

#26 - Hand of the Week – March 10, 2018
How would you bid and play this hand?

You and partner are playing East/West.
 Dealer East. None Vulnerable

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|-------|------|----|----|---|-------|----|--|-------------|--|
| Dir: East Vul: None | | ♠ J 6 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ J 10 7 6 5 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ J 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ Q J | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ 2 | <table border="1"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>South</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | West | North | East | | 14 | | South | | | ♠ 10 9 8 7 | |
| West | | North | East | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| South | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ Q | ♥ A 9 4 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 10 9 8 7 2 | ♦ Q 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A 9 6 5 4 | ♣ K 8 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>15</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | | 6 | | 10 | | 9 | | 15 | | ♠ A K Q 5 4 | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ K 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ K 6 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ 10 7 3 | | | | | | | | | | |

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: (Two possible scenarios to show how players might bid.)

| | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| E | Pass | 9 HCP |
| S | 1♠ | 15 HCP, 5-card major |
| W | 2♦ | 10 HCP, plus 3 for length; overcall showing a strong diamond suit |
| N | 2♠ | 6 HCP, support for spades, showing 6-9 pts |
| E | 3♦ | Might also pass. |
| S | 3♠ | Might also pass. |
| W | 4♦ | Might also pass. |
| | | |
| E | Pass | |
| S | 1NT | 15 HCP, balanced hand |
| W | 2♦ | 6-card diamond suit |
| N | Double | "Stole my bid" – transfer to hearts |
| E | Pass | |
| S | 2♥ | Complete the transfer |

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

The contracts were all over the place! E/W should be able to make 4♣ or 4♦, yet not one did! The best contract and score for E/W turned out to be 2♦ by West, doubled. Was the double for take-out and North left it in? Or did North double and South left it in? E/W cannot gloat too much about that. They were just lucky to be against a lesser N/S team.

Bidding up to 5♦ was a mistake for E/W, even when not vulnerable, especially when N/S were smart enough to double. Stopping at 3♦ was the best thing to do.

N/S can make 2♥ or 2♠.

What is there to learn from this game?

Do not let the opponents sit happily at a 2-level contract. Push them to 3. But don't get greedy! If you do, then you should be smarter at playing the hand than these E/W pairs were.

The trick was, in diamonds, to play the ♦10 towards the ♦Q/5 and play the Queen only if the Jack appears from North. That strategy works with this game.

♠ J 6 3
♥ J 10 7 6 5 2
♦ J 3
♣ Q J

Dir: East
Vul: None

| | | |
|------|-------|------|
| | North | |
| West | 14 | East |
| | South | |

♠ 2
♥ Q
♦ A 10 9 8 7 2
♣ A 9 6 5 4

♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ A 9 4 3
♦ Q 5
♣ K 8 2

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| | 6 | |
| 10 | | 9 |
| | 15 | |

♠ A K Q 5 4
♥ K 8
♦ K 6 4
♣ 10 7 3

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

| Board No 14 None Vul Dealer East | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----------|----|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| Pairs | | Contract | | | Scores | | Points | |
| N/S | E/W | Bid | By | Tks | N/S | E/W | N/S | E/W |
| 1 | 9 | 2♠ | S | 4 | 170 | | 10 | 1 |
| 2 | 11 | 3♦ | W | 3 | | 110 | 1½ | 9½ |
| 3 | 13 | 2♥ | S | 2 | 110 | | 8½ | 2½ |
| 4 | 1 | 3♦ | W | 3 | | 110 | 1½ | 9½ |
| 5 | 3 | 4♥ | N | -2 | | 100 | 4½ | 6½ |
| 6 | 5 | 2♠ | S | -2 | | 100 | 4½ | 6½ |
| 7 | 7 | 2♠ | S | 2 | 110 | | 8½ | 2½ |
| 10 | 12 | 4♣ | W | -2 | 100 | | 7 | 4 |
| 11 | 14 | 2♦* | W | 3 | | 280 | 0 | 11 |
| 12 | 2 | 5♦* | W | -4 | 800 | | 11 | 0 |
| 13 | 4 | 3♠ | S | -2 | | 100 | 4½ | 6½ |
| 14 | 6 | 4♠ | S | -2 | | 100 | 4½ | 6½ |

E/W will lose a club, a spade, a diamond and make 4♦. Pull trump; cross-ruff the spades.