

Road trip Journal Part 4: The Casino

We had to play some poker in Vegas.

The final hand was epic, even though nobody was dealt a pair in hand.

One player, first to fold, before even the flop had been dealt, was not happy.

“That’s the worst possible hand in Hold ‘Em!” He grumbled, oblivious to poker etiquette.

The card in Oliver’s right hand had given him a pair on the flop, but he ended up folding before the river.

Ian folded 4th, having chased an inside straight that he’d seen on the flop, though he didn’t get so much as a pair.

Terry had two pair with the turn card, and thought his luck was in.

The third player to fold, his luck having run its course, had a queen in his left hand.

Neil folded next after Usain, refusing to chase an inside straight any further.

Morris won the pot.

“I really want to know what you had!” Oliver pleaded.

“Sorry,” said Morris, “you all folded! But I’ll tell you this: once I saw the **river** I knew I could blow you off the **map!**”

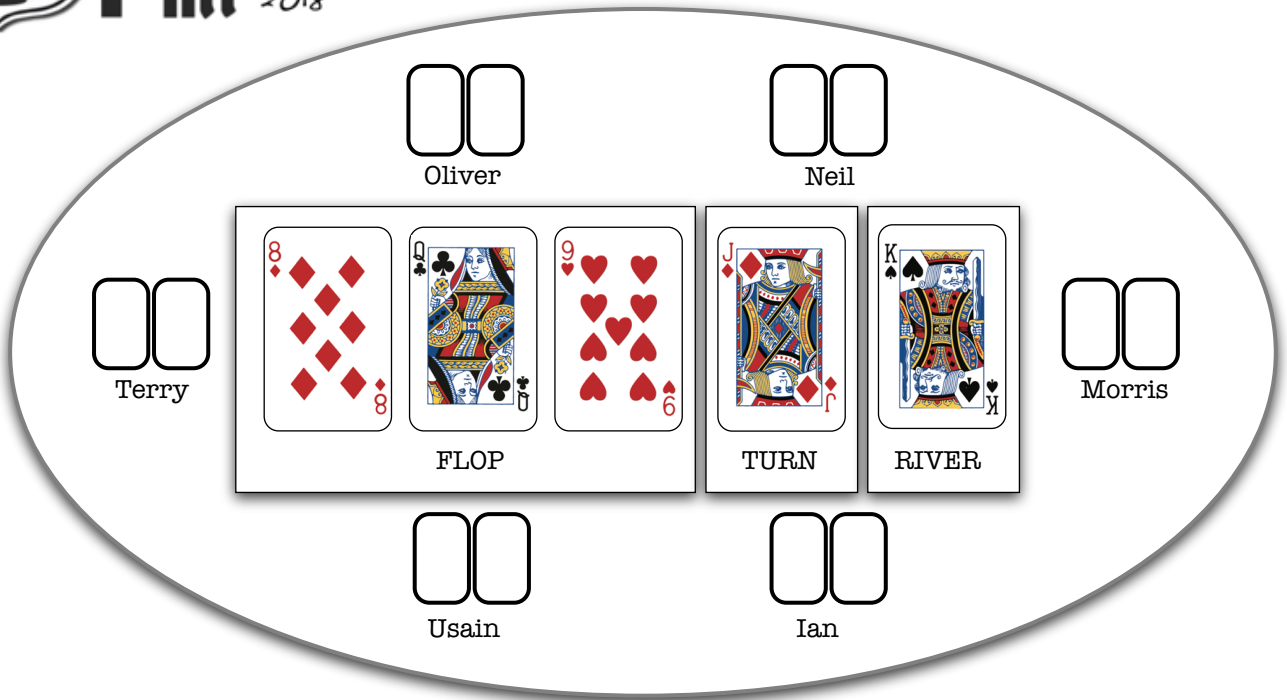
What hands did the players **fold**? And what did Morris contribute to the road trip?

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Left Hand Right Hand

	Usain	Terry	Oliver	Neil	Ian	6	7	J	Q	K	2	5	J	Q	K	
1st																
2nd																
3rd																
4th																
5th																
2																
5																
J																
Q																
K																
6																
7																
J																
Q																
K																

Flop: The first three cards that are dealt after the initial round of betting

Inside Straight: A hand with four of the five cards needed for a straight, but missing one in the middle.

Turn: The fourth card to be dealt, following which a period of betting usually takes place

River: The final card to be dealt, following which the final period of betting usually takes place

Poker Hands by Rank:

Royal Flush: The highest hand in poker. Consists of: Ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace all in the same suit.

Straight Flush: Five cards in sequence all the same suit.

Four of a Kind: Four cards of the same denomination.

Full House: Three cards of one denomination and two cards of another denomination.

Flush: Five cards all in the same suit.

Straight: Five cards of any suit in sequence.

Three of a Kind: Three cards of the same denomination and two unmatched cards.

Two Pairs: Two sets of two cards of the same denomination and any fifth card.

Pair: Two cards of the same denomination and any three unmatched cards.