

Analyses ref : 18 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #17214**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 5 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 12  
 Theme : As declarer, set up your side suit

	<b>N</b> gelino ♠ Q10964 ♥ A64 ♦ 8 ♣ AK85	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P 1♠ 2♥ 2♣ P 3♣ P 4♣ P P P																														
	<b>W</b> mariemmweb ♠ J5 ♥ 10872 ♦ A9743 ♣ 43	<b>E</b> Kyalami70 ♠ A2 ♥ KQJ93 ♦ Q ♣ Q10976																														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>11</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>11</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Par Score: 500 Par: EW 6♥x-3</p>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	9	4	11	7	S	5	9	4	11	7	E	6	4	9	2	6	W	6	4	9	2	6	<b>S</b> Dor1938 ♠ K873 ♥ 5 ♦ KJ10652 ♣ J2	4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	6	9	4	11	7																											
S	5	9	4	11	7																											
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W	6	4	9	2	6																											

General: This board provides many lessons (1) Trial Bids – When partner makes a trial bid always accept game if you believe you have help in the suit that partner has trialed (2) Generally as declarer it is often important to set up your best side suit. D for N/S and clubs for E/W(3) Vulnerability of the N/S and E/W is an important factor in deciding how high to bid. Played correctly the pars for this board are (+650 for N/S –only achieved once –well done George) while for E/W 3H is the best they can achieve (+140) but because of vulnerability any save up to 6H is the best that can be achieved. No E/W pair was doubled .Let us look at all the bidding to see where the bidding, declarer play and defence went wrong.

Bidding 1: W pass N 1S E 2H S 2S W pass N 3C (trial bid )E pass S 4S . Declarer immediately attacked D and made 11 tricks (+650) As I said above well done George

Bidding 2 : W pass N 1S E 2H S 4S (which is an overbid)W 5H N pass (which is an underbid-at least X with the AH and AKC )on the lead of the 3S declarer goes 2 down (+100)

Bidding 3 : W pass N 1S E 2H S 2S W 3H N 3S E 4H S pass : Interference bidding has done it's work. On the lead of the 3S the defence takes 4 tricks (+50)

Bidding 4 : W pass N 1S E 2S (H + minor) S 3S W 4H N 4S E 5C S pass W 5D N pass E 5H (N to read what I say in bidding 2) Worse follows as N leads AC & then the KC and sets up E/W' side suit (+50)

Bidding 5 : W pass N 1S E 2H S 2S W 3H N 3S E 4H S 4S which is X by E ? I suggest declarer looks at bidding 1 to see how to play the hand as only 9 tricks are made (-200)

Bidding 6 : W pass N 1S E 2S(H + minor) S pass( Should at least bid 3S or X) W 3H N pass E pass S 3S W pass N pass E 4H N sets up declarers side suit clubs by leading AC & KC and then switches to a D and loses the S trick and declarer makes his contract (+420)

Analyses ref : 19 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #17214**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 5 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 18  
 Theme : Pre-emp as high as you can & thereafter DO NOT BID AGAIN

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">18 <small>D</small></div>	<b>N</b> Isabelledp ♠ K104 ♥ KQJ8632 ♦ 72 ♣ 3	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♦	2♣	P	2♥	P	P	3♣	3♥	P	P	4♦	4♥	P	P	X	P	P	P						
	W	N	E	S																												
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3♣	3♥	P	P																													
4♦	4♥	P	P																													
X	P	P	P																													
<b>W</b> Dor1938 ♠ QJ3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q43 ♣ AQ10876	<b>E</b> gelino ♠ 9852 ♥ A105 ♦ AK1086 ♣ 4																															
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N	4	2	7	3	5																											
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General: The first rule to learn on this hand is (1) when you have a long suit with very little in defence pre-empt as high as you can and thereafter DO NOT BID AGAIN . The second rule to learn is(2) that when you are vulnerable do not bid a weak 5 card suit at the 2 level .The 3rd rule from experience is (3) that when partner opens and the opponent on openers left makes a bid which is followed by two passes opener MUST re-open with a X. Finally (4) I believe players can do well to follow the rule of 18-20 about opening your hand or not E should open (11HCP +5D +4S=20)In terms of the rule and W can also open (9HCP+ 6C + 3S or D = 18) but neither do

Bidding 1 : E 1D S 2 C (Not a good bid) W pass (hoping E knows he MUST reopen with a X)N 2H ( With partner having overcalled 2C a bid of 3H cannot be made) E pass S pass W 3C in case E can bid 3NT ) N 3H E pass S pass W 4D N 4H E pass S pass W X (with N/S vulnerable and partner opening an obvious bid) The defence is good and the contract goes 2 down (-500)

Bidding 2 : E 1D S pass W 2C N 3H (the correct bid) E pass S pass W 4D passed out (+130)

Bidding 3 : E 1D S pass W 1NT? N 3H E 3S S pass W 4D passed out (+130)

Bidding 4 : E 1D S pass W 2C N 3H E pass( With W having bid at the 2 level I believe E should bid 3S or 3NT or the winning bid X with N/S vulnerable -Passed out (+100)

Bidding 5 : E 1D S pass W 2C N 3H E 4D S 5C (-100)

Bidding 6 : E pass (read 4 above) S pass W pass (read 4 above) N 2H E pass S pass W 3C N 3H -Not only have E/W been outbid but declarer manages to squeeze S into discarding a S in a well-played hand and makes 9 tricks (+140)Well played Marc (I think)

Analyses ref : 20 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #32390**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday  
 Date Played : 9 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 20  
 Theme : A Classic Under Bid

	<b>N DvVuuren</b> ♠ 852 ♥ A732 ♦ KJ98 ♣ 84	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1♣	1♠	P	2♠	P	3♠	P	P	P										
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<b>W Dor1938</b> ♠ J6 ♥ J64 ♦ 76542 ♣ QJ6	<b>E jtv54</b> ♠ 109 ♥ KQ109 ♦ 3 ♣ AK7532																										
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	♠	♥	♦	NT																							
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General: A Classic under bid . Every South player made a classic under bid on this board. Not to make a take out double with 15 points with a probable 7+ tricks in your own hand I class as BAD bridge .I implore every South player to change their thinking immediately if not sooner. You cannot allow a hand with 11 cold tricks in spades not to be played in a vulnerable game. If I was opening the South hand my opening would be a strong 2S showing 8+ tricks in spades. The bidding stopped in 1S twice in 2S once and 3S thrice. A bridge player can understand once but not twice or thrice as it showed that 1S over bid by S as the under bid of the year but stopping in 2S or 3S showed that S failed to correct his under bid by not bidding 4S the second time he had a chance to do so. Under bidding twice confirmed that S did not value his hand correctly. This was the bidding

Hand 1 : E 1C S 1S (no-a take out X-read above)W pass N 2S E pass S 3S (no should be 4S) (+200)

Hand 2 : E 1C S 1S (read above) (+200)

Hand 3 : E 1F S 1S(read above)(+200)

Hand 4 :E 1C S 1S(read above)W pass N2S E pass S pass (read above)+(200)

Hand 5 : E 1D S 1S (read above) W 3D N 3S E pass S pass (probably the worst bid of all –worse than E/W bids)(+200)

Hand 6 : E 2C S 2S (read above)W pass N pass E 3C S pass ? W pass N 3S E pass S pass (read above a hopeless under bid)(+200)

Hand 7 : E 1C S 1S(read above)W pass N 2S E 3C S 3S (should bid 4S) W 4C N 4S E 5C S X (having pushed N/S into a makeable contract the sacrifice is fine but next time dontpush so hard (+500)

Analyses ref : 21 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #32390**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday  
 Date Played : 9 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 22  
 Theme : 11 Tricks or 12 Tricks?

22 D

N BigDee6005

W N E S

♠ Q10985  
 ♥ A62  
 ♦ AJ  
 ♣ 873

2♦ P  
 2♣ P  
 3♦ P  
 4♥ P

♠ 1♥  
 ♣ 4♣  
 P

W Dor1938  
 ♠ A63  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ KQ8653  
 ♣ 62

E jtv54  
 ♠ 72  
 ♥ K87  
 ♦ 109742  
 ♣ 1095

	♠	♥	♣	NT
N	11	5	11	12
S	11	5	11	11
E	2	8	2	1
W	2	8	2	1

Par Score: 980  
Par: N 6♠

S Heial  
 ♠ KJ4  
 ♥ Q10954  
 ♦  
 ♣ AKQJ4

4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

General: Looking at the results of this board as far as N/S is concerned it appears that playing in 4S or 4H makes no difference 'YOU MAKE 11 tricks but nothing is further from actuality If you play in 4S you should make 12 tricks as follows(4S + 1H + 2D (ruffing the JD in S hand gives you the 2ND D trick +5C =12 tricks )Failure to reach the correct contract of 6S is mainly due to both(1) S who failed to realise that once partner bids 2S at the 2 level you have found a minimum of an 8 card fit as N cannot have less than 5S and the S hand has just improved as declarer can ruff D in the S hand or(2) the N bidding where spades is not even bid ( the use of a X or a cue bid is totally inappropriate when you have 5 spades. In H declarer can make either 11 tricks or 10 tricks depending on how many H you lose either 1 or 2 .The loss in H depends on both declarer play and how East/West defends the hand. I will go into detail as I go through all the hands. As far as E/W is concerned they should bid NO MORE than 3D as in a D contract they have 5 inescapable losers (1S + 1H +1D +2C =5)and being 2 down( =-500) will be disastrous. E/W cannot think about saving being vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents. That nobody bid or made 12 tricks in S confirms the fact that saving is not worth it .Yes you have 11 diamonds between you but no voids or even singletons the second factor to consider when you are saving(The first factor is obviously vulnerability) Here is what happened at the seven tables. The right bidding to get to the correct contract is in my opinion the following.

Correct bidding in my opinion is : E pass S 1H W 2D N 2S E pass S 4D W pass N 4NT (KCB)E pass S 5H (KS +AC) N 6S (only one KC to worry about)The declarer play is very simple as long as ruff the JD early and preferably with the KS

Table 1 : E pass S 1H W 2D N 2S E pass S 4C (After finding a S fit showing that fit IMO is more important than bidding YOUR hand-a 4D bid would show the strength of your hand ) W pass N 4H .On the playout of the hand declarer played the 10H which was not covered (not a time

to cover an honour with an honour) and the AH was played and when a small heart was from dummy E incorrectly went up with the KH (ducking can only help the defence) dropping W JH and declarer made 11 tricks.(+450)

Table 2 : E pass S1C (precision) W pass N 1S E pass S 4S (read above-no investigation at all).Declarer failed to ruff the JD and made 11 tricks (+450)

Table 3 : E pass S 1H W 2D N 3D (read above what I think of your bid) E pass S 5D??(bidding presumably the AD before fixing a suit is crazy) W pass N 5H passed out (No mention of spades the suit in which a slam can be made) Declarer gets lucky by playing a H to the AH and the 2nd H to his QH and 11 tricks are made (+450) Well done Darryl for not rising with your King and for Duncan for getting it right

Table 4 : E pass S 1H W 2D N X (I believe the use of a X to show points is being grossly overdone ( a bid of 2S would show identical points but in addition a five card + spade suit (read above) E pass S 3C W pass N 4H (so again no mention of spades and an inferior contract reached .Fortunately declarer finesses correctly for the JH to be in the W hand and makes 11 tricks.(+450)

Table 5 : E pass S 1H W pass N3H (you cannot ignore a 5 card S suit ) E pass S 4C W pass N 4S (a little late but in any case showing 2 Aces ) E pass S 5C W pass N 5D (0 kings) S 5H .(Again an inferior contract reached because N did not show his 5 card S suit) Again luckily declarer finessed for the JH to be in the W hand and makes 11 tricks (+450)

Table 6 : E pass S 1H W 2D N 2S (thank goodness) S 4C (Gerber- the worst of the ACE asking conventions and hardly correct with a D void ) W pass N 4S (2 aces)E pass S 5C (? Kings) W pass N (5D –NO kings E pass S S better stop now !-having learned what ?)This time declarer does not ruff his JD immediately and when W ducks two spades and gets back to enjoy his clubs .The worst part of the miss play was that declarer had all the pips to take over the spades and coming back to his hand was easy by simply playing trumping the JD with the K or J spades, It was unnecessary to use his AH for that purpose. By using the AH E was able to make his KH.11 tricks again (+450)

Table 7 : E pass S 1 C W 2D N 2S E 4D (read above-vulnerable with 3 points? ) S pass? W pass N X E pass S pass (-500) You have earned a deserved bottom

Analyses ref : 22 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #44734**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 12 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 21  
 Theme : In pairs NT contracts are KING

<b>D</b> <b>21</b>	<b>N</b> jtv54 ♠ AKQ86 ♥ J85 ♦ KJ92 ♣ 2	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> 1♠ P 2♦ P 3♦ P 3NT P 4NT P 6NT P P P																														
	<b>W</b> Bashewa ♠ 972 ♥ 10972 ♦ Q8 ♣ 9753	<b>E</b> johng6414 ♠ 105 ♥ K43 ♦ 765 ♣ AJ1064																														
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
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General: (1)-In pairs NT contracts are KING (2) Long minor suit hands prove effective in a NT contract

Hand 1 : N 1S S 2D N3D S 3NT N 4NT(This is the bid that is responsible for the good board )N has a good 14 point hand and knows the D fit has improved the hand to 16 points with a singleton C. S 6NT ( S on the other hand decides that with the H & C he has to go for the best pairs contract available) The lead is the 2H(which is the incorrect lead to make, as if you decide to lead H the recommended lead is the 10H) which declarer ducks in dummy and E has to play his KH giving declarer 3H tricks and with the AC in the E hand declarer has 12 tricks without having to finesse for the QD (5S +3H +2D +2C =12)(+1440)

Hand 2 : N 1S S 4NT ( Likely normal Blackwood since with KCB the response would be 5S (showing the AKQ of spades) N 5D (one ACE) S 6S –hardly an investigation I would recommend –but S had decided on slam so slam it is. The lead of the AC with a switch to D is great for declarer and 6S is a doddle.(+1430)

Hand 3 : N 2S S 3C(Alerted asking for key cards) N 3NT (Alerted 3 key cards) S 4C (alerted kings ?)N 4H (Alerted 1K ) S 6S .(Certainly a better investigation than hand 2 )The lead is the 10S and declarer immediately plays his singleton 2C and when E rises with the AC declarer has 2 H discards and has only one problem left. Who should he play for the QD? as he can finesse either opponent. Declarer chooses the wrong opponent but makes his contract with his final decision to play for the drop of QD which works (PHEW) (+1430)

Hand 4 : N 1S E 2C S 3NT (with 16 HCP S ignores slam possibilities) On the lead of the 9C correctly ducked to limit declarer to one C trick but declarer takes the safe H finesse through E and when that works now plays a D and W makes the shocking play of the QD (I don't know who has taught bridge players to help declarers by disclosing honour cards which is a terrible play which can only LOSE and NEVER WIN and I suggest to W to NEVER do it again-it is a hopeless play) Declarer now has 12 tricks (5S +2H +4D +1C=12) (+690)

Hand 5 : N 1S S 4S (No investigation AT ALL on 16 points and a fit in spades. Declarer miss plays the hand by not taking a proven finesse in H a 2nd time around and makes 11 tricks. TOO many mistakes and a BOTTOM (+650)

Analyses ref : 23 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #44734**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 12 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 24  
 Theme : Long minor suit hands prove effective in a NT contract

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<b>W</b> DvVuuren ♠ J1065 ♥ A2 ♦ KQ83 ♣ K84	<b>E</b> abotha ♠ Q974 ♥ KJ95 ♦ 952 ♣ 97																														
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	♠	♥	♦	NT																											
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General: (1)-In pairs NT contracts are KING (2) Long minor suit hands prove effective in a NT contract

Par for this hand N/S 2NT (+120) 3C (+110) and for E/W 1S (+80) on top defence by N/S If E declares spades it would require the lead of the QC which if not covered a switch to the 7D would give the defence 2 D tricks as long as N wins the QD with the AD and continues with the JD. With West as declarer the defence is very difficult as only the lead of the JD would eventually allow defenders to make 2D tricks. Losers could be (2S+ 2D + 2C=6)

Hand 1 : W 1D N 1H E pass ? (should bid 1S) S 2C W pass N 2NT E pass S pass (proving point 2 above) W pass .On the lead of a S (the best lead) declarer simply wins in the N hand (preserving the ace of spades as an entry to the S hand gives up a C trick and makes 8 tricks (2S + 1D +5 C =8) (+120)

Hand 2 : W 1C N 1H E 1NT S 2C W 2S N 3C Par was achieved with no thanks to declarer who failed to ruff a spade and W who should have played a H to E as had the KH but rather played a D to dummy when it clear that the D was a winner (+110) 9 winners more winners achieved than playing in NT but for a lesser score

Hand 3: W 1D N 1H E X (spade suit) S 2C W 2S N pass E pass S 3C passed out. This time the contract was played and defended correctly and par was achieved. (+110) The only point to decide was whether E should have bid 3S.

Played by W the best defence was extremely unlikely to be found and only 1 down X or not would have been a better score for E/W

Hand 4 : W 1D N 1H E 1NT (wrong bid a X would show a S suit) S 2C W 2S (Who needs to X to find out partner has 4 spades?) N 3C E 3S –As expected a difficult defence was not found and declarer made 8 tricks (-50) and a good score

Hand 5 : W 1D N 1H E X (well done) S 2C W 2S N pass E pass S pass? (surely you should bid a good 6 card suit again) As expected with a difficult defence the defence was not good when after leading the AC the switch was to a H but the final straw was N under leading his J10 of D and allowing declarer to make a cheap D trick (+140) While the defence could have been better the main reason for a bad board was the decision by S to pass the second time a bid was needed >If I was teaching S I would tell her GET MORE AGGRESSIVE

Analyses ref : 24 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #60343**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday  
 Date Played : 16 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 15  
 Theme : Lessons in Bidding ,Declarer play and Defence

The screenshot shows a bridge hand analysis interface. At the top left, a box contains the number '15' and a red 'D' below it. The interface is divided into four quadrants for the players: North (N), West (W), East (E), and South (S). Each quadrant shows the player's name and their hand of cards. A bidding table is located in the top right, and a score table is in the bottom left. The score table shows the following values: N: 7, S: 7, E: 6, W: 6; 5, 8, 7, 7; 5, 8, 7, 4; 8, 7, 5, 6. The par score is 100, and the par for E is 3♦x-1. The bidding table shows the following sequence: P, 1♠, X, 2♥, P, P, P, 3♠, 2♣, P, P, P, P. The bottom right corner shows the current score: 3♠ N, NS: 0, EW: 0.

Player	Hand
N jtv54	♠ QJ843 ♥ KQ98 ♦ 4 ♣ 1086
W Mariusfis	♠ A972 ♥ AJ42 ♦ 983 ♣ 75
E HJ Owen	♠ 10 ♥ 10763 ♦ AJ106 ♣ AQ94
S Dor1938	♠ K65 ♥ 5 ♦ KQ752 ♣ KJ32

General: Par Scores for this hand is for N/S 3 S (+140) While for E/W par score is 1H (+80) with the bad break in H and the badly placed minor suit honours in the S hand Here is all the bidding with my comments

Hand 1: S1D W pass N 1S E X S 2C W 2H N pass E pass S 2S W pass N pass E 3H (An incorrect bid by a player that has made a take –out X on eleven points and should know from the bidding that both the D & C honours are badly placed) S pass W pass N 3S (not a great bid as a simple X should yield +300) During declarer play E not only shows declarer where the QC is, but also ducks the singleton 4D and now declarer has no need to finesse the eight of spades to make the contract. (+140)

Hand 2 : S 1D W pass N1S E X S 2D (this is an incorrect bid-should bid 2C)W 2H passed out (-50)Either N or S should bid 2S-you cannot be outbid on this hand

Hand 3 : S 1D W pass N 1S E X S 1NT (incorrect bid with a singleton 5H) W 2H passed out (-50) (read above)

Hand 4 : S 1D passed out ? N is doing himself no favours by passing and should bid 1S passing with 8 points and 5 spades is not recommended in any bridge book I have read (-100)

Hand 5 : S 1D W pass N 1S E X S 2C W 2H N pass E pass S 2S W pass N pass E 3H S pass W pass N 3 S(Read Hand 1)Declarer won the 2nd H and immediately played a trump to the KS and should have noted the break in S which required a finesse for the 8S and when a D was returned simply could not afford to trump a H needing to discard the H loser finesse the 8S draw the outstanding trump and play E for the AC which was extremely likely on the bidding. Going 1 down made the option of doubling 3H a better option than bidding 3S (-100)

Hand 6 : S 1D W pass N 1S E pass S 2D (the correct bid is 2C) passed out and the contract went 1 down (-100)

Hand 7 : S 1D W pass N 1S EX SXX W 2 H N 2S E pass S pass W 3H N pass (a X should be the bid) E pass S 3S W X .On a H lead and D switch the hand was miss played as two clubs were discarded on the winning KD & QD instead of 1C & 1H and finessing the 8S and drawing the last trump declarer could not reach dummy where the winning KC was and lost his losing H (-200). Better to have X 3H

Analyses ref : 25 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #60343**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday  
 Date Played : 16 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 16  
 Theme : Lessons in Bidding ,Declarer play and Defence

<b>D</b> 16	<b>N</b> jtv54 ♠ A10843 ♥ K9 ♦ Q105 ♣ J63	<b>W</b> N <b>E</b> S P P P 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ P 2♣ P 2♦ P P P																													
	<b>W</b> Mariusfis ♠ Q95 ♥ QJ1083 ♦ K76 ♣ Q5	<b>E</b> HJ Owen ♠ KJ62 ♥ A5 ♦ 932 ♣ 10984																													
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <p>Par Score: 90          Par: N 1NT, S 1♥+1, NS 1♠+1</p>		♠	♥	♦	NT	N	8	7	6	6	7	S	8	8	5	6	5	E	5	5	6	6	6	W	5	5	6	6	6	<b>S</b> Dor1938 ♠ 7 ♥ 7642 ♦ AJ84 ♣ AK72	2♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠	♥	♦	NT																											
N	8	7	6	6	7																										
S	8	8	5	6	5																										
E	5	5	6	6	6																										
W	5	5	6	6	6																										

General: When you have a 4card D suit and a 4 card C suit it VERY important to open the D suit first if you do not have a strong hand as bidding D after C would show a strong hand(a reverse)From this board it is clear that many of you not believe me although this board verifies what I am telling you. Four Hearts to the 7H is NOT a stopper in H for NT purposes especially if your opposition has bid H

Hand 1 :W pass N pass E pass S 1D W 1H N 1S( five spades otherwise uses the negative X) E pass W 2C (not interested in five spades) N2D Declarer rather than drawing trumps decided on a cross ruff, ruffing H with QD &10D and arrived at 8 tricks (+90)

Hand 2 : passed out (0) Although S has a perfectly good opening (12HCP +4+4=20)

Hand 3 :W pass N pass E pass S 1C W 1H N 1S E pass S 2D (the partnership obviously does not play reverses)W pass N 3C -2 (-100) In the wrong contract and too high >Next time open a D

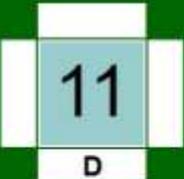
Hand 4:W pass N pass E pass S 1C W 1H N 1S E 1NT S 2D (another pair that does not play reverses (-100) Declarer to refer to hand 1 to see how contract can be made

Hand 5: W pass N pass E pass S 1C ? W 1H N 1S E pass S 1NT ( incorrect bid)W pass N pass E 2H. The defence is a comedy of errors with N under leading AS (a play I frown on) and when declarer plays W for the KH (after all S did bid 1NT) N makes the KH and now plays the AS which S trumps? Enabling declarer to make the contract.(+110)

Hand 6: W pass N pass E pass S 1C ? W 1H N1S E pass S 1NT?(NO H stoppers).As W leads the QH S finds out the hard facts of life that he does NOT have a H stopper and the contract goes 3 down (-150)

Hand 7: W pass N pass E pass S 3S?? (It appears the N/S have decided to devise a system that requires them to bid a suit they do not have at the 3 level)W pass N 3NT Just maybe the system is NOT so great as the contract goes 5 down (-250)

Analyses ref : 26 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73076**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 19 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 11  
 Theme : Handling Distributional Hands

	<b>N</b> Bashewa ♠ ♥ 1096432 ♦ Q10643 ♣ Q3	W N E S P 4♥ 4♠ 1♥ 5♠ P P 5♥ X P P 6♥ P P P P																													
	<b>W</b> Dor1938 ♠ 872 ♥ Q5 ♦ AJ87 ♣ 8762	<b>E</b> jtv54 ♠ AQ109653 ♥ ♦ 95 ♣ KJ105																													
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>10</td><td>12</td><td>4</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>4</td></tr> </table> <p>Par Score: 500 Par: EW 6♠x-3</p>		♠	♥	♣	NT	N	6	10	12	4	9	S	5	9	11	4	8	E	7	3	1	9	4	W	7	3	1	9	4	<b>S</b> johng6414 ♠ KJ4 ♥ AKJ87 ♦ K2 ♣ A94	6♥x S NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠	♥	♣	NT																											
N	6	10	12	4	9																										
S	5	9	11	4	8																										
E	7	3	1	9	4																										
W	7	3	1	9	4																										

General: Distributional hands are tough to get right and I therefore give myself certain rules that I follow. Par for this board is simple for N/S it is (+ 450 for five hearts)E/W it is (+140 for 3 spades)but my hand is largely non distributional so I need to rely on my partner for information. Both pairs are not vulnerable so 5 S X going 2 down is (-300)is a good save. I have 1 definite trick so I need to back partner judgement of the hand by 1>THAT IS MY RULE . When the opposition bid 6H I have a different rule as I must credit partner with 1defensive trick. IT certainly proved itself on this board. Luckily we were not playing against precision club bidders

Hand 1: S 1H W pass N4H E 4Sx S 5H W 5S N pass E pass S 6H (I would rather X for (+300)but N/S are the unluckiest pair in the room (-100)

Hand 2 :S 1H W pass N 4H E 4S S 5H (+450)

Hand 3 :S 1H W pass N 4H E 4S S 5H (+450)

Hand 4 : S 1C W pass N 1D E 3S S pass W pas N 4H : the 9D is the opening lead which gives declarer 12 tricks BUT I think it first in my long career that I find ANY lead E chooses to make gives declarer 12 tricks (+480)

Hand 5 : S 1C W pass N 1D E 3S S pass W pass N 4H (+480) A definite win for the precision club

Analyses ref : 27 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73076**  
 Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday  
 Date Played : 19 February 2026  
 Hand Number : 13  
 Theme : Bridge is a living game

	<b>N</b> HJ Owen ♠ A1073 ♥ 9842 ♦ 10542 ♣ 10	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P   P   P   2NT P   3♣   P   3NT P   P   P																													
	<b>W</b> Dor1938 ♠ 954 ♥ KQ107 ♦ J9 ♣ QJ84	<b>E</b> jtv54 ♠ KJ2 ♥ 653 ♦ K863 ♣ 976																													
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> </table> <p>Par Score: 140 Par: NS 1♠+2</p>		♠	♥	♦	NT	N	8	9	8	9	7	S	8	9	8	9	7	E	5	4	4	3	5	W	5	4	4	3	5	<b>S</b> Mariusfis ♠ Q86 ♥ AJ ♦ AQ7 ♣ AK532	3NT S      NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠	♥	♦	NT																											
N	8	9	8	9	7																										
S	8	9	8	9	7																										
E	5	4	4	3	5																										
W	5	4	4	3	5																										

General: I can see Bridge is a living game and players should think out of the box as N found out when S opened 2N and N had 4 points and both majors. Of course N could pass and that was an option but the one factor N had a chance of tricks if declarer could make use of that singleton C. There was one other problem if N did not have a 4 card major (which was the case). If you play puppet stayman you can not afford to bid 3C so I believe a transfer to your best major which is spades and pass that bid if S does not super accept. At least you will be in a makeable contract. I can see 3S making (AS+AH+2H ruffs+2D +2C+ C ruff=9) The first three hands all landed in three NT and made 6 tricks, seven tricks and 8 tricks depending on where the defence went wrong

Hand 1: S 2NT N 3C S 3NT>The lead is the KH the correct lead if you lead hearts and declarer makes his first mistake by ducking the KH by playing his JH. With the 10H in the W hand you do have to be a genius to know that S started with the AJ H and the 7H now played was good enough as the AH had to be played and so W set up both the Q & 10 of H (-300)

Hand 2 : S 2NT N 3S (both Mjrs) S 3NT Again the lead was the KH and declarer incorrectly ducked the JH but W failed to reason that S had only the AJ of H and continued with the QH gifting declarer a H trick (-200)

Hand 3 : S 2NT N3C S 3N N 3NT : This time the 7H was led gifting Declarer a H trick and when W ducked the JC on C lead the contract became makeable with the two gifts given(4C +2H +2D+AS =9 )but declarer failed to count his tricks and actually went down

Hand 4 : S 1C (precision) N 1D S 2C Declarer was able to make 2C losing 1S + 1H +1D & 2C (+90)

Hand 5 : S 2 NT N 3C S 3D N 3NT The Lead was the 7H so declarer received present no 1 and played a S to the 10 and received present no 2 when the KS was returned. Present no 3 also arrived as the defence never switched back to H as declarer developed 3C tricks so at last 3 defensive errors were made and declarer made 9 tricks (2S +2H + 2D +3C=9)(+600)