

**This Contribution from Richard**  
**Is it always right to play in a strong trump fit?**

On this board from Monday 3 June most of the field is playing in spades, given the nine-card fit:

Board 16 E/W Vul - Dealer West									
				♠ K 8 3 ♥ A J 3 ♦ K Q 9 8 ♣ K 10 3					
		♠ 5 ♥ K Q 10 9 4 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ 8 7 5 4				♠ 6 4 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ 10 7 6 5 ♣ Q J 9 2			
				♠ A Q J 10 9 7 ♥ 6 5 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ A 6					
Pairs		Contract			Scores		MPs		
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	NS	EW	NS	EW	
1	7	3NT+3	N		490		8	0	
4	9	4S+1	S		450		4	4	
2	10	2S+3	S		200		0	8	
8	11	4S+1	S		450		4	4	
12	6	4S+1	N		450		4	4	

So why are is it better to play in no-trumps with a spade trump stack? Because if the trump suit is solid, and the hand with few trumps has no roughening values, then declarer may have the opportunity to make as many tricks in no-trumps and spades. The key is to have stops in the other suits, so defence cannot start running a long suit. In no-trumps, declarer should just lose a heart and a diamond - and get the extra 10 points, which yields a great score.

At the table, imperfect defence led to an overtrick.

Playing a 14-16 no-trump, this would have been bid 1NT-2H-2S-3S-3NT.

If playing a weak no-trump, it could have been bid 1D-1S-1NT-3S-3NT