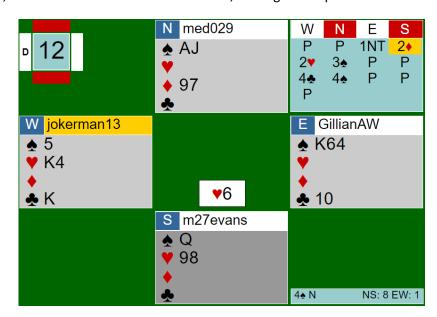
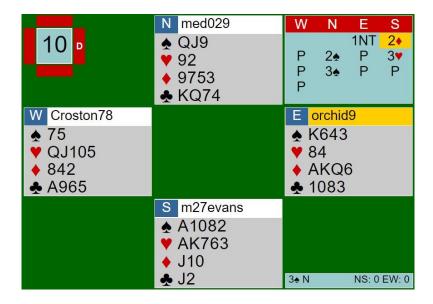


Martins ASPTRO bid show spades and a second suit (see week 6!), with a very distributional hand and spade support we end up in game. East leads a heart. With a strong trump suit and long suits opposite singletons a cross ruff seems likely. Cash the 2 Aces and then lose a diamond. East does well to lead a spade, but from Kxx more likely leads their 2nd heart or switches to clubs, in either case the diamonds, clubs and a heart can be cross-ruffed, leading to this position after 9 tricks:



After leading their last heart, declarer needs to take care and ruff with the A. If declarer ruffs with the J. East will over-ruff and lead a second spade- EW then take the last 2 tricks and declarer will be 1 off. After ruffing high, declarer leads a diamond and will take 2 of the last 3 tricks, making the contract.

Another hand an another ASPTRO sequence, but this time I got the bidding slightly wrong! I should really bid 2 ♥ which would probably get passed. Martins rebid confirms 5 hearts and 4 spades, and then the decision is whether to play in a 5-2 fit or a 4-3 fit.



East leads AK diamonds and switches to a club, won in West. West then switches to a heart

The key point when starting a cross ruff is to cash winners first- otherwise the defence can discard and may get a ruff in themselves later on- so cash 2 hearts and 2 clubs, ending in South.



Now lead the 6♥. East does best to over-ruff and lead a 2nd spade- declarer can win this in hand, ruff the 4th heart, ruff a diamond, then cash 3 spades and the winning heart for 9 tricks

Alternatively, East can discard a diamond, but declarer ruffs the last diamond from dummy and leads the last heart to establish the remaining trumps for the same result.

The best defence to a cross ruff is to take out declarers trumps. East could switch to a spade at trick 2, and the defence can then lead out trumps whenever they get in. This should hold declarer to 8 tricks as only 1 heart can be ruffed

Remember to cash your top tricks before starting a cross ruff, and keep an eye out for when you might need to ruff high.