

#56 - Hand of the Week – November 17, 2018

Length or shortness can make a difference!

Dealer North. E/W 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.

Bidding Example:

N	Pass	Not enough pts to bid.
E	1♣	12-21 pts, no 5-card major
S	1♥	Some players might bid this, it's an overcall though South does not have much strength in hearts; some might bid 2♥ as a "weak 2" bid
W	1♠	5+ spades, 6+ pts; forcing for one round
N	2♥	Support for partner's hearts
E	2♠	Support for partner's spades; minimum-range opening hand
S	Pass	Might have bid too high already; some might bid 3♥
W	4♠	Singleton heart, fit in spades, 11 HCP plus 2-3 for shortness in hearts
		Would North or South double?

Computer-Generated Prediction:

E/W can make 5♠ or 4NT.

Actual Results:

Three made 5♠, seven made 4♠, but five did not bid to game. One made 6♠ and one made 6NT. The top score for E/W was 5♥ by South, doubled, going down 4. That was lucky for Pair #B4 N/S whose opponents bid that high giving them the opportunity to double.

The top score for N/S (14.00 pts) was 3♥ by South, down 1, because E/W got only 50 pts when E/W should be bidding to game or higher in spades. The next top scores for N/S were gifts, in a sense, as the opponents did not bid to game (11.00 pts).

Bidding 4♠ and making 4♠ = 620 pts.

Bidding 2♠ or 3♠ and making 4♠ = 170 pts.
Quite a difference!

What is there to learn from this game?

One must wonder why four pairs stopped at 2♠.

Did West bid 2♠ and East passed?

It is not evident from the results whether South overcalled 1♥ or not, or possibly even 2♥. If South did, that should not have deterred West for bidding at least to the 3 level. West knows that East has at least 12 pts, so together, they are close to game. With a singleton heart, West should take it to game once he knows East has 3-card support for his spades.

Consider a singleton in opponent's suit to be a bonus.

West could also use the negative double to show the other 2 suits, when East opens 1♣ and South overcalls 1♥.

A 3NT contract should not give as good a score as 4♠. East (B7) should not be able to take 12 tricks. It looks as if Pair B1 N/S were not defending very well.

Watch out for the penalty double! N/S bidding to 5♥ was being a little bit too optimistic!

Board No 9 E/W Vul Dealer North

NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
A1	A7	3♥	S	-1		50	14.00	0.00
A2	A8	3♠	W	4		170	11.00	3.00
A3	A2	4♠	W	5		650	4.00	10.00
A4	A4	2♠	W	4		170	11.00	3.00
A5	A6	4♠	W	4		620	6.50	7.50
A6	A1	2♠	W	4		170	11.00	3.00
A7	A3	4♠	W	5		650	4.00	10.00
A8	A5	4♠	W	6		680	2.00	12.00
B1	B7	3NT	E	6		690	1.00	13.00
B2	B1	2♠	W	4		170	11.00	3.00
B3	B3	3NT	E	3		600	8.00	6.00
B4	B5	5♥*	S	-4		800	0.00	14.00
B5	B8	4♠	W	4		620	6.50	7.50
B6	B2	2♠	W	4		170	11.00	3.00
B7	B4	5♠	W	5		650	4.00	10.00