

## #35 - Hand of the Week – June 2, 2018 Finding Slam and the Best Contract.

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

Dir: South Vul: E/W	♠9 7 ♥J 8 ♦J 9 4 ♣9 7 6 5 3 2										
♠A K J 10 ♥6 3 2 ♦A Q 10 ♣K Q 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">West</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">North</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">East</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">19</td><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; font-size: 2em;">19</td><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">South</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">South</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">East</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East	19	19	15	South	South	East	♠Q 6 5 2 ♥A Q 10 5 4 ♦K 3 ♣A 10
West	North	East									
19	19	15									
South	South	East									
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">19</td><td style="padding: 2px;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">4</td></tr> </table>	2	19	15	4	♠8 4 3 ♥K 9 7 ♦8 7 6 5 2 ♣J 8						
2											
19	15										
4											

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>S</b>	Pass	South passes for the duration of the bidding.
<b>W</b>	1♣	19 HCP, no 5-card major, too high for opening 1NT; bid minor, with 3-3 in the minors, bid 1♣, showing 3+ clubs
<b>N</b>	Pass	North passes for the duration of the bidding.
<b>E</b>	1♥	East knows there is game potential; try to find an 8-card fit in a major suit first; with more hearts than spades, bid 1♥, a change of suit is forcing for one round
<b>W</b>	2NT	Shows a balanced hand in the range of 18-19 HCP
<b>E</b>	4♣	Gerber, asking for Aces (be sure your partner understands this as Gerber); With a minimum of 33 HCP together, East should initiate Slam
<b>W</b>	4♠	Shows 2 Aces.
<b>E</b>	5♣	Gerber, asking for Kings
<b>W</b>	5♠	Shows 2 Kings.
<b>E</b>	6NT	Missing one King so will stop at 6NT

### Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

From E/W's viewpoint, the best contract score was 6NT, making 6.

E/W can also make 6♥ or 6♠ but 6NT gives a higher score.

Lowest score for E/W was 6♥ down 1.

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

Since the results do not show the bidding, it is difficult to predict how some ended up in 6♥ or 6♠. Perhaps East bid his hearts again after West bid 2NT so West would know East has 5 hearts, not just 4. Perhaps West jumped to 3NT as soon as East bid his hearts showing 6+ pts since West has stoppers in all suits and knows game points are there.

West took the contract three times in spades, so West must have bid spades first, perhaps after East bid 1♥.

West should show his medium-strength hand (16-18 pts) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round; some might have jumped to 3♠, a jump shift, showing 4 spades, 16-18 pts, and forcing. However, West has 19 pts, not just 18, so that is not the best bid.

Two pairs took only 11 tricks. When dummy's hand comes down, West (or East in two cases) should realize that they have no losers in clubs, spades, or diamonds, but possibly 2 losers in hearts. The finesse in hearts must be tried, leading low from West's hand toward East's, playing the ♥Ace only if the ♥King is played from North. The ♥King will take it in South's hand, so it fails. However, North's ♥Jack will fall on the next heart trick anyway, so N/S can take only 1 trick in hearts. There is no reason why E/W should not take 12 tricks.

Opening Lead from North: Likely clubs, either the ♣9 (top of nothing) or the ♣5 (4<sup>th</sup> from the top). The trick should be taken in West's hand so the heart finesse can be tried immediately, before the club stoppers are used up. Declarer must make sure s/he takes the club tricks in the right order and still has transportation to both hands after the finesse.

Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

♠ 9 7  
♥ J 8  
♦ J 9 4  
♣ 9 7 6 5 3 2

♠ A K J 10  
♥ 6 3 2  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ K Q 4

North
19
South

♠ Q 6 5 2  
♥ A Q 10 5 4  
♦ K 3  
♣ A 10

2
19
15
4

♠ 8 4 3  
♥ K 9 7  
♦ 8 7 6 5 2  
♣ J 8

♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	3	5	6	6
W	3	4	6	6

Board No 19 E/W Vul Dealer South								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	4	6NT	W	6	1440	0½	6½	
2	6	6♥	E	-1	100		7	0
3	8	4♠	W	6	680		5	2
4	1	5NT	W	5	660		6	1
5	3	6♠	W	6	1430		3	4
6	5	6NT	W	6	1440	0½	6½	
7	7	6♥	E	6	1430		3	4
9	2	6♠	W	6	1430		3	4