

#51 - Hand of the Week – Posted September 22, 2018

You can bid as well as others, but sometimes the others get a break and you don't!

Dealer West. All Vulnerable

Try bidding the hands before checking the bidding example 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: All

♠ J 6 4
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ 2

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 10 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q J 9

NORTH
WEST 4 EAST
SOUTH

♠ K 10 8
♥ J 3
♦ A 9 3 2
♣ A 8 6 4

6
17 12
5

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 7 5 3

Bidding Example:

W	1NT	Showing 15-17 pts and a balanced hand
N	2♥	Overcall showing 5 hearts, opponent is very aggressive having only 6 pts, perhaps sensing an "easy kill" against rookie players; it can be a good bid for lead-directing and North is not likely to be left in it unless South has some good hearts, which he does
E	3NT	12 pts, enough pts for game, no 4-card major, no 5-card suit, perhaps partner has a stopper in hearts; a bit of a gamble but in most cases, it should be safe enough
S	Pass	

Computer-Generated Prediction:

A 3NT contract should not make.
E/W can make 2NT, 5♣, 5♠ (with only 7 spades!) or 4♦.

Actual Results:

Ten E/W pairs bid 3NT. Of those, six went down 1 trick, as predicted; one just made the contract; and three made overtricks. Why was that?

What is there to learn from this game?

Don't expect bridge to be totally fair all the time!

3NT is the most reasonable contract to find. Those who bid it were using good judgment and they cannot be faulted for that.

I suspect most North players did not overcall 2♥, but if he did, that could have been why two E/W pairs ended up in a contract other than 3NT, opting for a safer contract. The 2♥ overcall should have tipped off E/W to steer away from a NT contract. So, even though it was lead-directing and could be considered a smart bid by North, it should have helped E/W get into a suit contract.

A heart lead should be almost universal whether North overcalled 2♥ or not. Six out of ten N/S pairs must have led a heart, regardless of whether it was North or South on lead. N/S are guaranteed 5 tricks immediately unless they somehow end up in South's hand after 4 tricks and South cannot lead another heart, which would be their own fault.

Surprisingly one E/W pair bid 3♠, an above-average result, but did not get to game.

E/W pairs #6 and #9 who made 6NT (3 overtricks), and also #3 making 5NT (2 overtricks) and #10 making the contract, did not earn their top rankings on this board. They did not bid any better than the others. They probably benefited from a lead other than a heart from North. Or perhaps North "ducked" his Ace or South did not play high. When playing bridge, one must expect some anomalies such as this hand where, even though you have the points and you have the bidding skills, you are still not able to make your contract unless the opponents misplay.

As the baker used to say, "That's the way the cookie crumbles." 😊

Dir: West
Vul: All

♠ J 6 4
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ 2

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 10 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q J 9

NORTH
WEST 4 EAST
SOUTH

♠ K 10 8
♥ J 3
♦ A 9 3 2
♣ A 8 6 4

6
17 12
5

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 7 5 3

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	5	4	-	5	2
W	5	4	-	5	2

Board No 4 Both Vul Dealer West

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	12	2♣	W	5		150	5.00	6.00
2	1	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
3	3	3NT	W	5		660	2.00	9.00
4	5	3♠	W	5		200	4.00	7.00
5	7	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
6	9	3NT	E	6		690	0.50	10.50
7	11	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
8	2	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
9	4	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
10	6	3NT	W	6		690	0.50	10.50
11	8	3NT	W	-1	100		8.50	2.50
12	10	3NT	W	3		600	3.00	8.00

