

#27 - Hand of the Week – March 17, 2018
Assessing your hand with a void.

You and partner are playing East/West.

Dealer West. All Vulnerable

Try to bid the hands before checking the bidding below.

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, using relatively simple methods and conventions.)

W	1♥	17 HCP, 5-card heart suit
N	Pass	2 HCP
E	1♠	10 HCP, no fit in hearts, show 4-card spade suit, forcing bid, not limiting the hand strength
S	2♣	11 HCP, plus 1 for length, worth an overcall, lead-directing if nothing else
W	4♠	Count 4-5 dummy pts for void, fit in spades is found, take it to game, all pass
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W	1♥	17 HCP, 5-card heart suit
N	Pass	2 HCP
E	1♠	10 HCP, no fit in hearts, show 4-card spade suit, forcing bid, not limiting the hand strength
S	2♣	11 HCP, plus 1 for length, worth an overcall, lead-directing if nothing else (N/S pass for the rest of the game)
W	4♠	Count 4-5 dummy pts for void, fit in spades is found, take it to game
E	5♦	Show ♦Ace, extra pts, investigate slam
W	6♠	Knowing that the opponents have the ♣Ace and it will be ruffed, try slam.

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Only one pair bid the slam but 4 pairs made slam. #3 N/S were gutsy to go to 5♣ as a sacrifice. However, had they been doubled, E/W would get 1100 pts, not as good as the score E/W would get for bidding and making slam, but still could be worth it.

What is there to learn from this game?

It looks like #1 E/W may have used Blackwood to investigate slam and stopped at 5♠, realizing that an Ace is missing. The other possibility is that N/S bid to 5♣ and they decided to take the contract, so bid 5♠.

Another way to investigate slam is to bid your Aces, in steps, after game level has been bid as is shown in the 2nd bidding on Page 1. Partners need to be aware of what this means. They can still stop at the 5 level. West showed good judgment to take it to slam.

E/W are missing an Ace and 2 Kings, but can still make slam, so Blackwood is not always the best method to use.

It pays to be aggressive sometimes, even when vulnerable, expecting to go down.

Dir: West
Vul: All

♠ 10 4
♥ 10 4 3
♦ 7 6 5
♣ Q 7 5 3 2

♠ A K J 3
♥ A K 8 7 6
♦ Q 10 9 4
♣ - -

NORTH
WEST
20
EAST
SOUTH

♠ Q 9 7 6
♥ Q J
♦ A J 8 2
♣ 9 8 6

2	
17	10
11	

♠ 8 5 2
♥ 9 5 2
♦ K 3
♣ A K J 10 4

♣	♦	♥	♠	N	
N	1	-	-	-	
S	1	-	-	-	
E	-	6	6	6	2
W	-	6	6	6	2

Board No 20 Both Vul Dealer West								
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NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
2	8	4♣	E	6		680	2.00	2.00
5	1	5♣	E	6		680	2.00	2.00
6	4	6♣	E	6		1430	0.00	4.00
10	3	5♣	S	-4		400	4.00	0.00
12	7	4♣	E	6		680	2.00	2.00