

Matters Arising 75

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 18 - 22 Apr 2022


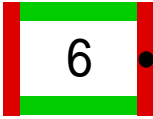
Between Bids

Tuesday's board 6 presented North-South with a bidding problem.


South's plans are quite simple. Open 1D and hope for a 1S response, after which they can rebid 1NT as a good six card suit is surely enough to upgrade the 14 points into NT rebid territory. Thus the auction looks destined to be 1D-1S-1NT-3NT, and with diamonds and hearts behaving declarer has 10 tricks on top.

This reckons without the opposition though, and in particular West who overcalled South's 1D opening with 1S. Over to North whose flat 10 count places them squarely in the hole between 1NT and 2NT. Usually we fill this hole by bidding a suit at the two level, but the spade cover is so good that it seems more important to show it than to bid 2C, which even without seeing South's hand we can predict will draw a 2D rebid.

At teams I'm so allergic to missing games I'd probably bid 2NT, quoting 10 9 S and 10H in support, but at pairs I might be more circumspect. Or I might not. But even 1NT with the help of overtricks will outscore those in diamonds.

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

Luck of the Bold

A 10 8 A 8 5 2 A 6 2 A K 6		3 2 J 9 3 K 8 3 J 9 8 5 3
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At first sight Monday's hand 4 looks as if it might result in a fight for tricks in 1H since as far as East-West are concerned the auction will be 1H from West, Pass by East. This though reckons without North's spade overcall, which might have been simple or of the weak jump variety.

West has a dilemma when the bidding returns to them, for they hold one of the world's worst 19 counts when it comes to declaring. Nevertheless few will be content to pass out the spade overcall and so will have to choose between double and NT. Double will draw either 3C or reluctant support of hearts from East, with the former looking the more comfortable contract. But what of those playing in NT on a small spade lead?


Declarer can see 6 tricks on top - enough to beat 2S if clubs break, showing that West has a nice defensive 19 count even though it doesn't look good for generating tricks with its small cards. As declarer a 3-2 club break would permit two further club tricks. We just need to keep North out to stop them running their spades.

The play goes in two parts. First there is the classical ducking play in spades designed to break defensive communications, and then we attack clubs.

If North has the protected QC there is nothing we can do, so we ignore that possibility.

If South has QC we don't mind them getting on lead, provided we performed part (i) correctly. Thus no messing with crossing to dummy to take some strange club finesse, which would also use up the KD entry, stopping us getting back to any winning clubs. After we eventually win AS follow with AK C and another aiming for 4 club and two diamond tricks and two major suit Aces.

Luck is on our side. No, South didn't start with Qxx C. Instead North started with Qx. The Q tumbles under our AK and we make 5 club tricks, 9 tricks overall.

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

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.

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