

### #34 - Hand of the Week – May 26, 2018

**Know when to give up when you have game-going points, an opponent is showing a strong suit, and you and partner cannot find your best suit.**

You and partner are playing East/West.  
Dealer West. E/W Vulnerable

Dir: West Vul: E/W		♠A K J 10 8 4 2					
		♥5					
		♦10 9 4					
		♣5 4					
♠6 3		North	♠Q 9				
♥K 10 9	West	16	♥A Q 4 3				
♦K Q 7 5 2	East		♦J 8				
♣A J 2	South		♣K Q 10 9 6				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td></tr> </table>		8	13	14	5	♠7 5	
8							
13	14						
5							
		♥J 8 7 6 2					
		♦A 6 3					
		♣8 7 3					

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:** (One possible bidding strategy.)

<b>W</b>	1♦	Showing 3+ diamonds and 12-21 pts; no 5-card major.
<b>N</b>	1♠	Overall showing 5 spades and 8-16 points.
<b>E</b>	Double	E/W should have game pts. A double shows the other two unbid suits and asks partner to bid one of them, if s/he has support.
<b>S</b>	Pass	Difficult to bid anything at the 3 level; no support for partner's bid.
<b>W</b>	2♦	Forced to bid again by partner; shows 5+ diamonds. Does not have a 4-card suit to rebid.
<b>N</b>	2♠	Show 6+ spades
<b>E</b>	3♣	Show 5-card club suit.
<b>S</b>	Pass	
<b>W</b>	Pass	
<b>N</b>	3♠	Show 7+ spades
<b>E</b>	Pass	East knows E/W should have the contract, but they cannot seem to find a suit.

### Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

The best score for E/W was 4♠ by North, down 2. Next best was 3♠, down 1, which the bidding on Page 1 shows, but that was just one possibility. You cannot know for sure how each table bid. Obviously, the bidding was quite different from one table to another.

Best score for N/S was 5♥ by East, doubled by South.

N/S can make only 2♠. E/W can make 4♣, 3♦, or 4♥.

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

In this case, a jump to 3♠ might not have been the best bid to make though some probably did that. (Maybe what N/S Pair #9 did, cutting off the bidding for E/W.)

With only 7 cards in hearts, 4♥ can make. One E/W pair must have settled

on hearts as their best suit (27 pts together may not get you to game in 5♣, but it shows you can make 4♥.) East would be trying to get to game in something as s/he knows they have at least 26 pts together, since West opened.

Looking at the 5♥\* score: Pair #4 E/W were doubled and went down 3, when they should have gone down only 1. Obviously, they were pushed to go to 5♥. Why did they go down 2 more tricks than they should have? Perhaps the double should have alerted East to the fact that South has a long heart suit. When North bid spades with no support from his/her partner, South probably does not have many pts, but could have a different long suit. It would take some skill to play the hand to make 4♥ and for East to realize soon enough that pulling trump is not a good strategy. Over-ruffing would be the smarter thing to do. Those declarers (East) who can picture the opponents' hands will play out the game much better.

A better strategy by Pair #4 E/W would be to leave N/S in 4♠ and double them. They should go down 2 tricks, giving E/W a score of 300. Even if they didn't double them, Pair #1 N/S went down 2, giving Pair #5 E/W the highest score, so Pair #4 could have tied for top score.

Sometimes, when you know you have game-going points but cannot find a fit in a suit and the opponents have a long, strong suit, it may be best to give it up and let them take the contract. Use the double as information to help you when playing the hand.

Dir: West Vul: E/W		♠A K J 10 8 4 2 ♥5 ♦10 9 4 ♣5 4																										
♠6 3 ♥K 10 9 ♦K Q 7 5 2 ♣A J 2	West 16 East	♠Q 9 ♥A Q 4 3 ♦J 8 ♣K Q 10 9 6																										
8 13 14 5	♠7 5 ♥J 8 7 6 2 ♦A 6 3 ♣8 7 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	2	-	E	4	3	4	-	W	4	3	4	-
♣	♦	♥	♠	N																								
N	-	-	2	-																								
S	-	-	2	-																								
E	4	3	4	-																								
W	4	3	4	-																								
Board No 16 E/W Vul Dealer West																												
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points																					
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W																				
1	5	4♠	N	-2		100	0	7																				
2	7	4♦	W	-1	100		2½	4½																				
3	9	5♦	W	-2	200		5	2																				
4	2	5♣	E	-1	100		2½	4½																				
5	4	5♥*	E	-3	800		7	0																				
6	6	5♣	E	-2	200		5	2																				
8	1	5♣	E	-2	200		5	2																				
9	3	3♠	N	-1		50	1	6																				