

#37 - Hand of the Week – June 16, 2018
"Fits take tricks!"

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

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.

Dir: East Vul: None		♠6 5 4	♥J 8 6									
		♦A Q 10 6 3 2	♣K									
♠A 3	♥A K Q 10 9 4	♦8	♣9 6 5 4									
		♠Q J 9 7 2	♥--									
		♦K J 7 5	♣Q J 10 3									
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>South</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		West	North	East		14		South		
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Bidding: (Just one possibility. South might not open the bidding.)

E	Pass	
S	2♠	Pre-emptive Weak Two bid, showing 6 spades (two of top 3, usually), fewer than 12 pts. South must be considering the void as an extra spade.
W	3♥	Show 5+ hearts and a minimum of opening pts to overcall at the 3 level.
N	3♠	Assuming 6 spades from south, using "The Law of Total Tricks*," take it to the 3 level.
E	4♥	Some may pass, but East is assured of a minimum of 5 hearts from West. None vulnerable.
		Bidding may vary after North's 3♠ bid.

*"Law of Total Tricks": Bid to the level of the number of trump between the two partners. 9 trump together = 3 level; 10 trump together = 4 level. This is a competitive strategy trying to prevent opponents from taking the contract.

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

N/S can make 3♠. E/W can make 3♥. Two E/W pairs bid and made 4♥. Two E/W pairs bid 5♥ and went down 1. One E/W pair bid 5♥ and went down 2, doubled, not surprising that was 2nd top board for N/S.

Three N/S pairs bid diamonds, two making 5♦ and the other making 6♦ (top board for N/S). Perhaps South did not open the bidding in those games.

The computer predictions show that N/S can make only 3♠ and that does seem to be true. However, four E/W pairs were able to take 10 tricks in hearts. How did N/S take 11-12 tricks in diamonds when the computer shows them making only 3♦.

What is there to learn from this game?

The top boards for E/W were 4♥ making 4♥ and 5♥ going down 1. So, E/W should not be afraid to bid over N/S when they have a long suit. Bidding to 4♥ and going down 1 gives a better score than leaving N/S happily content at 3♠.

I was #11 West and was mentoring my partner who was an inexperienced player. This was a good hand to use as a learning experience. My partner did not bid over the 3 bid and I could not go any higher with my points without knowing if East had any hearts at all.

Lessons to be learned: (1) "Fits take tricks." Don't be afraid to bid higher to take away a contract from the opponents when you know you have a fit in a suit, especially 9 trump minimum, which is what East knew and West did not know. (2) Don't be afraid to go down 1 trick when not vulnerable. A 4♥ bid forces the opponents to bid higher or lose the contract. They could also "double." Even so, 100 pts for them is better than 140 pts which they can make in 3♠.

Some would classify the 2♠ opening bid a "stink" bid, trying to make it difficult for opponents to find their suit and taking advantage of their vulnerability. Is it a fair fight? Is it a legal bid? South could claim that he made a mistake and thought he had 6 spades. Whatever the case, players need to find ways to fight back and not let the bullies outsmart them!

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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	7	5♦	N	6	420		11	0																																				
2	8	4♦	N	5	150		8½	2½																																				
3	10	4♥	W	4		420	0½	10½																																				
4	12	5♥*	W	-2	300		10	1																																				
5	2	4♦	N	5	150		8½	2½																																				
6	4	3♠	S	3	140		6½	4½																																				
7	6	5♥	W	-1	50		4	7																																				
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