

## #23 - Hand of the Week – February 17, 2018

How would you bid E/W hands? If you were North, on lead, which card?

None vulnerable, Dealer West

Dir: West Vul: None		♠ 9	♥ 8 6 4 2	♦ A 10 8 7 4 2	♣ 10 2												
♠ A 3	♥ 5 3	♦ K Q 6	♣ A K 9 8 6 5	<table border="1"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>South</td><td></td><td>East</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East		8		South		East	♠ K 10 7 5 4 2	♥ A K Q J 7	♦ 9	♣ J
West	North	East															
	8																
South		East															
<table border="1"> <tr><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td></tr> </table>		4	16	14	6	♠ Q J 8 6	♥ 10 9	♦ J 5 3	♣ Q 7 4 3								
4																	
16	14																
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.

### Bidding: (One possible scenario to show how players analyse the bidding.)

W	1♣	16 HCP, no 5-card major, 2 doubletons so unbalanced
N	Pass	4 HCP (will continue to pass)
E	1♠	14 HCP, show 4+ card major, has two long majors, bid longest one first, East knows they should be in game, but it will be difficult to describe his hand having 6 spades and 5 hearts
S	Pass	6 HCP (will continue to pass)
W	3♣	Should jump to show a medium-range hand (16-18 pts) and at least 5 clubs
E	3♥	Show other major suit. This will give W the option of 3NT, or picking one of the major suits.
W	3NT	With stoppers in all suits, bid 3NT.
E	Pass	Tempting to consider slam, but with such an unbalanced hand, NT contracts are often more difficult to make because finesses are often not an option and transportation can be a problem.

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

No one bid slam.  
 Seven bid 3NT; six played by West.  
 Four were in a spade contract, making 3♠, 4♠ (twice; one going down having bid up to 5♠), and 5♠.

**Computer-Generated Prediction:**

W should be able to make 6NT or 6♥, but not 6♠, even though they had a fit in spades (8 spades), but only 7 hearts.

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

Interesting that West (Pair #2) vs. N/S Pair #3 were able to make 7NT, when most could take only 10 or 11 tricks. Did West try the club finesse? If they had bid slam, West would not be able to risk it because he has a sure loser in diamonds. But in 3NT, he could try it. This game shows a bit of luck as North's ♠10 would then fall on the ♣A/♠K, making the remaining clubs into winners. The best lead by North could be the ♠9, which should ensure that either the diamond or the spade would take a trick, but most do not think to lead a singleton when leading against a NT contract. That lead would force out either the ♠Ace or ♠King, so South would be able to save either the ♠Q or ♠J.

West can run the hearts and possibly the clubs, leaving the spades to the last, squeezing the opponents. N/S have to discard from their other suits – the results depend on which cards they get rid of.

**Opening Lead:**

Most likely the 4<sup>th</sup> highest from the diamonds (♦7), as diamonds was not bid by E/W and diamonds is North's longest, strongest suit. That gives West a winner with either the ♦K or ♦Q, so does not help N/S defence.

Dir: West  
 Vul: None

♠ 9  
 ♥ 8 6 4 2  
 ♦ A 10 8 7 4 2  
 ♣ 10 2

North	8	East
West		East
South		East

♠ K 10 7 5 4 2  
 ♥ A K Q J 7  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ J

4  
 16    14  
 6

♠ Q J 8 6  
 ♥ 10 9  
 ♦ J 5 3  
 ♣ Q 7 4 3

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	2	5	4	5
W	5	2	6	4	6

Board No 8 None Vul Dealer West								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	10	3NT	W	6	490	1	9	
2	12	5♠	W	-1	50		10	0
3	2	3NT	W	7	520	0	10	
4	4	4♠	E	4	420	8	2	
5	6	3NT	E	5	460	2½	7½	
6	8	3NT	W	4	430	6	4	
7	11	4♠	E	5	450	4	6	
8	1	3NT	W	5	460	2½	7½	
9	3	3NT	W	4	430	6	4	
10	5	3NT	W	4	430	6	4	
11	7	3♠	E	3	140	9	1	