

# Trumps Spring Teams

8 NOVEMBER (SUN)



## A Face to Face Congress

by Derrick Browne

The Trumps Spring Teams on 9 November was a rare face to face congress at a time when many were being held online. Top scorers were:

1. Alex Kemeny, Alessandro Gado, Kerry Boytell, Eric Lippey
2. Ceiny Maybury, Tina Strickland, Alex Cook, Robin Ho
3. Nazife Bashar, Kinga Moses, Margaret Foster, Colin Clifford

Alex and Alessandro helped their team pick up 10 IMPs on the following board, enough to produce an 8 IMP win against the Margaret Owen team:

### Board 11

Dealer S | Vul Nil

♠ T86	♠ 975	<table style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ KQ
N							
W							
E							
S							
♥ 654	♥ QJT98	♥ AK32					
♦ QJ9732	♦ T4	♦ A					
♣ 3	♣ Q96	♣ AKJT52					
♠ AJ432	♥ 7	♦ K865	♣ 874				

W	N	E	S
			P
P	P	2C	P
2D	P	3C	P
3H	P	4S	P
5C	P	5D	P
6H	//		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	-	2	-
S	-	3	-	2	-
E	6	-	6	-	6
W	6	-	6	-	6

With Alessandro East, they bid uninterrupted:

- 2♣ (GF), 2♦ (waiting)
- 3♣, 3♥ (both natural)
- 4♠ (Kickback - Roman Keycard for hearts), 5♣ (zero keycards)
- 5♦ (do you have ♥Q?), 6♥ (yes I do, but no kings)
- End

Note how important the 4♠ Kickback is for East to be able to find out about the ♥Q. Playing 4NT keycard and the 5♦ [14-30] reply, East has to guess whether West has the ♥Q. Using the suit above your trump suit (Kickback) to ask for keycards always leaves enough space for a trump queen enquiry on the next round, regardless of whether you are playing 30-14 or 14-30 keycard responses.

North didn't find the spade lead so 13 tricks were made. After drawing trumps, all of West's spades went away on the long clubs, the ♦10 being ruffed in dummy as the 13th trick.

Special mention should go to NS pair Nazife Bashar & Kinga Moses who saved 5 IMPs by sacrificing in the grand slam of 7♦ (doubled of course) after their EW opponents also found 6♥ - four off for -800. A grand slam save is rare and this one was a very good decision. As shown above, there is nothing to the play in 6♥: North will lead ♦Q and that will be -1010. It looks like Nazife had the gumption to open an ultra-light 3♦ in third seat, to lay the way for the 7♦ save.

The winning team fared less well on the following deal:

**Board 5**

Dealer N | Vul N-S

♠ T865	♠ Q7	♠ K3
♥ KQJ42	♥ 75	♥ AT9863
♦ J2	♦ T87643	♦ Q95
♣ Q3	♣ K62	♣ T5

  

♠ AJ942	♠ A942	♠ K3
♥	♥	♥ AT9863
♦ AK	♦ AK	♦ Q95
♣ AJ9874	♣ AJ9874	♣ T5

W	N	E	S
	P	2D!	2S
X	P	3H	5C
5H	P	P	X
//			

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	7	4	-	5	1
S	7	4	-	5	1
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	1	-	-

Alessandro as East opened 2♦ multi (weak major or strong balanced) and South had a difficult decision and bid 2♠. Alex doubled, correctable (saying "pass if you have a weak 2 in spades otherwise bid 3♥ if you have a weak two in hearts, or 2NT if you have 20-21 balanced").

North passed and Alessandro bid 3♥, confirming a weak two in hearts. Now South bid 5♣(!) and although 5 over 5 is usually wrong, Alex decided he could not see any prospect of garnering three tricks in defence especially if South has a heart void, and the vulnerability suggests a save. So he bid 5♥, swayed by the vulnerability.

That was doubled and went for -500, a 3 IMP pickup if 5♣ made for 600, but at the other table, the bidding did not go beyond 2♠ after the same 2♦ multi from East and the questionable 2♠ overcall. West's quiet pass stopped North-South from reaching game!

None of the NS pairs in the room found the cold slam in clubs. (In fact 13 tricks can be made easily by setting up North's diamonds and taking a spade finesse, though that's a bit lucky.) This raises another problem with West bidding "five over five": the 5♥ sacrifice may push the opponents to slam. If South has shown a massive black two-suiter, North's ♠Q and ♣K look like gold! Over West's 5♥ sacrifice, North might pass to show interest in slam (whereas double would show desire to defend), and now South with the void in hearts will bid on, reaching 6♣.

Still, given that no-one reached slam here, the big issue is perhaps how to make sure game is reached. A sensible convention to play over a weak two or other low level preempt is Leaping Michaels. The jump to 4-minor is not needed as a natural strong bid – with those there would be better ways to explore. Instead, it shows a big two-suiter (a variant of Michaels).

For example, over a Multi 2♦, the jump to 4-minor shows that minor and a major, forcing. After East's 2♦ on this deal, South jumps to 4♣ to show clubs and a major, and then North will raise to 5♣, or possibly bid 4♦ to ask which major partner has. Either way, you avoid the ignominy of languishing in 2♠!

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