

## #29 - Hand of the Week – April 21, 2018

Partners sometimes must “fudge” the bidding, but should always consider the message being sent. Sometimes a hand cannot be bid perfectly.

You and partner are playing North/South.  
Dealer West. All Vulnerable

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following details:

- Dir: West, Vul: All**
- North's Hand:** ♠ A K Q 4, ♥ K 9 8 5, ♦ A Q J 8, ♣ K
- South's Hand:** ♠ 9 5 3, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ K 10 7 3, ♣ J 8 5
- Opponent's Hand (East):** ♠ 8 7 6 2, ♥ J 7 4, ♦ 9 6 4, ♣ A 10 9
- Opponent's Hand (West):** ♠ J 10, ♥ 6 3 2, ♦ 5 2, ♣ Q 7 6 4 3 2
- Bidding Box:** A central box with '20' in the center, surrounded by 'NORTH', 'WEST', 'EAST', and 'SOUTH'.
- Score Box:** A box with '22' in the top left, '10' in the bottom left, and '5' in the bottom right.

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 two examples of how players might bid and the strategy they use. E/W pass throughout.)

<b>N</b>	2♣	22 HCP, very strong hand.
<b>S</b>	2♦	Waiting, showing 3+ pts. Consider length pts also which brings point count to 5.
<b>N</b>	2NT	Showing a balanced hand with 22-24 HCP, no 5-card major. This hand is not balanced, so North is “fudging” a little bit. North knows that South must bid again because he showed 3+ pts
<b>S</b>	3NT	Cannot bid 3♣ as that would mean Stayman (asking for a 4-card major). Has no other suit to bid. Go to game and hope for the best.
<b>N</b>	2♣	22 HCP, very strong hand.
<b>S</b>	2♦	Waiting, showing 3+ pts. Consider length pts also.
<b>N</b>	2♥	North does not have 5 hearts but considers that 2NT might be dangerous with the singleton King; 3♦ would show 5 diamonds and take the bidding higher. North does not have the perfect bid to show his hand. North is “fudging” a little bit by claiming to have 5 hearts.
<b>S</b>	3♥	Assumes that North has 5 hearts and a fit has been found in hearts. Would South bid 3♣ when he thinks there is a fit in hearts? It would be a better bid as then North could safely consider 3NT; depends on how South understands the 2♥ bid.
<b>N</b>	3NT or 4♥	Communication between partners is not perfect, no matter what each bids. Which contract will be better (even without the preferred fit of 8 hearts) is difficult to assess.

**Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:**

North/South can make only 3 of any contract; therefore, 3NT is the best contract. Five bid 3NT making 3 or 4. One bid 4NT going down 1. Two bid 4♥ going down 1.

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

Sometimes it's best to bid NT even with a singleton. If South bid 2♦ waiting, then North should feel confident that South will bid again after 2NT. Then North can assess his hand better, after South bids. However, South cannot bid clubs as that would mean Stayman. A relay to clubs will not work well either. There is no perfect strategy; one must hope for the best. It seems most players (7 out of 12 opted for NT even with the singleton King).

If North decides to bid 2♥ and South supports his hearts, he should consider that South may have just 3 hearts since South will be thinking that North has 5 hearts. Therefore, if you send an imperfect message to partner, don't expect a perfect message back.

South might bid a "bust" hand which would be 2♥, if South is using the lessons on this website. Not all players use 2♥ to mean a "bust" hand after a 2♣ opening bid. That could be how #1 Pair ended up in 2♥ by South. North just passed since South showed few pts and North's hearts are a 4-card suit. #14 probably changed it to 2♠ since spades is the same length as hearts but spades is a stronger suit. Also, a 2♥ bid meaning a "bust" hand does not say anything about having hearts.

Partnership agreement is important after a 2♣ opening. Some partners will always respond 2♦. Others may bid a suit to show strength in that suit. Some may consider 3 HCP to be a "bust" hand and will not consider length, but they should add pts for length.

Some North players may have opened 2NT, even with the singleton King. In that case, South would probably pass or might bid 3NT. It's very difficult to determine how each pair bid to get to 3NT as the final contract.

The interface displays a bridge hand with the following components:

- Hand Information:**
  - Dir: West, Vul: All
  - North: ♠ A K Q 4, ♥ K 9 8 5, ♦ A Q J 8, ♣ K
  - South: ♠ 9 5 3, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ K 10 7 3, ♣ J 8 5
  - West: ♠ J 10, ♥ 6 3 2, ♦ 5 2, ♣ Q 7 6 4 3 2
- Bidding Board:** A central board showing a score of 20, with North and South positions indicated.
- Hand Summary:** A small table showing the number of cards in each suit for North, South, East, and West.
- Results Table:** A table titled "Board No 20 Both Vul Dealer West" showing the performance of various pairs.

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	5	2♥	S	2	110		3.29	8.71
2	7	4NT	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
3	9	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
5	14	4♥	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
6	2	4♣	N	4	130		5.46	6.54
7	4	3NT	N	3	600		8.17	3.83
8	6	3NT	N	3	600		8.17	3.83
9	8	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
10	10	4♥	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
12	13	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
13	1	2NT	N	2	120		4.38	7.63
14	3	2♠	N	4	170		6.54	5.46