

Matters Arising 176

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 25 - 29 Mar 2024

The Ruff Way

At most tables on Monday North opened 1NT and South transferred out to 2S. East led 10H. 9 tricks was a common outcome for declarer even though we can see the defence can score 3 diamonds, 2 major suit Aces and a heart ruff. How might the defence go about collecting their 6 tricks?

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

With the 9H on table the 10 looks like a doubleton lead - a singleton would require North to have 5 hearts.

West can rise with the A and return the suit. They will want to tell partner how to get them on lead, and this is achieved by returning the 8H - a high card asking for a high suit. Trumps can presumably be discounted, so the high suit is diamonds.

East gets in with AS, probably at T3, trusts partner and leads a diamond and gets a heart to ruff by return. Now what? North has shown 4 points in the majors - JS and QJ H, so must have at least 8 in the minors of which diamonds can contribute at most 3. North has at least 5 points in clubs. East deduces that declarer must have AK C. No point in playing that suit then, so diamonds are continued and the defence get their 6 tricks.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (7½ tables): Russell White & Jeremy Harris

Tuesday BBO (5 tables):

Judy Rayner & Charlotte Casson

Tues F2F (8 tables): Andrew Peill & Steven Barron

Thursday am (6 tables):

NS: Brenda Richardson & Rita Davies

EW: Helen Finch & Moira Williams

Thursday (6 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Total 32½ tables for the week.

Landy

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

On Thursday's board 3 several Easts bid 2C over North's opening 1NT, which in the Landy convention promises at least 5-4 in the majors. Analysis shows that EW can make 7 tricks in hearts and even fewer in spades. They were already in trouble, and where West replied 2S and East raised it was only inaccurate defence that could save them from disaster.

Three questions arise. Firstly why did East roll out Landy when they seem to have a perfectly good double? This would have led to 2C from West, 2H from East and defeat by at most 1 trick.

Secondly why did West bid 2S? In showing at least 5-4 in the majors East isn't asking for West's best major but where they think the partnership is best advised to play. Most people would prefer to play in a 5-2 fit rather than a 4-3 one even though in practice the latter sometimes proves better, and so West should respond 2D so as to play in East's 5 card suit. Here whether East rebids 2H or 2S West will happily produce the green (Pass) card.

The third question as to whether East is entitled to raise the response is harder to answer. In an ideal world EW will have an agreement as the the weakest holding that East may have - perhaps 8 losers in line with many simple overcalls, though the result of doodling several Landy type hands might convince them that 7 losers is as bad as it gets. With this knowledge West will be better placed to know whether to jump in response to 2C, and East whether to continue further.

Martyn Harris
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