## Matters Arising 182

being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 6 - 10 May 2024

## **Finesses**

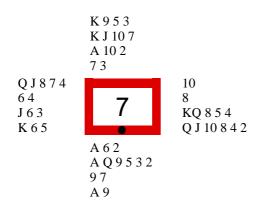
A J X The typical double finesse position is shown left. Declarer leads towards the AJx with intent to insert the J if West plays low, hoping that West holds both K and Q. If in fact West

plays a high honour, declarer rises with the A, returns to the South hand and leads towards the J. Thus two tricks are made whenever West holds both K and Q.

On Tuesday's hand 7 a small spade K 9 5 3 was led against 4H by South, reached via an uninformative auction such as H - 3H - 4H. A 10 2 7 3

A small spade is called for from table, hoping that East plays an honour (it is surely too much to hope that West will have led 4th best from Q J 10 x). They do - the 10 - so there is now a double finesse position against West's QJ should they indeed hold them both.

A heart to the K and another to the Q quickly removes trumps, and declarer can now try the double finesse. If West has QJ S and plays low there is no spade loser. If West splits their honours then declarer wins, returns to hand via a trump and leads another spade. The 9S will then win the fourth round of the suit, with a minor suit loser disappearing on it. Either way declarer makes 11 tricks. Finally if the double finesse doesn't work but spades are 3–3 the long spade provides a resting spot for a minor suit loser and again 11 tricks are made.



At other tables QS was led, with the 10 falling from East. This leaves a simple finesse position against West's J, and so there are no spade losers, just one in each minor.

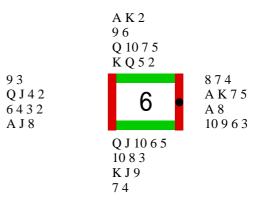
## **The Third Heart**



On this hand from Thursday North opened 1NT and was transferred out into 2S. On sight of dummy declarer sees just 2 hearts and the minor suit Aces to lose.

Suppose East leads A and another diamond, a play that looks suspiciously doubleton. Declarer rises with the K at T2 and draws trumps ending on table (South). Time to knock-out the AC perhaps. No. At this point declarer now has 3 heart

losers as there are no trumps left in the short heart hand. Instead declarer overtakes JD and discards a heart on 10D. Notice this play is only possible provided South's last diamond isn't the K - declarer needed to look ahead at the start and not allow the diamond suit to be blocked.



At several tables East started with three rounds of hearts, with declarer ruffing the third with the 2 and then needing to force a way to table to draw the last round of trumps after playing AK S. Can declarer not simply ruff the third heart high and draw trumps using the retained 2 as an entry to table to complete that job, or does they need to run scared of really bad breaks?

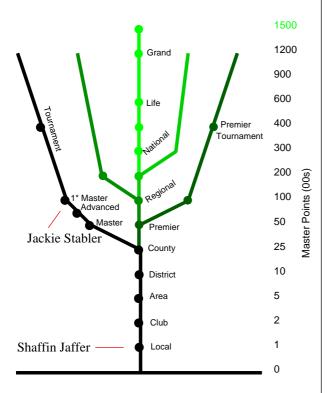
## **Around The Club**

This weeks winners were

Monday (7 tables): Russell White & Jeremy Harris Tuesday F2F (5½ tables): Margaret & Dennis Pook Tuesday BBO (4½ tables): Hilary Storey & Jacky Truelove Thursday am (5 tables): David Airey & Jennifer Whalley Thursday BBO (6 tables): Shaffin Jaffer & Ken Orford

Total 28 tables for the week.

Congratulations to Shaffin Jaffer and Jackie Stabler who were promoted respectively to Local Master and 1\* Master during April.



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