

**#17 - Hand of the Week – Slam is not always easy to bid. Sometimes finding the best suit or No Trump is not easy either. Sometimes a little bit of luck helps to make a slam when it has not been bid.**

You and partner are playing East/West.  
All vulnerable. South is the dealer.

Dir: South Vul: All		♠4 3 2	♥K Q 9 8 2	♦Q 10	♣8 7 4				
♠A J 5	♥--	♠8 7	♥A 10 7 5 4 3	♦A 9 2	♣J 2				
♦K J 8 3		West	North	East					
♠A K Q 9 6 3		23	South						
<table border="1"> <tr><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td></tr> </table>		7	18	9	6	♠K Q 10 9 6	♥J 6	♦7 6 5 4	♣10 5
7									
18	9								
6									

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.  
If you wish to practise the bidding first, do not look at the bidding below.

**Bidding:** (One possible scenario with analysis.)

<b>S</b>	Pass	6 HCP
<b>W</b>	1♣	18 HCP plus 2 for length, some may open 2♣ (very strong hand, 22+ pts, even though this hand does not meet that rule, but the void gives extra strength in a suit contract)
<b>N</b>	1♥	7 HCP plus 1 for length, overcall showing 5+ hearts, usually 8 pts is enough for an overcall. North may also pass since all are vulnerable.
<b>E</b>	Double	9 HCP, East cannot bid hearts, perhaps 1NT but has no stoppers in spades. Best to force partner to bid again. Partner may think East has 4 spades which is giving the wrong information.
<b>S</b>	1♠	South can show a 5-card spade suit. The bidding is still at the 1 level.
<b>W</b>	3♦	Jump to show extra strength. A jump shift is forcing.
<b>N</b>	Pass	North is too weak to compete much further.
<b>E</b>	3♥	May decide to show heart stoppers. Cannot bid 3NT without a stopper in spades.
<b>W</b>	3NT	

Here are two more possibilities if North does not overcall and the bidding is between East and West only:

West 1♣ > East 1♥ > 3♣ > 3♥ > 3NT OR this:

West 2♣ (very strong hand) > East 2♦ (waiting) > 3♣ > 3♥ > 3NT.

As you will see on the next page, the final results were quite varied, which indicates that the bidding was not straightforward.

**Actual Results (East/West viewpoint):**

Only one pair bid to slam (6♦) and went down 2. The highest scores were those who bid 3NT and made 6NT. Hearts and spades were not good suit contracts for E/W.

**Computer-Generated Prediction:**

E/W can make a small slam in clubs, diamonds or NT. (6NT will give the best score.)

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

How could 6♦ make?

With only 7 diamonds, West can pull them and make 4 tricks.

Then West can run his clubs and take 6 tricks, plus the ♠Ace and ♥Ace.

West must not try the diamond finesse. West would have to count his trump very carefully and watch what is played. It will take concentration and a bit of risk. If the ♦Queen were in South's hand, it would not make.

E/W cannot be faulted for not bidding a slam.

In a 3NT contract, there is less angst because West can see 6 club winners, 1 heart and 1 spade winner, and 2 diamond winners. Because he knows he can make the contract, he does not need to risk the diamond finesse, but when he sees the Queen fall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond trick, he can easily make 6NT.

**Opening Lead:**

♠King from South, top of touching honors.

Dir: South  
Vul: All

♠4 3 2  
♥K Q 9 8 2  
♦Q 10  
♣8 7 4

♠A J 5  
♥--  
♦K J 8 3  
♣A K Q 9 6 3

North
23
South

♠8 7  
♥A 10 7 5 4 3  
♦A 9 2  
♣J 2

	7	
18		9
	6	

♠K Q 10 9 6  
♥J 6  
♦7 6 5 4  
♣10 5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	6	3	3	6
W	6	6	3	3	6

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	5	4♥	E	-1	100		8½	2½	
2	7	3♣	W	5		150	4	7	
3	9	4♥	E	-1	100		8½	2½	
4	11	5♦	W	-3	300		11	0	
5	13	2♣	W	5		150	4	7	
6	15	4♣	W	5		150	4	7	
7	2	2♦	W	4		130	6	5	
8	4	2♦	W	3		110	7	4	
9	6	3NT	W	6		690	1	10	
10	8	3NT	W	6		690	1	10	
11	10	6♦	W	-2	200		10	1	
12	12	3NT	W	6		690	1	10	