

Analyses ref : 156 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73289**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 2 October 2025
Hand Number : 10
Theme : Failures to bid lay down slam.

Hand Analysis Interface:

- Top Left:** A card display showing a blue '3' and a red 'D'.
- Top Right:** Player **N HJ Owen** with cards: ♠ 10987, ♥ QJ97, ♦ AQ1076, ♣ .
- Bottom Left:** Player **W Dor1938** with cards: ♠ 64, ♥ A862, ♦ K9432, ♣ 105.
- Bottom Right:** Player **E jtv54** with cards: ♠ 53, ♥ 43, ♦ J85, ♣ KJ9762.
- Bottom Center:** Player **S jonstrande** with cards: ♠ AKQJ2, ♥ K105, ♦ , ♣ AQ843.
- Top Right Table (Bidding):**

	W	N	E	S
P		2♦	P	2♣
P		4NT	P	5♣
P		6♣	P	P
P			P	
- Bottom Left Table (Trick Count):**

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	8	9	11	12	11
S	8	9	11	12	11
E	5	4	2	1	2
W	5	4	2	1	2

Par Score: 980
Par: NS 6♣
- Bottom Right Text (Explanations):**

Explanations
2♣ = 5 losers or less, 16+ pts
4NT = rkc 0314 Spades
5♣ = 0 or 3 KC

General: The failure to bid lay down slams continues although 12 tricks became 11 tricks due to 3 declarers failing to count there tricks. Declarer only needs to draw 2 trumps as outstanding in defensive hands break 2-2. So let us count (2S +3H +1D +1C + 2 ruffs in the N hand + 3 ruffs in the S hand = 12 tricks) How did 3 declarers make only 11 tricks? Easy to see THEY DID NOT COUNT . You cannot become a good declarer unless you learn to count. Why did 5 pairs not get to slam ? Again Easy to see When S opens a S or 2S or 2C and then bids spades N KNOWS that the final contract will be in spades and should not cloud the issue by bidding his diamonds, but should splinter in clubs and if N does there is no excuse why S should not bid a small slam. Let us look at the bidding and see who is to blame for not reaching slam.

Hand 1 : S 2S (which I believe is the correct bid if you play strong 2's in the majors) N 3D (definitely not -4C is the correct bid) S 4C N4S South can do no more so I place the blame on N The hand is miss played for 11 tricks

Hand 2 : S 1S N 4C S 4S .South has under bid his hand and is to blame for not reaching slam. Again the hand is miss played to make 11 tricks . S is clearly to blame!

Hand 3 : S 1S N 2D (clouding the issue) S 3C N 4S . Again N should be playing a convention (Either JACOBY or SPLINTERS)and must take the blame but has jumped to 4S so I also believe that S is also to blame for under bidding. Declarer also miss plays the hand

Hand 4 : S 2C N 3D S 3S N 4S If S upgraded his hand to a 2C opening and was not playing the precision club then N was to blame for the failure to reach slam. I feel opposite a 2C opening (if not clubs) then N has under bid her hand.

Hand 5 : S 2C N 2D S 3S N 4C ?(Is this a cue bid)S 4S (I really cannot comment where the blame lies as I do not understand the bidding and leave it to N/S to sort out the bidding)

Hand 6 : S 2C N 2D S 3S N 4NT S 5C (0 or 3 KC obviously 3 KC) N 6S . Not the way I would bid to slam but well done Heather & Jon

Hand 7 : S 1S N 4S S 4NT N 5D (Blackwood 1 ace ?) S 6S >I believe S made the decision to try for slam thinking her 1S opening was an under bid (which it was) and was proved right. Well done Adri & Mignon

Analyses ref : 157 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73289**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 2 October 2025
Hand Number : 10
Theme : Failure to bid is not an option.

<div>18 D</div>		N Robot ♠ AJ103 ♥ AQJ8 ♦ 98643 ♣	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			2♦	P	2♥	P	2♠	P	P	P															
W	N	E	S																													
		2♦	P																													
2♥	P	2♠	P																													
P	P																															
W Dor1938 ♠ AQ104 ♥ Q2 ♦ 952 ♣ Q1072		E jtv54 ♠ KJ7652 ♥ K764 ♦ 1043 ♣																														
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	10	8	9	4	7																											
S	10	8	9	4	7																											
E	3	4	4	9	6																											
W	3	4	4	9	6																											

General: Par for this board is(N/S 3S+140) &(E/W 4C +130) with E/W most unlucky due to the bad break in clubs. It is also a board that proves you must bid if you can-failure to bid is not an option.

Hand 1: E 2D (Alerted MULTI) S pass W 2H(alerted relay) N pass? (with the best hand at the table)E 2S (6 spades weak) passed out E/W with 22 points DO NOT BID A RECIPE FOR DISASTER (+140)

Hand 2 : E pass ?(Learn to play the 2D (multi) or open 2S) S pass N 1C E 1S S X (now for one of my pet hates the X is often used incorrectly to show points but MORE IMPORTANTLY to show points and a 4 card H suit. Bidding 2 or 3C depending on your system will also show +- 10 points but no 4 card H suit W pass S 2H E 2S which unbelievably is passed out S with 10 points opposite a partner that opened 1C fails to bid 3C with AKJ5 of clubs .If you don't bid expect the bottom which you got. 5C is a good contract which would go 1 down with a bad break in C

Hand 3 : E 1S (alerted as 4S + and 9-22 points-I suppose if you count the void in clubs as points you can reach 9 points S pass W 1NT (+6 points and asking for point count of E) NX W XX (9-10 points) S 2C W 2S N 3C E 3S S pass W pass N 4C (excellent bidding)passed out and N/S have arrived at their PAR contract which unfortunately is miss played when the AC reveals the bad C break. Declarer must simply not play his KC until H has been set up which would enable him to limit his losses to 2C +1H but plays his KC too early and fails to keep control of the hand.

Hand 4 : This hand is passed out although E (could have opened 2D or 2S)W (could have opened in 3rd position as point count and the 2 best suits in length reach 18 but the worst is N whose

hand reaches 21 points on the same bases and is a good opening . Playing the precision club N cannot open a C but what is wrong with a D.

Hand 5 & 6 : The auction in both cases ends up in 3C and correctly played each declarer makes 10 tricks

Hand 7 : E pass ? S 1D (so it is ironical that the only person at the table that can't make a legal bid (on the rule of 18/20 you need 20 points for a legal opening in the second seat) and of course N/S reach 5C which rates to go 1 down except MR Robot does not take his KH> I don't know ESTER where you find your robots but I suggest you look elsewhere and declarer limits his losses to 2 clubs

Analyses ref : 158 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73290**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 6 October 2025
Hand Number : 3
Theme : Failure to get to a laydown slam.

3
D

N JB71634
♠ KQ108754 *strongest bid*
♥ 765
♦ 743
♣

W N **E** S
2♣ 3♠ 4♦ P
6♦ P P P

W Dor1938
♠ A3
♥ AKQ2
♦ AQJ5
♣ AQ6

E jtv54
♠ 96
♥ 983
♦ K10962
♣ K109

S lindacam
♠ J2
♥ J104
♦ 8
♣ J875432

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	4	0	0	6	0
S	4	0	0	6	0
E	9	12	12	7	13
W	9	13	13	7	13

Par Score: -2220
Par: EW 7NT

6♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0

General: 13 tricks are available to E/W in NT D and even H thanks to a friendly 3-3 split in H in the defences hands I would expect slam to be called in NT or D. 2 out of seven E/W got to slam one in NT and one in D. There is nothing to say about declarer play as declarer has (1S +4H +5D +3C=13 tricks). It is noteworthy to note that where slam was reached E bid after N had interfered in the auction. Here are my comments

Hand 1: S pass W 1C (I presume precision club but not alerted) N 2S (alerted) E X S pass W 3S N pass E 4D S pass W 6NT (playing pairs a good bid) (+1470)

Hand 2 :S pass W 2C (alerted-strongest bid) N 3S (a bit more aggressive than bidding 1) E 4D(a different action) S pass W 6D (+ 1390)

Hand 3 : S pass W 2NT (you are already off on the wrong foot if open a 26 point hand with a 2NT bid))N pass ? E 3NT S pass W pass N 4S E X (While I believe that N should have rather bid at the 3 level and loses (-800) he is desperately unlucky to finish 3rd bottom due to no more E/W bidding slam

Hand 4 : S pass W 1C (Alerted precision 16+)3S E X W 3NT (After E has X I believe this is an under bid)(+720)

Hand 5 : S pass W 2C N 3S E pass (this is the problem after W has opened 2C) S pass W 4H Declarer is lucky to make 13 tricks (+710)

Hand 6 : S pass W 2C N pass E 2D S pass W 2NT (this is the problem the correct bid is 3NT) Again declarer obviously does not count the tricks (has a minimum of 12 and possibility of 13 if H break) and ducks the S opening trick (not the time to duck a trick and ends up with 12 tricks not the 13 available (+690)

Hand 7 : S pass W 2C N3S E pass? (the problem)S pass W 4H . Declarer fails to draw trumps and ends up with 12 tricks as N ruffs a C after a D lead (+680)

Analyses ref : 159 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73290**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 6 October 2025
Hand Number : 9
Theme : Failure to get to a laydown slam.

D 9		N jtv54 ♠ A3 ♥ 10 ♦ AKQJ85 ♣ A843	W N E S 1♥ 1♦ P P P P P 3♦																														
W ice 3 ♠ 1084 ♥ AKJ4 ♦ 976 ♣ Q52			E A3456 ♠ J965 ♥ Q863 ♦ 2 ♣ J1076																														
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
N	9	12	7	9	9																												
S	9	12	7	9	9																												
E	4	0	6	3	2																												
W	4	0	6	3	2																												

General: A lay down 12 tricks is available to N/S in D but needless to say no partnership got close bidding this slam in diamonds. It is a hand I am not proud of but is important for 2 reasons (1) The difficulty of keeping your concentration as an absolute necessity if you aspire to play good bridge and (2) To have the knowledge to bid correctly which includes learning all the conventions that may be necessary to get you to your best contract When I agreed to write Jacks Corner the main purpose of my efforts was to improve the bridge of every member of the Pretoria Bridge Club including myself and this hand while embarrassing to me is a perfect hand to understand what I mean. After discussing the bidding I will show you how the hand should be bid E/W do not bid except for hand 7..

Hand 1 : N 1D S 1H N 3C S 3NT : The lead is the KH by W and E plays the 3H W switches to a club and when E discards spades declarer makes 12 tricks instead of 9 with E/W taking 4 H tricks WHAT went wrong ? It is all about signals! IF E/W do not have signalling system they will continue to miss defend. What could be easier ? E can play either 8H or the 3H when W plays the KH .All that E/W need to do is to decide whether in this case E should play his highest affordable card or his lowest card to encourage continuation of the suit. I encourage with a low card and if I play the 3H W must continue the suit. I would suggest a short discussion between E and W to discuss signals.

Hand 2 : N 1D S 1H N 3NT The lead is 6C and E does not discard a S so 11 tricks are made

Hand 3: N 1D S 1H N 2NT S 3NT The lead is the JC and like hand 2 11 tricks are made


Hand 4: N 1D S 1H N 3C S 3D N4D S 5D .The closest bidding to get to 6D and if you agree with my assessment that minor suit should not be bid if you can bid 3NT N may just as well bid 6D

Hand 5: N 1D S 1H N 3NT This time the 3H is led and the defenders take 4H tricks

Hand 6: N 1C S 2D N 3NT-The 3H is led and defenders take 4H tricks

Hand 7: N1D E pass S pass ? (I was very busy greeting my opponents and saw it was me to bid and I did not have an opening hand so I passed and then I saw N had opened but too late as W had already bid a H. W 1H N 2D E 2H and I had another chance to bid S 3D(too little , too late) which was passed out (I should have cue bid 3H) Partner made 12 tricks (+170) for a zero .Now let me discuss how a partnership should bid to 6D. Firstly you need to play the MULTI 2 DIAMOND. N has 8 iron clad tricks in D and should open 2 D S 2H N 3D S 4D N 4S S 4NT N 5D (1 or 4 controls –obviously 4) S 6D (Easy if you concentrate and use the multi 2 diamond convention)

Analyses ref : 160 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73291**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 9 October 2025
Hand Number : 4
Theme : The Brozal Convention

	N jtv54 ♠ J98743 ♥ AQ8 ♦ 62 ♣ 62	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1NT	P	P	2♦	P	2♥	P	P	P																	
	W	N	E	S																												
1NT	P	P	2♦																													
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W Mariusfis ♠ A102 ♥ K9 ♦ KJ943 ♣ KQ5	E keijer ♠ KQ ♥ 6542 ♦ 75 ♣ J10743																															
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W	8	7	6	5	7																											

General: The Brozal convention: It is difficult to get into the bidding auction if one of your opponents opens 1NT as was the case with this board and this convention is an attempt to make it easier to do so. It is a 2 part convention (1) If you X the opening you have a long suit (2) If you have a distributional hand hopefully a 5/4 distribution you are able to convey that fact to partner on the following basis .The system makes H the key suit as follows 2C means C&H 2D means D&H 2H means H&S and finally 2S means S& a minor suit. I am a firm believer that if possible you should not allow the opposition to play in 1NT. OF COURSE VULNERABILITY MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. Par for the hand is E/W (3C=+110) (2D= +90) (1NT=+90) given best defence and declarer play N/S can make 2S (+110) or (1H +80) also given best defence and declarer play It is more difficult N to X a 1NT opening as he cannot be sure who has the remaining points. It is easier for S to enter the auction if E passes 1 NT

Hand 1: N/S do not bid W 1NT E 2C (WHY ? just pass) W 2D E pass . With 5 losers (2H+ 2D+1C) the hand is makeable but declarer did not play well and went 2 down (-200)

Hand 2: W 1NT N pass E pass S 2D (Alerted D+H) W pass N 2H . Declarer takes advantage of a defensive error and makes his contract (+110)

Hand 3 : W 1C (precision) N 2S (Weak – A good bid taking advantage of the vulnerability)E X S pass W 3D .Declarer plays the hand correctly and achieves par (-100) The precision club system certainly did W/E no favours

Hands 4,5 & 6 W 1NT passed out In hand 4 declarer makes a big mistake by playing a 2nd S before setting up dummies clubs but thanks to a defensive error manages to make INT while hands 5 & 6 declarer took advantage of the failure of S to switch to the JH although in hand 6 N discard of the 8H was always going to allow declarer to make 8 tricks

Analyses ref : 161 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #73291**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 9 October 2025
Hand Number : 17
Theme : Bergen raises

D <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">17</div>		N chrisf1950 ♠ AK943 ♥ AK432 ♦ J106 ♣ J106	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		2♣	P	2♦	3♦	3NT	P	4♠	5♦	5♠	P	P	P													
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
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W	1	8	0	0	0																												

General: Sounds familiar with the club finesse succeeding N/S should make 13 tricks in spades but slam was only called and made once. I believe the Bergen convention would have helped N/S to again reach a lay down slam. Explaining the Bergen convention is the following If you have a fit of at least 4 cards in a major suit and partner opens that suit there are 2 conventions that should be used to acknowledge that fact Bergen and Jacoby which works as follows . If you have 7-9 points (counting distributional points like 3 for a void and 2 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton)you bid 3C and if you have 10-12 points likewise counting distributional points you bid 3D and if you have 13 points or more you bid 2NT (Jacoby) > These conventions make it much easier to investigate slams setting the trump suit immediately. In the case of this board this is the bidding I suggest. N IS S 3D (Bergen)Now N can make a cue bid to show his D void (whether it is XX or 4D or even 5D and S would be obligated to cue bid clubs so six spades would be reached)Now what exactly happened > The correct way to play the hand is to trump the opening D lead draw trumps and take the club finesse and can then test the H which break 4-1 but can be played for no losers by S trumping the 4th H > E does not enter the bidding

Hand 1: N 1S S 1NT (It is fundamental in bridge to agree on spades as the trump suit immediately – this is a poor bid) W 2D N 2H (You need to show strength 3H would be correct S 2S W 3D N 3S (again a under bid 4S is correct) passed out. Declarer misplays the hand and makes only 11 tricks. Both N & S can be blamed for not even reaching game never mind slam.(+200)

Hand 2 : N 2C(Alerted-15+ points any distribution) S 2D(Alerted-unlimited relay)W 3D N 3 NT (Alerted 55 or better majors) S 4S W 5D N 5S passed out. Declarer does not take C finesse early enough and makes 12 tricks (+480)

Hand 3 : N 1S S 2S W 3D N 4S Declarer again does not take the C finesse early enough and makes 12 tricks. Declarer also does not take the C finesse early enough and makes 12 tricks (+480)

Hand 4: N 1S S 2S W3D N 3H S 4S – S has shown about 10 points so N should investigate slam by bidding 5 D . Declarer plays correctly and makes 13 tricks (+510)

Hand 5 : N 1S S 2NT (alerted S fit 10+ HCP)W 3D N 4S(I believe 4D is a better bid)Declarer plays correctly and makes 13 tricks (+510)

Hand 6: N 1S S 3S (a slight over bid with a flat hand) W 4D N 6S . The slight over bid has influenced N who recognises a good hand (well done Isabelle & Darryl as the only pair to get to 6S).Declarer only makes 12 tricks giving up a trick to the KC (+980)

Analyses ref : 162 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #88269**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 13 October 2025
Hand Number : 13
Theme : The END Play.

D

13

Njtv54

♠

Q10765

♥

862

♦

AKQ

♣

Q6

W

N

E

S

P

1♠

2♥

4♠

P

P

P

W

Bashewa

♠

2

♥

104

♦

J876

♣

1085432

E

abotha

♠

A8

♥

AQJ53

♦

532

♣

KJ9

S

Dor1938

♠

KJ943

♥

K97

♦

1094

♣

A7

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	5	7	5	9	8
S	5	6	5	9	6
E	8	6	8	4	4
W	8	6	8	4	4

Par Score: 140
Par: NS 2♠+1

4♠ N

NS: 0 EW: 0

General: The END Play: It was pleasing to see that 4 declarers played the board perfectly to execute an end play that was necessary to make their contract of 4S .4 declarers did not and I picked this board to show those declarers who did not make 4S how correct reasoning at the bridge table will make you a better declarer Well done Joe, Arthur, Ice & Sulsam who recognised that to make their contract they needed to end play E .

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR to declarer that there was 4 Losers when he dummy comes down (1S + 2H+ 1C=4)and the only loser he had any chance of avoiding was a club loser. There is a difficult defence that E can find to beat the contract. CAN YOU ! Think about it before I tell you!

E needs to find the AH lead followed by the Q H.E can then win the AS cash a H and get out with a spade and wait for the C trick that must arrive

7 of 8 N/S pairs got to 4 S and one stopped in 3 which was just as well as the hand was miss played for 9 tricks

Hands 1,2,3 & 4 : Did not get a H lead and played the hand well and made the 10 tricks on an end play.

Hand 5 : N/S only reached 3S got the AH and 3H continuation and did herself no favours by ducking the 3H and now there was no H left to end play E

Hand 6,7 & 8 : All 3 declarers miss played the hand with hands 6 & 7not finding the end play including MR Robot who was obviously not programmed for end plays .Hand 8 declarer did find the end play but fell from grace when a C was played by E he rose with the AC? Which had to be a losing play.

Analyses ref : 163 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #88269**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 13 October 2025
Hand Number : 15
Theme : The art of defending

15

D

N

jtv54

♠ 8

♥ 92

♦ K8764

♣ Q10975

W

Tessa 3

♠ Q7652

♥ KQ6

♦ Q109

♣ J2

E

Isabelledp

♠ AJ1043

♥ J4

♦ AJ5

♣ K84

S

Dor1938

♠ K9

♥ A108753

♦ 32

♣ A63

♠

♥

♦

♣

NT

N	8	6	7	4	5
S	8	6	7	3	5
E	5	6	6	9	8
W	5	6	6	9	8

Par Score: -140

Par: EW 2♠+1

W

N

E

S

P

P

1♠

P

2♣

P

P

P

2♣ E

NS: 0 EW: 0

General: The art of defending: The par on this board is (N/S +140) as only 9 tricks are available in spades and yet out of 8 boards 6 E/W made 10 tricks. Why? Was it as a result of bad defence by S who laid down the AC allowing declarer to make his KC. As I have said on numerous occasions DONT lay down Aces to catch fresh air. I wish I had listened to myself because I was one of the players sitting S that laid down the AC. Why because declarer had a discard on a H and like 6 other defenders failed to count out declarer's hand. If you take the trouble to count out declarer's hand you should realise that one discard was not enough to make 10 tricks. Declarer had 5S + 2H = 7 so if E had 3D or less he would have to have 3C and 1 discard would not be enough to make the hand if he had 4D or more than it was necessary to lay down the AC in the hope that N had the KC.

The final clue was could be found in counting out the N hand where N had 1S + 2H so had 10 cards in the minor suits so on the law of averages he was likely to have at least five diamonds making the correct defensive play was simply to give declarer the discard. One C can be discarded but declarer must go down as he has 2C losers. (The KC & 8C) Nobody says bridge is an easy game to play.


Hand 1: E/W played in 4S and went 1 down with S not cashing the AC

Hand 2: E/W played in 3S and declarer made 9 tricks when S did not cash the AC

Hands 3,4 & 5 : E/W played in 2S and made 10 tricks when S cashed the AC

Hands 6,7 & 8 : E/W played in 4S and made 10 tricks when S cashed the AC

Analyses ref : 164 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #100**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 16 October 2025
Hand Number : 4
Theme : The Opening Lead

	N Bashewa ♠ 1053 ♥ J63 ♦ 1062 ♣ A1092	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	2♣	P	2♣	P	4♣	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S																		
1♦	P	1♠	P																			
1NT	P	2♣	P																			
2♣	P	4♣	P																			
P	P																					
W Dor1938 ♠ KJ4 ♥ Q108 ♦ QJ853 ♣ K5	E jtv54 ♠ Q9762 ♥ A4 ♦ AK4 ♣ 864																					

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	8	3	8	3	5
S	8	3	8	3	5
E	5	9	5	9	7
W	5	9	5	9	7

Par Score: -140
Par: EW 2♣+1

S johng6414
♠ A8
♥ K9752
♦ 97
♣ QJ73

Explanations
2♣ =
checkback
styman

4♣ E
NS: 0 EW: 0

General: W has a flat hand with 5D and 12 HCP (A legal opening) E has a flat hand with 5S and 13 HCP so it is no mystery why E/W got to game in all 6 hands played last night. In 4 hands E/W reached 4S and in 2 hands 3NT. The Par score in spades is 3S (+140) and in NT the par score is 1NT (+90) In spades 2 declarers made 11 tricks 1 declarer made 10 tricks and 1 declarer went down 1 (the par score) in NT one declarer made 11 tricks and one declarer made 9 tricks WHY?

The Lead: Only in 1 case was the correct lead made THE QC –When you make a lead it is best to be positive and it is my belief (and in the belief of programmers of robots) that the best lead (QC) will work out well if partner has the AC or KC. I dismiss the lead of a S which can only help declarer with timing and of the H which is positive but risky with 5 hearts and D which is completely negative. S is the culprit here as NO S except the Robot made the lead with every S getting another chance to switch to QC when it should be clear that in order to beat the contract N MUST have the AC > NO S found that switch a clear case of BAD defence. Looking at all the hands here are my comments: N/S do not bid

Hand 1: W 1D E 1S W 2C E 3C W 3 D E 3NT Lead is 5H (fair enough) W 8H N JH E AH Declarer plays on S returning to his hand with the AD (does not take the D finesse so has the KD) to play another spade won by S who cashes a winning H and instead of thinking beat the contract (S should now know that declarer has 4S +5D +2H =11 tricks) simply gives declarer his 11 tricks by not playing the QC but gives declarer his 11th trick & 7 tricks that declarer is entitled to becomes 11 tricks (-660)

Hand 2 : W 1D E 2S (a bid that makes little sense to me as although he has 5 spades they are not good enough to bid 2S which is a try for slam (never mind game)W 3S E 4S Lead is the negative 7D and S remains negative by not switching to the QC when his AS is knocked out and a contract that should be beaten is made (+650)

Hand 3 : W 1D E 2S (Read hand 2)W 3S N 4S Lead is the negative 9D and now wait for it. We at last find a S that sees the need to switch to clubs BUT and it is a HUGE BUT the switch is to the 3 of clubs not the QC and N unfortunately does not have Xray eyes and missing both the Q and J of clubs is forced to play the AC. I am flabbergasted and upset that someone with a bridge brain has not learned that if you lead a suit which is headed by the QJ of that suit you are obligated to show partner you have those cards otherwise you are fooling partner>I hope never to see that mistake again. Now N is forced to play the AC the H loser can be discarded and what should be 9 tricks becomes 11 tricks (+650)

Hand 4: W 1D E 1S W 1NT E 2C W 2S E 4S Lead again is the negative 9D but this time when declarer attempts to knock out the AS he fails to force out the AS by using his KJ of S in dummy and when S now switches to the QC (WELL DONE JOHN you were the only S (except for a Robot) who saw the need to play to play the QC) and this time unfortunately N makes the mistake of only cashing only 2 clubs (the 3rd C would force declarer to ruff with the KS thus promoting his 10S as the setting trick(+620)

Hand 5 : W 1D E 1S W 1NT E 3NT Lead is 2C Which gives the contract but at least holds declarer to 9 tricks (+600) A H lead and the QC return would produce the best defence of the hand only allowing declarer to make 7 tricks

Hand 6 : W 1D E 2S (read hand 2- Why do you think this is a good bid –it is not) W 3 S E 4S : Lead QC (so the person responsible for programming the robots agrees with me as to what is the correct lead) and declarer loses 4 tricks going 1 down.(-100)

Analyses ref : 165 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #100**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 16 October 2025
Hand Number : 14
Theme : Declarer Play

14

D

W jonstrande

♠ 108762

♥ KQ7

♦ Q

♣ AJ73

S Dor1938

♠ 5

♥ J5432

♦ KJ963

♣ K10

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	8	10	11	7	9
S	8	10	11	7	9
E	4	3	2	6	2
W	4	3	2	6	3

Par Score: 450
Par: NS 4♥+1

N jtv54

♠ AK43

♥ A108

♦ A2

♣ Q862

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♠	1NT	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	3♦
P	3♥	P	4♥
P	P	P	

E Robot

♠ QJ9

♥ 96

♦ 108754

♣ 954

2♦ = trfer

3♦ = suit

4♥ N
NS: 0 EW: 0

General: Par for this board is (+620) 4H bid and 10 tricks made .Only two declarers achieved par.

The hand was played 5 times in H with 11 tricks made once 10 tricks twice and 9 tricks twice. It was played in NT once where 10 tricks were available but declarer went one down so declarer play is the main problem of this board. I discuss all the hands with my comments

Hand 1: E pass S pass W 1S N 1NT E pass S 2D (trf) W pass N 2H E pass S 3D (2nd suit) W pass N 3H E pass S 4H : The lead is CORRECT the QS (see top of a sequence)and declarer wins with the KS and plays a D to the K noting the fall of QD and plays a H with W understandably does not split honours (E may have the JH) and the 10H in dummy wins. The non –splitting of honours turns out to be a mistake on this board as declarer now plays a club and when that loses to the AC declarer simply has to play the AH and then start cashing side winners ruffing a losing D in dummy and the defence can only take the KH & AC (+4 W50)Well played JOE

Hand 2 : E pass S pass W 1S N 1NT E 2S S 3D ?(Is this a trf)W pass N 3NT E 4H –the Lead is the QD and declarer- basically loses the AC and two H and makes 10 tricks (+420)

Hand 3 : E pass S pass W 1S N 1NT E pass S 2D W pass N 2H which is passed out and 10 tricks made. While I have tried to tell players that points are LESS important than distribution some players seem to have their own ideas. With 8 points and great distribution S MUST try and reach game.(+170)

Hand 4 : E pass S pass W 1S N 1NT E pass S 2D W pass N2H E pass S pass (read hand 3 as to what I think of your pass) The lead is the QS so let us now count points (N 17 +S 8 + E 2 points you CAN see 27 points E has opened so is marked with 12 or 13 points SO there is no room for H points in the E Hand > Declarer needs to look at hand 1 to see how he should play to make 11 tricks NOT 9 (+140)

Hand 5 : E pass S pass W 1S N X (I prefer 1NT) E pass S 2H W pass N pass E 2S S 3D W pass N 3NT (partner has shown a distributional hand surely 4H is the correct bid) As declarer play goes declarer plays the H suit for 2 tricks instead of 4 and goes 1 down (-50)

Hand 6 : E pass S pass W 1S N X (read hand 5) E pass S 2H W pass N 3H E pass S 4H > The lead is the QD and the best I can about declarers play is that it is erratic trumping both the winning KS and the winning QC and giving W the chance to trump his winning KD and goes 1 down (-50)

Analyses ref : 166 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #15299**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 20 October 2025
Hand Number : 5
Theme : Game or Slam?

<div>D</div> <div>5</div>		<div>N Robot</div> <div>♠ Q8</div> <div>♥ KQ1074</div> <div>♦ 4</div> <div>♣ A8542</div>	<div>W</div> <div>N</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> <div>1♥</div> <div>2♦</div> <div>P</div> <div>2♥</div> <div>P</div> <div>3♣</div> <div>P</div> <div>4♠</div> <div>P</div> <div>P</div>																													
<div>W Dor1938</div> <div>♠ A96532</div> <div>♥ A83</div> <div>♦ AK</div> <div>♣ 93</div>			<div>E jtv54</div> <div>♠ KJ7</div> <div>♥ 5</div> <div>♦ QJ1085</div> <div>♣ KQ106</div>																													
<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>8</td><td>12</td><td>6</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>8</td><td>12</td><td>6</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <div>Par Score: -990</div> <div>Par: EW 6NT</div>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	1	7	0	1	S	4	1	7	0	1	E	8	12	6	12	12	W	8	12	6	12	12	<div>S mariemmweb</div> <div>♠ 104</div> <div>♥ J962</div> <div>♦ 97632</div> <div>♣ J7</div>	<div>4♠ W</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	4	1	7	0	1																											
S	4	1	7	0	1																											
E	8	12	6	12	12																											
W	8	12	6	12	12																											

General: 13 tricks are available in spades to E/W if N does not lead his AC (no N did) but only 1 declarer made 13 tricks.(Well done Duncan) while no E/W's bid a slam and 2 E/W's did not even bid to game. While with interference bidding it is difficult to get to slam there can be no excuse if game is not reached. Bidding and my comments follow

Hand 1: N 1H E X S pass W 4S – the problem with this bidding while correct leaves no room for slam investigation. Declarer play: on the lead of the 4D declarer wins with the AD and makes a decision to play trumps hoping for a 2-2 break in trumps but what is important that after drawing trumps he ends up in his hand and can cash the KD and ruff a H in the E hand and discard his losing H and 2 clubs on the QJ10 of D making 13 tricks (6S + AH + H ruff + 5D = 13) (+510)

Hand 2: N 1H E 2D S pass W 2H (cue bid & forcing) but when E bids 3C decides to go no further than 4S : Declarer play : Declarer decides to play it safe in case S don't break 2-2 of trumping two H on the KH lead before drawing only 1 trump and in order to draw the second and fearing that a D would be trumped plays the KC and trumps a club to get back his hand and makes 12 tricks (+480)

Hand 3 : N 1H E X S pass W 2H N pass E 3D S pass W 4S : Lead 3D won by W who draws 2 S and has a chance to make 13 tricks(see Hand 1 above) but plays a C and loses to the AC (+480)

Hand 4 : N 1H E X S pass W 2S N pass E 3S S pass W 4S : Lead KH Declarer likewise draws 2 S and can now make 13 tricks(see Hand 1) but also plays a C losing to the AC (+480)

Hand 5 : N 1H E X S 3H W 3S passed out: Lead KH Declarer makes 11 tricks as he loses the AC and a D ruff +(200)

Hand 6 : N 1H E 2NT ?S 3D passed out : Lead QH When declarer plays a C N instead of forcing dummy to ruff a H promoting a D trick for S returns a C and declarer is able to draw trumps and makes 12 tricks but a bottom remains a bottom (+170)

Analyses ref : 167 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #15299**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 20 October 2025
Hand Number : 7
Theme : The power of a 5-5 hand

7

D

W Dor1938

♠ 64

♥ KJ6

♦ 96

♣ AQ9842

N Isabelledp

♠ K72

♥ A10975

♦ QJ5

♣ K6

E jtv54

♠ J83

♥ 8432

♦ 1073

♣ J53

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	7	12	10	12	11
S	7	12	10	12	11
E	5	0	3	0	1
W	5	0	3	0	1

Par Score: 1430

Par: NS 6♠

S Tessa 3

♠ AQ1095

♥ Q

♦ AK842

♣ 107

4♠ S
NS: 0 EW: 0

General: Unbid slams continue unabated when a lay down slam in spades is only bid by one N/S (Well done Marius & Dave)Players can be forgiven for not bidding this slam as followers of points will be quick to tell you that N/S only had 28 points of which two points were worthless (QH)BUT what they will not tell you is that S had a good distributional 5-5 hand with 13 points in spades and diamonds the 2 5 card suits. Nor will they tell you that that N 13 points were all working points the AH and KC (after W had bid clubs)and all other 6 points were in spades and diamonds. My point is DO NOT make decisions solely based on points as if you do your ability to play bridge will never improve. Below is the bidding of the 6 hands with my comments.

Hand 1: S 1S W 2C N 3C (A thoughtful bid just made too early-see suggested bidding) E pass S 3D W pass N 4S

Hand 2 : S 1S W 2C N 2H E pass S 3D W pass N 4S

Hand 3: S 1S W 2C N 3C (see hand 1 for comment) E pass S 4S

Hand 4 : S 1S W 2C N 2H E pass S 3D W pass N 4S

Hand 5 : S 2C W pass N 2H E pass S 2S W 3C N X passed out I agree with the W bidding and would not be concerned with his 2nd bottom. He could just as well have earned a TOP if the remaining N/S had all bid slam.

Hand 6 : S 1S W 2C N 2H E pass S 3D W pass N 4NT E pass S 5H (Blackwood 2Aces)W pass N 5NT E
pass S 6D (1 King –hopefully the KD and Not the KH) W pass N 6S

While complementing Dave on his ability to think out the box that he has a good hand after W has
bid 2C and he has earned his top I believe the following bidding would be best to reach 6S

Suggested Bidding : S 1S W 2C N 2H E pass S 3D W pass N 4C (now S knows N is looking for slam and
it is his duty to advise he has 5-5 hand and bid 4D)W pass N 4NT (I of course have
recommended that players change to KEY CARD)E pass S 5S (showing the 2 Aces and the QS)
W pass N 6S.

South has shown his 5-5 hand and 6S looks like the correct contract

Analyses ref : 168 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #27473**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 23 October 2025
Hand Number : 6
Theme : A lay down Slam not bid.

Hand 6

N jtv54
♠ KJ8632
♥ A98
♦ KQ76
♣

W HawkHand
♠ 1075
♥ 1085
♦ KQ1072
♣ J10

E ngbu3466
♠ Q4
♥ QJ76
♦ J543
♣ 853

S Dor1938
♠ A9
♥ AK9432
♦ 6
♣ A942

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	13	8	11	13	13
S	13	8	11	13	13
E	0	5	2	0	0
W	0	5	2	0	0

Par Score: 1520
Par: NS 7NT

Explanations
4♣ = suit

6♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

General: Another lay down slam not reached by two thirds of N/S 's. The Grand SLAM in clubs is probably the best contract to reach and a Small slam in spades is the second best contract to reach but only 2 out of 6 partnerships reached small slams one in clubs and one in spades. In both cases following safety plays 12 tricks were made. Obviously if you are in 7 clubs a safety play cannot be made. Here again are my comments on why partnerships are not reaching lay down slams.

E/W do not bid except one E that chose to X D bids by E which were a GOOD splinter bid and a response to a key card blackwood ask

Hand 1: S 1H N 2S(I agree a good bid) S 4D (splinter a GOOD bid) E X N 4NT S 5D (obviously 3 Key Cards) E X (once was enough to ask for a D lead)N 6S (the only blemish in a well bid slam-IF indeed N/S are playing key card 5H would ask for the QS) Declarer makes a safety play in S and makes 12 tricks (+ 980)

Well done Ice & Tymen.

Hand 2: S 1H N 1S (As I said in hand 1 2S is a better bid)S 3H N 4C S 5C N 6C. Declarer takes the safety play in spades and makes 12 tricks (+920)

Hand 3 : S 1H N 1S S 3H N 3NT (An underbid) Declarer has 9 tricks in NT so cannot afford to take the S finesse and makes 13 tricks when the QS drops (+520)

Hand 4 : S 1H N 1S S2H (we are back to under bidding) N 3S S 4S (failing to correct his under bid)
(+480)

Hand 5 : S 1H N 2S S 4H (a bad bid if partner jumps in spades S should realise that spades is the
correct contract (+450) (see hand 1 for better bidding)

Hand 6 : S 1H N 1S S 3H N 3NT (again an underbid) Worse is to follow as declarer does not count his
tricks and takes a S finesse and goes 1 down (-50)(Declarer should look at hand 3)

Analyses ref : 169

BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #27473

Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday

Date Played : 23 October 2025

Hand Number : 21

Theme : 7 Tricks in minor is also 7 Tricks in NT.

Hand 21 card layout and analysis. The layout shows four players: North (jtv54), West (DvVuuren), East (abotha), and South (Dor1938). North's hand is ♠ J4, ♥ Q6, ♦ A5, ♣ AKJ10863. West's hand is ♠ 1032, ♥ J732, ♦ K862, ♣ Q7. East's hand is ♠ AQ986, ♥ A954, ♦ Q43, ♣ 4. South's hand is ♠ K75, ♥ K108, ♦ J1097, ♣ 952. A table in the bottom left shows the trick count for each suit and NT, with a par score of 300 and a par result of EW 4♠x-2, 4♥x-2. An explanation box states '1♣ = can be as short as 2'. The bottom right shows the final result: 3NT S, NS: 0 EW: 0.

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	10	7	5	5	9
S	10	6	5	5	9
E	2	6	8	8	3
W	3	6	8	8	3

Par Score: 300
Par: EW 4♠x-2, 4♥x-2

Explanations
1♣ = can be as short as 2

3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

General: (1) Learn to bid when have a chance (2) 7 tricks in a minor suit is also rated to be 7 tricks in NT (3) Learn when to cover an honour

Hand 1: N 1C E 1S S 1NT(point 1 above) W pass N3NT (Although N has only 15 points he rates to have 8 tricks in NT-hence a very good bid. Well done Joe. On a S lead declarer takes 9 tricks (600)

Hand 2: N 1C E 1S S 1NT (point 1 above)W pass N 3C (I prefer 3NT) E pass S 3NT (a stretch)(600)

Hand 3: N 2C E X S 3C W pass N pass E 3S. On the lead of the JD with the QD in her hand declarer covers the JD with the KD(point 3)With no entry to dummy there is a possibility of losing 1 S trick only if you play the AS and then the QS but declarer plays a small S ensuring the loss of 2S tricks. Declarer goes 4 down in a hand where there is a possibility to make 3 spades losing 1S +1H (when N helps by playing the QH)1D if N does not go up with his AD all declarer needs to do is duck the next D and 1 C =4) Declarer will get some advice from me (-200)

Hand 4:N 1C E 1S S 2C (why not 1NT ?) W 2S N3C (without a S stopper that is the best N can do) passed out on the lead of the AH declarer does not need to lose a D and makes 11 tricks (+150)

Hand 5: N 2C (15 + points any distribution) E X S XX W 2H N 2NT ? (don't ask me ?) E pass S 3C ? (I admit I don't know how Erna & Chris do so well playing the system they play) passed out .On the AH declarer also makes 11 tricks(+150)

Hand 6: N 1C E 1S S pass? (does not agree with 1 above?) W pass N 3C E 3H passed out and a bottom. Perhaps S should agree with 1 above?(-50)

Analyses ref : 170 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #57150**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 27 October 2025
Hand Number : 17
Theme : Distributional Hands

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> D <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: 2em; margin: 5px 0;">17</div> </div>		N Robot ♠ A103 ♥ KQ32 ♦ 62 ♣ Q1062	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	P	1♣	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	2♥	P	2♠	P	P	P										
W	N	E	S																														
	P	P	P																														
1♣	P	1♠	P																														
2♣	P	2♥	P																														
2♠	P	P	P																														
W Dor1938 ♠ 542 ♥ 54 ♦ KQ7 ♣ AKJ95		E jtv54 ♠ Q9876 ♥ AJ976 ♦ 983 ♣																															
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S	7	7	6	5	7																												
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General: Where as simple bidding should get you to the correct contract of 2S the bidding on this board is far from simple. Players must learn a system to show distributional hands in order to compete effectively !

Bidding 1 : N/S do not bid E pass W 1C E 1S W 2C E 2H W 2S passed out Looking at E/W hands Declarer has 3S losers + 1H loser and 1D loser so the contract looks correct but N having given S a H ruff plays the AS and crashes S KS and declarer makes 9 tricks (+140)

Bidding 2 : N/S do not bid E pass W 1C E 1S W 2S E 2NT W 3C E 3S The defence to put it plainly is lousy as despite my advice never to under lead an ACE S under leads her AD (her longest suit) and the QD and AK of clubs takes care of the D loser and now when declarer plays a H from dummy N fails to split honours and the AJ of H ensures no H losers (0H +0D +0C=0)Declarer can the afford to lose spades and he loses 4 spades and finishes with 9 tricks (+140)

Bidding 3 : N pass E pass S 2D passed out. Declarer loses 1H + 2D + 2C + A C ruff and goes 1 down(-50) which is a third bottom so whether S attempt to muddy the water is successful is open to debate

Bidding 4 : N pass E 2H ? (I have no idea what this means ?) S pass W 2NT N pass E 3S S pass W 4S (like me I think W is confused with bidding that has got them to a bad contract (-100)

Bidding 5 : N 1D (Besides being an illegal bid (the count reaches 19 on the rule of 18 /20)) the bid with a doubleton D gets the bidding off on the wrong footing E Pass ?(With 2 five card major suits E needs to bid 1S) S 2D W pass N 2NT E pass S pass W 3C (W has taken N/S from an unmake able 2NT to an unmake able 3C. E 's failure to bid at the 1 level is the main reason for the disaster.

Bidding 6 : N 1NT E pass ? Again there are ways to show a 5-5 in the majors .I bid 2H the robots do so by bidding 2D and the failure to bid by E is again the major problem and when S passes and W bids 2C which gets doubled E has a 2nd chance to bid 2S which is unbeatable.

Analyses ref : 171 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #57150**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 27 October 2025
Hand Number : 18
Theme : Does responder bid with only 4 points?

<div>18 D</div>		<div>N Robot</div> <div>♠ 93 ♥ A765 ♦ Q83 ♣ AKQ10</div>	<div>W N E S</div> <div>1♠ P 1♣ P P P 2♣ P</div>																														
<div>W Dor1938</div> <div>♠ A842 ♥ 932 ♦ 965 ♣ 863</div>		<div>E jtv54</div> <div>♠ KQJ6 ♥ QJ8 ♦ K104 ♣ J74</div>																															
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr></table> <div>Par Score: 600 Par: NS 3NT</div>			♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	9	10	9	8	9	S	9	9	9	7	9	E	4	3	4	5	4	W	4	3	4	5	4	<div>S Robot</div> <div>♠ 1075 ♥ K104 ♦ AJ72 ♣ 952</div>	<div>2♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0</div>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
N	9	10	9	8	9																												
S	9	9	9	7	9																												
E	4	3	4	5	4																												
W	4	3	4	5	4																												

General: This board is a nightmare board for E/W as when E opens a C W has a big decision to make whether to bid a S or to pass. I am sure that you have been repeatedly told that you cannot bid with a flat 4 point hand BUT two other factors need to be taken into account to make such the decision. (1) In many systems if partner opens a club there is a 50-50 chance that he does not have 4 clubs and (2) you are not vulnerable against opponents that are. For those reasons I bid 1S over a C opening (holding my breath as I do so) When partner bids 2S you can breathe again. Of course you are hardly likely to make your contract but unless X you only lose 50 points a trick. Par for this hand is N/S (+120 for the making of 2NT) or N/S (+110 for making 3 clubs)

Let us see what actually happened!


Bidding 1 : E 1C S pass W 1S N pass E 2S. As declarer you go 2 down and lose (-100)

Bidding 2 : E 1C S pass W pass N 1NT . Declarer loses 4 S and a D and makes 2NT (+120)

Bidding 3 :: E 1D S pass W 1S N X E 2S S pass W pass N 3C .Declarer makes 10 tricks when E cashes 2S and switches to the QH making an extra H by finessing the 10H (+130)

Bidding 4 ,5 & 6 : E 1C passed out Every declarer makes 4 tricks going down 3 (-150)

Analyses ref : 172 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #57151**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 30 October 2025
Hand Number : 4
Theme : When NOT to take a finesse!

	N mignonlei ♠ 72 ♥ AK107 ♦ J104 ♣ AQ87	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♣	P	2♠	P	3NT	P	P	P																	
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W Dor1938 ♠ A8654 ♥ 843 ♦ A852 ♣ 5	E jtv54 ♠ 10 ♥ 9 ♦ Q9763 ♣ K109642																															
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	5	3	10	9	8																											
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W	7	9	2	4	4																											

General: (1) When not to take a finesse (2) Get out of bad habits –with 2 5 card majors you MUST show both suits (3) If your opposition makes a bad bid in bridge you have a duty to punish that bid (4) Declarers play must be made taking all probabilities into account.

Par on this board is 4H bid and made (+620). The contact is unbeatable but was made only once out of 5 attempts . Looking at all hands here are my comments

Hand 1: W 2S N X E pass S 3H ? (Why not just pass –on a S lead or switch declarers losers are a minimum of (3S +3H +1D +1C=8) and the contract will go down 3 (-800) and a top-(read 3 above)) W pass N 4H .The lead is 5C –now let us count your losers (1S +0H + 1D+ 1C=3)and your contract is safe as long as you win the first club trick with your AC(read 1 above) and draw trumps. The danger is that the 5C is a singleton a strong possibility given the 2 S opening and 5C lead .BUT how is it possible to go 3 down? Well you cannot avoid 2 club ruffs 1 S ruff AD AS but you can only go 3 down if you fail to ruff the 3rd club high enough in dummy.3 down in a makeable contract means rather poor declarer play (-300)

Hand 2 : W pass N 1C E pass S 2S (I have no idea who has taught E to bid 2S but it is a BAD habit (read 2 above)which shows at least a 6 card powerful suit without another suit (IN FACT IT IS A SLAM TRY with at least 6 solid tricks in the suit bid) but I have now noticed it is a bad habit of more than 1 player W pass N 3NT ? WHY NOT 2NT to show a maximum of 14 points. Having arrived in a bad contract the 6D lead seals the fate of the contract where declarer must lose 4D +1S but instead of settling for 1 down now takes the C finesse and goes 2 down (-200)

Hand 3 : W pass N 1H?(a player that opens 4 card majors)E pass S 4H.The lead is the 10S and E secures her ruff (WITH THE 9H)and a D switch to the AD and West returns a S. Whether declarer has noticed that E has trumped with the 9H or not the correct declarer thinking should be that E has only 1H or why should she trump with the 9H.Declarer should read 4 above a simply discard a club. If E trumps the spade she should be congratulated on her deceptive play. By discarding on the S declarer can discard all three clubs from his hand and does not require the C finesse (1 above)(-100)

Hand 4 : W pass N 1C E pass S 1S W pass N 1NT S 4H (at last a good auction) If only declarer had played as well as he bid as on the 5C lead he ducks the C (not counting his winners) and goes 1 down (-100)

Hand 5 : W pass N 1C E pass S 1S W pass N 2H (obviously does not play reverse bids as strong hands- a problem in my book) E pass S 4H .The lead is the 3D which is won by W with the AD and the switch is to the 5C and like all declarers to date declarer does not bother to count his winners and ducks the C to the KC and when E returns a C which is ruffed fails to give E a S ruff and declarer settles for 1 down (not 2 down)(-100)

Hand 6 : W pass N 1C E 2NT ?(minors but not a bid to make when vulnerable)S 3S W 4D N 4S E pass S pass W X (whether W should X as partners bid has caused N to put his partner into a hopeless contract is a question that E/W should sort out.) N pass E 5D (It is a question of trust! Yes I NEVER pull my partners penalty X's but I do see the problem of bidding without defensive tricks I think E should continue with what I consider as brave bidding BUT never distrust partners X again. The contract goes 2 down (-500) which unluckily is a train smash as so many declarers have gone down in a cold 4H.

Hand 7 : W pass N 1C E pass S 1S W pass N 2H (see hand 5) E pass S 4H .The lead is the 10S Mr W robot does not give Mr E robot a S ruff and Dave does well not to take the C finesse when Robot E switches to a C (+620)

Analyses ref : 173 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #57151**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 30 October 2025
Hand Number : 5
Theme : Another Slam that got away.

<div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 5px; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">5</div> </div>		N Isabelledp ♠ K10 ♥ AQ10975 ♦ AQJ ♣ 104	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♥	P	2NT	P	4♥	P	P	P																
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N	11	13	13	10	13																											
S	11	13	13	10	13																											
E	1	0	0	3	0																											
W	1	0	0	3	0																											
		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0 </div>																														

General: Another board in which 5 N/S's do not get to slam with 15 tricks available (2S +6H + 5D +2C=15) Not a certainty but 12 tricks will always available if the D finesse is on or hearts break 3-3 or if the JH falls in 1 or 2 or 3 draws. With the D finesse a 50-50 chance and H a good % to produce 6 tricks I would estimate that at small slam is at least a 75% chance, and should be bid but was not even investigated by 5 N/S's .For HCP addicts you need 33 points to make a slam and N/S have only 30 points but what points (16 (4 Aces)+ 9 points (3 kings) +4 points (2 Queens + 1 point 1 Jack)S has a 6 card suit and N has a 5 card suit in my humble opinion better than 33 points with jacks and queens and no long suits

My comments on where the bidding has gone wrong is the following.

Hand 1 : N 1H S 3NT What an investigation ! The only good thing I could say about it is 3NT is better than 2NT –While S has a very good hand and some players may look for slam I think they will be in the minority and I put the blame on N who has 14 points all in aces and kings .With a possibility of 15 tricks to duck the opening lead is not clever (+690)

Hand 2 : N 1H S 2NT N 4H As I said in hand 1 if you don't want to investigate 3NT is better than 2NT which is definitely the wrong bid (+710)

Hand 3 & 5 : N 1H S 2D N3H S 3NT .This in my opinion up to 3H the bidding is correct and with the S hand I now investigate slam (+720)(+720)

Hand 4 : N 1H S 2D N 3D S 3NT N has made a wrong bid by bidding 3D ignoring a strong 6 card major a jump is required (+720)

Hand 6 : N 1C (precision 16 points +) S 2NT (?I have no idea what this means as it is not alerted) N 3H S 4NT N 5H (Blackwood I presume KC response would be 5S) N 6NT. (+1470)At least N has recognised that his hand is good enough for slam. Well done Tymen

Hand 7 : N 1H S 2C N 2D S 3NT N 6H E pass S pass W X (again with no tricks and distribution ally the hand could not be worse) (+1860)