

Analyses ref : 118

BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #23269

Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday

Date Played : 4 August 2025

Hand Number : 4

Theme : When Balanced with 18+pts, go for 3NT

<div><div>D</div><div>4</div></div>	<div>NMrs Chem</div> <div><div>♠</div>K1064</div> <div><div>♥</div>752</div> <div><div>♦</div>64</div> <div><div>♣</div>AK73</div>	<div>W</div> <div>1♦</div> <div>2NT</div> <div>P</div> <div>N</div> <div>P</div> <div>P</div> <div>E</div> <div>1♠</div> <div>3NT</div> <div>S</div> <div>P</div> <div>P</div>																														
<div>WDor1938</div> <div><div>♠</div>AJ7</div> <div><div>♥</div>AK</div> <div><div>♦</div>A853</div> <div><div>♣</div>Q842</div>		<div>Ejtv54</div> <div><div>♠</div>Q9852</div> <div><div>♥</div>QJ9</div> <div><div>♦</div>J109</div> <div><div>♣</div>J9</div>																														
<div><table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr></table><div>Par Score: -600</div><div>Par: EW 3NT</div></div>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	5	4	7	4	4	S	5	4	7	4	4	E	7	8	6	9	9	W	7	8	6	9	9	<div>Schemaly</div> <div><div>♠</div>3</div> <div><div>♥</div>108643</div> <div><div>♦</div>KQ72</div> <div><div>♣</div>1065</div>	<div>3NT W</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	5	4	7	4	4																											
S	5	4	7	4	4																											
E	7	8	6	9	9																											
W	7	8	6	9	9																											

General: The lesson to learn with this board is that W must bid in such a way to advise E that he has a flat 18 or 19 points E has a good 7 points (4X9& 1X10) So 3NT should be bid and made Par 3NT (9 tricks) The only complication is that by ducking two 2 spades N can keep E from & gaining the lead However with both clubs (E has J9) & W has (Q853) with the 10C in the S hand and both the KD & QD in the S hand E must gain the lead eventually with declarer limiting his losses to (1S+ 1D + 2C) The following was the bidding declarer play and defence in hands 1-3. In spades hands (4-8)par score is making 9 tricks for (+140) Not 1 declarer achieved the par score with 1 declarer making 10 tricks and 4 making 8 tricks Opening 1NT with 18 points is not a recommended bid

Hand 1 : W 1D E 1S W 2 NT(18 or 19 points) E 3NT. The lead was the AC and when N continued with C giving declarer 2C tricks and when N took his KS as declarer led his JS declarer took 4S +3H +1D+ 2C=10 tricks (E/W +630)

Hand 2 : W 1C E 1S W 2NT(presume that bid also shows 18 or 19 points) E 3NT The lead was the 6D and declarer can do no better than win with the AD and return a D and made 9 tricks He must lose 4 tricks(1S+ 1D +2C) (E/W + 600)

Hand 3 : W 1C (precision) E 1D W 1NT E 2H (trf) W 2S E 2NT W 3NT On a H lead declarer made 9 tricks when S failed to cover the JD with the Q D after declarer had attacked the H (the wrong suit)and declarer scrambled home with 9 tricks (E/W 600)

Hand 4 : W 1C N X ? E 1S W 2S (the wrong bid with 18 points) E passed out. Declarer made 10 tricks when N did not take 2 club tricks (+170)


Hand 5 : W 1NT ?(read above) E 2H W 2S

Hand 6 : W 1C E 1D W 1NT (? With 18 points) E 2S (If this is precision bidding then it is time to change)

Hand 7 : W 1NT(read above) E 2S W 4S

Hand 8 : W 1D E 1S W 2NT E 3C (?) W 4S

Analyses ref : 119 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #23269**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 4 August 2025
Hand Number : 20
Theme : A cold 6D Contract?

	N jtv54 ♠ Q84 ♥ Q62 ♦ J ♣ QJ10986	<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>4♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♦</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦	P	4♣	P	4♣	P	6♦	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S														
1♦	P	4♣	P															
4♣	P	6♦	P															
P	P																	
W Tessa 3 ♠ 63 ♥ AJ73 ♦ K974 ♣ A53	E Isabelledp ♠ AKJ1072 ♥ K ♦ Q106532 ♣																	
	S Dor1938 ♠ 95 ♥ 109854 ♦ A8 ♣ K742	<div> <u>Explanations</u> 4♣ = Gerber 4♣ = 2 A's </div>																
		6♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0																

General: One of the coldest small slams I have ever experienced reached by 2 partnerships. I am referring to 6D but even 6S should be made as long as S does not lead AD and another D. The biggest problem for the declares in a S contract was the singleton KH that E had been dealt .IF IT HAD BEEN any other H I am certain declarer would have made 12 tricks in S and not 11 tricks. The KH was an illusion and declarers should have treated the KH as a small H and played her AH allowing the K to fall under the AH and then would be in the correct hand to take the S finesse> That the only declarer that made 12 tricks did so because he got the lead of the 9S.That 2 declarers did not even get to game was the result of a horrendous under bid of a wonderful hand. The first decision that had to be made rested with W to decide whether the hand warranted an opening hand or NOT .That decision is easy if you make use of the rule of 18/20 which states that every 12 point hand can be opened and even if you refer to the rule and add 4 for H and 4 for D you reach the magic sum of 20 which can be opened in any position.3 Wests made the wrong decision of not to open and one West made the wrong decision to open a C so only half the field of W's made the correct decision of opening a D and only 2 of E players decided to play in D in a small slam. The other 2 E's decided to ignore the fact that they had 6 diamonds supportE (not a very clever decision) so only 2 pairs reached an unbeatable contract of 6D .Here is the bidding comments

Hand 1:W pass (read my comments above) E 1S (the hand is so strong that if I could not open a strong 2S I would rather open 2C W 1NT (continuing to under bid the hand) E 2D (a horrendous under bid-must bid 3 D but Robots play 2D as forcing and 3D as weak. If you play with ROBOTS you need to play their system, The 2D is passed out and a truly BAD bottom earned.

Hand 2: W 1C (NO BID CORRECTLY 1D)E 1S (2S is the correct bid) W 1NT E3S(with 2 six card suits you need to bid 3D) W pass and a 2nd bottom is truly earned

Hand 3:W 1D E 1S(should do better with a 2S bid) W 1NT N 2C E 4S (E has ignored W 1D opening-how often do you have 6 card support for W opening bid – the correct bid is 6D)Declarers play is equally bizarre .IN dummy where declarer needs to be to take a S finesse declarer gets out of dummy by playing the 3H to her KH (I told you KH was a problem) and now decides to play the QD to try to get back into dummy ignoring the fact she has 10 diamonds in both her hands but is given a life line when S ignores partners JD and assist declarers by putting her where she needs to be by playing another H BUT all is not lost as declarer throws a winning D but fails to take a S finesse and simply plays the AK of S fearing no doubt that a losing finesse could cost another trick with a D ruff and finishes with 11 tricks-talking about shooting yourself in the foot

Hand 4:W pass (read what I say about passing!)E 2S (yes) W 3S E 4S The lead is a H and declarer makes the mistake of allowing it to run to the KH (If only he had been dealt the 2H and not the KH I am sure he would take the S finesse and make 12 tricks and not 11 tricks (the damn KH has caused all the trouble)

Hand 5:W 1D E 1S(read what I say in hand 3)W 1NT E 4S (same as has hand 3-read comments)and played the hand by allowing lead to run to that damn KH cashed his AK of S and made 11 tricks instead of 12 .The KH and incorrect declarer play is again responsible for 11 tricks and not 12

Hand 6: W pass E 1S (read comments in hand 1) W 2H (the second wrong bid-you need 5 hearts to bid 2H)E 3D W 3S (the third wrong bid –what is wrong in supporting D)E 4S .At long last declarer gets a S lead and makes 12 tricks

Hand 7 :W 1D E 4C (Bergen)W 4S E 6D Well done Isabelle .There is nothing that the defence can do to beat the contract. All I can say is Key Card Blackwood is better than Bergen as you can find out FOR SURE that West has the KD and 2 Aces

Hand 8 : W 1D E 1S W 1N E 6D (well done Mrs Chem)

Analyses ref : 120 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #34782**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 7 August 2025
Hand Number : 4
Theme : Think before you bid

<div><div>D</div><div>4</div></div>		<div>Njtv54</div> <div>♠ K102</div> <div>♥ AJ</div> <div>♦ Q95</div> <div>♣ QJ654</div>	<div>W N E S</div> <div>P 1♣ 1NT X</div> <div>P P P</div>																														
<div>W HJ Owen</div> <div>♠ J3</div> <div>♥ 8743</div> <div>♦ J1032</div> <div>♣ 1087</div>		<div>E mariemmweb</div> <div>♠ A97</div> <div>♥ Q962</div> <div>♦ AK</div> <div>♣ K932</div>																															
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
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General: The object of duplicate bridge is to do better than any pair sitting the same way as you and playing with the same cards as you. While much depends how your opposition bids sometimes a perfectly acceptable bid will be made by an opponent where a decision needs to be made as to how to respond. This board is a perfect example of how to think before you bid .

Hand 1: N 1C E 1NT (a perfectly acceptable bid with 16 points and clubs stopped) S X (a simple point count is as follows-N has opened say has at least 12 points E has bid 1NT playing a 15-17 NT (so give him 16 points) .As West you have 9 points and a 5 card S suit. So E has a maximum of 3 points or less for every extra point you give opener. With both sides vulnerable the X is telling N that N/S have the majority of points so if N has a perfectly acceptable opening a pass should be worth at least a +200 score BETTER than anything in a 2S part score. W pass N pass (has opened on a perfectly acceptable 13 point flat hand) The resulting +500 becomes a TOP

Hands 2 & 4 : N 1C E INT (Same as board 1) S 2S ? with N bidding 3S on hand 2 and passing on hand 4 both score (+140)

Hand 3 : N 1D E X S 1S (This is where a redouble card should have been used-with S having 4 D) W pass N 2C E pass S 2S (+140) and so 3 E/W on boards 2,3 & 4 share a joint bottom based solely on a call made by S and understood by N

Analyses ref : 121 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #34782**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 7 August 2025
Hand Number : 20
Theme : To BID or NOT to BID? – That is the question

	N Umfaan 2 ♠ A106 ♥ J104 ♦ 75 ♣ AJ1094	<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>3NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1NT	P	3NT	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S										
1NT	P	3NT	P											
P	P													
W Dor1938 ♠ Q4 ♥ AQ632 ♦ QJ ♣ KQ83	E jtv54 ♠ J82 ♥ K7 ♦ K109843 ♣ 72													
	S Marykins ♠ K9753 ♥ 985 ♦ A62 ♣ 65	3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0												

General: THE MOST IMPORTANT decision you can make in tournament bridge is whether to BID or NOT. What to bid ? is the next decision to make. Par for this hand is N/S (80) in 1S or 1C (70) For E/W it is 3H (+140) or 2NT (+120) is second best .No declarer played in the best par contract. What should W open?

Board 1 : W 1NT (16 points –acceptable) E 3NT (7 points but a long D suit)N leads the 9C.I now feel I am wasting my time on jacks corner as some players will simply not accept that when you hold C AJ1094 the CORRECT lead is the JC>If you lead the 9C your only achievement is to fool your PARTNER (never the opposition) That lead is hardly an excuse for a shocking defensive mistake as S returns D after winning the AD (This is the second point I have made that NEVER return the suit that declarer is attacking (so two points I have repeatedly made as BAD bridge) and not surprisingly a contract which should go down 1 makes with 2 overtricks .A BOTTOM well earned)

Board 2 : W 1NT E 3NT This time the lead is the 10 C (which I can only accept if 10C promises the JC) This time when in with the AD S returns a C which declarer is forced to duck and now the defence has 3 winners the AC & the AS & KS but N errs by continuing clubs and establishes his 5th club only to lose all the remaining tricks

Board 3 : W 1H E 2D (not a correct bid with 7 points-a forced 1NT is correct)W 3C E 3D which is passed out and 9 tricks made as declarer loses (2S +1D+1C=4)

Board 4 : W 1H N 2C which is passed out. On this sequence E does not need 10 points to bid and SHOULD bid his 6 card D suit. W gives a ruff and discard (another point I have made as BAD bridge) and the defence loses a S trick when E switches to spades and another contract that should go down makes which makes little difference to the score. The problem remains E failure to bid 2D

Analyses ref : 122 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #71251**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 11 August 2025
Hand Number : 12
Theme : The importance of face cards

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> D 12 </div>	N jonstrande ♠ Q9 ♥ J974 ♦ J10654 ♣ 97	<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>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♠</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	2♣	P	4NT	P	5♥	P	6♠	P	P	P												
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1♣	P	1♠	P																													
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W Dor1938 ♠ AK108 ♥ Q2 ♦ K83 ♣ J642		E jtv54 ♠ J542 ♥ A106 ♦ A7 ♣ AKQ3																														
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	1	5	4	1	1																											
S	1	5	4	1	1																											
E	12	8	8	12	12																											
W	12	8	8	12	12																											

General: (1) The importance of face cards (2) the use of key card blackwood.(3) Use logic when defender leads a trump (only 2 declarers bid and made 6 spades using (1) (2) and (3)

Bidding 1: W 1C E 1S W 2S E 4NT (KCB) W 5H (Alerted 2 key cards no QS) E 6S . The lead was the 3H and declarer miss guessed playing S for the JH & not the KH. He played a top spade noting the fall of 9S ruffed a D in his hand and played the JS. When this was not covered he arrived at the belief that the QS was in the N hand and as N had played the 9S on the first play of a top S so played the K S and was rewarded as the QS dropped under the KS and 12 tricks was made losing only 1H (+980)

Bidding 2: W 1C E 1S W 2S E 2NT W 3H (do not know the bidding system being used- maybe point count)E 4NT (KCB I presume) W 5H E 6S. The lead was the 3S and declarer worked out that S would never lead away from the QS and using 3 above played his AK of spades and was rewarded when the QS dropped (+980)

Bidding 3 : W pass ?(W has 13 points-W to do a recount)E 1C W2C ?(while this was alerted and shows a goodish hand to the robot who does play inverted minors it is not the correct bid as W has a 4 card major)E 3NT (Having passed on 13 points it is a little surprising that W does not bid to slam)The 3H is led and declarer guesses to play the QH and when the top spades are played and S discards incorrectly declarer makes 13 tricks (+520)

Bidding 4 : W 1C E 1S W 2S E 4S (this last bid shows less aggression than the E in bidding 1 Just as well for on the 3S declarer does not apply the logic in (3) above as declarer lets the 3S run to the JS in his hand (+450)

Bidding 5 : W 1C E 1S W 2S E 3C W 3S E 4S Ditto what I said on hand 4 as declarer gets the 7S lead which he allows to runs to his JS (+450)

Bidding 6 : W 1D(precision club) E 3NT(I guess declarer thinks that NO investigation is necessary as a slam cannot be made as W has not opened a C) This thinking is incorrect as even to land in 4S is better than 3NT where slam can be made. On the 2D lead and having taken a S finesse for the QS declarer can only make 10 tricks for a second bottom (+ 430) BRIDGE IS A GAME OF INVESTIGATION. Never rush into a contract without an investigation

Bidding 7 : W 1S E 1NT W 2S E 3C W 3S E 6S –I believe 1NT is asking about points and 3C may be asking about key cards. Declarer receives the 10 D (the JD should be led unless the 10D promises the JD) and declarer wins and plays the hand like declarer in hand 1 but takes little notice that the 9S dropped on the KS and the JS is not covered finesses for the QS and goes 1 down (-50)

Analyses ref : 123 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #71251**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 11 August 2025
Hand Number : 20
Theme : You need discipline when bidding

D

20

W

Dor1938

♠ J85

♥ A92

♦ KQ4

♣ K652

♣♦♥♠NT

N

4

4

8

8

6

S

4

4

8

8

6

E

9

9

4

4

5

W

9

9

4

4

5

Par Score: -110

Par: EW 3♦, 3♣

S

mariemmweb

♠ KQ432

♥ K54

♦ 963

♣ A7

W

N

E

S

1♣

P

1♦

1♠

2♦

2♠

3♣

3♠

P

P

4♣

X

P

P

P

E

jtv54

♠ 76

♥ Q3

♦ A852

♣ QJ984

4♣x W

NS: 0 EW: 0

General: (1) You need discipline when bidding (2) par for N/S is (+110) 2S bid and made & E/W (+110) 3C bid and made (3) As both pairs are vulnerable it is important that E/W do not bid beyond the 3 level but if N/S bid to the 3 level they are unlikely to be X and -1 (-100) will be better than (-110) (4) . Here are my comments to the actual bidding

Hand 1 : W 1D N 1H (not a good overcall) E 2C S 3H (expected N to have a better hand)W 4C
Declarer made his contract when S ducked his QS in error (+130)

Hand 2 : W 1C N pass E 1D S 1S W 2D N 2S E 3C (+110)

Hand 3 : W 1C N pass E 1NT(likely asking for points W2H E 3C (+110)

Hand 4 : W 1C N pass E 3C S 3S (-100)

Hand 5 : W 1C N pass E INT (a bid of 2C or 3C pre-emptive is a better bid) S 2S passed out .After losing 3D tricks declarer wins the QC switch draws 3 trumps finessing for the JS draws 2 trumps and plays the JH which W wins and plays his JS . Instead of getting out with his C and then finessing for the 9H declarer plays his 10H and goes 1 down (-100_

Hand 6 : W 1C N pass E 1D S 1S W pass N pass E 2C S pass W 2D ? (Should pass 2C)N 2S passed out as either E or W need to bid 1 more C (+110)

Hand 7 : W 1C N pass E 1D S 1S W 2D N 2S E 3C S3S W pass N pass E 4C ? S X The defence makes no mistakes and declarer goes 1 down for a bottom –Well done JAB for doubling (-200)

Analyses ref : 124 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #71252**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 14 August 2025
Hand Number : 3
Theme : A highly competitive hand

The interface displays four hands and a score table. Hand N (A3456) has ♠ 43, ♥ J, ♦ KQJ9432, and ♣ Q32. Hand S (mignonlei) has ♠ J1098, ♥ K6543, ♦ A, and ♣ K105. Hand W (Dor1938) has ♠ AQ765, ♥ 972, ♦ 10, and ♣ A976. Hand E (jtv54) has ♠ K2, ♥ AQ108, ♦ 8765, and ♣ J84. A score table shows Par Score: 110 and Par: NS 3♦. The bottom right shows 3♠ W and NS: 0 EW: 0.

General: Par on this board for N/S is 3D (+110) as declarer can make 9 tricks thanks to E having the JC (7D +2C=9) For E/W Par is not clear depending on defence but 2S can be made(+110)
There are MANY comments that I would like to make as we analyse the bidding.

Hand 1 : S pass (S has a legal opening hand (HCP 11 +H 5 + S 4= 20)) but in this case I would agree with the pass as the H suit is so bad with such tiny face cards W pass N 3D (a perfectly good pre-empt) E pass S 3H (this is a crazy bid as N has pre-empted in D and can hardly have H and as I said the H suit is very poor) W pass S 4H which goes 4 tricks .(A bottom earned by S ill -disciplined bid) (-200)

Hand 2 : S pass W pass N 3D E pass S pass W 3S (I was sitting W and have learned that bridge is a bidding game and I knew N had points) passed out. With best defence declarer has 5 losers(1 S I +I H +1D + 2C =5) but the defence could have been better and 9 tricks were made (+140)

Hand 3 : S 1H W 1S N 2D E 2NT (where is you D stopper ? –not a good bid)S pass W pass N pass ?(with S opening and your strong 7 card D suit N should bid 3D-obviously does not agree with me that bridge is a bidding game but a X and good defence which is to cash the AD and switch to a C leaves declarer with a maximum of 5 tricks and 3 down(not 1 down) which would be a top not a 3rd bottom (-50)

Hand 4 : S 1H W 1S N 2D E 2NT (read hand 3) S pass W 3S (Well done John-2NT should go three down) Well done to Loraine and Patrick who defended well-if only you had X Patrick but I guess you felt your opening hand was a deterrent to a X (-100)

Hand 5 : S pass W 1S N 3D E X S pass W 3S N pass E 4S S pass (Marius I guess with your 11 points and S trick you should X- with better defence the contract must go 2 down.) Well done Erna for playing the hand well (-100)

Hand 6 : S 1H W 1S N 2D E 2S S 2NT W pass N 3D – and at last the par contract is reached (+110)

Analyses ref : 125 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #71252**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 14 August 2025
Hand Number : 6
Theme : Bridge is a bidding game

<div>6 D</div>		N jtv54 ♠ 64 ♥ KQJ ♦ Q764 ♣ AJ104	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	2♦	P	2♥	P	2♠	P	P	P															
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W johng6414 ♠ J7 ♥ 95 ♦ AK93 ♣ Q8632		E Bashewa ♠ AQ10 ♥ A107643 ♦ 108 ♣ 95																															
<table border="1"> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <th>N</th> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <th>W</th> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table> <p>Par Score: -100 Par: NS 2NTx-1, 2♠x-1, S 3♦x-1</p>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	7	7	5	7	7	S	7	8	5	7	7	E	6	5	8	5	5	W	6	5	8	5	5	S Dor1938 ♠ K98532 ♥ 82 ♦ J52 ♣ K7	<div>Explanations</div> <div>2♦ = 6 card n</div>	<div>2♠ S</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>
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General: Bridge is a bidding game E should open hand with either 2D or 2H . A 1H opening is not legal as on the rule of 18/20 you can only open if your total reaches 20 in first hand openings. Failure to open (twice) resulted in a bottom and a joint 2nd bottom. How a squeeze play should be executed. In spades 7 tricks should always be made Erna & Chris executed perfect defence to show why only 7 tricks can be made in spade. Par for N/S is therefore (+80) For E/W par is (+110) with 5 losers in a H contract (1S + 2H + 2C = 5) Bidding with my comments are as follows

Hand 1 : E/W do not bid S 2D (alerted) N 2H (relay) S 2S passed out (+140) as the defence only takes 1D and declarer is able to squeeze W out of his second top D .Players can follow the squeeze play to determine how squeeze plays work

Hand 2 : E /W do not bid S 2S N 3S (rather over optimistic- although N has an opening hand S has told you he has not and N with only 1Ace and no help in spades should pass (-50)

Hand 3 : E 1H S 1S W X N 1NT E X S pass W 2C N pass E 2H S pass W pass N 2S passed out. WELL DONE ERNA & CHRIS on your defence. You showed why only 7 tricks could be made in spades.(-50)

Hand 4 : E 1H S 1S W 2C N 2NT E pass S 3S .On a H lead E won and failed to return a H and played the AS but declarer made a bad mistake by not drawing another trump before taking a discard on dummy's 3rd H and the contract went down 2 .If E returns a H and does not play the AS W will always make his JS (-100)

Hand 5 : E 2D S pass W 2H N pass (which confirms why E should open 2D or 2H N in sloppy defence gives declarer a winning D to discard a losing C (+140)

Hand 6 : E 2D S pass W 2H N pass E pass S 2S W pass N 2NT. N has punished partner for making a good bid but S should retreat to 3S having bid on length and not strength. Both are culprits in securing their bottom.(-150)

Analyses ref : 126 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1722**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 18 August 2025
Hand Number : 12
Theme : Should you open a weak 2 on the North hand?

<div>12</div>	N jtv54 ♠ A98 ♥ J107652 ♦ Q3 ♣ 107	W N E S P 2♦ X 2♥ P P P																														
	W Tymen ♠ KQ10 ♥ K98 ♦ J75 ♣ 8432	E Heial ♠ 7542 ♥ A43 ♦ AK6 ♣ A65																														
<table border="1"> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr> </table> <p>Par Score: -400 Par: EW 3NT</p>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	6	4	4	S	4	6	6	4	4	E	9	7	7	9	9	W	9	7	7	9	9	S Dor1938 ♠ J63 ♥ Q ♦ 109842 ♣ KQJ9	<div> <u>Explanations</u> 2♦ = multi weak 2 or strong NTi 2♥ = relay </div>
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	4	5	6	4	4																											
S	4	6	6	4	4																											
E	9	7	7	9	9																											
W	9	7	7	9	9																											
		2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																														

General: (1) depending on distribution if you have 6 card major should you open 2D , 2H or 2S if your point count range is 6 -10 points -11 points will qualify for a 1 opening of that major. Having said that N has 7 points and six hearts so should N open with a weak 2 ? In bridge so MUCH depends on who is vulnerable>On this board N/S are vulnerable and E/W not so I would hesitate to open unless I have 9-10 points especially as QD in the N hand is a dubious 2 points. Par for N\S playing in hearts is 6 tricks on good defence as S has no entry if E wins the second club and switches to spades Par for E/W is 400 for 3NT and 9 tricks can be made if the 10S is finessed and with S breaking 3-3 the 4th S becomes a trick and 3 D tricks can be made with the lucky fall of the QD under the KD but no declarer made 9 tricks as they needed to use the entries to the E hand in the correct order. .

Hand 1 : W pass N 2D E X S 2H (Alerted as a relay) and is passed out. Declarer is lucky and gets a C lead which provides a 2nd round winner as well as opportunity to discard a loser and scrambles to 7 tricks and goes down 1 (-100)

Hand 2 : W pass N 2H passed out. E leads the K D and then under leads his A C and instead of winning the second C and switching to a S plays a third club which provides a discard of a S and declarer is also lucky to go only 1 down (-100)

Hand 3 : W pass N 2H E X S pass W 2NT (the best result is for a pass and on best defence beat the contract 2)(+120)In order to enjoy the 4TH S as a trick declarer need to use his entries to the E hand to play by finessing the 10S first

Hand 4 : W pass N pass E 1NT S pass W 2C N pass E 2S S pass W 2NT (+120) Does not get to enjoy the 4th spade

Hand 5 : W pass N pass E 1C S pass W 1NT passed out (+120) ditto Hand 4.

Hand 6 : W pass N 2D E pass S 2H passed out (-200) The lead is the KS and the defence is good next
don't open 2D when you are vulnerable

Hand 7 : W pass N pass E 1N S pass W pass N 2D E pass S 2H passed out (-200) ditto hand 6

Analyses ref : 127 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1722**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 18 August 2025
Hand Number : 15
Theme : The Art of Good defence.

15

D

N jtv54
♠ A72
♥ A64
♦ A102
♣ 9862

W A3456
♠ 6
♥ KJ1073
♦ J7543
♣ 43

E ice 3
♠ J10543
♥ Q95
♦ Q986
♣ J

S Dor1938
♠ KQ98
♥ 82
♦ K
♣ AKQ1075

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	13	5	6	10	13
S	13	5	6	10	13
E	0	8	6	1	0
W	0	8	6	1	0

Par Score: 2220
Par: NS 7NT

3NT N
NS: 0 EW: 0

General: (1) The art of good defence (2) The value of Aces (3) I repeat that playing in a minor game(hand 7) or minor slam (board 23) is not great % wise if NT is an alternative

Hand 1: S 1C (Alerted 16+) N 2H (Alerted Balanced and positive with 3 spades)S 3C N 3D (Alerted cue bid which is the most important bid to get to slam) S 4C N 4H (alerted cue bid) S 6C (If S asks for Aces and discovers 3 in the N hand I am sure she can bid 6 NT which is unimportant as this is the only pair that got to slam. Well done Mary & Adrian –The value of finding 3 Aces in the N hand is the highlight of the hand (+1390)

Hand 2: S 1C N 2C (Alerted inverted minor –good hand with NO major)S 2S (has stoppers in spades)N 2NT stoppers in H &D) S 3NT (South knows he has a good hand but his singleton KD could be worthless -partner points out that asking for Aces or key cards has merit and I agree and wish I had thought of it).Makes 13 tricks when E (read 1 above)miss defends by discarding 2 spades. E can see the spades in dummy and therefore knows he should keep four spades. He also see can see the 9&8 of spades in dummy should NEVER play his J 10 of spades 2 tips for good defence (+720)

Hand 3 : S 1C N 2NT S 3C N 3NT: E does not discard 2 spades but commits the second error to good defence by playing the 10S when a 2 S is played towards dummy and when declarer returns to AS W shows out and the JS is easy to finesse for.(+720)


Hand 4: S 1C N 2NT S 3NT E leads the 5S and when the 8S wins 13 tricks are routine (+720)

Hand 5 : S 1C W 1D (alerted red suits) E 2NT W 4C E 4NT passed out. When declarer plays a S to his AS and the 2S back E inserts his 10S and when a S is played to the AS and W shows out the finesse of the JS is obvious (+720)

Hand 6: S 1C N 3NT (hardly ever a good bid in bridge as it leaves no room for investigation) Declarer makes 2 mistakes in the play out of the hand by not taking an obvious finesse for the JS when E plays the 10S and declarer returns to his hand when he plays 8S to his A and W shows out and the second mistake arrives when declarer fails to take his AD (+660)

Hand 7 : S 1C N 2NT S 4C N 5C (If any player has read Jacks Corner I have always maintained that to finish in a minor suit game should be avoided if you can play in NT-90% of the time you finish in a minor suit game you book yourself a bad score) Although 13 tricks are made this hand is no different and the score secures a BOTTOM (+640)

Analyses ref : 128 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1725**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 21 August 2025
Hand Number : 8
Theme : Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

	N jtv54 ♠ Q ♥ K109832 ♦ 2 ♣ A10853	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</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	P	2♦	3♣	3♥	P	P	4♣	P	P	4♥	P	P	P													
	W	N	E	S																												
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	6	5	8	7	6																											
S	6	5	8	7	6																											
E	6	8	4	6	6																											
W	6	8	5	6	6																											
		4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																														

General: Many popular sayings can be applied to bridge players ie “ A bird in hand is better than 2 in the bush”. “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth” This board is a glaring example of both the above sayings. It appears to me that the par score for N/S is 8 tricks in H as the losers are (AS +2H+AD+1C) that is given best defence and declarer play but 8 tricks was achieved only once 9 tricks twice and 7 tricks once . E/W in clubs should only make 7 tricks. The bidding and my comments follow

Hand 1 & Hand 2 : W pass N pass E 1C S 1S W pass N 2H E 3C S pass W pass N X The only difference is that hand 1 3C goes three down when declarer failed to draw trumps and S was able to make his JC (+500) and in hand 2 two down (+300 and par))Both N players recognised the gift horse had arrived. Certainly well programmed robots.

Hand 3 : W pass N 2H E 3C S3H passed out E errs in ducking the QS and declarer makes 9 tricks due to a H led and the ducking of the QS and finally playing clubs into declarer all defences in favour of declarer (+140)

Hand 4 : W pass N 2D E 3C S 3H (not too difficult to work out that N has a 6 card H suit) W pass N pass E 4C (a very undisciplined bid)S pass W pass N 4H (a shocking bid which ignores the gift horse and seeks the 2 birds in the bush)Even though E slips in defence under leading the QC which forces W to ruff with what was a naturel trump winner a top still becomes mediocre loss (-50)

Hand 5 : W pass N pass E 2C S 2S W pass N3H (it would have been MUCH better if N had opened 2D or 2H depending on the system being played) Par achieved (-50)

Hand 6 : W pass N 1H E 2C S 2S N3H Par achieved (-50)

Hand 7 : W pass N 2H E 3C S 3H W pass N pass E X (Another ill-disciplined bid without a S suit)and
when W responds 3S N comes to the rescue of E/W by bidding 4H (the final ill-disciplined
bid and a deserved bottom) (-150)

Analyses ref : 129 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1725**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 21 August 2025
Hand Number : 17
Theme : To Sacrifice or Not

D 17		N jtv54 ♠ 7 ♥ 86 ♦ KJ752 ♣ A8732	<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>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♦</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		P	P	1♦	1♠	2♠	4♠	P	P	5♦	P	P	X	P	P	P										
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W mariemmweb ♠ A542 ♥ A54 ♦ 84 ♣ KJ105			E Robot ♠ K109863 ♥ KJ92 ♦ 96 ♣ Q																														
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S	7	8	5	3	5																												
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W	6	5	8	10	7																												

General: The Par score for E/W is (+420-4S bid and made) but unless the defence take their 2 D tricks(1D trick taken = 11 tricks) 12 tricks should always be made.(1) I say that because you can always create 2 outside entries to the W hand –The AH and 4 of spades as long as when you draw trumps do not play the 3S in the E hand.(2) From experience I have learned that a sacrifice is unlikely to be successful unless your opponents are vulnerable and you are not. Here are my comments on the hands played

Hand 1 : N pass E pass S 1D W X N 3D E 3S S 4D W 4S The lead is the 9C and N/S take their 3 tricks that are available to them by switching to D, and a cold contract goes 1 down as I presume declarer fails to count her trumps (10 in the E/W hand) so by simply applying the best % play by deducting 10 from 13(the number of spades in a deck of cards) the spades in the defences hands is 3 and likely to break 2-1.There is definitely no need to give the defence a S trick. I AM DEVISTATED AS THE CULPRIT I AM TRYING SO HARD TO TEACH HAS LET ME DOWN AGAIN (-50)

Hand 2 : Passed out- On the rule of 18/20 both W & S (who has 12 points-always an opening hand and who must live with her 2nd bottom for not opening) (0)

Hand 3 : N pass E pass S pass W 1C N 1D E 1S S 2C ? (N has bid a D and you have four diamonds)W 2S N pass E 3H (I presume a try for game in spades)S pass W 3S passed out and game is not reached and incidentally not made when declarer instead of throwing the hearts on her good clubs takes an unnecessary H finesse I believe declarer should re-examine her play. (+140)

Hand 4 : N pass E 2D S pass W 2H (relay) N pass E 2S passed out I believe that when E shows 6 spades the W hand has improved and should try for game by bidding 3S.Declarer should make 12 tricks on the AC lead and a H switch which is mistakenly won in the W hand and declarer has also not retained the 3S as an entry to the W hand so she gave up a H but the defence and S in particular refused to take their 2 D tricks and a club return enabled declarer to discard the 2 losing D (+200)

Hand 5 : N pass E 1S (this is an illegal opening and should be alerted)S pass W 1NT (alerted 6+ points and asking for openers points) N pass E 2D (alerted 9-10 points not necessary D so opposition know about the point count) S pass W 2S passed out The lead is the QS and after drawing trumps declarer plays a small C to the Q C which is ducked so won in dummy>As declarer does not have the 3S in dummy in order to establish clubs plays KC which is covered by the AC and trumped and with now no entry to W hand plays a D which is won by S who instead of playing another D plays a H and declarer not only gets a free finesse but also the entry to the W hand by ruffing his 4th H and now the remaining D can be discarded on the good club and claim 12 tricks (+230)

Hand 6 : N pass E 3S S pass N 4S declarer receives a H lead but when the AC is knocked out the defence switches to a D and 10 tricks are made (+420)

Hand 7 : N pass E pass S 1D W 1S (with this bid W struck gold) N 2S (a raise in D) E 4S S pass W pass N 5D (should read 2 above) E pass S pass W X and declarer has 5 clear losers on the hand and it is a small consolation that N/S were booked for a bad score anyway. (-500)

Analyses ref : 130 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1727**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 25 August 2025
Hand Number : 3
Theme : Simple Principles of Bridge

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N	9	10	9	11	11																											
S	9	10	9	11	11																											
E	4	2	4	2	2																											
W	4	2	4	2	2																											

General: A simple board to bid and play. Par for N/S is (+450) 4 spades bid and 11 tricks made but achieved only once, as players have not yet been able to understand simple rules of bridge or are careless in their declarer play. The N bid will show whether you understand the simple principles of bridge by X over a C opening and bidding 1NT over a D opening the difference being that you have D stoppers but no C stoppers. The S bid also needs to show whether you have a hand with points or not and the jump bid is made if you have points and a bid at the lowest level if you do not

Hand 1: S pass W 1C N X E 1H S 2S(the general rule in bridge(as described above) is that partner of a take- out doubler needs to tell partner if he simply forced to react to the X by not jumping or if he has 8 good points or more you need to jump> It should be simple for S as he has 10 points and a 4 card major) With the QS ,QD & QC well placed for declarer 11 tricks should be made and is (+450)

Hand 2 : S pass W 1D N 1S ? (as explained above the correct bid is 1NT-but N luckily finds S with four spades to the K and incorrectly bids 4S (3S is the correct bid)but there is no substitute for luck and N/S end up in the correct contract but declarer miss plays the hand by not playing D from the S hand and loses 2D instead of 1D and makes 10 tricks (+420)

Hand 3: S pass W 1C N X E pass S 1S (first under bid) W pass N 2S E pass S pass (second under bid) and S is clearly the culprit that causes game NOT to be reached (+200)

Hand 4 : S pass W 1D N pass? (First underbid -there is a MAIN RULE IN BRIDGE that you never pass an opening hand with 15 points- bid 1NT) E pass N X W 2C N pass- second under bid .This time it is clear that N is clearly the culprit for gross under bidding and luckily W goes 1 down in 2C and N/S score 200 and get some points.

Hand 5: S pass W 1C N X E 1H S pass (WHAT-first under bid) W 1NT N X E pass S 2S (second under bid) Again it is clear that S is the culprit for the partnership not getting to game (+200)

Overall : For those who I have called culprits I have some advice. Firstly read my column and secondly to improve your bridge bid accurately, and from experience it is ,like in life, far better to be an optimist than a pessimist at the bridge table which means to bid too little, is worse than bidding too much. Bidding too much, may hopefully improve your declarer play.

Analyses ref : 131 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #1727**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Monday
Date Played : 25 August 2025
Hand Number : 5
Theme : Bid what you think you can make

D 5		N jtv54 ♠ 63 ♥ 109754 ♦ 10864 ♣ 43	W N E S P P 1♠ 3NT P P P																													
W lindacam ♠ 5 ♥ KJ63 ♦ K973 ♣ J987		E JB71634 ♠ KQ109742 ♥ Q8 ♦ AQ5 ♣ 6																														
<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>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Par Score: -140 Par: EW 1♠+2</p>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	6	6	4	6	S	7	6	6	4	6	E	5	7	7	9	6	W	5	7	6	9	6	S Dor1938 ♠ AJ8 ♥ A2 ♦ J2 ♣ AKQ1052	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	7	6	6	4	6																											
S	7	6	6	4	6																											
E	5	7	7	9	6																											
W	5	7	6	9	6																											

General: I believe that you should bid what you think you can make. When E opens a S you have a possible 9 tricks in NT (2S+ 1H +6C) so anything partner has, that can help, is a bonus. Par on the hand for E/W is easy (+140) 3 spades bid and made while the best N/S can do is make 2C or 1NT (if E/W defend perfectly after the 4-1 club break forces declarer to give W a club E must discard spades on the clubs keeping both hearts and diamonds a switch to H enables the defence to create 6 winners (1S + 2H +3D +1C=7) but I said 6 winners because declarer always has to make 7 tricks (1S +1H + 5C =7)on any lead.


Hand 1 : E 1S S 3NT passed out (on the bad club break the contract goes 1 down) (-100)

Hand 2 : E 1S S X W pass N 2H E 2S S 3C (-100)Interestingly if clubs had broken 3C and 3NT would probably make (-100)

Hands 3 & 4 : (only E & S bid)E 1S S 2C E 2S S 3C E 3S passed out and amazingly both 3C & 3NT become a good sacrifices (+140)

Hand 5 : E 3S S 3NT (A GOOD BID) but when clubs fail to break declarer panics and fails to set up her 5TH & 6th Clubs and miss plays the hand and goes 4 down. S has started with 6 club tricks so the club bad break should only cost 1 trick NOT 4 tricks (-400)

Analyses ref : 132 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #13929**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 28 August 2025
Hand Number : 4
Theme : How many tricks should you take



N	jtv54	W	N	E	S
♠ 52		P	1♣	P	1♠
♥ A8		P	2♦	P	2♥
♦ KQ73		X	2NT	P	3NT
♣ AKJ104		P	P	P	

W	offthemark
♠ 1043	
♥ KJ643	
♦ 1095	
♣ 72	

E	jverberck
♠ KJ97	
♥ 1097	
♦ J842	
♣ 53	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	12	11	10	10	11
S	12	11	10	10	12
E	1	2	3	3	1
W	1	2	3	3	1

Par Score: 1440
Par: S 6NT

S	Dor1938
♠ AQ86	
♥ Q52	
♦ A6	
♣ Q986	

Explanations
2♥ = forcing 4th suit

3NT N
NS: 0 EW: 0

General: Except for a X by W in hand 1 E/W do not bid. Every N/S play the hand in NT 4 times in 3NT and twice in 6NT with 2 declarers making 12 tricks (+690) 2 declarers made 11 tricks (+660) 1 declarer made 11 tricks but was unfortunately in 6NT (-100) and one declarer in 6NT made only 7 tricks (-500). SO WHAT IS PAR for the hand (It is 11 tricks (2S + 1H + 3D + 5C = 11 on ANY lead) My comments follow WHY 11 tricks ?

Hand 1 : N 1C S 1S N 2D (this is a reverse bid showing a at least 16 points) S 2H (S has an opening hand so now feels that an investigation of whether to bid slam in clubs is an option) W X N2NT S 3NT (S believes correctly that the X of 2H makes the QH a dubious 2 points now settles for 3NT on the basis he avoids bidding game in 5C or 5D if bidding 3NT is an alternative option. The 10 H is led and declarer who has also seen W X does not play QH which now gives a second option that he can safely finesse for the K S as the defence cannot attack H from the W seat. Declarer can now take 7 tricks (5C + 2S (a safe spade finesse) and receives a 12th trick when E mistakenly discards a D on the run of the clubs.

Hand 2 : N 1C S 1S N 2D S 3NT and declarer makes 12 tricks when W leads a H which is now ducked and the QH wins the trick (2S + 2H + 3D + 5C = 12)

Hand 3 : N 1C S 2H? N 3C S 3NT – W leads the 10D and declarer makes the par score

Hand 4 : N 1C S 1S N 2D S 3NT – W leads the 10D and declarer also makes par

Hand 5 : N 1C S 3NT (Again no investigation possible) N 4C S 4S (probably a cue bid) N 6NT and a poor slam goes 1 down on a safe 10D lead-I place the blame for the poor slam on the S bid of 3NT as N has no idea as to whether S has points to make slam. I presume N assumed partner had closer to 16 points than 14 points

Hand 6 : N 1C S 1S N 2D S 4NT? N 6NT (with 17 points I would also bid 6NT) The advice I want to give declarer the next time you play a hand count your winners. You had 10 certain winners (1S +1H +3D+5C=10) the spade finesse which is successful brings your count to 11 winners and the only chance to make the slam is to hope both the KS & KH were in the East hand. The KH was not so you would have to settle for 1 down NOT 5 down .You NEED TO COUNT before you declare a hand

Analyses ref : 133 **BBO TOURNAMENT Ref: #13929**
Tournament : Pretoria Bridge Club - Thursday
Date Played : 28 August 2025
Hand Number : 18
Theme : An Illegal Opening

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with his J and without an entry to dummy can NOT make his KQ of clubs. But wait when a H is played KH W now ducks giving declarer his entry. Declarer now has 3C tricks and 4 H tricks and with the AD has 8 tricks BUT on the C tricks throws the 9S and 10D. Fine he still has 8 tricks but now comes the 3rd mistake when he fails to play a H out of dummy and plays a D to his J D which E wins and returns a D setting up a D trick in the W hand (West does well to completely duck the D) Now when declarer plays a H W wins and cashes his QD and N has to discard a winning H to keep his K10 of spades and W again defends well playing a H and declarer is end played and is forced to play away from his KS. So now I know how 8 tricks became 7 tricks.

Hand 2 : W 1C N1H E 1S (as this bid is not alerted it is an illegal psyche) (S has points but does not know what to bid and the eventual decision is to bid 2H) W 2S N 3H On the AC lead declarer makes 9 tricks (1S + 4H + 2D + 2C)

Hand 4 : N 1H S 1S passed out. S had passed and N thought that 1S was a playable contract and indeed it was as declarer played well to make 8 tricks