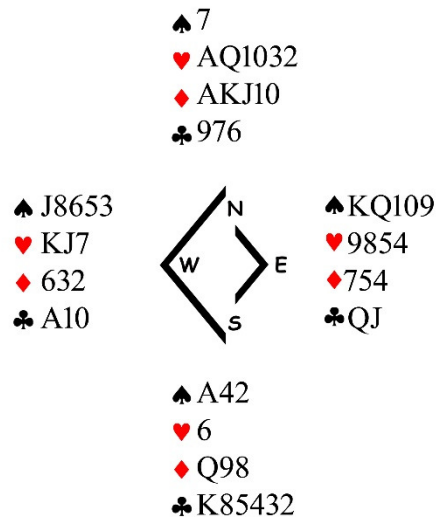


# 261 . Forcing Notrump-The Workhorse

*Published on page 16 of the Trail Times, Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015*

*No Column in the week of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015*



S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	P
1NT	P	2 ♦	P
3 ♣	All Pass		

--Both Vulnerable--

Forcing No Trump is the work horse of the Two-Over-One bidding system. One No Trump is a forcing response (one round) to an opening in either major. It tells partner, that he cannot bid a new suit at the two-level because he does not have an opening hand. He could have anywhere between five and twelve HCP's. The bid cannot be passed unless made by a passed hand.

The opener must then bid his second longest suit. He could be bidding a three-card Diamond suit or a two-card Club suit if he has four Spades and is not strong (16 HCP's) enough to reverse into Two Spades.

With 5 to 9 HCP's, the person using Forcing No Trump will be happy with the two-level and will likely run to his partner's major with two of them.

With 10-12, the person using Forcing No Trump, will either raise partner to the three-level or rebid Two No Trump.

**The bidding:**

North, with 13 HCP's, opens One Heart. Partner does not have an opening hand or four Spades and replies with a forcing One No Trump. North bids Two Diamonds and South bids Three Clubs showing a suit of his own.

Three Clubs shows a reasonable six-card suit, but if South were not in the upper range of his bid, he would have to pick one of partner's suits. North has a fit for Clubs and has the 14 HCP's to accept the invite to 3NT, but with a singleton Spade, he refuses to bid Three No Trump because the opponents have at least nine Spades. Partner denied four Spades in bypassing them to bid forcing One No Trump.

**The Play:**

West leads his 4<sup>th</sup> best Spade. Declarer wins the ace and then ruffs a Spade. He goes to the Diamond Queen and ruffs another Spade. He then leads a trump towards the King. West wins the Ace and exits a Spade. Declarer ruffs, plays a Club and claims the rest for +170.

**Note:**

Two Diamonds will not fare nearly as well. The opponents will likely lead trump every chance they get and declarer will try a cross-ruff. He can find eight tricks for +90.