

#46 - Hand of the Week – Posted 18 August 2018

How much will you compete? And how will you play the hand?

None vulnerable, Dealer East

Try bidding the hands before checking the bidding below.

See next page for actual results with real players, the computer-generated prediction and thoughts on what you might learn from this game.

Dlr: East
 Vul: None

♠ 6
 ♥ A 10 8 6 5 2
 ♦ K Q J 4
 ♣ Q 7

♠ Q J 7 4
 ♥ Q 9 7 4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A 6 3 2

NORTH
 SOUTH
 30

♠ K 9 3 2
 ♥ - -
 ♦ A 6 5 2
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4

♠ A 10 8 5
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ 10 9 7 3
 ♣ K 5

12
 9 8
 11

Bidding: (Two possible scenarios to show how players bid and analyse their hands.)

E	Pass		
S	Pass		
W	Pass		
N	1♥	Showing 12+ pts and 5+ hearts	
E	X	Double, showing shortness in hearts and support for 3 unbid suits	
S	XX	Redouble, showing 10+ points, enough to compete, partner should rebid again	
W	1♠	Showing 4+ spades	
N	2♥	Showing 6+ hearts	
E	2♠	Showing support for partner's spades, considering the void in hearts (opponent's suit)	
S	3♥	Show support and point count (10-12 pts)	X Double for penalty (or take-out?)
W	3♠	Now that a fit has been established, add 2-3 pts for singleton, raise one level.	Pass
N	4♥ or pass		Pass Final contract: 2♠ by W, doubled

Actual Results:

Top board for E/W was 3♠ making 3♠.
 Top board for N/S was either 4♣, doubled, down 3 or 2♠, doubled, down 3.
 N/S can make 4♥. Four times, they made 5♥.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

N/S should be able to bid and make 4♥.
 E/W's best score would be 4♣ but few will go for a minor suit fit when they've found a fit in a major. "Quit looking in your wardrobe when you've found your suit."
 E/W should be able to make 2♠, but must think carefully about how to play the hand.

Conclusion:

Pair #15 N/S left E/W in 2♠, doubled, but it should not have been such a good board for them. West should have made the contract by cross-ruffing the diamonds and the hearts. When you are short-suited in two suits, it may be better to cross-ruff than pull trump, but how was West to know that the spades were split so unevenly? Perhaps he should take a clue from the fact that the double was left in for penalty, and not taken out. If E/W made 2♠, as they could have with better playing perhaps, their score would have been 470, a top board for them, instead of a bottom board.

N/S should consider a singleton in opponent's suit to be of extra value. Only 5 out of 12 pairs bid to game. South should take it to the 3 level and North should bid game.

And another thing to learn: Just because you have 4 of opponent's suit does not mean that you will benefit from doubling them. If Pair #7 N/S had played the hand better, E/W would have gotten a bottom board instead of a top board because of their double.

Twice the penalty double could have backfired, but the doubling side was lucky because the Declarer did not play the hand as well as he should have. Good bridge scores are sometimes a result of skill and sometimes just plain luck!

Dir: East
 Vul: None

♠ 6
 ♥ A 10 8 6 5 2
 ♦ K Q J 4
 ♣ Q 7

♠ Q J 7 4
 ♥ Q 9 7 4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A 6 3 2

W NORTH E
 EAST 30 WEST
 SOUTH

♠ K 9 3 2
 ♥ - -
 ♦ A 6 5 2
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4

12 9 8 11

♠ A 10 8 5
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ 10 9 7 3
 ♣ K 5

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	2	4	-	2
S	-	3	4	-	2
E	4	-	-	2	-
W	4	-	-	2	-

Board No 30 None Vul Dealer East							
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	
4	10	4♥	N	5	450		8.50 2.50
5	12	2♥	N	4	170		3.00 8.00
6	14	4♥	N	4	420		6.50 4.50
7	16	4♥*	N	-1		100	1.00 10.00
8	1	4♠*	E	-3	500		10.50 0.50
9	3	3♥	S	-1		50	2.00 9.00
10	5	4♥	N	5	450		8.50 2.50
11	7	3♥	N	5	200		4.50 6.50
12	9	3♥	N	5	200		4.50 6.50
13	11	3♠	E	3		140	0.00 11.00
14	13	4♥	S	4	420		6.50 4.50
15	15	2♠*	W	-3	500		10.50 0.50