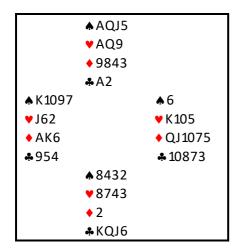
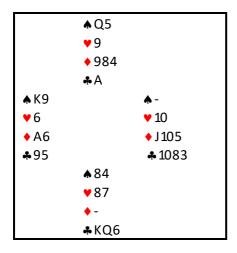
Hi everyone – It's Roger Heath-Brown here. There were lots of interesting hands last night. How does one choose which one to talk about? Krys suggested I take the easy option and select hand 15. (For those who don't remember this was passed out at most tables!)

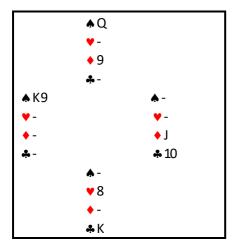


Instead I've chose board 16, which shows some nice play in the trump suit. It was played in spades at all tables bar one, with contracts everything from 1 to 4 to 4 to 4, and 8, 9, 10, or 11 tricks being taken. A top diamond was led at every table, but from then on various lines of play developed.

At our table, against two robots, West overtook the opening Diamond lead and led a heart. Paul, as declarer, took the losing Heart finesse, won the heart return, and crossed to &J for a trump finesse. He then cashed A to reveal the bad break:-

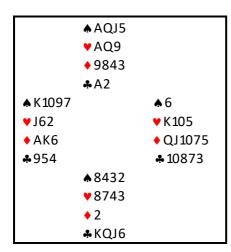


Declarer now played ♣A, followed by a Diamond ruff and ♣K, discarding ♥9 from hand. He could then cross-ruff a Heart and another Diamond, to leave this ending:-

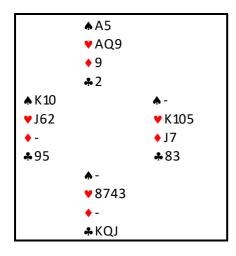


With the lead in dummy, West was left with no good option – Declarer is due to score his ♠Q whatever West does, a situation dubbed a "coup en passant".

Sadly, when West produced the ♠9 Declarer discarded his ♦9 as a result of a misclick!



Another nice trump play was demonstrated by Ruth Kim. In this case the Diamond lead was followed by a Club, won by Declarer with the Ace. Dummy was then entered twice with diamond ruffs, taking the trump finesse twice on the way back, to reach this position:-



Declarer has taken 5 tricks and needs 5 more for her 4S contract. Dummy's ♣KQ are cashed, Declarer throwing ◆9, and on ♣J West plays ♠10. What should North play from ♠A5, ♥AQ9? It's a situation we should all recognize when defending, but it is more unusual for Declarer — a trump promotion opportunity. North discards ♥9 rather than over-ruffing, and now takes ♥A, ♠A, and ♠5 for three more tricks. Nicely done!