

#44 - Hand of the Week – August 4, 2018
Sometimes there is no easy bid.

Dealer West. 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 might learn from this game.

Hand diagram showing cards for West and East, a bidding box with '20' in the center, and a card count box with values 22, 10, 5, and 3.

Bidding: (two possibilities)

W	Pass	
N	2♣	A very strong hand, showing 22+ pts, forcing.
E	Pass	
S	2♦	Has 3 HCP, plus length, means "waiting," both North and South should understand that the bidding will not stop until game is reached
W	Pass	East and West now pass
N	2NT, 2♥, 2♠ or 3♦	Pick one. Which one is the best bid? What would you bid? None of them describe the hand perfectly. If North bids 2NT with a singleton, that could be a problem. If North bids 2♥ or 2♠, South will think he has 5 of a major and should agree with the hearts if North bids 2♥. If North bids 3♦, South must bid 4♣ to show his long club suit and the 3NT contract is no longer possible.
S	?	

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Five N/S pairs bid and made 3NT which is the best contract. They were all bid by North. Unfortunately, it is impossible to tell from the results whether North bid 2NT or not, or whether he bid 2♠, then South bid 3♣, so North could safely bid 3NT knowing there are stoppers in clubs. One might assume that the 4♥ contracts were reached because North bid 2♥.

The computer shows that 3NT can be made, but four pairs took 10 tricks, except the one who bid 4NT. The 4♣ contract made 4♣, but the computer shows it should only make 3♣.

What is there to learn from this game?

If ever I were to get North's hand, I would consider 2NT as my rebid after opening 2♣, even with the singleton. It is taking a risk, but it gives South more options. If not that, then 2♠ because my spades are stronger than the hearts and I might have a better chance of making 4♠ than 4♥ if South supported the spades with only 3 cards in that suit.

If I were South, I would bid 2♦ "waiting" with 3 points and a long suit. It looks like Pair #1 and Pair #13 were left at the 2 level, although they got a better score than those who bid 4♥.

Some hands are difficult to bid. Sometimes you pick what you think is the best option. Sometimes it turns out well and other times it does not. There is some luck involved with bridge. It's not all based on skill.

The image shows a bridge hand interface. At the top left, it says "Dir: West" and "Vul: All". The dealer's hand is shown as ♠ A K Q 4, ♥ K 9 8 5, ♦ A Q J 8, ♣ K. The dummy's hand is ♠ 9 5 3, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ K 10 7 3, ♣ J 8 5. The declarer's hand is ♠ 8 7 6 2, ♥ J 7 4, ♦ 9 6 4, ♣ A 10 9. A central board shows "NORTH" and "SOUTH" with a score of "20". Below this, a trick-taking board shows the cards in each suit: ♠ J 10, ♥ 6 3 2, ♦ 5 2, ♣ Q 7 6 4 3 2. To the right is a card layout grid. Below the interface is a table titled "Board No 20 Both Vul Dealer West".

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	5	2♥	S	2	110		3.29	8.71
2	7	4NT	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
3	9	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
5	14	4♥	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
6	2	4♣	N	4	130		5.46	6.54
7	4	3NT	N	3	600		8.17	3.83
8	6	3NT	N	3	600		8.17	3.83
9	8	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
10	10	4♥	N	-1		100	1.13	10.88
12	13	3NT	N	4	630		10.88	1.13
13	1	2NT	N	2	120		4.38	7.63
14	3	2♠	N	4	170		6.54	5.46