

# Matters Arising 181

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 29 Apr - 3 May 2024

## Just One Ruff

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

6S by South on this hand from Tuesday is a simple assignment for those who can count.



A Q 10 9 4  
J  
A Q 5  
K 10 7 6

How would you have tackled the hand? Assume there is a trump lead.

With 8 hearts between the two hands it would take just a single ruff to establish the suit if the most likely break of 3-2 occurs.

Basic plan: Draw trumps, establish hearts with a ruff, return to table and discard all your clubs on the long hearts. A ruff then takes care of dummy's 4C and all 13 tricks are made.

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

5 3  
7 2  
K 9 7 6 4  
Q J 9 5



A Q 10 9 4  
J  
A Q 5  
K 10 7 6

6 2  
Q 10 9  
J 10 8 3  
A 8 3 2

The basic plan works well, for 2 rounds of trumps draw the enemy teeth. Hence with 2 trump entries to table it would even be possible to ruff 2 hearts and still get back to table to enjoy the heart suit. ie you can cope with a 4-1 heart break alongside the 2-2 spade one.

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

6 5 3  
7  
K 9 7 6 4  
Q J 9 5



A Q 10 9 4  
J  
A Q 5  
K 10 7 6

2  
Q 10 9 2  
J 10 8 3  
A 8 3 2

Suppose spades were 3-1 and hearts 4-1 as above. How would you adjust your basic plan to allow for this?

Drawing 3 rounds of trumps would leave just one on table as an entry, but if hearts are 4-1 two will be needed - one for the second heart ruff (hearts can be used as entry for the first ruff) and one to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

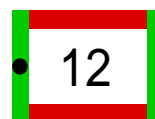
After 2 rounds of trumps play AH and ruff a heart high. Return to table with a third round of trumps (you will need to have made sure your earlier trump play allows for this). Now ruff another heart, AD and diamond ruff. Table is good apart from the 4C, which will give the defence a trick at the end as you have no trumps left. Of course if the hearts are 3-2 the defenders will both follow to the first heart ruff, so a second one won't be necessary. ie trumps 3-1, hearts 3-2 this line still makes 13 tricks.

Notice that as is so often the case the ruff(s) to establish the hearts can be taken before all the top cards in the suit have been played.

## Another 1NTX

Q 10 8 2  
A 2  
A 10 7  
A K Q 8

A 7 3  
K 10 5  
K Q 9 2  
J 9 3



K J 4  
Q 8 6  
J 6 5 3  
5 4 2

9 6 5  
J 9 7 4 3  
8 4  
10 7 6

This hand from Thursday saw the doubling side get into difficulties. North was happy to double West's opening 1NT. Typically the double shows 15+ points, with a safe lead when minimum. It is often referred to as being for penalties, but in truth simply shows values with the hope that partner will feel able to pass for penalties.

Most Souths didn't feel able to pass, so bid 2H, which seems right. West of course was now silent, but only one North also passed. Yes North does have reserves of strength, but is game really going to be on? If South held the half-dozen or so points to make it likely wouldn't they have passed the double? That pass was worth a top, yet should be automatic for anyone who trusts their partner to pull the double only when weak.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (8 tables): Jeremy Harris & Russell White

Tuesday BBO (6 tables):

Robin Rose & John MacLachlan

Tues F2F (6½ tables): Patricia White & Helen Adams

Thursday am (7 tables):

NS: Philip Russell & Sam Rayner

EW: Brenda Richardson & Rita Davies

Thursday (6 tables): John & Wendy Ellwood

Total 33½ 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