

**#24 - Hand of the Week – February 24, 2018**  
**How weak should you be to open?**

You and partner are playing East/West.

None vulnerable, Dealer South

|  |       |              |   |    |    |       |  |
|--|-------|--------------|---|----|----|-------|--|
| Dir: South<br>Vul: None  |       | ♠ K          |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♥ J 7 6 4 3  |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♦ K 8 7 6    |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♣ A Q J      |   |    |    |       |  |
| ♠ Q 10 9 7 4 2   | North | ♠ A J 6 3    |   |    |    |       |  |
| ♥ 10 8 5   | West  | ♥ --         |   |    |    |       |  |
| ♦ 10   | 27    | ♦ A Q 9 4    |   |    |    |       |  |
| ♣ 9 5 3  | East  | ♣ K 10 7 4 2 |   |    |    |       |  |
|  | South |              |   |    |    |       |  |
| <table border="1"> <tr><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td></tr> </table> |       | 14           | 2 | 14 | 10 | ♠ 8 5 |  |
| 14   |       |              |   |    |    |       |  |
| 2  | 14    |              |   |    |    |       |  |
| 10   |       |              |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♥ A K Q 9 2  |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♦ J 5 3 2    |   |    |    |       |  |
|  |       | ♣ 8 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.)

|          |        |  |
|----------|--------|--|
| <b>S</b> | Pass   | 10 HCP   |
| <b>W</b> | Pass   | 2 HCP (Has 6 spades, but a very weak hand and not a strong spade suit either.)   |
| <b>N</b> | 1♥     | 14 HCP – showing 5 hearts and 12-21 pts  |
| <b>E</b> | Double | 14 HCP – A double over a bid of a major usually promises 4 of the other major and opening pts or better.   |
| <b>S</b> | 4♥     | With 10 hearts together and at least 24 pts plus 2 dummy pts for the two doubletons, South should take it to game.                                   |
| <b>W</b> | 4♠     | With 10 spades together (assuming 4 spades from East) and not vulnerable and such a weak hand, take it to game and expect to sacrifice the contract. |

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

Only two E/W pairs were brave enough to bid to game in 4♠ -- one even overcalled to 5♠ (must have been pushed up). One made 4♠, one made 5♠ and one went down 1 trick. East #7 must have overcalled 2♣, then bid spades next, to become Declarer, rather than West.

N/S, even with their long heart suit and considerably more points than E/W, could not make 4♥, except one who didn't bid it.

The highest score for E/W was 4♠, making 5♠. The highest score for N/S was 3♥ by North, making 3.

**Computer-Generated Prediction:**

E/W should be able to take 11 tricks in a spade trump suit. N/S can take only 7 or 8 tricks in a heart trump suit.

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

North is likely to lead the ♥4 or maybe the ♥Jack. East will ruff it. Should West play the Ace and then ruff a diamond to get to West's dummy to try the diamond finesse? The ♠King will fall on the first trump pull even if East plays the Ace first. That would be the best way to take 11 tricks, but who would know that? If East does want to start pulling trump from the dummy hand (West), he should play the ♠Ace. When he sees the ♠King fall, he should play low to the Queen so he can be in his own hand to try the diamond finesse. Should West open 2♠ (weak)? Some N/S players may call the director and claim that 2HCP is too light to open anything. This contract was worth fighting for, by either side. When playing the hand, East should be cross-ruffing. East should lead a club from his own hand, toward the King so should factor that into his playing.

Dir: South  
Vul: None

♠ K  
♥ J 7 6 4 3  
♦ K 8 7 6  
♣ A Q J

♠ Q 10 9 7 4 2  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ 10  
♣ 9 5 3

North  
West 27 East  
South

♠ A J 6 3  
♥ --  
♦ A Q 9 4  
♣ K 10 7 4 2

|   |    |
|---|----|
|   | 14 |
| 2 | 14 |
|   | 10 |

♠ 8 5  
♥ A K Q 9 2  
♦ J 5 3 2  
♣ 8 6

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | ♠ | ♦ | ♥ | ♣ | N |
| N | - | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| S | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| E | 4 | - | - | 5 | 1 |
| W | 4 | - | - | 5 | 1 |

Board No 27 None Vul Dealer South

| Pairs |     | Contract |    |     | Scores |     | Points |     |
|-------|-----|----------|----|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| N/S   | E/W | Bid      | By | Tks | N/S    | E/W | N/S    | E/W |
| 2     | 6   | 4♠       | W  | 5   | 450    | 0   | 7      |     |
| 3     | 8   | 4♥       | N  | -1  | 50     | 4   | 3      |     |
| 4     | 10  | 4♠       | W  | 4   | 420    | 1   | 6      |     |
| 5     | 1   | 4♥       | N  | -2  | 100    | 2   | 5      |     |
| 6     | 3   | 4♥       | N  | -1  | 50     | 4   | 3      |     |
| 7     | 5   | 4♥       | N  | -1  | 50     | 4   | 3      |     |
| 8     | 7   | 5♠       | E  | -1  | 50     | 6   | 1      |     |
| 9     | 9   | 3♥       | N  | 4   | 170    | 7   | 0      |     |