spade and made the contract for the loss of AS and two hearts.

The other two Souths received a club lead but fared differently. At one table East inserted the 10 - I guess it must have seemed a good idea at the time - and ten tricks ensued. The other East rose with the A, cashed AS and waited for two trump tricks, which duly arrived. One off.

With North declarer East decide to get off lead and await developments. Hence trick one was a diamond. Declarer won in hand and led a trump, East's 9 forcing out the K. A spade to the J was gobbled up by East's A, with the AC quickly following, after which East led 10C and waited for two tricks from their QJx trumps sat over declarer's A with the K already gone:

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

Declarer's only hope is to endplay East - put them in with one heart winner so that they have to lead away from the other. That can only happen in a 3 card ending, else East will have an alternative and safe exit. North needs to get rid of two trumps, and guess East's distribution so that they can't ruff in early.

The 10C was won on table with the K and a diamond discarded. A club ruff, spade and spade ruff, and two diamonds followed, reaching the desired 3 card ending with North holding A 10 8 in trumps and East Q J 2. A low heart from declarer now left East with only one trump trick.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (8½ tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Ina Gray & Mary Anne Peden

Tues F2F ( 6 Tables): David & Shirley Harris

Thursday am (9 tables):

NS: Carolyn Rayner & Jo Ainsworth

EW: David Crowe & Jane Curzon

Thursday (6½ tables):

Andrew Smith & Dudley Hargreaves

Total 35 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