

#48 - Hand of the Week – Posted September 1, 2018 The Power of the Pre-empt.

Dealer West. None Vulnerable

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.

Dir: West Vul: None		♠ 9 2	♥ A 8 7 3	♦ A Q 6 3	♣ K 9 4
♠ Q 5 3	♥ 9 6 2	♦ 8 4	♣ A J 8 7 6	North	♠ K 10 8 7 6 4
				West	♥ J 10
				8	♦ K 7 5
				East	♣ 10 2
				South	
13 7 7 13		♠ A J	♥ K Q 5 4	♦ J 10 9 2	♣ Q 5 3

Bidding: (One example)

W	Pass	
N	1♦	Showing 12-21 pts, no 5-card major, at least 3 diamonds
E	Pass	(East and West pass)
S	1♥	Showing 4+ hearts, 6+ pts, change of suit is forcing for one round; South will ensure that game level is reached.
N	2♥	Has 4 hearts to support South. Showing minimum-range opening hand (12-15 pts)
S	4♥	Found the 8-card fit in a major. Enough pts for game. "The one who knows, goes!"

Computer-Generated Prediction and Actual Results:

Two bid 4♥ and made it, getting the top scores. The computer shows it is possible to make a contract of 4♥ by South, but only 3♥ is makeable by North.

A sacrifice bid of 3♠ was 2nd best for E/W. Worst score for N/S was 3NT, down 3, though it should have been down only 2. Even 2 down would be the worst score for N/S. E/W can make 2♠.

What is there to learn from this game?

I played South. East overcalled 2♠ (weak two bid showing fewer than 12 pts and 6 spades). I bid 3NT, thinking that I had a stopper in spades and together we had enough pts for game. I know it is best to have at least 2 stoppers in a suit to overcall with a NT bid, if opponents are showing 5 or 6 in that suit.

My other option was to double. That means that North would probably bid 3♥ and I would take it to game in 4♥. But the computer shows that North can make only 3♥. It's better to have South bidding the hearts first, so South can be the Declarer and in both top boards, it was South who was Declarer. However, 4♥ might still be makeable, even by North. It would depend on the lead and how E/W played the hand.

Since the two top boards for N/S (Pairs #7 and #10) show that the bid is 4♥ by South, I can conclude that East did not pre-empt. South would not (or should not) bid 3♥ or 4♥ over East's bid 2♠ bid because an overcall of 3♥ should promise 5 hearts. The only suitable bid is a double. That could have happened with #2 vs. #9 where West bid 3♠. West knows that East is weak, so they can use the "Law of Total Tricks" and bid to the 3 level based on 9 trump. A 3♠ contract going down 1 was a better score for E/W than allowing N/S to bid to game in hearts.

A double was a better bid by South than 3NT. N/S can get to game much easier without the pre-empt bid.

Pre-empts make it difficult for the opponents to find game or slam. East/West Pairs #3 and #9 were smarter than Pairs #4 and #8. N/S Pairs could have been equally as smart, but some had a bigger challenge to overcome than others.

It was our bad luck to get that pre-empt bid by East. That's the way it goes sometimes. A low score can mean that your opponents played better than other opponents.

Dir: West
Vul: None

♠ 9 2
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ K 9 4

♠ Q 5 3
♥ 9 6 2
♦ 8 4
♣ A J 8 7 6

North
8
South

♠ K 10 8 7 6 4
♥ J 10
♦ K 7 5
♣ 10 2

13
7 7
13

♠ A J
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ Q 5 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	1	3	3	-	1
S	1	3	4	-	1
E	-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	-	2	-

Board No 8 None Vul Dealer West								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	9	3♠	E	-1	50		1.38	2.63
7	4	4♥	S	4	420		3.25	0.75
10	8	4♥	S	4	420		3.25	0.75
12	3	3NT	S	-3		150	0.13	3.88