

Matters Arising 224

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 24 - 28 Feb 2025

Trigger

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



No surprise that every East opened 1H on this hand from Thursday. 4H was a popular reply. What now from East? A quick count of losers comes to 5, which added to West's assumed 7 for a game raise (in fact West has 6) gives 12. A common trigger for investigating slam is a fit and a combined at most 12 losers.

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



Q 10
8
K J 9 8 7
Q 8 6 5 2

Bidding 6 was a minority action, yet there are an easy 13 tricks once the trumps are seen to split 2-1 as expected: 2 natural trumps, 2 spades, 2 clubs, AD and 6 ruffs. No need to try the diamond finesse.

Bidding 7 is more problematical, for West will be fearful of partner holding Axx in spades, and both partners may be concerned about a trump loser.

4-4 Adds One

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



There seems a marked reluctance by some players to make use of Stayman and transfers over 2NT. This resulted in this hand from Monday being played in 3NT at half the tables and in 4H at the other half. To me the auction 2NT – 3C – 3H – 4H looks automatic.

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



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

The club finesse works and the heart one fails. At first glance, played in NT declarer makes 3 spades, 3 hearts, a diamond and 2 clubs for 9 tricks. In hearts declarer has a trump left over in each hand after drawing the enemy teeth, so can make these separately. ie they make 2 natural trump tricks and 2 ruffs, one more from the trump suit than those in NT. Once again a 4-4 fit produces one more trick than in NT.

A closer look reveals that all the big NS clubs clear in 3 rounds, so that an observant declarer can make an extra trick there whether in NT or hearts.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (8½ tables): Russell White & Jeremy Harris

Tuesday F2F (8 tables): Russell White & Robert Harvey

Tuesday BBO (5 tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Thursday am (5½ tables): Bernard & Sabina Houssin

Thursday BBO (6½ tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Total 33½ tables for the week.

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