

#52 - Hand of the Week – Posted October 20, 2018

Aggressive players often finish first!

Dealer South. 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.

Dlr: South
 Vul: All

♠ Q J 8
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ A 7 3 2
 ♣ A 10 7 5

♠ K 5 4 3
 ♥ Q 8 3 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q 8 6 2

NORTH
 WEST 7 EAST
 SOUTH

♠ A 7 6 2
 ♥ K J 7 5 4
 ♦ K
 ♣ K J 3

15
 7 15
 3

♠ 10 9
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ Q J 10 8 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 4

Bidding Example:

S	3♦	Pre-emptive bid showing 7 diamonds and fewer than 12 pts. Not everyone will do this.
W	Pass	
N	3NT	Has stoppers in all suits and 15 HCP. North can be confident that he has transportation to South's hand since he has 4 diamonds and South is promising 7. Risky bid, however, considering all are vulnerable.
E	Pass	East's option would be to bid 4♥ or double, but West did not double to show at least an opening hand, so West might not have many pts. East has just 5 hearts – it's difficult to know if West has 3 to support. The hearts could be a good defence against a NT contract. East might also conclude that he and North have most of the points, which is true.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

Contract of 3♦ or 3NT will both make for N/S, but 3NT will give a much higher score. E/W can make 2♥ or 3♠.

Actual Results:

The top board for N/S was 3NT, doubled by East, one would assume. West should have bid 4♥ and not left the double in. East might not have been too pleased about that. Hopefully, they have a friendly partnership.

The other top boards are 3NT making 3.

The top board for E/W was 2♥, making 2 which is exactly what the computer predicts. One can safely conclude that South did not pre-empt.

What is there to learn from this game?

Sometimes, it's worth it to take a risk. It's difficult to take a risk unless you have an understanding partner. The 3NT contract could have been a disaster.

Sometimes, you have luck on your side.

North will be somewhat nervous when he sees the dummy hand. East is most likely to lead a heart and North has only 1 heart stopper. He can duck the ♥Ace once but he cannot duck it twice. East will still get in with the ♠Ace and can run the hearts.

North's other dilemma is that he cannot try a finesse in diamonds as he cannot get over to the dummy hand. He must play the ♦Ace and hope for the best. With 11 trump between the two hands and the only way the contract will make, North must try it. It works! The ♦King falls. It's a very lucky day for North.

The three who bid 3NT must have a very solid partnership and are not afraid to be aggressive.

Dir: South
Vul: All

♠ Q J 8
♥ A 10
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ A 10 7 5

♠ K 5 4 3
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ 9
♣ Q 8 6 2

NORTH
7
SOUTH

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ K J 7 5 4
♦ K
♣ K J 3

♠ 10 9
♥ 9 6
♦ Q J 10 8 6 5 4
♣ 9 4

		15		15
	7			3

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

Board No 7 Both Vul Dealer South								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	13	3♥	E	3		140	0.50	10.50
2	15	3NT*	N	4	950		11.00	0.00
3	2	4♥	E	-1	100		3.50	7.50
4	4	2♥	E	3		140	0.50	10.50
8	12	1NT	N	3	150		7.50	3.50
9	14	1NT	N	3	150		7.50	3.50
10	1	4♦	S	4	130		5.50	5.50
11	3	4♦	S	-1		100	2.00	9.00
12	5	3NT	N	3	600		9.50	1.50
13	7	4♥	E	-1	100		3.50	7.50
14	9	3♦	S	4	130		5.50	5.50
15	11	3NT	S	3	600		9.50	1.50