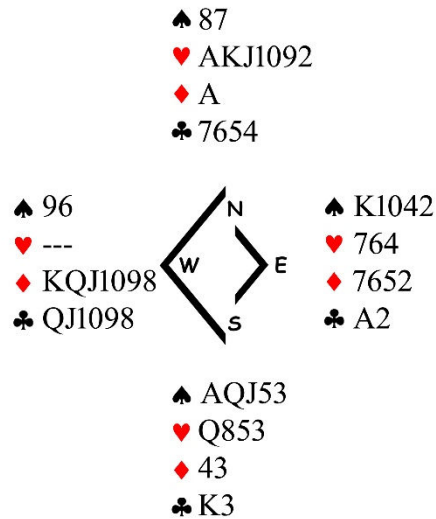


# 346 . Unusual No Trump

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S	W	N	E
1 ♠	2NT	3 ♣	5 ♦
5 ♥	P	6 ♥	All Pass

--East West Vulnerable--

The two-suited pre-emptive bids are Michael's cuebid and unusual No Trump. In a recent column, we have seen the Michael's cuebid that shows a specific two-suited hand. Unusual is a jump in No Trump to show the two lower unbid suits. This is often the minors when it is done over a major opening.

Unusual is also the simplest No Trump bid by a passed hand. Jumps to 3NT are not unusual and usually shows a desire to play.

## The Bidding:

South, with 12 HCP's, opens One Spade and West jumps to 2NT showing the minors. Because he is vulnerable, he really should be six-five with two playable

suits. Had the vulnerability been reversed, West would have jumped to Four No Trump. This is not keycard-asking because in order for a slam to be possible, there has to be a fit.

Unusual is an over-abused bid because players think it simply shows two suits of any five cards. This is completely false. The suits must be playable opposite a likely small doubleton from partner.

North cuebids Three Clubs which shows a Heart suit and ten plus points. East, even at this vulnerability, is able to jump to Five Diamonds to eliminate Blackwood.

South can do nothing but show Heart support. North is pretty sure slam is there, and takes a shot. Accurate bidding is often impossible in pre-empted auctions. Yes, it could go down with two Club losers, but that is bridge.

#### **Opening Lead:**

The Diamond King.

#### **The Play:**

Declarer wins the Diamond Ace and draws trump. It looks like a doomed contract if the Spade King and Club Ace are not both onside. If Spades are three-three, three Clubs can be discarded, but this is not the case. Spades are ruffed good and only two Clubs get discarded. Declarer plays a Club to the King, and when the Club Ace is onside, the slam comes home.

#### **The Result:**

Declarer loses only the Club Ace for 12 tricks and +980. It was a very lucky slam, 25%.