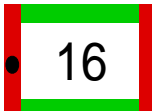


Matters Arising 170

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 12 - 16 Feb 2024

Reverse?

Choosing a rebid often causes problems for opener, and this was indeed the case on this hand from Monday's pro-am.

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


East opens 1H and has to choose a rebid when West replies 1NT. Pass seems feeble, so the choice is between 2S and 2NT. 2NT is a straight invitation to 3NT which presumably will be accepted if responder has 8 or 9 points but declined with less.

2S is a reverse, which for most players will show at least a similar strength to 2NT but emphasise the distribution. Since responder has denied a 4 card major - West really should reply 1H or 1S in preference to 1NT - the implication is that opener either has very good diamonds or is very poor in either hearts or clubs.

Over 2NT West has an easy bid of 3NT. This contract needs diamonds 3-2 and either hearts 4-4 or QC onside - you may need to guess which, though chances improve substantially if there is not a heart lead.

Over a 2S rebid life is harder for West. With 9 points they would like to be in game, but by highlighting their distribution East has put considerable doubts in the mind of West (and helped the defence find a lead). Should West now bid 3D, which might just be a 6 count, 4D, possibly by-passing the contract they want to be in, or take a punt on NT?

I'd be happy to take my chances in 3NT on a fairly uninformative 1D - 1NT - 2NT - 3NT auction. Others will prefer the safety of a diamond part-score despite the combined 26 count. What's your style?


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

Plan

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

On Monday 9 Wests were asked to make 4H, with 6S being the most common lead. Over to you.

With only 3 obvious tricks outside trumps it could be that 7 trump tricks are needed. Moreover lacking AH there are only 4 natural trump tricks, so 3 ruffs in the short trump hand are called for. Fortunately West has three small spades willing so to be treated.

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

Play goes AS, spade ruff, AD, spade ruff, diamond ruff, spade ruff. That is 6 tricks, with at least AC and three natural trump tricks to come.

A defence starting A and another trump is rather more demanding, but the contract still gets home thanks to KQ C being onside, though declarer still needs to secure two spades.

Same Shape

A J 10 4
Q 8 2
A 2
A K Q 2




K 9 6 3
6 5 4
J 5
10 6 4 3

South found themselves hands of identical shape when playing in spades on this hand from Tuesday, after West opened 1H and North doubled for take-out. Not much chance of ruffs it would appear, except that the trumps stop the defence running riot in the red suits.

A typical defence started AH, KH, heart ruff, followed by a diamond switch.

There is no virtue in ducking this switch, and indeed there are benefits to had from winning immediately. Clearly trumps need to be tackled, with the bidding hinting at the Q being West. Nevertheless there is no harm leading JS in case East is *a cover an honour with an honour* player. East doesn't play the Q, but declarer rises with the K anyway and leads a second trump towards table. When West produces the Q on this, and East follows, that is the trumps dealt with. Just need to run the clubs for 4 trumps, 4 clubs and AD.

There is a nasty surprise though when West shows out on the second club, meaning that East's Jack cannot be picked up. However declarer has a counter blow - lead the losing diamond. If West wins they only have red cards and have to concede a ruff and discard. If East wins their choice is giving a ruff and discard by leading a diamond, or leading a club allowing declarer to make a fourth trick there. Either way declarer ends up with 9 tricks. This endplay is the benefit that derives from not ducking the early diamond.

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

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (14 tables Pro-Am):

Mike Howse & Andrew Smith

Tuesday BBO (6½ tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Tues F2F (7 Tables): Jean Dale & Ralph Rogerson

Thursday am (9 tables):

NS: Sam Rayner & Bob Churchward

EW: Dennis & Margaret Pook

Thursday (5 tables, teams): Brian Smith & Carl Penson

Ray Gregory & John Ellwood,

Total 41½ 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