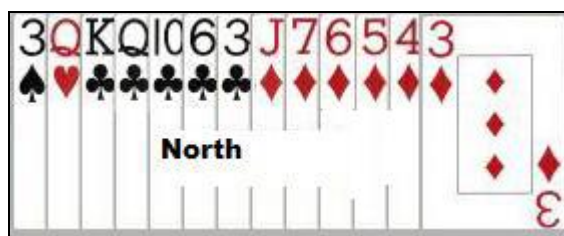
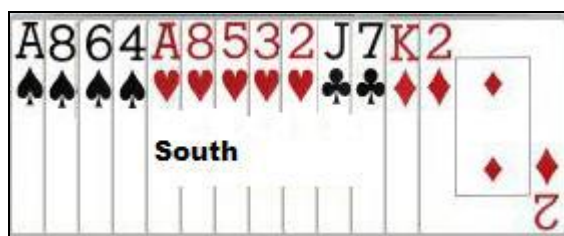


#9 - Hand of the Week

You and partner are playing East/West.
East/West 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 might analyse the bidding.)

S	1♥	12 HCP + 1 for length, bid 5-card major
W	Pass	12 HCP, cannot double, difficult to bid any suit, must pass
N	2♦	8 HCP + 3 for length, bid minor suit at 2 level with 5 cards and 10+ pts
E	Pass	8 HCP (some aggressive players could bid 2♠ with this weak hand)
S	2♠	Show second suit (4 cards). North's responding bid was forcing
W	Pass	
N	3♣	Trying to show two 5-card suits, avoiding NT, 4 th suit forcing
E	Pass	
S	3♦	North should have more diamonds than clubs, so will agree with the diamonds

Actual Results (East/West viewpoint): Top board for E/W was made by South's contract of 4♥, going down 4. E/W cannot be responsible for N/S's bad bidding in that case. They were lucky that N/S bid poorly and benefited from it. This does not necessarily show skill from E/W.

Computer-Generated Prediction: 4♠ or 4NT by E/W was makeable.

What is there to learn from this game?

E/W have two possible strategies here.

They got average boards by bidding 2♠ and 3♣ (by East). Did West double? In any case, it looks like East would benefit by bidding 2♠ over 2♦ by North.

Conclusion: It was difficult for E/W to make a good board in this game. Their best hope was to push N/S up into 4♥ or 3NT. N/S will not always bid that high, but at least 2♠ or 3♣ got E/W an average board.

How did North make 2NT when it shows that E/W can make 4NT? Good question. E/W must not have defended well to let that happen.

When points are split evenly between sides, it is difficult to assess who will win the fight.

If E/W leave N/S in 3♦ as a final contract, they have not competed very well.

E/W should be more aggressive. West should have doubled South's opening bid to force East to bid, or East should have bid his 6-card spade suit after North bid. In #6 vs. #4, leaving South in 2♠ did not result in a good board for E/W. At that point, West should have doubled, East could leave it in for penalty if N passed, and that way, E/W would have gotten 100 pts instead of 50.

♠ 3

Dir: South
Vul: E/W

♥ Q
♦ J 7 6 5 4 3
♠ K Q 10 6 3

♠ K 5
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 5 4 2

W	North	E
3		
S	South	A

♠ Q J 10 9 7 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ 9
♣ A 9 8

8
12
8
12

♠ A 8 6 4
♥ A 8 5 3 2
♦ K 2
♣ J 7

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	3	-	-	-
S	-	3	-	-	-
E	-	-	3	4	4
W	-	-	3	4	4

Board No 3 E/W Vul Dealer South								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	1	2♠	E	3		140	3	3
2	3	2NT	N	2	120		6	0
3	5	4♥	S	-4		200	0	6
4	7	2♠	E	3		140	3	3
5	2	3NT	S	-3		150	1	5
6	4	2♠	S	-1		50	5	1
7	6	3♠	E	3		140	3	3