

Biding After Opening No Trump – Author: Ed L'Heureux

1		<p>♠ T82 ♥ A95 ♦ AK96 ♣ AK7</p>		<p><i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p>	
♠ Q97		♠ J53			
♥ QJ42		♥ K763			
♦ 743		♦ J85			
♣ JT4		♣ Q93			
18		♠ AK64		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
6	7	♥ T8		N 4 5 2 4 3	
		♦ QT2		S 4 5 2 4 3	
9		♣ 8652		E - - - - -	
				W - - - - -	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1D	P	1S	P
2NT	P	3NT	& 3 passes

Bidding: A hand with 18 high card points is too strong to open 1NT. With 18-19, open 1 in a suit and jump to 2NT at your 2nd bid. Responder now has an almost exact count of the combined points and knows whether the pair belongs in part score or game or slam.

Opening lead: 3H, low card from longest and strongest suit.

Play: There are 9 sure tricks: 2S, 1H, 4D & 2C

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2		<p>♠ QJT9 ♥ KJ7 ♦ T86 ♣ Q72</p>		<p><i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i></p>	
♠ A8		♠ K52			
♥ 543		♥ A862			
♦ Q972		♦ KJ43			
♣ K983		♣ A6			
9		♠ 7643		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
9	15	♥ QT9		N - - - - -	
		♦ A5		S - - - - -	
7		♣ JT54		E 2 4 3 1 2	
				W 2 4 3 1 2	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2NT
P	P	P	

Bidding: Open 1NT with balanced 15-17. Respond 2NT with 8-9 and no 4+ card major. Respond 2NT even with 6 card minor; 6 card suit can take many tricks at NT. Minimum opener should pass.

Opening lead: Perhaps 4C from 4-card suit. Or lead a major against NT, 7S top of nothing.

Play: Set up diamond tricks before playing other Aces & Kings. Get 2S + 1H + 3D + 2C = 8 tricks.

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3		♠ J87 ♥ K76 ♦ A74 ♣ J1084	Dlr: S Vul: E-W																														
♠ Q1064 ♥ 842 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 72		♠ K95 ♥ J53 ♦ 1053 ♣ K965																															
9 7 7 17	♠ A32 ♥ AQ109 ♦ J98 ♣ AQ3	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	2	3	2	3	S	3	2	3	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	3	2	3	2	3																												
S	3	2	3	2	3																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																												

N E S W
 1NT P
 2NT P 3NT and 3 passes

Bidding: Open 1NT with balanced 15-17.
 Respond 2NT with 8-9 and no 4+ card major.
 Maximum opener bids 3NT.

Opening lead: 4S, best to lead a major against NT. 2D or KD are second best.

Play: Lead a club towards AQ to score both of them. Lead 3C back towards the J10 to set up a 3rd club trick. Then have 4 heart tricks & 2 Aces for 9 total, making 3NT. Work on clubs before cashing the Aces.

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4		♠ Q106 ♥ 8642 ♦ A642 ♣ 74	Dlr: W Vul: Both																															
♠ A32 ♥ A1093 ♦ Q98 ♣ AQ2			♠ J87 ♥ KQ7 ♦ KJ7 ♣ 10853																															
6 16 10 8	♠ K954 ♥ J5 ♦ 1053 ♣ KJ96	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></table>				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	3	1	3	W	2	3	3	1	3
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																													
N	-	-	-	-	-																													
S	-	-	-	-	-																													
E	2	3	3	1	3																													
W	2	3	3	1	3																													

N E S W
 1NT
 P 3NT and 3 passes

Bidding: Open 1NT with balanced 15-17.
 Respond 3NT with 10+ and no 4+ card major.

Opening lead: Perhaps 2D from 4-card suit. Or lead a major against NT, 8H top of nothing.

Play: Will lose 2 or 3 spade tricks. Knock out AD before anything else. Lead low towards AQ of clubs. Make 1-2S, 4H, 2D, 2C tricks = 9-10 total. Opponents get 2-3 spades and AD.

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5		♠ AJ ♥ 7542 ♦ A96 ♣ AQ75		Dlr: N Vul: N-S																															
♠ Q9 ♥ AKJ ♦ Q7543 ♣ J104		♠ 7653 ♥ Q963 ♦ K108 ♣ K9																																	
15		♠ K10842 ♥ 108 ♦ J2 ♣ 8632		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	3	1	S	3	-	-	3	1	E	-	2	1	-	-	W	-	2	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	3	-	-	3	1																														
S	3	-	-	3	1																														
E	-	2	1	-	-																														
W	-	2	1	-	-																														
13	8																																		
4																																			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	P	2H	P
2S	P	P	P

Bidding: South bids 2H, transfer to spades, then passes. With 0-7, transfer into 5+ card major or 6+ card minor. The less points you have, the more important it is to transfer.

Opening lead: Low card from QH better than low from either K. Low trump also reasonable.

Play: South takes 1 trick at NT but 3 tricks (trumps #3,4,5) at Spades. This is why a weak hand transfers to a 5 card major. Ruff a H or D to get to South hand. Lead a low trump towards AJ. Make 5 spade tricks, 2 aces & a long club.

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6		♠ 842 ♥ KQ2 ♦ Q1065 ♣ J95		Dlr: E Vul: E-W																															
♠ 965 ♥ A10987 ♦ AK ♣ 764		♠ AQJ7 ♥ J6 ♦ J98 ♣ AQ102																																	
8		♠ K103 ♥ 543 ♦ 7432 ♣ K83		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	2	3	4	3	W	4	2	3	4	3
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																														
E	4	2	3	4	3																														
W	4	2	3	4	3																														
11	15																																		
6																																			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2D
P	2H	P	3NT & 3 passes

Bidding: W bids 2D, transfer to hearts, then 3NT. This shows exactly 5 hearts (did not bid H again) and 10+ (bid game rather than invite).

Opening lead: Low from 3 card suit headed by K is not appealing. Might give away the K. 7D, top of nothing, looks to be best.

Play: Play at NT is a race between the 2 sides. Declarer must knock out KS, KH, QH and/or KC to set up enough tricks. If the defenders lead D, they might set up 2 D tricks before declarer can set up 9 tricks.

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7	♠ Q97652	Dlr: S	
	♥ A109	Vul: Both	
	♦ K4		
	♣ 76		
♠ K103	♠ 84		
♥ J54	♥ KQ2		
♦ J832	♦ Q1065		
♣ K83	♣ J954		
9	♠ AJ		
8 8	♥ 8763		
	♦ A97		
15	♣ AQ102		

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1NT	P
2H	P	2S	P
4S	P	P	P

Bidding: N bids 2H, transfer to spades, then 4S. This shows 6+ spades (bid them again) and 10+ points (9 HCP + 2 length points in spades).

Opening lead: Low from J better than low from K. Lead 4H or 2D.

Play: At a suit contract, count your losers: 1S, 2H, 1C. Can always make 3S. Can you make 4S? After 3 heart tricks (1 yours, 2 theirs), 8H in dummy is the good 13th heart. Pitch the losing club on 8H.

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8		♠ KT73 ♥ A54 ♦ J32 ♣ K83	Dlr: W Vul: None																															
♠ AJ6 ♥ Q8763 ♦ A8 ♣ AT2			♠ 92 ♥ JT2 ♦ KQ9754 ♣ 76																															
11		♠ Q854 ♥ K9 ♦ T6 ♣ QJ954																																
15	6																																	
8																																		
			<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	2	-	S	2	-	-	2	-	E	-	3	3	-	2	W	-	3	3	-	2
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																													
N	2	-	-	2	-																													
S	2	-	-	2	-																													
E	-	3	3	-	2																													
W	-	3	3	-	2																													

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1NT	
P	3C	P	3D & 3 passes

Bidding: Open 1NT with 15-17 and a 5-card major and no other suit to bid next. With 0-7, North transfers into a 6+ card minor.

Opening lead: Leading away from an Ace or King is not recommended, often gives away a trick. Leading a trump looks “safer”.

Play: Looking at things from the East side, you lose 1 spade, 2 hearts, 0 diamonds and 1 club: 4 tricks total.

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9	♠ A1072	Dir: N			
	♥ A104	Vul: E-W			
	♦ AJ106				
	♣ A4				
♠ K953	♠ 84				
♥ J965	♥ Q2				
♦ 8	♦ K9752				
♣ KJ82	♣ 10976				
17	♠ QJ6				
8	♥ K873				
5	♦ Q43				
	♣ Q53				
10					

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	3	3	3
S	1	3	3	4	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	P	2C	P

2S P 3NT and 3 passes

Bidding: South bids 2C to explore for a 4-4 heart fit. North has 4 spades, but not 4 hearts. South with 10+ points now bids the 3NT game.

Opening lead: 2D from the 5 card suit looks OK.

Play: Have QJT of spades in the two hands. OK to lead QS toward AS. Repeat until KS is captured. Make 4 spade tricks. Also have 2 H, 2-3 D and AC.

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10	♠ 93	Dir: E				
	♥ Q965	Vul: Both				
	♦ 86					
	♣ AK832					
♠ KQ65	♠ AT72					
♥ K874	♥ AT					
♦ 743	♦ AJ95					
♣ J7	♣ QT4					
9	♠ J84					
	♥ J32					
9 15	♦ KQT2					
7	♣ 965					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
		N	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-
		E	-	2	1	3 2
		W	-	2	1	3 2

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2C

P 2S P 3S and 3 passes

Bidding: W bids 2C looking for a 4-4 major suit fit. After E shows 4 spades, W is strong enough to invite with 3S, but not strong enough to bid game. E is not strong enough to bid game either.

Opening lead: KD, top of touching honors.

Play: When you get in, pull trump in 3 rounds. Then play clubs to set up QC as your 9th trick. Opponents will get 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, but that should be all they get.

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11		<p>♠ JT96</p> <p>♥ K92</p> <p>♦ Q965</p> <p>♣ K9</p>	<p><i>Dlr: S</i></p> <p><i>Vul: None</i></p>
<p>♠ AK4</p> <p>♥ T84</p> <p>♦ T74</p> <p>♣ T753</p>		<p>♠ 83</p> <p>♥ 653</p> <p>♦ AJ32</p> <p>♣ Q842</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>7</p> <p>17</p>	<p>♠ Q752</p> <p>♥ AQJ7</p> <p>♦ K8</p> <p>♣ AJ6</p>	<p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT</p> <p>N 1 2 3 4 3</p> <p>S 1 2 3 4 3</p> <p>E - - - - -</p> <p>W - - - - -</p>	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1NT	P
2C	P	2H	P
2NT	P	4S	

Bidding: N bids 2C to check for 4-4 spades. S shows 4 hearts. N retreats to NT. S knows N has a 4 card major and it's not hearts, must be spades. With enough for game, South bids 4S.

Opening lead: No rush to cash AK of trump. South has both majors. Lead a minor, top of nothing

Play: Lose only A & K of trump and the AD. Trump the 6C with dummy's last trump.

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12		<p>♠ A54</p> <p>♥ T94</p> <p>♦ 87</p> <p>♣ KQ764</p>	<p><i>Dlr: W</i></p> <p><i>Vul: N-S</i></p>
<p>♠ T9</p> <p>♥ A53</p> <p>♦ AQ532</p> <p>♣ AJ8</p>		<p>♠ K632</p> <p>♥ K876</p> <p>♦ K64</p> <p>♣ 92</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>15</p> <p>7</p>	<p>♠ QJ87</p> <p>♥ QJ2</p> <p>♦ JT9</p> <p>♣ T53</p>	<p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT</p> <p>N - - - - -</p> <p>S - - - - -</p> <p>E 1 4 4 2 3</p> <p>W 1 4 4 2 3</p>	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1NT
P	2C	P	2D
P	2NT	and 3 passes	

Bidding: Open 1NT, not 1D. After 2C asks about majors, West answers 2D, none. E retreats to NT. West is at bottom of the range and passes.

Opening lead: Either a low club or the KC from KQ in the long club suit look good.

Play: You have 5 diamond tricks, A & K of hearts and A of clubs for 8 tricks.

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<div>13</div>	♠ 109	Dlr: N					
	♥ A53	Vul: Both					
	♦ AQ532						
	♣ AK8						
♠ QJ87	♠ A54						
♥ KJ2	♥ 1094						
♦ 96	♦ 87						
♣ 10953	♣ QJ764						
17	♠ K632						
7 7	♥ Q876						
9	♦ KJ104						
	♣ 2						
		♣♦♥♠NT					
		N	1	4	3	2	3
		S	1	4	3	2	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	P	2C	P
2D	P	2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Bidding: Open 1NT, not 1D. NT scores higher. 2C asks about majors. 2D says none. 2NT says 8-9 points. Opener is max, bids 3NT.

Opening lead: Low club from the 5 card suit.

Play: Have 8 tricks: 1H, 5D, 2C. Play AH then low towards QH. This loses to KJ but sets up 13th H as 9th trick. Low spade to KS also produces a 9th trick.

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14	♠ 106	Dlr: E Vul: None																															
	♥ 102																																
	♦ QJ762																																
	♣ A964																																
♠ KJ98	♠ Q74																																
♥ Q8764	♥ AJ9																																
♦ 98	♦ AK43																																
♣ Q8	♣ J72																																
7	♠ A532	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	-	-	-	S	2	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	2	1	W	-	-	3	2	1
	♣			♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2			1	-	-	-																										
S	2			1	-	-	-																										
E	-			-	3	2	1																										
W	-	-	3	2	1																												
8 15	♥ K53																																
	♦ 105																																
10	♣ K1053																																

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2C
P	2D	P	2H and 3 passes

Bidding: W, having both majors, bids 2C rather than transfer to hearts. 2D says no 4 card major. W bids 2H, showing 5 hearts & 8-9 points. East passes, would bid 2NT with only 2 hearts.

Opening lead: QD top of 2 touching honors.

Play: Low spade to the Q loses to the A. KJ9 are then good (because the 10 falls on the K). Lose only 1S, 1H & 2C. Makes 3H.

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15		♠ 852 ♥ Q96 ♦ K9875 ♣ 43	Dlr: S Vul: N-S																														
♠ QJ93 ♥ AK10 ♦ Q3 ♣ J1086		♠ 10764 ♥ 7532 ♦ J6 ♣ 952																															
5 13 1 21	♠ AK ♥ J84 ♦ A1042 ♣ AKQ7	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	3	2	4	S	4	5	3	2	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	4	5	3	2	4																												
S	4	5	3	2	4																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																												

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Bidding: Open 2NT with balanced 20-21. W has 13 but should refrain from bidding after the strong hand is advertised. N has only 5 points but can “see” 25-26 partnership total, raises to 3NT.

Opening lead: Tempting to lead AH from AK. But might want to set up other tricks and keep these to get back in. If so, lead QS from QJ.

Play: Have 10 tricks off the top: 2S, 5D, 3C. If opponents lead A & K hearts, you make 11 tricks. Play 10D early so that dummy's suit is not blocked.

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16		♠ 93 ♥ 1075 ♦ KQ73 ♣ J1086	Dlr: W Vul: E-W																														
♠ AK ♥ J84 ♦ A1042 ♣ AKQ7		♠ QJ8752 ♥ Q96 ♦ 98 ♣ 43																															
6 21 5 8	♠ 1064 ♥ AK32 ♦ J65 ♣ 952		<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	1	5	1	W	1	2	1	5	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																												
E	1	2	1	5	1																												
W	1	2	1	5	1																												

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			2NT
P	3H	P	3S
P	4S	and 3 passes.	

Bidding: Open 2NT with balanced 20-21. Stayman and transfers apply. 3H is transfer to spades. E would continue 3NT with only 5 spades, but bids 4S with 6 of them. NT opener will have no singletons, thus at least 2 spades.

Opening lead: KD: top of touching honours. Great lead against a suit contract.

Play: There are 10 tricks: 6 spades, Ace of diamonds and AKQ of clubs.