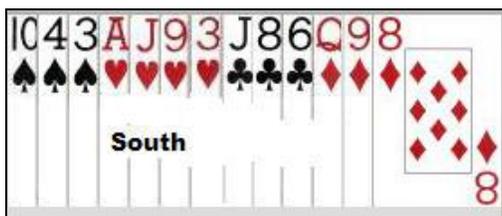
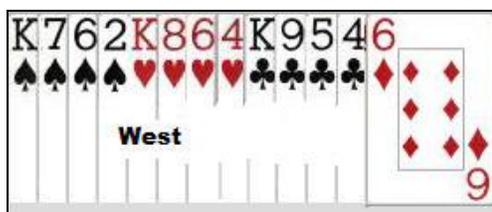


## #4 Hand of the Week

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



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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.)

<b>E</b>	1♦	14 HCP + 1 for length
<b>S</b>	Pass	8 HCP
<b>W</b>	1♥	9 HCP (no fit in diamonds, bid 4-card major starting with hearts)
<b>N</b>	Pass	9 HCP
<b>E</b>	2♣	Some players may bid 2♦ or 2NT instead
<b>S</b>	Pass	
<b>W</b>	3♣	Some players may bid 2NT instead

**Actual Results (East/West viewpoint):** Top scores could have been 3NT making 3 (but 1NT was bid) and 5♣ making 5 (once it made 5, once it made 4), but no one actually bid to game in NT or clubs.

**Computer-Generated Prediction:** 5♣ can make 5 but 3NT will not make.

**What is there to learn from this game?** Why didn't anyone bid to game in clubs when it was makeable? When West knew he was able to support clubs, he could have counted 2-3 dummy pts and invited East to game by bidding 4♣. East should then take it to game having a little bit more than minimum opening pts (14 HCP, plus 1 extra for length, or perhaps 2-3 extra for the singleton).

Another option is that East could have invited West to game by bidding 4♣ once West bid 3♣ (scenario shown above), since East has extra strength, either by counting the length in diamonds or the shortness in hearts. Both East and West had extra strength once they found their fit in clubs, but neither communicated it.

It is difficult to bid to 3NT with a singleton (applies to both East and West); however, one pair did take 9 tricks in 1NT, so 3NT was possible, perhaps, even though the computer predicted E/W could make only 2NT.

Also, Pair 5 East player must have been sleeping to pass with 14 HCP! Perhaps one of the Aces was hidden behind another card. That would have been the first table for them to play, since it's Table #5 vs. Table #5. It shows that you should try to be alert right from the beginning!

**Conclusion:** Some boards are very difficult to bid! There are only 2 final contracts that are the same (2♦). East must have rebid diamonds instead of bidding his 4-card club suit or bidding 2NT. This turned out to be a poor strategy in this game. When trying to find a NT contract, rather than settling for a minor suit contract, it's best to bid your 4-card suit next to show stoppers and give West a chance to decide.

Dir: East  
Vul: None

♠ J 9 5  
♥ 10 7 5 2  
♦ K J 10 2  
♣ A 3

Optimum  
EW 400

♠ K 7 6 2  
♥ K 8 6 4  
♦ 6  
♣ K 9 5 4

West	North	East
	14	
	South	

♠ A Q 8  
♥ Q  
♦ A 7 5 4 3  
♣ Q 10 7 2

	9	
9		14
	8	

♠ 10 4 3  
♥ A J 9 3  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ J 8 6

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	2	2	3	2
W	5	2	2	3	2

Board No 14 None Vul Dealer East								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	6	2♦	E	-1	50		6	1
2	8	2♣	E	4		130	2	5
3	1	3♣	E	5		150	0½	6½
4	3	1NT	E	3		150	0½	6½
5	5	Passed Out					4	3
7	9	4♠	W	-1	50		6	1
8	2	2♦	E	-1	50		6	1
9	4	2♠	W	2		110	3	4