

#39 - Hand of the Week – June 30, 2018
Very curious!

You and partner are playing North/South.
 Dealer North. N/S 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 might learn from this game.

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following details:

- Dir:** North, **Vul:** N/S
- North's Hand:** ♠ 3 2, ♥ A 10 6 5, ♦ A 4, ♣ 9 7 6 5 3
- South's Hand:** ♠ 10, ♥ Q 8 7 2, ♦ K Q 9 8 7, ♣ 10 8 4
- East's Hand:** ♠ J 8 7 6 4, ♥ K J 4 3, ♦ J 10 2, ♣ K
- West's Hand:** ♠ A K Q 9 5, ♥ 9, ♦ 6 5 3, ♣ A Q J 2
- Bidding Box:** A central box with '21' in the center, flanked by 'West' on the left and 'East' on the right. Above it are 'North' and 'South' labels.
- Number Box:** A box containing the numbers 8, 7, 9, and 16 arranged in a diamond pattern.

Bidding: (One possibility.)

N	Pass	Not enough pts to open.
E	Pass	
S	1♠	Showing 12+ points and 5+ spades, though South may open "light" in 3 rd seat (after 2 passes) with fewer than 12 pts and a good, 5-card suit.
W	Pass	
N	1NT	With 6+ pts, should respond. Not enough pts to bid another suit at the 2 level. 1NT is the fallback bid. Using the 2/1 system, this is not forcing, since North is a passed hand.
S	3♣	Show a medium-strength opening hand (16-18 pts) and 4+ clubs.
N	4♣	Show support and count dummy pts (+1 for each doubleton)
S	5♣	Consider the singleton as extra strength. Bid to game.

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

No one bid above the 3 level. Two stopped at 1♠. Pair #7 was doubled; my guess is that West doubled and East passed to leave the double in as penalty because he has 5 spades.

Best score for N/S was Pair #7 who was doubled in 1♠ and took all 13 tricks. Best score for E/W was Pair #1 because their opponent (South #4) could take only 10 tricks.

What is there to learn from this game?

You can make a slam with 24 HCP together.

Looking at North/South contracts:

Pair #1: North should not pass with 6+ pts when South opens the bidding. That's a beginner bridge rule. North does not know how many pts South has. Just because South opens in 3rd seat does not mean he has few points or opened "light." South could have a full opening hand, anywhere from 12 to 21 pts.

Pairs #2 and #4 and #6: North: When South bids 2♣, show support. North can now count dummy pts so should add 2 pts for the two doubletons, bringing his hand up to 9 pts. Consider the "magic 9 trump," making your hand even stronger. South: You should jump a level to show a medium-strength hand (16-18 pts), so bid 3♣. No pair should have ended up in 2♣.

Pair #3: Should not be in 2♠. Not possible to conclude whether South rebid his spades after someone else bid (which would show 6 spades) or whether North supported South having only 2 spades. Either way, it is not the best way to bid.

Pairs #5 and #9: Do not stop at 3♣. South has a medium-strength hand and North has 5-card support for clubs. Having 9 trump increases the value of his hand. It is not likely that any pair would bid to 6♣, but they should, at least, bid to 4♣ or 5♣ before stopping.

East/West, Pair #7: You really do not have enough pts for a double, but you're not vulnerable, so maybe you thought it was worth a chance. Your double resulted in a bottom board for you and partner. East should pass your double since his best suit is the opponent's suit, so he did the right thing.

The opening lead is likely to be the ♦King (top of touching honors). Take the ♦King with the ♦Ace. Lead a club and take the ♣King with the ♣Ace. Pull the last two trump – East must discard. South must play close attention. After this, it will depend how the cards play out. South should have only one diamond loser. It is difficult to say how #5 South managed to take 13 tricks and it's a shame that no one else could take even 12.

Dir: North
Vul: N/S

♠ 3 2
♥ A 10 6 5
♦ A 4
♣ 9 7 6 5 3

♠ J 8 7 6 4
♥ K J 4 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ K

♠ 10
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ K Q 9 8 7
♣ 10 8 4

W	North	E
e	21	a
s	South	s
t		t

♠ A K Q 9 5
♥ 9
♦ 6 5 3
♣ A Q J 2

	8	
7		9
	16	

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

Board No 21 N/S Vul Dealer North								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	4	1♠	S	3	140		1½	5½
2	6	2♣	S	5	150		4	3
3	8	2♠	S	3	140		1½	5½
4	1	2♣	S	4	130		0	7
5	3	3♣	S	7	190		6	1
6	5	2♣	S	5	150		4	3
7	7	1♠ [*]	S	3	560		7	0
9	2	3♣	S	5	150		4	3