

#22 - Hand of the Week -

Can you handle an interfering bid after partner opens 1NT?

With 5-4 in the majors, should you use Stayman or Jacoby?

Is a 5-3 fit in a major better than a 4-4 fit?

You and partner are playing East/West.

E/W vulnerable, Dealer East.

Dir: East Vul: E/W		♠ K 9 2						
		♥ 5 4						
		♦ J 9 7 5 4 2						
		♣ 10 6						
♠ Q 10 7 4			North	♠ A J 8 5				
♥ A 10 9 7 2		West	6	♥ Q J 8				
♦ 8		East		♦ A Q 6				
♠ Q 8 3		South		♠ J 7 2				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td></tr> </table>		4	8	15	13	♠ 6 3		
4								
8	15							
13								
		♥ K 6 3						
		♦ K 10 3						
		♣ A K 9 5 4						

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.)

E	1NT	15 HCP, balanced hand
S	2♣	13 HCP, good club suit with 5+ clubs
W	Double	8 HCP, Stayman, meaning "stole my bid," asking for a 4-card major
N	Pass	4 HCP
E	2♠	Showing a 4-card spade suit, denying a 4-card heart suit
S	Pass	Nothing else to bid
W	3♥	Show 5-card suit, could also bid 3♠ since they have a fit in spades, East would likely pass 3♠ because he has a minimum 15-pt NT hand.
E	4♥	Showed 4 spades already, will now agree with the hearts

Actual Results

(East/West viewpoint):

The top board for E/W was 5♦ by North, doubled and going down 4. E/W would not be responsible for that. If the opponents go crazy, that will help you out. Good for E/W for doubling.

The next best board was 4♥ by W making 5. Must have been poor defence from N/S, so again, E/W had little to do with getting that good score.

Only two were in a spade contract, one making 4, the other making 3, and neither bidding to game.

#8 E/W left the contract in 2♣ by S. They should get a little more competitive if they want to play duplicate.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

E/W can make either 4♥ or 4♠. They would get 10 more pts in a 3NT contract making 4 (even 5 is possible if E is the Declarer) and #9 made 5, but didn't bid to game. They would have gotten the top board had they bid 3NT.

What is there to learn from this game?

When you've found a fit in a major, whether it's 4-4 or 5-3, it will often give you the same score, though some contend that 4-4 is better.

In this case, the 4-4 might be better because the "big" hand is hidden.

West should consider that 5-4 in the majors is worth a few more points. Having 8, West should take it to game in hearts or spades at least.

It is difficult to find a NT contract when the opponents are overcalling a 1NT opening bid showing a strong hand and 5+ clubs and you have just 1 stopper and an unbalanced hand. So even though 3NT will give the top board, it is risky to go there.

Pairs should have discussed a method to deal with interfering bids after a 1NT opening so they know how to handle that. West knows that they have the majority of points in the deck, so they should be competing. Passing a 2♣ interfering bid was not smart.

If East used Jacoby first to transfer West into hearts, how do they get to game? East will not know whether West has 2 or 3 hearts. East would have to bid 2NT next to show 8 pts and West would pass since he has just 15 pts. It is important to consider a slightly higher point count when you've found an 8-card fit in a major and you have such an unbalanced hand. You can add points for shortness with an 8-card fit, but not when in a NT contract.

Dir: East Vul: E/W		♠ K 9 2	♥ 5 4	♦ J 9 7 5 4 2	♣ 10 6
♠ Q 10 7 4	♥ A 10 9 7 2	♦ 8	♣ Q 8 3	North 6 South	♠ A J 8 5
				West	East
				South	♥ Q J 8
					♦ A Q 6
					♣ J 7 2
4	8	15	13	♠ 6 3	♥ K 6 3
				♦ K 10 3	♣ A K 9 5 4
					♠ - 1 - - N
					♥ - 1 - - S
					♦ 2 - 4 4 5 E
					♣ 2 - 4 4 4 W

Board No 6 E/W Vul Dealer East								
N/S	E/W	Contract			Scores		Points	
		Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	11	4♥	W	5		650	1	9
2	1	4♥	E	-1	100		8	2
3	3	3♥	E	5		200	3	7
4	5	4♥	W	-2	200		10	0
5	7	4♥	E	-1	100		8	2
6	9	2NT	E	5		210	2	8
7	12	5♦*	N	-4		800	0	10
8	2	3♠	E	4		170	4	6
9	4	3♥	W	-1	100		8	2
10	6	3♠	E	3		140	5	5
11	8	2♣	S	-1		50	6	4