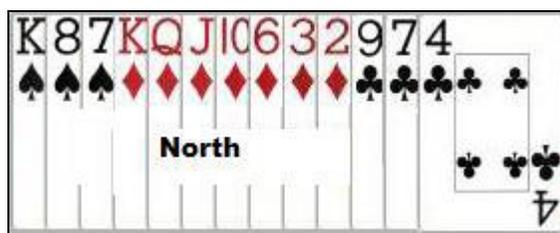
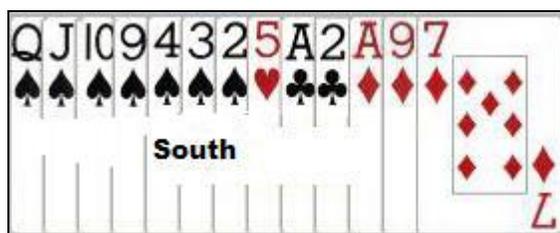
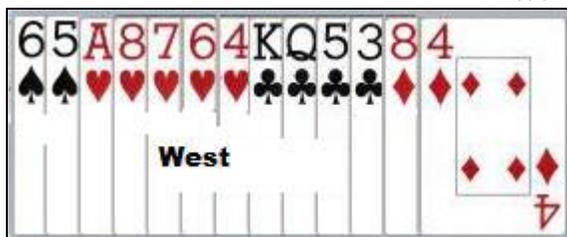


#10 - Hand of the Week

You and partner are playing East/West.
All vulnerable, Dealer South



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See next page for bidding analysis, actual results with real players, the computer-generated prediction and thoughts on what you can learn from this game.

Bidding: (One possible scenario to show how players analyse the bidding.)

Both sides are vulnerable, both sides have 20 HCP, so they may not be quite so aggressive.

Whichever side bids higher and takes the contract is braver than the other.

| | | |
|----------|------|--|
| S | 1♠ | 11 HCP + 3 for length |
| W | Pass | 9 HCP |
| N | 2♦ | 9 HCP , some may bid 2♠ or 3♠ |
| E | 2♥ | 11 HCP + 3 for length, some might jump to 3♥ to show length but weakness |
| S | 2♠ | Jump to show extra length, singleton in hearts |
| W | 3♥ | Show fit in hearts, 11 pts counting dummy pts |
| N | 4♠ | Void in hearts, count 4-5 extra dummy pts |
| E | 5♥ | Has singleton Ace of spades, partner has at least 3 hearts |

Actual Results (East/West viewpoint):

Highest score is 5♥ by West, doubled. (Did East double or did West overcall?) E/W have no control over N/S doubling, so can't take credit for that! Next two highest scores are 4♥ and 5♥ by East, both taking 11 tricks. It looks like one was pushed and the other was not.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

N/S can make 5♦ or 5♠ (spades is the better contract – good to see that no N/S pair stayed in diamonds). E/W can make 4NT or 5♥. E/W won't want to be in NT with such skewed hands and no one bid it.

What is there to learn from this game?

It pays to be aggressive when you have a long suit, even when vulnerable. Four E/W pairs allowed N/S to stay in 4♠. Four E/W pairs pushed the N/S opponents into 5♠. Only three N/S pairs allowed E/W to stay in hearts. Pair 11 N/S showed weakness in competing, to their detriment, allowing E to stay in 4♥.

Conclusion: Even when vulnerable, sometimes it is important to fight for the contract and risk going down. Long suits, voids, and singleton Aces in the opponent's suit are extremely valuable. Both sides could get to game (and above) with just 20 HCP. "Fits take tricks!"

Dir: South
Vul: All

♠ K 8 7

♥ --

♦ K Q J 10 6 3 2

♣ 9 7 4

♠ A

♥ K Q J 10 9 3 2

♦ 5

♣ J 10 8 6

♠ 6 5

♥ A 8 7 6 4

♦ 8 4

♣ K Q 5 3

| | | |
|-------|----|------|
| North | 23 | East |
| West | | East |
| South | | |

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 9 | | 11 |
| 9 | | 11 |

♠ Q J 10 9 4 3 2

♥ 5

♦ A 9 7

♣ A 2

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ♠ | ♥ | ♦ | ♣ | N |
| N | - | 5 | - | 5 | - |
| S | - | 5 | - | 5 | - |
| E | 4 | - | 5 | - | - |
| W | 4 | - | 5 | - | - |

Board No 23 Both Vul Dealer South

| Pairs | | Contract | | | Scores | | Points | |
|-------|-----|----------|----|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| N/S | E/W | Bid | By | Tks | N/S | E/W | N/S | E/W |
| 1 | 2 | 5♥ | E | 5 | 650 | 1½ | 8½ | |
| 2 | 4 | 4♠ | S | 6 | 680 | 8 | 2 | |
| 3 | 6 | 5♥* | W | 5 | 850 | 0 | 10 | |
| 4 | 8 | 5♠ | S | 6 | 680 | 8 | 2 | |
| 5 | 10 | 5♠ | S | 5 | 650 | 5 | 5 | |
| 6 | 12 | 5♠ | S | 6 | 680 | 8 | 2 | |
| 7 | 3 | 4♠ | S | 6 | 680 | 8 | 2 | |
| 8 | 5 | 6♠* | S | -1 | 200 | 3 | 7 | |
| 9 | 7 | 3♠ | N | 6 | 230 | 4 | 6 | |
| 10 | 9 | 4♠ | N | 6 | 680 | 8 | 2 | |
| 11 | 11 | 4♥ | E | 5 | 650 | 1½ | 8½ | |