

Computer-Generated Prediction:

E/W can make 6♣, 6♥, or 4NT. The only one of those contracts that is easy to find is 3NT making 4.

Actual Results:

Top scores for E/W are 3NT making 6, then 3NT making 5. No one bid to game or slam in clubs. Bidding clubs below game resulted in poor scores for E/W giving top scores to N/S.

What is there to learn from this game?

West is responsible to bringing the contract to game level. West knows there are stoppers in all suits. Leaving the contract at 2NT (bad) or 1NT (worse) is West's mistake. Both of those bids are non-forcing. Bidding to game or slam in clubs is more difficult and West cannot be blamed for leaving it in 3♣, but should have bid 3NT instead.

West must understand that a bid of 2NT can be passed. The singleton diamond does not add extra strength to East's hand if the contract is NT. It does add strength (dummy pts) if they can find a suit contract. So it is understandable that East would pass a 1NT or 2NT bid by West.

Congratulations to the E/W pairs who found the top contracts of 3NT and got the best scores in this competition. The ones who made 5NT or 6NT were lucky — did the defence not lead a diamond? A diamond lead by South (or North in one case) should result in 3 tricks immediately, giving E/W only 10 tricks.

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠10 8 7 4 3
♥10 9 4
♦8 7 4
♣8 5

♠K 2
♥A Q 2
♦J 9 5 3
♣K Q 10 2

	North		
West	33	East	
South			

♠A J 5
♥K 8 7 6
♦10
♣A J 7 6 3

	0	
15		13
	12	

♠Q 9 6
♥J 5 3
♦A K Q 6 2
♣9 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	3	6	2	4
W	6	3	6	2	4

Board No 33 None Vul Dealer North									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W	
6	12	3NT	W	4		430	4	7	
7	14	1NT	W	4		180	7½	3½	
8	16	2NT	E	4		180	7½	3½	
9	1	3NT	W	6		490	0	11	
10	3	3NT	W	4		430	4	7	
11	5	3NT	W	4		430	4	7	
12	7	4♣	E	6		170	10	1	
13	9	3♣	E	6		170	10	1	
14	11	3NT	W	4		430	4	7	
15	13	3NT	W	5		460	1	10	
16	15	3NT	W	4		430	4	7	
17	17	3♣	E	6		170	10	1	