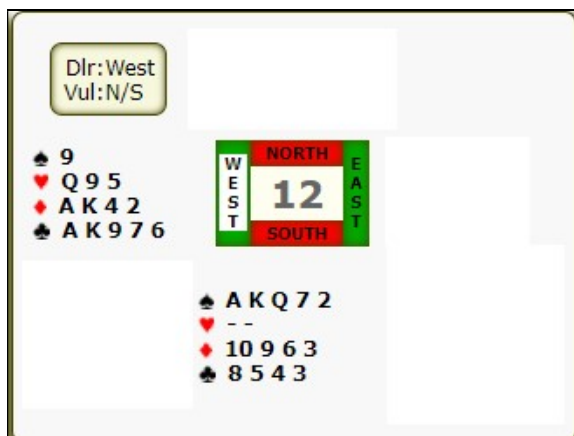


#30 - Hand of the Week – April 28, 2018
Play this hand with me. What is your strategy?

You are West and the Dealer. N/S vulnerable.



Here is the bidding:

W	1♣	Showing 12-21 pts, no 5-card major
N	3♥	Weak jump overcall showing 7 hearts and fewer than 12 pts
E	Pass	
S	Pass	
W	Pass	

Contract: 3♥ by North

Lead: ♠Queen from East, Dummy hand is exposed.

West's Viewpoint:

♠Queen takes first trick, West plays low.

♠10 is led next by East. West takes it with the ♠King.

♦King is played by West and takes the trick but North plays the ♦Queen.

Which card do you play next and why?

Clues:

East played high/low which shows a doubleton. West knows that both North and East are now void in clubs. Would East be able to over trump North's ruff?

Is North now void in diamonds or does he have the ♦Jack?

East has three hearts since North overcalled 3♥ showing 7 hearts, but some players do not always follow the rules strictly.

Since North is long in one suit, he will be short in others.

West knows he will take a trick later on with the ♥Queen, even if North has the ♥A/♥K/♥J of hearts since North cannot lead hearts from the dummy.

Here are three possibly strategies:

(1) Play the singleton ♠9. Perhaps East will force North to play a high spade from dummy and then he will lead another spade so you can ruff. Perhaps North will not be able to get back to his spades again.

(2) Play another club and hope that East can over trump.

(3) Play the ♦Ace.

Which did you choose? Or did you choose a different strategy?

Playing another club would give E/W two more tricks. If North uses a low trump or even the ♥10, East can overtrump. West's ♥Queen will take another trick. If North plays his ♥Ace or ♥King, then both the ♥Queen and ♥Jack will take a trick.

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following details:

- Dealer:** West, **Vul:** N/S
- North's Hand:** ♠ 9, ♥ Q 9 5, ♦ A K 4 2, ♣ A K 9 7 6
- South's Hand:** ♠ J 6 5, ♥ A K 10 7 6 4 3, ♦ Q, ♣ J 2
- Bidding Box:** Shows a score of 11-16-4-9.
- Score Table:**

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	-	2	2	-
S	-	-	2	2	-
E	3	3	-	-	-
W	2	3	-	-	-
- Board No 12 N/S Vul Dealer West**
- Bidding Table:**

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	6	2♥	N	3	140		4.00	3.00
2	7	3♥	N	3	140		4.00	3.00
3	1	3♥	N	3	140		4.00	3.00
4	3	2♥	N	3	140		4.00	3.00
5	5	2♥	N	-2		200	0.00	7.00
6	8	2♥	N	-1		100	1.00	6.00
7	2	4♦ [∞]	W	-3	500		7.00	0.00
8	4	3♥	N	3	140		4.00	3.00

North took 9 tricks making 3♥ five out of 8 times. The top score for E/W was 2♥ down 2. Next was 2♥ down 1. The computer shows that 2♥ should make. Not one North player bid 2♥ and made 2♥. They either bid 3♥ and made 3♥ or bid 2♥ and went down. A bit strange.

Several E/W pairs left North in 2♥ when they could make 3♦. West would have an opportunity to bid 2♦ if North overcalls 1♥. Half of the North players did not pre-empt 3♥.

What is there to learn from this game?

Luck definitely has a result on the outcome of the game.

If West chose Strategy #1 and East had the ♠Jack instead of the ♥Jack, that strategy would work the best.

Because East had the ♥Jack, Strategy #2 works the best.

If West does not play the ♦Ace or ♦King soon enough, North can use his high spades to discard his loser ♦Queen.