

07/12/2020 Hand of the Week 42: Cross ruffing

<div> <div></div> <div>12</div> </div>	N med029		W	N	E	S
	♠ AJ932 ♥ 10 ♦ K97652 ♣ 3		P	P	1NT	2♦
			2♥	3♣	P	P
W jokerman13			4♣	4♣	P	P
♠ 5 ♥ KJ542 ♦ 83 ♣ KQ542			P			
	S m27evans		E GillianAW			
	♠ Q1087 ♥ A9863 ♦ 10 ♣ A98		♠ K64 ♥ Q7 ♦ AQJ4 ♣ J1076			
			4♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

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:

<div> <div></div> <div>12</div> </div>	N med029		W	N	E	S
	♠ AJ ♥ ♦ 97 ♣		P	P	1NT	2♦
			2♥	3♣	P	P
W jokerman13			4♣	4♣	P	P
♠ 5 ♥ K4 ♦ ♣ K			P			
	S m27evans		E GillianAW			
	♠ Q ♥ 98 ♦ ♣		♠ K64 ♥ ♦ ♣ 10			
			4♣ N NS: 8 EW: 1			

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.

<div><div><div>10</div><div>D</div></div></div>	<div>Nmed029</div> <div><div>♠QJ9</div><div>♥92</div><div>♦9753</div><div>♣KQ74</div></div>	<div><div>W</div><div>N</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div> <div><div></div><div>1NT</div><div>2♦</div></div> <div><div>P</div><div>2♠</div><div>P</div><div>3♥</div></div> <div><div>P</div><div>3♠</div><div>P</div><div>P</div></div> <div><div>P</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
<div>WCroston78</div> <div><div>♠75</div><div>♥QJ105</div><div>♦842</div><div>♣A965</div></div>		<div>Eorchid9</div> <div><div>♠K643</div><div>♥84</div><div>♦AKQ6</div><div>♣1083</div></div>
	<div>S m27evans</div> <div><div>♠A1082</div><div>♥AK763</div><div>♦J10</div><div>♣J2</div></div>	
		<div>3♣ N</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>

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.

<div>10</div> <div>D</div>	<div>Nmed029</div> <div>♠ QJ9</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦ 97</div> <div>♣ 7</div>	<table><tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	W	N	E	S			1NT	2♦	P	2♣	P	3♥	P	3♣	P	P	P			
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<div>WCroston78</div> <div>♠ 75</div> <div>♥ J</div> <div>♦ 8</div> <div>♣ 9</div>		<div>Eorchid9</div> <div>♠ K643</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦ Q6</div> <div>♣</div>																				
	<div>S m27evans</div> <div>♠ A1082</div> <div>♥ 76</div> <div>♦</div> <div>♣</div>																					
		<div>3♣ N</div> <div>NS: 4 EW: 3</div>																				

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.