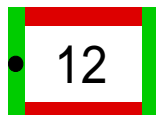


Matters Arising 91

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal Online 8 - 12 Aug 2022

All In One

K
A K Q J 5
7 6 3 2
A 9 5



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

On Thursday North found themselves in 4H on a black suit lead, often after their 1H opening had been overcalled by East with 2D.

Where the overcall occurred declarer should see an easy route to 12 tricks by drawing trumps and leading through East three times in diamonds, as his two small clubs can disappear one on AS, the other ruffed. The only possible fly is a 4-0 trump break, which declarer soon discovers doesn't

happen.

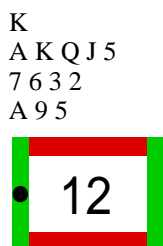
Win opening black suit lead, draw trumps - it takes 3 rounds - and lead a diamond towards the 10. return to hand via the other black winner and lead a diamond towards J. AS, throw club, ruff a spade and a third diamond to K. Ruff a spade, ruff a club and concede a diamond. East may interrupt the flow by rising with their AD, but it causes no problems.

Without the diamond overcall declarer is unaware of the position in that suit, but a similar line appeals:

Win spade (say) lead. AC, ruff a club. Trump to hand, ruff the third club. Draw trumps in two more rounds. Diamond towards 10. AS throwing a diamond, ruff a spade. A second diamond is enough to ensure just one loser in the suit on the given layout. Even if AQ D both wrong they will be declarer's only losers, and with the ability to force a diamond entry in three rounds, the AS will always be reached.

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

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



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

Maximize

Hand 15 on Thursday was a slam dependent on making a spade trick after the lead of 4H. The task for South as declarer in 6NT is to maximize their chances of getting the spade guess right.

Where we wish to make a K opposite a singleton in hand we often play the suit early in order to force the defence to guess whether to rise with their Ace or not before they have much information about the hand.

In contrast when we have to make a guess as declarer we tend to leave the suit concerned for as long as possible so that if there is any information to be gleaned we can get it. This may sound like a good excuse for our favourite ploy of running our best suit first, but as this hand shows this approach is not always the best.

K J 2
--
--
K Q J 9



8 7 5 3
A
--
A 4

Suppose we run diamonds ending on table. Clearly we won't want to leave table by leading a spade, so it will be a club to A. We can't afford to cash AH so will have to tackle spades straight off at trick 8. Suppose we guess right, rising with the K if West has A or inserting J if West has Q. We can cash the clubs but will still have to concede 2 spades at the end by leading from table. Not a success.

We are slightly better off if we run the diamonds ending in hand as we can use clubs for communications later, leading a spade at trick 7 from the position above left.

Back to trick 2 and try cashing the clubs, K J 2 assuming they are 4-3, and then four diamonds ending in hand where the last diamond winner also resides

Now it is trick 10, the defence have had to make more discards and declarer still has a diamond entry to the AH. Indeed, depending on the discards declarer may be able to apply more pressure by cashing their 2 red aces, delaying the spade play to trick 11.

K J 2
K
Q 9 8 7 4
K Q J 9

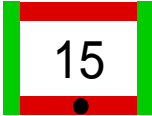


8 7 5 3
A J
A K 10 6 5
A 4



8 7
A
A
--

This play doesn't guarantee success, but the decision made about the spade suit will be made on the basis of more information.

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