



# No trumps

- Opening No trumps, arriving at no trumps, playing no trumps
- This week we will focus on bidding and playing.
- Stayman and transfers will be next week.

# Opening 1 NT

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- Shows points and shape
- 15 to 17 high card points
- Only one doubleton
- No five card major. If you have a five card major bid 1♥ or 1♠
- No singletons or voids
- You might have 5 cards in clubs or diamonds but not a 6 card suit
  
- This is the most descriptive bid in Standard American. When you open 1 NT partner knows exactly what the shape and strength of your hand is! Partner is usually in control of the final contract

# What do you open?

- You are North and dealer. What do you bid?
- 16 points, no 5 card major.
- Bid 1NT
  
- What should South respond?
- 11 points, no 4 or 5 card major. We know opener doesn't have 5 cards in either major because they opened 1NT. So at best our major suits will have 7 cards.
- Opener has 15 to 17 points
- Bid 3NT as North has 15, South has 11. The total is 26 – enough for game

♠ A 8 7  
♥ A 4 2  
♦ A 10  
♣ K J 10 9 2

♠ 10 3 2  
♥ K J 3  
♦ K Q 6 4 2  
♣ Q 5

# What do you open?

- You are North and dealer. What do you open?
- 15 points, no 5 card major
- The hand is balanced
- Bid 1NT – the small doubleton shouldn't discourage you. You want to tell partner your point range and shape
- Only one pair opened 1NT!
- The others opened 1♦ or 1♣ and were left
- Most people made 8 tricks – NT is worth more

♠ K763  
♥ AJ102  
♦ AK9  
♣ 72

1NT+1 N	♠ Q	120	
1♦+1 N	♣ J	90	
1♣+1 N	♠ 4	90	
2♦-1 N	♣ A		50

# Arriving in No trumps

- You are North and dealer. What do you bid?
- 17 points, 5 spades
- Bid 1♠
- South bids 2♦. What do you bid now?
- South is showing 10+ points and less than 3 spades
- You know there are 26+ points, you have already described your hand
- Bid 3NT



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

# Tips for arriving in NT

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- Bid NT if you can't support partner and have a balanced hand.
- If the opposition have bid a suit during the bidding, particularly if they have overcalled (showing 5 cards and 2 honours), you must have a stopper to bid no trumps. Stoppers are: A+ any cards, Kx, Qxx, Jxxx, Txxx. You want to have something to stop the opposition cashing their tricks. It is highly likely that the suit bid by the opposition will be led!

# Tips for Playing No Trumps

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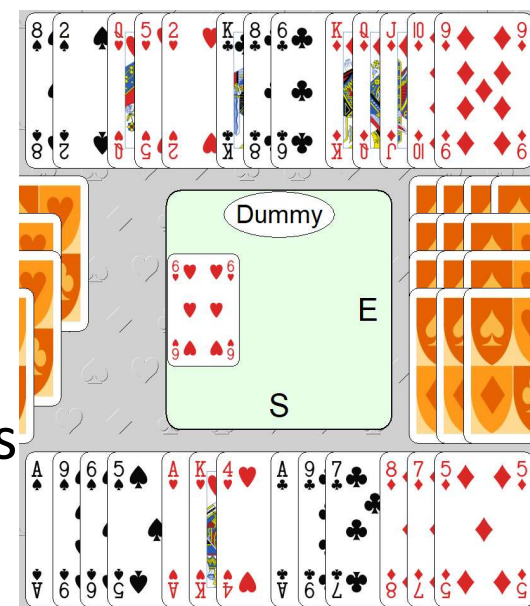
- Before you play to the first trick:
- Count your winners.
- Make a plan by asking:
  - How can I develop more tricks?
  - Is there a dangerous opponent?
  - Should I win the first trick or should I hold up?
  - Have I got enough entries for my plan?
- Develop extra tricks first – sure winners won't run away
- When the defence get in – consider holding up your stopper – don't make it easy for them

# Lets have a look

- The bidding was

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT	pass	1NT
pass		pass	pass

- The lead was ♥6
- Counting winners: ♠A, ♥AKQ, ♣AK – six tricks
- Plan:
- We need to make 9 tricks.
- If we can force out ♦A, we can make 4 more tricks
- Win the lead in hand and play diamonds.





# Leading against No trumps

- They are in 3NT. What do you lead?
- Lead your longest and strongest suit (if the opposition hasn't bid it). Just like when you are declarer, you are trying to make tricks in a long suit.
- Lead diamonds
- Which card:
  - Top of a sequence are good leads
  - The fourth highest card
    - The highest card is the queen, second highest is the ten, so fourth highest is the 8
  - Lead **♦ 8**



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

# Next week

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- What to do when partner opens 1NT and you have
  - A four card major and 8+ points
  - A five (or more) card suit