

## Matters Arising 180

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 22 - 26 Apr 2024


### 2½ Clubs

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

The bidding on hand 9 from Monday was passed around to West who opened 1C. East naturally responded 1H and East has to pick a rebid. 2½C looks right - 6 losers is rather strong for 2C but, but 14 points a little light for 3C. Unfortunately there is no 2½C bid in the bidding box, so West has to choose between 2C and 3C.

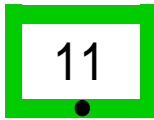
After 1C – 1H – 2C East may raise to 3C. With the values to go on to 4C West tries 3H en route, which must be forcing and is happy to hear partner bid 4H.

After 1C – 1H – 3C East will definitely bid again. 3D looks right, angling for 3NT. There is surely no risk of West getting excited in diamonds after the initial bidding. West might be tempted with the idea of bidding 3NT immediately, but showing the secondary heart support by bidding 3H is better. East can still bid 3S fourth suit forcing if they have only 4 hearts. East enjoys the 3H bid and raises to 4H.

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

4H is a comfortable make despite AQ H being wrong (and the KD too), losing just a spade and 2 hearts. 5C has to lose the same tricks, whilst 3NT shouldn't be allowed to make.

### 2NT Game Forcing

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

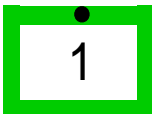
This hand turned up on Tuesday, And West has to find a rebid after hearing partner respond 2D to their 1S opening. West has 5 spades, but is too strong to simply rebid 2S, so needs some other way of finding if partner has secondary spade support. Assuming that partner's response shows at least 10 points then a 2NT rebid nominally showing 15-16 is promising the values for game so can be played as game forcing and may be made on any suitable hand with 15+ points.

After the 2NT rebid East can afford to bid 3S to show their three card support allowing opener to choose between 3NT and 4S. As the 2NT was game forcing there is no question of 3S being passed.

Raising the 2D response to 3D is dangerous as it might be passed even if in practice it rarely is, and jumping to 4D (5 losers partner) bypasses 3NT which might be the best contract.

On the night the KS is onside and 3NT makes the same number of tricks as 4S. After a club lead though were the KS offside 3NT goes off whilst 4S is still a comfortable make.

## Dead Finesse?

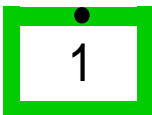
Q J 4 3 2		K 10
--		A K J 8 6 5 3
K 9 6 5		10 3
A Q 9 6		10 2

On this hand from Monday North opened 1NT. A 2H overcall by East causes West concern. With 12 points they can be forgiven for trying either 2NT or 2S. East of course rebids their hearts.

Suppose you are East in 3H on the lead of QD. You cover with the K and North unsurprisingly produces the A and returns the suit to South's J. Next comes 7C.

You have a combined 23 count and South has already produced QJ D, so that is 26 points that North does not hold. Is there room for KC in the South hand given North's 1NT opening? Unlikely.

Even if North hadn't opened the finesse looks like one that can't gain but can lose, for by rising with AC and discarding declarer's second club on 9D there is no club loser anyway. Thus a successful finesse gains nothing, an unsuccessful one loses a club unnecessarily. I call such *heads you lose, tails you don't win* finesses dead finesses. Arguably this isn't quite one since a defender might be able to ruff the 9D.

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

In practice the 9D holds up, a club ruff follows and trumps drawn from the top. The contract makes for the loss of 2 diamonds, AS and QH.

On a club lead at T1 declarer does finesse. North wins and has to switch, to a trump say. Declarer wins and immediately plays on spades to set up a diamond discard on the third spade before South can get in to put a diamond through. The finesse at T1 ensures that the AC remains as entry to the third spade if needed.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were  
 Monday (5½ tables): Tim Harrison & Richard Brazier  
 Tuesday BBO (5½ tables):  
 Amanda Etherington & Martyn Harris  
 Tues F2F (7½ tables): Ken Orford & Tony Whitby  
 Thursday am (6 tables):  
 NS: Elaine Newman & Denise Williamson  
 EW: Brenda Richardson & Rita Davies  
 Thursday (6 tables): Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris

Total 30½ tables for the week.

Also taking place this week was the annual club match against Keswick for the Dunmail Raise Trophy. Unfortunately Kendal were unable to make it 3 wins in a row in the series.

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