

## Hints for Meta - Cardinals

There are three meanings to the title.

The first meaning is fairly literal, and is explicitly mentioned.

The second meaning is slightly subtle, and seems to generate more data than you need.

The third meaning is rather cryptic, and is related to one of the puzzles.

Apply the third (by hand), then match the second to it (some get two!)

Form a hand with the best five from each puzzle; the numbers give which letter to take.

Emailed hint: the suit is no trumps.

Emailed hint 2: think "royal flush".

BIG HINT:

Turn the letters of each answer into cards, by lining up a deck of cards in two rows against one row of the alphabet (the fact that this is the Card Trick

encoding with no trumps as the suit is a coincidence). This is well-defined if

you ignore suits, so you should get 20 hands of suitless cards.

Each of these hands generates a string; the numbers refer to which letter of

each string to take. There are 23 numbers so 3 puzzles will have two corresponding numbers: Caves, Blimps and Lords.

You'll get an easier meta next year; last year's hunt had hard puzzles and an easy meta that dragged on due to fatigue, so it seemed sensible to try easier puzzles and a hard meta this year. This is only the third ever puzzlehunt - we're still trying things out.

Now dig dig dig!