

## #32 - Hand of the Week – May 12, 2018

### Can you bid and play better?

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

Dir: East Vul: None		♠K	♥A J 6 2	♦A Q J 10 9 2	♣10 3				
♠J 4	♥10 9 8 5 4	♦K 5 4	♣A 8 6	♠Q 10 8 7 6 5 2	♥Q 3				
		West	North 14 South	East	♠Q 9 7 2				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td></tr> </table>		15	8	6	11	♠A 9 3	♥K 7	♦8 7 6 3	♣K J 5 4
15									
8	6								
11									

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:** Difficult to predict.

<b>E</b>	2♠	Pre-emptive bid, showing 6 spades and fewer than 12 pts. Perhaps East might bid 3♠, as he has 7 spades.
<b>S</b>	Pass	11 HCP, difficult to bid over 2♠, some may double
<b>W</b>	Pass	8 HCP, not enough to bid any higher than 2♠
<b>N</b>	3♦	Some may double, but that does not show the strong diamond suit. A singleton King is always a bit of a "bugaboo." It may not take a trick, but the value of a singleton is still useful in a trump contract.
<b>E</b>	Pass	Nothing more to bid.
<b>S</b>	3NT	South may also pass or bid 4♦ in response to 3♦.
<b>N</b>	?	

### Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

The best score for East/West resulted when the bidding stopped at 3♦. The best score for North/South was 5♦, doubled.

Only one N/S pair bid 3NT (2nd best score for N/S).

One pair's contract is 2♦, so East did not pre-empt.

No one bid slam. Only 2 made slam. Only two took 12 tricks, so maybe it was a good idea not to bid it, for some.

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

A pre-emptive bid of 2♠ or 3♠ can be an effective offensive move. We are advised to pre-empt when we have 2 of the top 3 in a 6+-card suit or 3 of the top 5. East would not be following the rules exactly, but no one is vulnerable, so that should also be a consideration for being more aggressive.

The pre-empt likely put N/S off from assessing game or bidding a slam as their bidding room was used up.

How to Play:

Contract 2♦, 3♦, or 5♦ by North: Let's look at the play if East leads the ♠Queen. North will play the ♠King from his hand. The diamond finesse needs to work if anyone had bid slam. Get over to dummy's hand with the ♥King. Play the ♠Ace. North may not get over to the dummy hand again. Discard a club from North. Then play the ♦8, but play the ♦Ace only if the ♦King appears, from West. If West doubled, that gives a hint as to where the ♦King might be. After pulling trump 3 times and getting the ♦King out, there is still a trump in dummy's hand. North should play the ♥Ace and see that the ♥Queen falls. A little bit of luck!

Contract 3NT by South: West will likely lead the Jack, unless East did not pre-empt. In that case, West might lead ♥10. Similar play as above. Again the ♥Queen will fall on the ♥Ace/♥King, but South may try the finesse.

It is difficult to bid to slam with 26 HCP total and missing an Ace and a King.

Dir: East  
Vul: None

♠K  
♥A J 6 2  
♦A Q J 10 9 2  
♣10 3

♠J 4  
♥10 9 8 5 4  
♦K 5 4  
♣A 8 6

North
West
14
East
South

♠Q 10 8 7 6 5 2  
♥Q 3  
♦--  
♣Q 9 7 2

15
8
6
11

♠A 9 3  
♥K 7  
♦8 7 6 3  
♣K J 5 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	6	3	-	6
S	3	6	2	-	6
E	-	-	-	1	-
W	-	-	-	1	-

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	10	3NT	S	5	460		4	1
2	13	3♦	N	5	150		1	4
3	8	5♦*	N	6	650		5	0
4	9	3♦	N	5	150		1	4
5	11	2♦	N	6	170		3	2
6	7	3♦	N	5	150		1	4