

Jim's Lessons Week 2 Rule of 11 (4th best)

**Board 18**

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q 8 5  
♥ A 10 7  
♦ 10 9 3 2  
♣ 9 7

♠ 10 9 2  
♥ J 6 4 2  
♦ Q J 7  
♣ J 6 5



♠ A 7  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ K 8 6 4  
♣ K 10 4 3

♠ J 6 4 3  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A 5  
♣ A Q 8 2

EW 3♠; EW 1N; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; EW 1♣;  
Par -140

Contract	By	Lead	Made	Scores		Pairs
				N-S	E-W	
2 ♠	E	♠ A	2	110	3 vs 11	
2 ♠	W	♦ Q	2	110	4 vs 2	
2 ♠	W	♥ J	3	140	5 vs 4	
2 ♠	W	♦ Q	3	140	6 vs 6	
2 ♠	W	♥ 2	3	140	10 vs 3	
1 NT	E	♦ 4	3	150	2 vs 9	
2 ♠	E	♥ 5	4	170	1 vs 7	

Source: Puritan Bridge Club Game

Wednesday May 17, 2017

Bidding: N E S W  
P 1C\*1 Dbl 1D\*2  
P 1NT\*3 All Pass

\*1 Announced as “could be as few as 2”.

\*2 1D was forcing for 1 round but I prefer a spade bid with only 4 diamonds.

\*3 After hearing the double by South, East refrained

from a 1S bid.

Defense: Lead: 4 of diamonds. If declarer plays a high diamond from the west hand then North plays the jack and East may or may not duck his ace. Perhaps he takes it. Each time South gets in he should lead another diamond through west. To prevent this, declarer played “low” from the west hand fully expecting that north would play an honor. If declarer does play a low diamond than North should do his math. Using the rule of 11 (4th best) there are  $(11-4 = 7)$  higher cards than the 4 in the South, West, & East hands combined. With 3 diamonds of his own, North knows that East has only one card that can beat his 7 of diamonds. He should play that card instead of an honor and congratulate his partner later on a “good lead”. The E/W pair in 1 NT did not deserve their top on this board. Later on South got end-played and had to lead clubs back into East’s ace/queen or a heart. Both are bad for the defense.