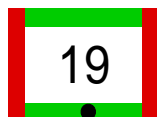


Matters Arising 259

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 27 - 31 Oct 2025

Viewpoint

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



Monday, and only one of four declarers in hearts made 12 tricks. Can you do better? Imagine you are West and that North leads 10S.

Looking at your own hand and filling in gaps from dummy, whilst trumps are pleasingly solid and partner can take care of your singleton club, you have 2 spades and 4 diamonds to worry about. Even if you can find a way to ruff four of these cards that is still two losers.

Change viewpoint and think of it from the East hand. The major suits are fine and you have just one diamond to worry about. There are a lot of clubs though, which will need either to be ruffed or established.

Concentrating on ruffing/establishing clubs how might the play go?

Win KS. AC, club ruff. AS, club ruff. Overtake a trump, club ruff. That uses up all West's trumps, so we would want the play to conclude ruff a spade, draw trumps, win remaining clubs, concede the diamond.

Three ruffs to establish clubs works if they are no worse than 4-2, and trumps would need to be 3-2 to draw them all as one trump East is used as a ruff for entry.

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



Q J 9 4 3
5 3 2
K 2
K J 5

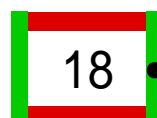
In practice clubs are 3-3, so after KS, AC, club ruff, AS, club ruff the suit is established (the same would be true had there been a doubleton KC). Now declarer can cash AH and overtake QH to draw trumps. Although trumps behaved this time it would have been sad to go down by following the line upto cashing AH and then cash rather than overtake QH only to find trumps 4-1. The need to ruff to enter dummy by a ruff would then create a trump winner for the defence.

Looking at a hand from declarer's point of view is common, and makes it easy to see to ruff their long suit on the table. Indeed the one declarer who made 12 tricks declared the contract from the East hand. Ruffing out dummy's long suit in hand is known as a dummy reversal.

12 Again

On to Thursday, and you are West and wish to make 12 tricks in either major on the lead of QC. Succeed and you are better than half of the eight declarers who attempted the task on the night.

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



There is no way of avoiding a heart loser, and 4-1 breaks in either major could well be fatal, so initially concentrate on normal breaks.


On that basis the hand becomes a simple exercise in playing for split honours in hearts. Win AC, heart to 10. Assume this loses to North, win the continuation and play a heart towards the J. Plan works provided majors both 3-2 and South has at least one of the missing heart honours.

There is a bit more to it though, so time to fill in the detail.

Played in spades you will want to draw trumps first, though this is best delayed until after the first round of hearts. Suppose North continues clubs when in with their heart honour. Win, discarding a diamond, then tackle trumps. 10S to K, small to the A, back to the Q. This manoeuvre is designed to allow you to finesse the 9S on the third round if North shows out on the second one. Dummy is now entered via AD for the second play in hearts.

Note that had North switched to a diamond then declarer cannot protect against 4 trumps in the South hand as that would leave them with no entry to dummy to take the second heart finesse. Thus win AD, three rounds of trumps ending on table, KC discarding a diamond (don't forget this), and heart towards J.

In hearts you are drawing trumps whilst you make the standard split honours play, which means you will get to protect against four spades in the South hand later.

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

Both majors behave, with the heart honours split, allowing declarer an easy 12 tricks.

Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (6½ tables): Chris Walker & Chris Wilkinson

Tuesday F2F (7½ tables):

Dudley Hargreaves & Robert Boyd

Tuesday BBO (4½ tables + 3 Barrow):

= Ina Gray & Mary Anne Peden

= Estelle Savage & June Ivison

Thursday am (5½ tables): Roger & Debbie Wilkinson

Thursday BBO (4½ tables + 5 Wearside):

Peter Avery & Brenda Osborne

Best K: Ina Gray & Mary Anne Peden (2nd)

Total 28½ 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