

## Matters Arising 177

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 1 - 5 Apr 2024

### Multiple Concerns

J 6 5  
Q 10 9 7  
K 9  
10 8 7 4



A K Q 10 8 3  
A 4 3 2  
Q 8 6  
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This hand caused plenty of problems when it turned up late on Tuesday.

At one table South opened 2C presumably off the back of having counted just 4 losers. North bid 2D, East doubled to show diamonds and South rebid 2S, where they were left to play.

Whether or nor one agrees that the South hand is worth a 2C (strong in any suit) opening, I can't help feeling

that the purpose of such bids is to reach games opposite hands that might pass a 1 level suit opening. As such North should surely not be backing out of the auction as soon as South reveals their suit.

Elsewhere South opened 1S and West overcalled 2C. North would surely have replied without the overcall - 1NT seems favourite - so will want to get this message across. Yet one North passed and became the second table to play in a spade part-score.

A negative double was chosen at a third table, showing 4 hearts. South decided that they needed more from partner for game, so only bid 3H, and North passed.

At the final two tables North decided that the ruffing value provided by the doubleton diamond alongside the knowledge that South has 5+ spades and/or 15+ points justified a raise to 2S, and South immediately bounced to game.

The play in the spade contracts varied too.

A club was led, which declarer ruffed. There could be 2 heart losers, so declarer will be even more determined than usual to limit themselves to 1 loser in diamonds. This can be achieved by ruffing a diamond, which will need to be done before drawing trumps.

Declarer can afford 1 round of trumps before setting up the diamond ruff, so T2 is AS, followed by a diamond to the K and A. A trump back wouldn't stop the ruff, so East might choose to continue diamonds. Up goes the Q, ruff the third diamond with JS, and draw trumps which prove to be 3-1. Now comes AH hoping to correctly guess how to play the second round of the suit. However East drops KH under the A, presumably marking West with the J. So next comes heart to 10, ruff a club and repeat the heart finesse. When the dust has settled South has lost just one trick, to AD.

At most tables though the lure of drawing trumps was too great, leaving declarer vulnerable to 2 losers in each red suit. Although no-one lost 2 heart tricks, drawing trumps first left these Souths with 2 diamond losers and hence at most 11 tricks.

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

The friendly lie of the hearts means declarer can always make 12 tricks, but what should East lead when in with AD? A club is what makes South nervous, but many defenders are averse to leading cards they know declarer can ruff.

From declarer's side though a club would force their second ruff - they clearly won't be discarding with more clubs then bound to follow. Add that to 3 spades that will quite possibly be needed to draw trumps and they will be down to their last trump before tackling hearts. If they have to lose 2 hearts then another club after the first of these losses will use up their last trump, and the second heart loss will leave the defence able to cash minor suit winners.

### Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (5½ tables): Martyn Harris & Mike Howse

Tuesday BBO (4½ tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Tues F2F (8½ tables): Andrew Peill & Steven Barron

Thursday am (8 tables):

NS: David Crowe & Jane Curzon

EW: Jill & Chris Yates

Thursday (7½ tables): Linda White & Jackie Stabler

Total 34 tables for the week.

*Martyn Harris*  
spadeilike on BBO