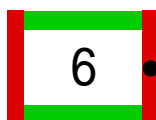


## Matters Arising 172

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 26 Feb - 1 Mar 2024

### Riding Their Luck

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



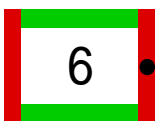
K 6 4  
Q  
K Q 9 8 5 3 2  
5 3

At four of Tuesday's five tables this hand was played in 3NT by North. East led their fourth best club, and when the J held declarer could count 5 spades, 2 clubs, a diamond and AH, always assuming that the spades broke 3-2.

Three declarers played a diamond towards table at trick 2, and when their chosen honour held with both defenders following continued with the other top diamond honour. The diamonds broke 2-2, and declarer enjoyed 12 tricks without having to worry about the spade break (6D, 2C, 3S AH).

Suppose though that East had held AHx in diamonds. Then this play would have lost 2 tricks in diamonds. Worse still there would be no way to table to enjoy the diamonds after the KS is used as entry to play a third round to set the suit up.

Better to return to hand at T3 via a spade and lead another diamond towards table. Now if East has AHx in diamonds it doesn't bother declarer.

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

Declarer dodged a bullet when East choose to lead a club rather than a heart, though East has no way of knowing that a heart is superior. It would have been a sad end to the story had the failure to lead twice towards dummy's diamond honours cost tricks.

### A Sorry Tale

10 4 3  
K 9 7 5  
K Q 10 2  
A K

9 8 7  
A 6 3 2  
J 9 8 7 6  
10



A J 2  
Q J 10 8 4  
5  
Q 8 7 5

K Q 6 5  
--  
A 4 3  
J 9 6 4 3 2

On Tuesday three of the tables saw a heart game declared on board 22, with a different number of tricks made at each. The other two tables saw diamond part-scores fail, one in each direction.

What was North doing in 2D? Going down is the obvious answer. East (dealer had opened 1C, South overcalled 1H and North bid 2D, presumably in an attempt to gauge the strength of the overcall. South passed. Whether or not you like North's 2D bid it is worth agreeing that if a hand that has not previously passed responds to an overcall then that response is forcing. Such an agreement allows a strong hand in the fourth seat to investigate possibilities rather than being under pressure to show their hand in one bid.

West reached 3D in an uncontested auction that started 1C - 1D. 2 down would have been a good score with game on NS, but it proved only to be an average.

1H - 3H - 4H with North opening was another auction. East led the AD (why?) and declarer had an easy 11 tricks with their two losing spades disappearing on the KQD so generously established.

Another table also started with 3 passes. North opened 1D (some people do), East overcalled 2C and South ended up in 4H. West led a club, but although the defence set up a spade to go with the red Aces East declined to give West a club ruff to beat the contract.

At the last table East opened 1C, but South overcalled 1H and played in the heart game. Declarer tackled trumps on winning the club lead. West won and played a diamond to K and A. East switched to KS allow declarer to win and draw trumps to make for the loss of QS, AH and AD. Except South didn't draw trumps, but played a club giving West the ruff they craved for. One off.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (7 tables): Robert Boyd & Steve Barron

Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Tues F2F (8 tables): Robert Boyd & Dorothy Bayliss

Thursday am (9 tables):

NS: Brenda Richardson & Rita Davies

EW: Suzanne Graham & Gill Green

Thursday (7 tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Total 36 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