

#3 Hand of the Week

You and partner are playing East/West. None vulnerable, Dealer North



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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:

(There are so many possibilities of bidding in this game. Here is one scenario to show how players analyse the bidding, with thoughts on what others might be thinking.)

N	Pass	7 HCP, plus 2 for length
E	Pass	9 HCP, plus 2 for length (some may open 2♦ weak with this hand, best to have 2 of top 3 in the suit)
S	Pass	4 HCP (some may be tempted to open "light" with 1♠ in 3 rd seat or 2♠ weak)
W	1♥	20 HCP, plus 1 for length (almost enough pts to open 2♣; some may stretch it and bid 2♣, fearing that East could pass. West decides to open 1♥ and see if East responds with 6 pts; West is wary about the ♣Q in a doubleton, could be worth nothing)
N	2♣	North can now overcall with a weak club suit, partner knows he's weak since he passed to begin with, good lead-directing bid if nothing else
E	1NT	Showing a stopper in club suit and 6-9 pts, some may overcall 2♦ instead
S	Pass	No support for club suit, could bid 2♠ to show long spade suit
W	3NT	West realizes that E/W have enough pts for game, no fit in heart suit, East is showing a stopper in clubs when bidding 1NT, so ♣Q is not so vulnerable. West has good stoppers in all other suits.

Actual Results (East/West viewpoint):

3NT was bid twice, once by East and once by West. Would West bid NT without East showing a stopper in clubs? Was the "3NT by West" contract entered incorrectly into the Bridgемate? Highest score was 4♥, making 5 by West, but only one pair bid it. 5♦ went down 3 times and made it twice. The best results were from 4♥ making 5 and 3NT making 4. Did N or S open the bidding in the first round and then West doubled? That could result in E bidding diamonds and ending up in a diamond contract.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

Optimum pts were 460 (shown in right-hand corner) which would require a contract of 3NT making 5. A contract of NT should make 5, but E made 4 and W made 3.

What is there to learn from this game?

North's weak club bid helped with the lead from South but also helped the opponents to bid NT and to know where the high club cards are. If possible and when you have the chance, bid NT to show stopper in opponent's suit so partner has that information on which to base his bidding. If East bids diamonds, it is most likely that they will get into a 5♦ contract which does not give as high a score as 3NT and requires more tricks. Bidding strategy and results can be so different depending on how the bidding progresses, who bids first, and whether they bid weak or not.

Dir: North Vul: None		♠ Q 6 3 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 10 8 7 5	Optimum EW 460																												
♠ A K J ♥ K Q 10 5 4 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ Q 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>South</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	West	North	East		1		South			♠ 7 ♥ J 2 ♦ A J 9 8 6 4 ♣ K 9 6 2																				
West	North	East																													
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<table border="1"> <tr><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td></tr> </table>	7	20	9	4	♠ 10 9 8 5 4 2 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ 10 7 3 ♣ 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>15</td></tr> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	2	15	W	2	4	2	15
7																															
20	9																														
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Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North																															
Pairs		Contract		Scores		Points																									
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S																								
1	1	3NT	E	4	430	1	6																								
3	5	4♥	W	5	450	0	7																								
4	7	5♦	E	-1	50	6	1																								
5	9	5♦	E	5	400	3	4																								
6	2	5♦	E	-1	50	6	1																								
7	4	3NT	W	3	400	3	4																								
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9	8	5♦	E	-1	50	6	1																								