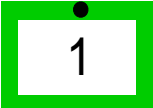


## Matters Arising 185


being some thoughts prompted by hands played at Kendal BC 27 - 31 May 2024

### Exit Stayman

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

Monday board 1, and West was probably not overjoyed to hear their partner open 1NT, for that contract would be at best uncomfortable given the enemy must have the majority of the points.


With 4 cards in both majors but only 5 points can West use Stayman? Yes. There is no point count requirement for using Stayman, only that you can cope with any response from partner. Here West would be happy to pass any response, including 2D. Once in a while partner will have opened 1NT on a 3-3-2-5 hand so that this use of Stayman would lead to playing in a 4-2 diamond fit, but the chances of finding a better contract is surely worth the risk.

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

East's 2S response was welcome, and those who used this approach scored well. Those in 1NT met with mixed fates, with analysis suggesting one down or = as the most likely outcomes, neither of which matches a successful 2S contract.

### Self Pre-empt

We normally open the higher ranking of two 5 card suits, but particularly with the black ones that can lead to problems. It may seem that opening 1S makes it harder for the enemy to intervene than opening 1C would, and indeed it may well work out that way in practice. However when the opposition do indeed intervene the pre-emptive effect of the opening now boomerangs onto the opener and their partner.

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

On this hand from Monday if North opens 1C East is likely to overcall 1H, which is the passed around to North who has an easy 1S re-opening bid.

Suppose though that North opens 1S. East now comes in 2H and North has to decide whether or not to re-open red, and if so whether to rebid their spades or introduce clubs at the 3 level. An awkward decision that doesn't confront those who opened 1C.

Similar effects can be seen in other situations where the chosen opening bid is made at least partly for its pre-emptive effect such as preferring 1NT to a minor suit opening. If the opening deters the opposition from bidding because of the level at which they would have to come in at, then the pre-emptive effect works in your favour, but if they do come in then your side inherit they difficulties intended for the enemy.

## The Ninth Trick

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

This hand appeared in the Tuesday Intermediate F2F session where they were sampling the delights of IMP teams.


With NS destined to be silent there appear to be just 2 credible auctions: 1S – 1NT – 2NT – 3NT and 1D – 1H – 1S – 1NT – 2NT – 3NT.

In the second auction the players take it in turn to show their majors in preference to bidding NT. There may be a temptation for East to rebid 2NT over 1H, but if West is weak with 4 spades as well as hearts how will the spade fit be uncovered, for West would surely feel obliged to pass over 2NT? Although a 1S rebid may not be forcing it is best to treat it as all but, and to pass only when the original response was sub-minimum with no fit for opener's second suit eg Qxx Kxxx x xxxxx.

In the first auction West lacks the 10 points needed for a response in a new suit at the 2 level, and would choose 2D then anyway for the auction 1S - 2H is taken as showing five hearts. They also have no reason to introduce hearts over 2NT for with 4-4 in the majors East would have opened 1H not 1S, and with 5-4 would surely rebid in hearts in preference to NT.

North leads a heart against 3NT and dummy's Q holds. Where does declarer go from here?

Declarer can count 4 spade tricks and two in each red suit, so need just one more to make the contract. If diamonds are 3-2 an extra trick can be gained there, but that leaves them open to 2 diamonds, 2 clubs and a heart loser on a 4-1 diamond break. Safer to look for the ninth trick in clubs aiming to lose just 2 clubs and 2 hearts.

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

By attacking clubs at trick 2 and again when they regain the lead (assuming the T2 club doesn't win), declarer can set up and enjoy their 9th trick before the defence find their fifth. There is no virtue in cashing the spades until the 9th trick has been established, and indeed here would serve to set up a spade trick for South.

## Around The Club

This weeks winners were

Monday (7 tables): Martyn Harris & Mike Howse

Tuesday F2F (9 tables Teams):

David Harris & Ken Orford

Sheila Wilson & Chris Needham

Tuesday BBO (5½ tables): Ray & Irene Gregory

Thursday am (7 tables):

NS: Lynn Percival & Bob Churchward

EW: Jean Betham & Denise Williamson

Thursday BBO (4½ tables): Hilary Parker & Gay Talbot

Total 33 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