

## #38 - Hand of the Week – June 23, 2018

### Playing the Hand – Plan carefully!

You and partner are playing East/West.  
Dealer North. All 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: North Vul: All		♠ J 9 7	♥ 5 3	♦ 9 3	♣ J 9 8 7 6 5												
♠ K 10 8 5	♥ A	♦ J 8 2	♣ A K 10 4 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>West</td><td>South</td><td>East</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East		29		West	South	East	♠ A Q	♥ K J 8 6	♦ Q 10 7 5 4	♣ Q 3
West	North	East															
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2																	
15	14																
9																	

**Bidding:** (One possibility.)

<b>N</b>	Pass	
<b>E</b>	1♦	Showing 12-21 pts, no 5-card major, minimum of 3 diamonds.*
<b>S</b>	1♥	Overcall showing 5+ hearts and 8-16 pts. Some might also bid 2♥, preemptive Weak Two bid, showing 6 hearts (two of top 3, usually), fewer than 12 pts.
<b>W</b>	Double	Negative double, showing the other two suits. West knows they should have a game level contract, adding his 15 pts to East's promised minimum opening of 12 pts to make 27 pts together.
<b>N</b>	Pass	Not much to bid.
<b>E</b>	2NT	Might also bid 2♦.
<b>W</b>	3NT	

\*East can add 1 extra pt for length in diamonds to make his hand worth 15 pts. With the new rules for opening 1NT, East might open 1NT even with 2 doubletons.

## Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Nine pairs bid 3NT; 6 by East, 3 by West. The computer prediction shows that East or West should be able to make 5NT, taking 11 tricks. Only 3 out of the 9 took 11 tricks. So why not?

The three top scores E/W were 3NT making 5NT if you don't count the 5♦ bid which was doubled. Blessings on Pair 5 N/S who doubled East's 5♦ contract. I wish that happened to me more often when I can make the contract!

The top score for N/S was 3NT down 2. That should not have happened.

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

The first challenge is to bid to the best contract. The second challenge is to make your contract. And if you are competing in a duplicate game, your goal is to take as many tricks as you can, at least as many as your competitors can take, preferably more!

What the Declarer must watch for, when in a NT contract especially, is transportation from one hand to another. In this case, s/he must be careful to take the tricks in the most optimum order.

If West is the Declarer, the lead will come from North, probably a club. If East is the Declarer, the lead will come from South, probably a heart. E or W must try to get the two top diamonds out from N/S before they do anything else. E/W should be able to stop the lead twice, either clubs or hearts, and lose only two diamonds and then the diamonds will run.

There are enough stoppers in the other suits. Be careful to play the ♠A/♠Q before losing the club entries to West's hand.

This might be a good game to test out with four players. Can East/West take 11 tricks?

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2																																						
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Board No 29 Both Vul Dealer North																																						
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points																															
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W																														
4	10	3NT	E	4	630	4½	6½																															
5	12	5♦*	E	5	750	0	11																															
6	14	3NT	E	5	660	2	9																															
7	16	3NT	W	3	600	7½	3½																															
8	1	3NT	E	5	660	2	9																															
9	3	3NT	E	4	630	4½	6½																															
10	5	3NT	W	5	660	2	9																															
11	7	3NT	W	-2	200		11	0																														
12	9	3♦	E	4	130	10	1																															
13	11	3NT	E	3	600	7½	3½																															
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