

#53 - Hand of the Week – Posted October 27, 2018 Slam or Not?

Dealer North. E/W Vulnerable

Try bidding the hands before checking the bidding example below.

See next page for results when this game was played at a duplicate session, the computer-generated prediction and thoughts on what you might learn from this game.

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following details:

- Dealer:** North, **Vulnerability:** E/W
- North's Hand:** ♠ A Q 8 7 4 3, ♥ 9, ♦ K Q J 3 2, ♣ A
- South's Hand:** ♠ 9, ♥ Q J 10 6 2, ♦ 10 7, ♣ K 10 6 5 4
- West's Hand:** ♠ --, ♥ A K 8 7 5 4, ♦ A 9 8 4, ♣ J 8 3
- East's Hand:** ♠ K J 10 6 5 2, ♥ 3, ♦ 6 5, ♣ Q 9 7 2
- Bidding Box:** Shows a bid of 1♠ with a value of 18 (16 HCP + 3 for length).
- Score Box:** Shows a score of 12-6.

Bidding Example:

N	1♠	(16 HCP plus 3 for length = 18 pts) Bid 5-card major showing 12-21 pts.
E	Pass	Hand/suit is not strong enough for an overcall. Some might bid 2♥
S	4♠	Jump to game showing a weak hand with 5+ spades.
W	Pass	Temptation is to bid higher if East overcalled, but E/W are vulnerable.
N	4NT	Blackwood, asking for Aces. North is basing this investigation on his hand which has two long suits and two singletons, plus 5 spades promised from South.
S	5♣	Showing 0 or 4 Aces, so must be 0, since North has 2 Aces.
N	5♠	Missing 2 Aces. Stop at 5♠. Some might bid 6♠ anyway, hoping for some good luck.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

N/S can make 5♠. E/W can make 4♥.

Actual Results:

Four N/S pairs stopped at 5♠. It is difficult to know whether E/W pushed them up by bidding 5♥ or whether they asked for Aces and stopped at 5♠. In any case, it was a good decision not to go to slam. Three pairs did not even try for a slam and stopped at 4♠.

Four N/S pairs bid to slam (6♠). None of them made it. All went down 1. One was doubled which netted the highest score for E/W. One might assume that it was West who doubled, having two Aces and one King.

What is there to learn from this game?

When you have two singletons and partner has promised good support for your suit, it is worth it to investigate Slam.

When you find out you are missing two Aces, it is a wise decision to stop at the 5 level.

Top level players might consider the 6♠ bid to be "a good try." It will not always work, but many times you can make a Slam even when missing two Aces, based on voids and singletons.

Dir: North
Vul: E/W

♠ A Q 8 7 4 3
♥ 9
♦ K Q J 3 2
♣ A

♠ 9
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 10 7
♣ K 10 6 5 4

WEST
NORTH
9
SOUTH
EAST

16
12 6
6

♠ K J 10 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 6 5
♣ Q 9 7 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	4	-	5
S	-	4	-	5
E	3	-	4	-
W	3	-	4	-

Board No 9 E/W Vul Dealer North								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	13	5♠	N	5	450		7.68	3.32
2	15	6♠	N	-1		50	2.23	8.77
3	1	4♠	N	5	450		7.68	3.32
4	3	4♠	S	5	450		7.68	3.32
5	5	4♠	N	5	450		7.68	3.32
10	14	5♠	N	5	450		7.68	3.32
11	16	6♠	N	-1		50	2.23	8.77
12	2	5♠	N	5	450		7.68	3.32
13	4	6♠*	S	-1		100	0.05	10.95
14	7	5♠	S	5	450		7.68	3.32
15	9	6♠	N	-1		50	2.23	8.77