

July 2018 Hand of the Month

Akron Bridge NAP Qualifier			
<i>Board 12</i>	♠ 10 9 2		
West Deals	♥ 10 7 4		
N-S Vul	♦ K Q J 5 3		
	♣ Q 3		
♠ K J		♠ 8 4	
♥ J 9 5 2		♥ A K Q 8 6 3	
♦ 6 4		♦ A 10 2	
♣ J 10 9 5 2		♣ K 4	
		♠ A Q 7 6 5 3	
		♥ —	
		♦ 9 8 7	
		♣ A 8 7 6	

At the Akron Unit Game on July 13, 2018 hand # 12 created an interesting defensive problem. Suit Preference appears somewhat frequently, but only if you are looking for it. The auction on this board probably was:

P - P - 1H - 1S
 3H -3S - 4H - 4S
 P - P - 5H
 All Pass

The 3H bid was preemptive. Opening lead is the Spade Ace by South. When North sees the dummy has the Spade King, the card North plays directs the defense.

Since a Spade continuation can not produce a defensive trick, North must play the Spade 10 telling partner to switch to the higher ranking suit - Diamonds. If South plays a diamond at trick 2, 5H is down one. A club switch lets East make 5H. If North wants partner to switch to a Club at trick 2, the Spade 2 should be played.

Always be on the lookout for "suit preference" plays. Any hints you can give partner on defense are very important.