

## #40 - Hand of the Week – Posted July 7, 2018 Major or Minor?

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 might learn from  
this game.

Dir: East Vul: None		♠ A 5 4 ♥ K J 6 4 ♦ K Q 8 4 ♣ A 10									
♠ K J ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 9 8 6 5 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>North</td><td></td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td>West</td><td>30</td><td>East</td></tr> <tr><td>West</td><td></td><td>South</td></tr> </table>	North		East	West	30	East	West		South	♠ Q 8 7 6 2 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ A J 7 2 ♣ K
North		East									
West	30	East									
West		South									
<table border="1"> <tr><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>6      14</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td></tr> </table>	17	6      14	3	♠ 10 9 3 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ 10 6 5 3 ♣ J 7 2							
17											
6      14											
3											

**Bidding:** (One possibility.)

<b>E</b>	1♠	5-card major, showing 12-21 pts
<b>S</b>	Pass	
<b>W</b>	1NT	Showing 6-9 pts, nothing else to bid, should have 10+ pts to bid another suit at the 2 level
<b>N</b>	Pass	Would have liked to have opened 1NT! Could also double.
<b>E</b>	2♦	Show 4-card suit next; steering away from NT with a singleton King in an unbid suit
<b>S</b>	Pass	Only 3 pts. Even if North doubled, South would pass after East's intervening bid.
<b>W</b>	2♠	East is showing 2 suits; choose one of them.
		All pass.

## Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Best score for E/W was #12, bidding 3♣, doubled, and making it, though the computer shows only 2♣ was makeable.

One should not make too many conclusions from one result, which is an anomaly.

Twice, E/W bid and made 2♠, but it was also not supposed to be makeable. They were the next top boards.

Best score for N/S was Pair #10 N/S who doubled a 3NT contract by E/W, down 4. Obviously, E/W got carried away with their bidding. They should not have bid that high.

A 2♣ contract was makeable, but how could it be bid and left as the final contract? East will open 1♠; that is almost certain. If West bids 2♣, it's a forcing bid, so East must bid again. West would be showing 10+ pts but he is not limiting his hand. A change of suit in the first round is forcing. If West bids 1NT and East responds 2♦, a 2♣ bid by West is now insufficient.

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

Sometimes the optimum contract is not biddable (2♣ by E/W).

West should not bid 2♣ (changing the suit and going up a level) unless he has 10+ pts. He is so close to having enough pts, adding pts for length = 9 pts, and it is understandable why he would bend the rules slightly. The danger is that it will take the bidding too high. If all his high cards were in clubs, that would be much better.

If using 2/1 bidding, West's response would be 1NT (forcing). Still, it would be difficult to find the best contract.

Sometimes the bidders are doomed. They cannot find their best contract. A good bid for N/S was 1NT, but that would mean that West would have passed. That seems impossible. West should not pass with 6+ pts. East's opening bid promises anywhere from 12 to 21 pts, so East might be very disappointed if West passed and East had 20 pts.

Finally, the bidding shown on Page 1 is probably the best way to go. Even a 7-card fit in a trump can result in a reasonable score. Sometimes it's better to be in a 7-card major contract than in 1NT or an 8-card minor suit. Twice it worked out for E/W, taking 8 tricks and making their 2♠ contract. However, the expected score would be 2♠ down 1 or 3♣ down 1. Some players are lucky when their opponents do not get all the tricks they are entitled to.

Dir: East  
Vul: None

♠ A 5 4  
♥ K J 6 4  
♦ K Q 8 4  
♣ A 10

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

North  
West  
30  
East  
South

♠ Q 8 7 6 2  
♥ A 9 5  
♦ A J 7 2  
♣ K

17  
6 14  
3

♠ 10 9 3  
♥ Q 10 8  
♦ 10 6 5 3  
♣ J 7 2

	♣	♥	♦	♠	N
N	-	1	1	-	-
S	-	1	1	-	-
E	2	-	-	1	-
W	2	-	-	1	-

Board No 30 None Vul Dealer East								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
4	10	2♦	S	-2	100	3½	7½	
5	12	3♣*	W	3	470	0	11	
6	14	2♠	E	2	110	1½	9½	
7	16	3♣	W	-1	50		6	5
8	1	1NT	N	1	90		8½	2½
9	3	1NT	N	1	90		8½	2½
10	5	3NT*	W	-4	800		11	0
11	7	3♥	N	-2	100	3½	7½	
12	9	2♠	E	-1	50		6	5
13	11	2♠	E	-1	50		6	5
14	13	1NT	N	2	120		10	1
15	15	2♠	E	2	110	1½	9½	