

#45 - Hand of the Week – August 11, 2018

Open 1NT or 1♦?

Dealer East. 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.

Dir: East Vul: All		♠ 7 5 4	♥ 9 8 7 5 4 3	♦ 10	♣ Q 7 4				
♠ A 9 8 6 2	♥ Q 10 6 2	♦ J 7 5	♣ 9	North 26 South	♠ K 10 3 ♥ A J ♦ K 9 8 6 4 ♣ A J 5				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td></tr> </table>		2	7	16	15	♠ Q J	♥ K	♦ A Q 3 2	♣ K 10 8 6 3 2
2									
7	16								
15									

Bidding: (two possibilities – should East open 1NT or 1♦?)

Assume that South will bid just once.

E	1NT	15-17 HCP, balanced hand	1♦	12-21 pts, no 5-card major, 3 or more diamonds
S	2♣	Overcall with 12+ pts and 5+ clubs	2♣	Overcall with 12+ pts and 5+ clubs
W	X	Double, meaning stole my bid, Stayman	X	Double, meaning I have the other two suits, bid one of them
N	Pass		Pass	
E	2♦	No 4-card major	2NT	Stoppers in all suits assuming West has majors covered. Good position to be Declarer and compete against South who bid clubs.
W	3♠	Show 5 spades.	3♠	Show 5 spades.
E	4♠		4♠ or 3NT	

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Out of the eight pairs, only three bid to game in 4♠, not even half.

Top scores for E/W were two who bid 4♠ and made 5♠ giving them 650 pts.

Top scores for N/S were 3♠ going down 2 and 2♠ making only 3♠.

What is there to learn from this game?

For the top scores E/W, it was West as Declarer who bid and made 4♠, so it would not have been a transfer after a 1NT opening bid.

Did South not overcall 2♣? It is not possible to determine that from looking at the results, but we should assume that he would have.

West should consider his singleton in the opponent's suit as a "plus."

Should East open 1NT with a 5-card minor only if he has three cards in both majors?

E/W should not try the finesse in hearts with two cards on one side, one being the Ace. When South overcalls to show a long suit, perhaps he could be short in another suit.

E/W have a bit of luck with this hand as the ♥King will fall on the ♥Ace and the ♠Queen/♠Jack will fall on the ♠Ace/♠King.

Dir: East Vul: All		♠7 5 4 ♥9 8 7 5 4 3 ♦10 ♣Q 7 4						
♠A 9 8 6 2 ♥Q 10 6 2 ♦J 7 5 ♣9	West 26 East	♠K 10 3 ♥A J ♦K 9 8 6 4 ♣A J 5						
2 7 16 15	♠Q J ♥K ♦A Q 3 2 ♣K 10 8 6 3 2	♣♦♥♠N N 1 - - - S 1 - - - E - 4 3 5 4 W - 4 2 4 4						
Board No 26 Both Vul Dealer East								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	4	3♠	W	-2	200		7	0
3	6	4♠	W	5		650	0½	6½
4	8	2♠	W	3		140	5½	1½
5	1	2♠	E	5		200	4	3
6	3	4♠	W	5		650	0½	6½
7	5	3♥	N	-4		400	3	4
8	7	4♠	W	4		620	2	5
9	9	2♠	W	3		140	5½	1½