

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
 x x x 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 was led against 4H by South, reached via an uninformative auction such as 1H - 3H - 4H.

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

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.

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

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

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

A K 2 On this hand from Thursday North
 9 6 opened 1NT and was transferred out
 Q 10 7 5 into 2S. On sight of dummy declarer
 K Q 5 2 sees just 2 hearts and the minor suit
 Aces to lose.



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

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.

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

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

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

