

Matters Arising 218

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 13 - 17 Jan & match v Lancaster 19th Jan 2025


Odds On

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

You are East on this hand from Monday, declaring in spades. South, who opened 1D, cashed two top diamonds and switched to a club. North wins with the K, you having played small from table, and switches to hearts. Over to you. Does it matter whether you are in 3S or 4S?


South all but certainly has KH for their 1D opening as North has produced KC. Letting the heart run would be a 4th loser. It also sets up the Q bringing you close to the 9 tricks needed for 4S - you would just have to park your 4th heart somewhere, assuming trumps behave, which is odds on. If the trumps don't behave of course that is a 5th loser anyway.

However the heart switch also suggests that South's club wasn't singleton, for North hasn't tried to give a ruff which surely they would had they held 4 clubs. Thus you can afford to rise with AH, cash your remaining club honour in hand, draw trumps ending on table, and run the clubs for 10 tricks.

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

Indeed should South's switch at T3 be to 10C you don't even need to cash your 2nd club honour before drawing trumps as you can afford to play it under the A.

Options


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

On this hand from the Lancaster match West fell short in 5D, with 7C being the most common lead. North had called 1S over West's 1D opening bid. What are declarer's options?

Winners are 7 diamonds, AC and AK H. Losers are 2 spades. The 11 th trick or third loser could come from attempting a finesse in either hearts or clubs.

The lead could be 4th best from KJ87, MUD from 87x or top of a doubleton. MUD or top of a doubleton opens up another option for declarer - playing South for both KJ C.

Declarer calls for the AC and follows up with the Q, discarding a spade if South plays low. In practice South plays the K, West ruffs and plays AD. When both defenders follow declarer draws the last trump and crosses to table with another trump to take a ruffing finesse in clubs, taking advantage of the good intermediates 10 and 9 on table.

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

South can cover both QC and 10C, but declarer can then discard a losing spade on the 9C as declarer still has AH as entry to reach it. Then the heart finesse is for an overtrick, which doesn't materialise.

Note though that this line requires 3 entries to clubs, which have to be AC, AH and a trump. Thus declarer can't waste the AC entry at T1 to draw trumps.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (9 tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Tuesday F2F (7 tables):

Robert Boyd & Brenda Richardson

Tuesday BBO (6 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Thursday am (6 tables):

Sarah Bullock & Diana Smethurst

Thursday BBO (4½ tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Total 32½ tables for the week.

Also on Sunday Kendal retained the **Parkinson Trophy** by beating Lancaster.

The Kendal team was

Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell, Ray Gregory & John Ellwood, Tim Harrison & Brian Smith, Mary Anne Peden & Jacky Truelove, Chris Wilkinson & Chris Walker, Chris Banks & Hilary Parker.

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