

Declarer Play Techniques at No Trump

If the final contract becomes a suit bid, then that suit is the master suit and would win a trick against any non-trump card. However, as the name implies, if the final contract becomes No Trump, the trick is simply going to be won by the highest card of the suit led that is played. Obviously, high cards are the most important since they are most likely to win a trick. Length does also matter, since if you are on lead and lead a suit that no one has any more then you will win the trick no matter how small a card it is.

Some ways to develop trick at NT:

1. Length- If the opponents are out of a suit then you will win any card in that suit. Example: AKQ2 in one hand and 654 in the other hand. You take the three top cards and watch to see if both opponents follow suit all three times. If they do, no one has any more cards in the suit. Therefore, that lowly 2 is a good trick.
2. Establishing lower cards by letting the opponents win higher cards- Example: KQJ in one hand and 743 in the other hand. When you play the king, the opponents will win their ace. However, you will now have 2 winners that you have established. Example: 765 in one hand and QJT in the other hand. In this case you will need to lose the lead twice to the ace and the king before you set up anything. And you will only set up 1 winner.
3. Finesse- A finesse is when you try to win a trick with a card

when there is a higher card outstanding. You are trying to win the trick based on the location of the higher card. Example: 54 in one hand and AQ in the other hand. If you lead the 4 and the next hand plays a small card you can take a finesse by playing the queen. The finesse will win if the king is in the hand the has already played. A finesse is basically a 50% chance. The key is that you must always lead from the hand with the little cards towards the hand with the high cards. It would not work had you started with either the queen or the ace.