

Trumps Easter Teams

21 April 2019 (Sun)



The Trumps Easter Teams

reported by Derrick Browne

The Trumps Easter Teams on Sunday 21 April was won by Fraser Rew, Nick Rodwell, Jenna Gibbons and Julian Foster. Second were Jane Dawson, Peter Gill, Martin Bloom and Nigel Rosendorff, but for much of the day REW were battling for first place against the team Lakshmi Sunderasan, Susan Humphries, Colin Baker and Liz Sylvester. After the first two rounds of the tournament, with these two teams leading, they clashed in Round 3. From that match, this is Board 25.

Sitting North, Fraser held:

♠ KQJT6
♥ A764
♦ QT2
♣ 5

He opened 1♠ as dealer. After partner raised to 2♠ and RHO doubled, he couldn't see himself making 4♠, but didn't want to defend 3♣, so he bid 3♠. Everyone passed. East led the ♥K, and Fraser saw this dummy:

♠ 952
♥ 9
♦ AJ987
♣ QT32

He stopped to plan the play. It would be good to ruff North's three small hearts in dummy, but this requires some way of getting back to hand each time. Obviously not in trumps - each trump lead reduces dummy's trumps by one, and moreover the opponents have a chance to win the ♠A and lead another round. How about getting back to hand by leading clubs, planning to ruff? That is no good either - the opponents can win, and draw two rounds of trumps, leaving declarer able to ruff only one heart in dummy.

What happens next? Declarer could draw trumps and take the diamond finesse, but that won't work - East is surely marked with ♥KQ on the lead, and West has to have something (including the ♦K) for her takeout double. Once the diamond finesse loses, declarer would have two heart losers, as well as a loser in each black suit and the king of diamonds, for one away. Taking the diamond finesse before drawing a third round of trumps is also problematic, because West with K-x-x of diamonds can hold up on the first round.

*Winners of the Easter Teams —
Fraser Rew, Julian Foster, Jenna Gibbons
and Nick Rodwell,*



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Fraser realised the need to keep a heart stopper – the ♥A – for when he lost the ♦K. As he was losing just one trick each in spades, diamonds and clubs, he could afford to lose one heart. Once you see all that, the solution is obvious: you have to not take the ace of hearts on the opening lead! Opponents will draw trumps, but that's OK, as you hope to take four spades, four diamonds and the ♥A, for nine tricks.

So at trick 1, Fraser ducked. East switched to the ♠A and another spade. West showed out, but Fraser continued his master plan by drawing two more rounds and leading the ♦Q.

That's when he got a surprise - East covered the ♦Q with the king! This was the full layout:

Board 25

Dealer N | Vul E-W

♠ 7	♠ KQJT6	♠ A843
♥ QJT853	♥ A764	♥ K2
♦ 43	♦ QT2	♦ K65
♣ AK96	♣ 5	♣ J874

N		E
W	—	S

♠ 952	♠ 952
♥ 9	♥ 9
♦ AJ987	♦ AJ987
♣ QT32	♣ QT32

W	N	E	S
	1S	P	2S
X	P	3C	P
P	3S	//	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	-	4	-
S	-	3	-	4	-
E	1	-	2	-	-
W	1	-	2	-	-

West's unusual takeout double (a 3♥ bid seems more normal) had thrown Fraser off the scent completely, and pretty much every assumption he'd made about the hand was wrong. East didn't have the ♥Q after all; West didn't have a 12-count; and the diamond finesse was working. So he ended up with five diamonds, not four, and emerged with an overtrick.

However, he still gained seven imps. At the other table, the opponents played 4♠. Declarer's plan was to ruff hearts in dummy, using club ruffs as entries back to hand. However, a second club ruff meant that the 4-1 trump split was fatal, and the contract drifted two away.

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