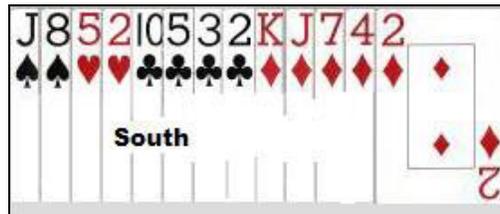


## #5 - Hand of the Week

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



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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>W</b>	1♠	12 HCP + 1 for length, open with 5-card major
<b>N</b>	Double	13 HCP (a double shows opening pts and usually promises 4 cards in the other major - hearts)
<b>E</b>	3♠	9 HCP + 1 for doubleton; (has 5 hearts but a fit in spades has been found, will support partner and show 10-12 pts)
<b>S</b>	Pass	5 HCP (Since East bid, South can pass North's double; with so few pts, it would be difficult to bid anything at the 4 level)
<b>W</b>	Pass	Not much extra strength to take it to game level, so will pass.

**Actual Results (East/West**

**viewpoint):** Highest score was 3♠ making 4. Lowest score was 4♠ going down 1.

**Computer-Generated Prediction:**

Computer shows optimum result of 3♠ making 3.

**What is there to learn from this game?**

In order for N/S to take 4 tricks and keep E/W to 9 tricks, the best lead is a diamond. If North decides to lead from hearts, then he should lead the Ace. By doing that first, he can see the dummy hand and the weakness in diamonds. Next, North should play the ♦A; and then another diamond which South will take with his ♦King.

Sometimes, opponents are afraid to lead away from an unsupported Ace or an unsupported King and they lose out on a trick. West was able to run the hearts, discarding diamond losers. With good defence, West should not have taken 10 tricks to make the top board of 170.

West may have thought that 4♠ was biddable (see N/S #8 vs. E/W #1), but it was not. West was lucky.

**Conclusion:** This game makes 4♠, but only once, and it was not bid. Not playing your Aces can sometimes result in a top board for your opponents. Too often it happens that the Ace and King fall on the last trick, when they could have taken two tricks. If your partner has the King in the same suit, he will not likely want to lead away from it, so that's why it's often important to play your Ace, particularly against a trump contract. Once the Ace is played and partner gets the lead later in the game, he will not be afraid to play his King if he sees a good opportunity to do so.

Dir: West  
Vul: E/W

♠ A 3 2  
♥ A 9 7 3  
♦ A 10 3  
♣ J 8 4

Optimum  
EW 140

♠ K 9 7 6 5  
♥ Q J  
♦ Q 9 6  
♣ A 9 6

North
16
South

♠ Q 10 4  
♥ K 10 8 6 4  
♦ 8 5  
♣ K Q 7

13
12      10
5

♠ J 8  
♥ 5 2  
♦ K J 7 4 2  
♣ 10 5 3 2

♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	1	2	-	-
S	1	2	-	-
E	-	-	2	3
W	-	-	2	3

Board No 16 E/W Vul Dealer West								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	5	3♠	W	3		140	3	4
2	7	4♠	W	-1	100		7	0
3	9	2♥	E	3		140	3	4
4	2	3♠	W	3		140	3	4
5	4	3♠	W	3		140	3	4
6	6	1♠	N	1	70		6	1
8	1	3♠	W	4		170	0	7
9	3	2♠	W	3		140	3	4