

## Matters Arising

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC

### A Game of Precedences

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

Only one of 4 Wests managed to bring home 3NT on a heart lead on this hand from Tuesday's play, and they weren't convincing.

There appear to be 9 tricks - three in each major and 3 in clubs, the third by force because of the J 10 combination. Indeed a 4th club is likely needing just a 4-2 break, and a fifth possible if Qxx onside.


The problem is one of blockages. The opening lead is of course allowed to run to hand, and the J wins. The KH needs to be cashed before the A is accessed, the KQ S need to be taken to free up the AS, and the club finesse taken before hearts are cleared to avoid helping the defence there.

After KH is taken the only way back to hand is via a spade, and then the only way back to dummy is via a club unless you are prepared to overtake a spade.

How should declarer tackle the problem?

At T2 run the JC. If this holds that is the 9th trick banked, so now start cashing: KH, KQ S, AH, AK C, AS are the additional 7 tricks to go with JH and JC. Why not repeat the club finesse first? In case South is lying in wait with QC in which case suddenly you don't have the entries to unwrap the puzzle.

Suppose the club finesse loses and South switches back to hearts. So far you have only JH in the bank, but there rapidly follow KH, KQ S, AH, AK 10 C, and AS.

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

With QC offside a small club to the 10 at T2 may not work as the JC can't both be taken separately from the AK and used as an entry to table as is needed to secure your 6 major suit tricks. Fortunately the AD is onside to allow the KD to become the 9th trick.

(For those looking at deeper variations, North's 7C is just big enough that South can't disrupt plans by returning a club when in with their Q).

### No Entry


A 10 9 8 6 4	You are West on this hand from
8 7 6	Tuesday. Bidding is passed around to
10 4	partner who opens 1H and rebids 1NT
Q 6	over your 1S reply. Pass or 2S?

If partner has at most a doubleton spade then your hand may be worth just one trick in NT as there can be no sure way of getting to the long cards in your suit. In spades you are favourite to be making 4 spade tricks even opposite a small doubleton. 2S pushes the bidding up one level, but you are expecting 3 extra tricks by doing so. 2S it is, promising a weakish hand with 6 spades.

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

On a 3-2 spade break 2S is an easy contract - 6 trumps and a trick by force in each of hearts and clubs. There may be a second heart trick and/or one in diamonds.

If AC is North, or if there is a club lead West looks favourite to contribute little in NT, and with declarer forced to play the contract from hand life will be uncomfortable.

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

Those who pass 1NT, or Easts who continue with 2NT have a guardian angel in the form of JS being doubleton. Thus overtaking the second spade honour on table brings the 10S to the top, leading to 6 spade tricks in NT. Not something to be relied upon.

## **Around The Club**

This weeks winners were

Monday (7½ tables): Mike & Sally-Ann Rothwell

Tuesday F2F (4½ tables): Jean Dale \* Jo Ainsworth

Tuesday BBO (5½ tables):

Shaffin Jaffer & Charlotte Casson

Thursday am (4½ tables): Hilary Claxton & Philip Russell

Thursday BBO (4 tables): Catherine & Roger Preston

Total 26 tables for the week.

I welcome any comments or queries sent me at [martyn@orpheusmail.co.uk](mailto: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