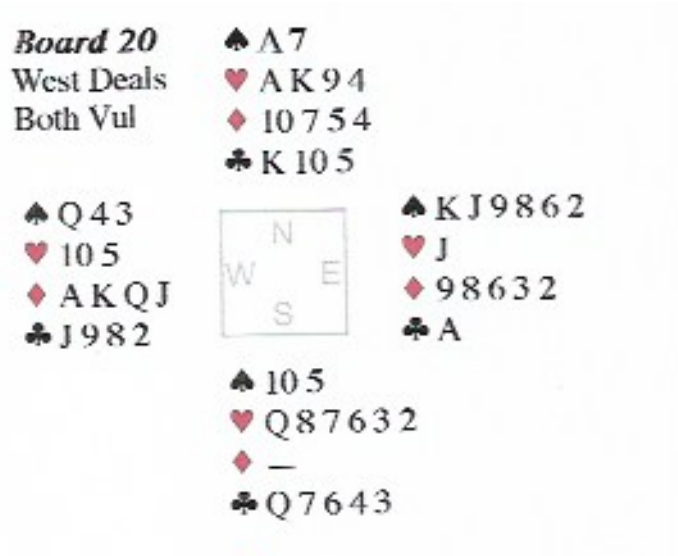
January 2019 Hand of the Month



On Hand # 20 of the Akron Unit Game of 1/18/19 how does N/S get a Plus Score? West opens the hand with 1D and North has a problem. If North makes a Take-out Double and partner bids 1S, you can not bid 1NT - that would show 19 - 20.

The only good answer is overcalling 1H. Overcalling a 4 card suit should only be done if you have a good suit and opening values which North has.

East will bid 1S and South has an easy 4H bid. West competes to 4S followed by 2 passes. South has such a good distributional hand and partner overcalled vulnerably, 5H is a good call, which makes. But East also has a good distribution and bids 5S. Now for the defense of 5S:

Opening lead is a small Heart won by the King and followed by the Ace which is ruffed and South makes a "key" play of the Heart Queen. This clearly is a "suit preference" in case North gets in. North wins the next lead of a spade and must play something. South's play of the Heart Q signals for the higher suit - Diamonds. The Diamond lead defeats 5S.

Good signal South!