

#55 - Hand of the Week – November 10, 2018

Re-thinking a “bust” hand.

Dealer West. N/S 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: N/S

♠ 3 2
♥ K 8 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 6
♣ J 4 3

♠ A K Q 4
♥ Q J
♦ A K J
♣ A K 9 7

WEST 29 EAST

♠ 10 9 7 6 5
♥ 9 2
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ 10 2

♠ J 8
♥ A 10 7 4
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q 8 6 5

4
27 0
9

Bidding Example:

W	2♣	Showing 22+ pts, very strong hand
N	Pass	
E	2♥	Showing a “bust” hand, fewer than 3 pts.
S	Pass	
W*	2NT	Enough pts for 3NT, but what about the ♥Queen/Jack? Take a chance on partner having some hearts?
E	3♥	Transfer to Spades. Will partner misconstrue this bid and think it means hearts?
W	4♠	Knowing partner has at least 5 spades (9 total) and could pass the next bid, take it to game.

*Here is another possibility for West’s rebid after East shows a “bust” hand:

W	2♠	Partner has shown few if any points. What’s my best suit? Perhaps spades, even though I have only 4 of them, but the three top spades.
E	3♠	We have 10 spades together (assuming partner has 5 of them) and two dummy pts – my hand is worth something in spades.
W	4♠	With 27 pts (enough for game on my own) and support from partner, go to game.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

E/W can make 5♠ Or 5♦.

E/W can make 2NT, but not 3NT.

Actual Results:

Only one pair bid 4♠ and made 5, as predicted. It gave them 2nd top board, so not bad.

Top board went to a 4NT contract, making 5, which should not have made. In fact, even 3NT should not have made. N/S can take 5 heart tricks, if they dare play their Ace and King.

3NT was the contract 6 times:

Twice it made 3NT. Once it made 4NT. Twice it went down 1. Once it went down 2.

What is there to learn from this game?

First of all, some players are just lucky to get opponents who allow them to take more tricks than they should. Nothing E/W can do about that! Sometimes luck is part of the game.

So, if you were E/W and did not bid 3NT but made 3NT or 4NT, then you will not get as good a score as those who bid it. Yet, those who bid 3NT and had stronger opponents, went down in a contract of 3NT.

What is more useful to learn from this board is to re-evaluate your hand, especially if you were East. If partner bids 2NT, then your 5-card spade suit can be transferred, just as it would be with a bust hand and partner opened 1NT. When your partner opens 2♣ and you respond 2♥, you can still bid if you think you have something worthwhile. A hand with no points can often be useful if you get information from your partner which makes your hand stronger.

E/W showed caution sometimes when they stopped at 2NT with a doubleton which has no stoppers and a partner who has no points. Yet, in both cases, they made game. They were smart to do that, yet were not rewarded for their smart thinking in this game. Several E/W competitors did better by taking chances. Bridge is not always fair, in that respect.

Dir: West
Vul: N/S

♠ 3 2
♥ K 8 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 6
♣ J 4 3

♠ A K Q 4
♥ Q J
♦ A K J
♣ A K 9 7

W NORTH E EAST
29
SOUTH

♠ 10 9 7 6 5
♥ 9 2
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ 10 2

♠ J 8
♥ A 10 7 4
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q 8 6 5

4	0
27	9

♠	♦	♥	♣	N	
N	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	
E	3	5	1	5	2
W	3	5	1	5	2

Board No 29 Both Vul Dealer North								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
3	9	3NT	W	3		400	3.50	7.50
4	11	3NT	W	-2	100		11.00	0.00
5	13	3NT	W	-1	50		9.00	2.00
6	15	2♣	W	4		170	6.00	5.00
7	17	4NT	E	5		460	0.00	11.00
8	2	3NT	W	3		400	3.50	7.50
9	4	2NT	W	3		150	7.00	4.00
10	6	3NT	W	-1	50		9.00	2.00
11	8	4♣	W	5		450	1.00	10.00
12	10	3NT	W	4		430	2.00	9.00
13	12	5♦	E	-1	50		9.00	2.00
14	14	2NT	W	4		180	5.00	6.00