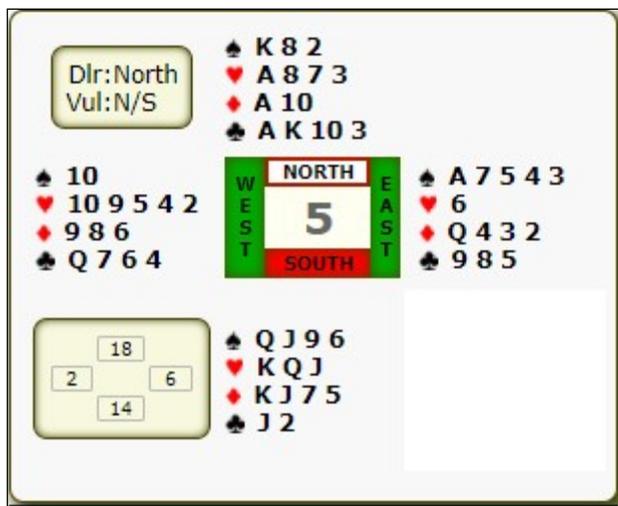


#28 - Hand of the Week – April 19, 2018
Not everyone gets to slam. Not everyone makes slam.

You and partner are playing North/South.
 Dealer North. N/S Vulnerable
 Try bidding 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: (Showing how players might bid and the strategy they use. E/W pass throughout.)

N	1♣	18 HCP, too many pts to open 1NT, no 5-card major, bid longest minor showing 12-21 pts
S	1♠	14 HCP, knows that game level should be there but they should find out if there is an 8-card fit in a major first; a change of suit in first round is forcing; shows 4+ spades and 6+ pts and does not limit his hand
N	2NT	No fit in spades, South has denied 4 hearts, a jump to 2NT shows point count of 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand.
S	4♣	Gerber, asking for Aces. Though North opened with a club, a jump from 2NT to 4♣ should be considered Gerber and is not showing a club suit.
N	4NT	Showing 3 Aces (missing 1 Ace so a grand slam is not possible)
S	5♣	Ask for Kings to determine whether to stop at 5NT or bid to 6NT.
N	5♠	Showing 2 Kings.
S	6NT	Missing 1 Ace, but having all 4 Kings, try for slam.

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

North/South should be able to bid and make slam in 6NT. Only four pairs out of 13 bid it; three made 6NT; one went down 1. Only 6 pairs out of 13 took 12 tricks.

What is there to learn from this game?

When you have 3 Aces and all 4 Kings, you should try for a slam. Three pairs ended up in a suit but perhaps did not play the hands as well as they should since none of them made their contract (4♠ and 5♣ should make, but not 6♥).

No Trump is the optimum contract for N/S, as there is no 8-card fit in any suit and they have stoppers in all suits.

To show a balanced hand in the range of 18-19 pts (too high for opening 1NT and too low for opening 2NT), bid a minor suit first and then jump to 2NT after partner responds, if no fit in a major has been found.

East will be on lead – in a slam contract s/he might lead the ♠Ace. Some might lead the ♦2 and some clever ones might lead the singleton ♥6 expecting that, because East is short in hearts, perhaps partner has 5 or more.

When North sees the dummy, s/he should count immediate winners: 3 spades, 4 hearts, 2 clubs and 2 diamonds. One of the finesses must work, either the clubs or the diamonds. If the ♦2 is led, North could surmise that East has an honor, therefore, the Queen. Even if East leads the ♠Ace, s/he is likely to lead the ♦2 next. North's best strategy is to force out the ♠Ace if it is not led and then the next lead might help.

This must be a challenging contract to bid and play since only 30% were able to bid slam and fewer than 50% were able to take 12 tricks.

Dlr: North
 Vul: N/S

♠ K 8 2
 ♥ A 8 7 3
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ A K 10 3

♠ 10
 ♥ 10 9 5 4 2
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ Q 7 6 4

NORTH
 WEST 5 EAST
 SOUTH

♠ A 7 5 4 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q 4 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 5

18
 2 6
 14

♠ Q J 9 6
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ K J 7 5
 ♣ J 2

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	13	6NT	N	6	1440		11.00	1.00
2	1	4♠	S	-1		100	2.50	9.50
3	3	3NT	N	6	690		8.00	4.00
5	6	3NT	N	6	690		8.00	4.00
6	8	6NT	S	6	1440		11.00	1.00
7	10	6♥	N	-2		200	1.00	11.00
8	12	6NT	N	6	1440		11.00	1.00
9	14	3NT	N	5	660		5.00	7.00
10	2	5NT	N	5	660		5.00	7.00
11	5	6NT	N	-1		100	2.50	9.50
12	7	3NT	S	5	660		5.00	7.00
13	9	5♣	N	-3		300	0.00	12.00
14	11	3NT	N	6	690		8.00	4.00

Board No 5 N/S Vul Dealer North