

# Trumps Easter Swiss Pairs

20 April 2019 (Sat)



## My favourite hand in Easter

Round 4 Board 7

Dealer S | Vul All

<p>♠ T72 ♥ 9752 ♦ Q ♣ KJ954</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W — E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W — E	S	<p>♠ A94 ♥ A83 ♦ KJ32 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ K865 ♥ K ♦ 7654 ♣ AT87</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ QJT64 ♦ AT98 ♣ 6</p>
N					
W — E					
S					

by Patrick Neary

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1D	P	1H
P	1NT	P	2C!
P	2H	P	4H
//			

Checkback

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	5	1	2
S	-	4	4	1	2
E	2	-	-	-	-
W	2	-	-	-	-

All vul, South is declarer and will start with a pass, E/W are silent throughout, North (playing standard) will bid 1♦, South will bid 1♥, North will rebid 1NT, and after a checkback sequence, they will reach 4♥.

Lead from West is ♦Q.

Looking at Dummy, it is clear that we will lose a club, and it looks like we could lose a spade, a heart. That's ok, we will make 10 tricks, and our contract. And we might not lose the ♠K and the ♥K, so its more actually likely that we will make overtricks. The contract looks safe enough.

"Safe" in Swiss pairs and Teams is often the warning signal!!

We have a vulnerable game at stake, time to double check everything.

That lead looks like it's a singleton, will that change our play?

What happens if East wins the heart finesse? We will lose a diamond ruff, and if West can cross to East for another ruff, we are immediately down. And even if there is not another ruff, we could potentially lose a spade, and hence we will be down.

Should we spurn the natural heart finesse? Should we play Ace and another trump, thus reducing the chance that West can get a ruff? If West only has two trumps, we have neutralised the threat; and if West has three hearts to the King, West is now on lead and might not think that clubs will offer a suitable path to cross to Partner for the diamond ruff.

Is it better to go with the standard heart finesse, or is it better to play two rounds of trumps?

Those that took the trump finesse usually went down by two tricks, scoring -5 IMPS, those that decided it was safer to play two rounds of trumps were rewarded with an overtrick after felling the off side singleton King, scoring +12 IMPS.

[...More results can be found HERE](#)