

Matters Arising 178

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 8 - 12 Apr 2024

Deep Finesse

A J 10 5 2
Q
7 4
A J 8 7 3

NS held the spades on Monday's board 24, which enabled them to outbid EW who competed in hearts. The final contract was 4S by North, with 2H led.

24

K 9 7 4
J 4 3
K 10 5
9 6 4

The red Aces are two obvious losers, and clearly the club suit cannot be played without loss. Consequently declarer has to assume that they will pick up the trump suit without loss, and manage the clubs for one loser.

West wins T1 and returns a heart which declarer ruffs. Declarer plays A and another spade, feeling happier when East produces the Q on the second round - the trumps have broken 2-2 and a trump loser has been avoided.

Now for clubs.

A J 9
xxx

is a classic combination.

Playing small towards the J picks up the suit for one loser if West holds both K and Q, but small towards the 9 works if West has K 10 or Q 10 as the 9 forces the missing honour from East setting up a simple finesse on the second round. Small to the 9 is called a deep finesse and clearly has a better chance of success of the double finesse play of small to J. Both plays work if West holds K Q 10.

A J 10 5 2
Q
7 4
A J 8 7 3

8 6
A 9 8 7 6
Q 8 2
K 10 2

24

Q 3
K 10 5 2
A J 9 6 3
Q 5

K 9 7 4
J 4 3
K 10 5
9 6 4

On our hand North has A J 8, but the 9 in South's hand completes the deep finesse set-up. With the 10 outside the deep finesse of small to 8 works and 4S makes for the loss of two red Aces and QC.

Double Finesse

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

20

10 8 2
A J 9 8 3 2
J 2
5 4

Tuesday, and West is in 4H on a small diamond lead. South wins and returns the suit, which West ruffs. North shows out on a heart to table so declarer rises with the A and puts South in with KH.

South comes back a small club, which West wins. So far declarer has lost AD and KH. The contract depends on not losing 2 spades.

A J x
x x x

This is the standard double finesse. Lead twice towards the J and if West holds both K and Q only 1 trick is lost.

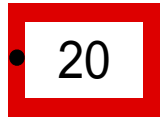
A J 10
x x x

Add the 10 to the North hand and now only 1 trick is lost unless East has both K and Q. If small to 10 loses to one honour you now try a simple finesse against the other.

A J x
10 x x

Adding the 10 to the South hand increases the chances of escaping with one loser. The correct technical play is leading small either towards the 10 or the J in case the second hand has a singleton honour. If small towards J produces an honour from West then winning with A leaves J and 10 to fight the Q. If small towards 10 produces an honour from East then there is now a finesse against West's honour if they have one. This may be the best practical line as East may rise with a supported honour. West should cover the 10 if led to leave the J fighting on its own, but some defenders are remarkably reluctant to do this in which case if the 10 runs to an honour East there is a simple finesse left against the honour West refused to play.

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



The double finesse works and secures the 4H contract.

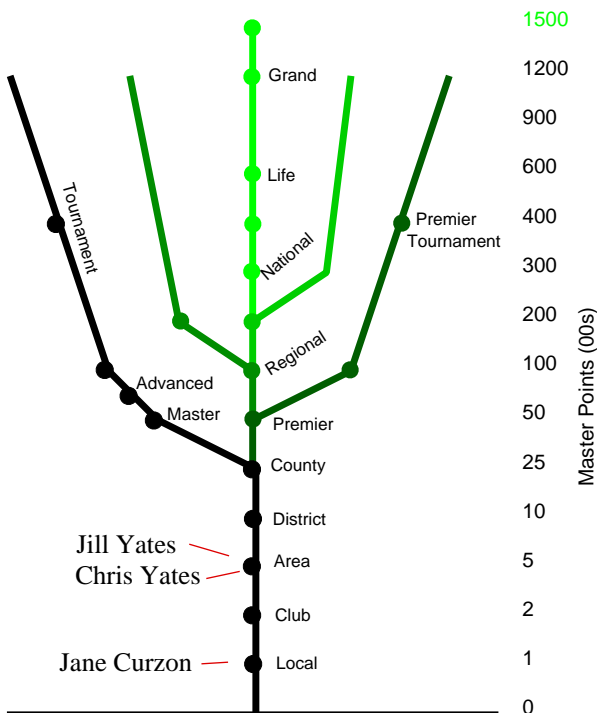
Around The Club

This weeks winners were

- Monday (6½ tables): Phillip Burley & Sarah Bullock
- Tuesday F2F (7 tables): David & Shirley Harris
- Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Ina Gray & Mary Anne Peden
- Thursday am (8 tables):
 - NS: Dorotyh Bayliss & Alison Jones
 - EW: Jill & Chris Yates
- Thursday BBO (6 tables):
 - Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris

Total 32½ tables for the week.

Three members of the club achieved Master Point promotions during March, with Jill & Chris Yates reaching Area Master and Jane Curzon becoming a Local Master. Well done all.



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