

Forcing No Trump

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/ForcingNoTrump.pdf>

This is the workhorse of the Two-Over-One Bidding System.

The bid of One No Trump only over a major, by an unpassed hand, in an uncontested auction, shows 5 to 12 HCP's and denies the ability to make a Two-Over-One game forcing call. It is forcing one round.

1NT shall be announced as "Forcing" since it is in blue in the ACBL convention card.

1♠	1NT	
1♥	1NT	also denies 4 ♠'s
1♠	3♠	four-card support limit raise
1♠	1NT	
2♦	3♠	3 card limit raise
1♥	4♥	0-8 HCP's, five trump and a singleton.

If player is a passed hand it is 6-9, not forcing, denying 10+ points and 3 spades.

P	P	1♥	P	
1NT	P	P	P	6-9

Some play this as semiforcing, showing 5-11 HCP's, which can be passed with a balanced minimum.

In competition, 1NT is natural, 6-9 with a stopper.

P	P	1♥	1♠
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1NT P P P 6-9

Rebids by Opener after Forcing No Trump

Better Minor or Short Club

Better Minor

1♠ P 1NF P

2♣

Without 4 ♥'s and then 6 ♠'s, one rebids the longer minor and if 3-3 we bid 2♣, therefore 2♣ or 2♦ could be 3 cards.

1♥ P 1NF P

2♣

2♣ could be 2 cards if 4-5-2-2 and not enough points to reverse
2♦ could be 3 cards

Note: If playing Flannery, a rebid after forcing No Trump of 2♣ promises 3 ♣'s and a rebid of 2♦ promises 4 ♦'s.

Short Club

1♥ 1NT

2♣ 4-5-3-1

Without playing Flannery, one does not have the option of making a rebid of 2♦ show four ♦'s unless a rebid of 2♣ can show one ♣ and this I cannot recommend.

Examples

- 1♠ P 1NF P
2♣ P ??

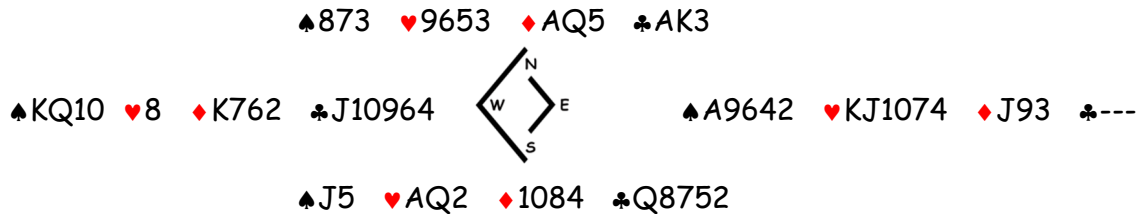
What do you do with: ♠: 7 ♥:AQ92 ♦:A1042 C:10983

Rebid 2NT, there is too much of a risk of playing a bad Moysian in Clubs. If partner opens 1NT with 5 spades, a rebid of 2NT should be 11-12, but here 10 is okay.

2015.11.17.Rebid2NT

- The following hand was played at matchpoints where it is a bidder's game. Five-five hands and hands with a void after often under-valued especially if there is a fit.

East Dealer Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♥	P	2♠

All Pass

Opening Lead:	♣5		
Traveller	N-S	E-W	
2♠E-1	-100	22.34%	
2♠E=	+110	45.74%	
3♠E=	+140	59.57%	
3♣S-2	+200	76.60%	

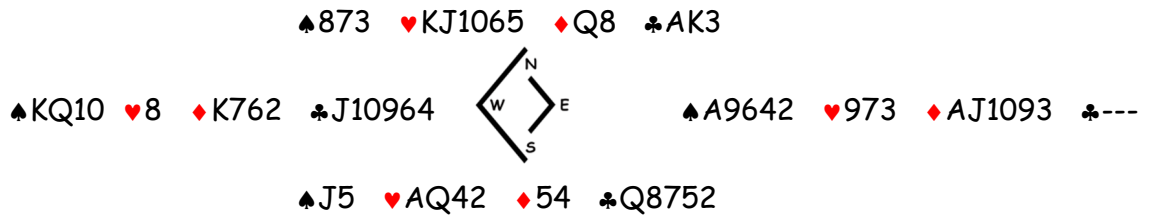
Analysis:

I was quite prepared to jump in spades to show a three-card limit raise after a forcing no trump, but partners rebid of 2♥ made me put on the brakes. This is a clear benefit of forcing No Trump.

Partner should not draw trump. He should ruff the club opening lead and play a diamond. Opponents will likely return a trump because declarer left them alone. So declarer will win the trick in dummy and lead a heart. Win the trump return in dummy and lead a diamond to the Jack.

Declarer will lose two Hearts and two diamonds making 3 for +140.

Now change the hands a little bit:



N	E	S	W
	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♦	P	3♠
P	4♠	All Pass	

When Forcing No Trump Promises a Rebid

Forcing No Trump shows 5 to a bad 12 and is semiforcing by a passed hand. If partner is a full opener, semi-forcing becomes forcing and if he is not a full opener, he can pass. Therefore it is semiforcing.

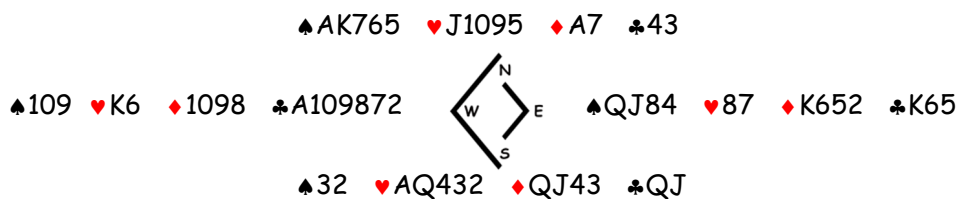
When one is 10 to a bad 12, one must make a rebid, just as in Standard American, with 10 to a bad 12, one bids a new suit at the two-level and promises a rebid.

Board 1

North Dealer

If 11 Points were an Opener why can't this be one?

None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♠	P	1NT ^F	P
2♥	P	3♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♥7

You are afraid your spade winners will be ruffed in dummy.

Analysis:

South uses forcing No Trump because he does not have a full opener, something that 2♥ instead of 1NT^F would show.

♠82 ♥AK1094 ♦7643 ♣A8

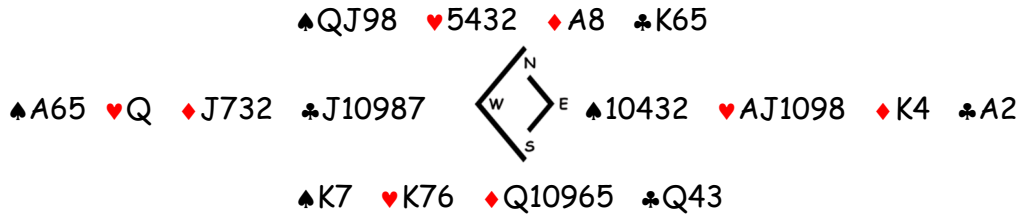
Remember this hand from 2/1 Workshop #1 which was treated as a full opener while South's hand ♠32 ♥AQ432 ♦QJ43 ♣QJ is not an opener. If it were an opener than 4♥ would make because game makes when an opener is opposite an opener. It is real tempting to end up in 4♥.

Declarer Play: Set up Spades and leave clubs and Diamonds to the last. East may get endplayed and have to lead from his ♦King. When West wins his ♣Ace, he must lead the ♦10 to take partner off of end play.

Board 2 Ruffing Finesse

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	1NT ^F
P	2♣	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠Queen

Analysis:

East cannot rebid 2♠ because a reverse when partner can have as few as 6 points is 16+. Therefore East must rebid his longer minor and if they are the same length then 2♣.

Ruffing Finesse:

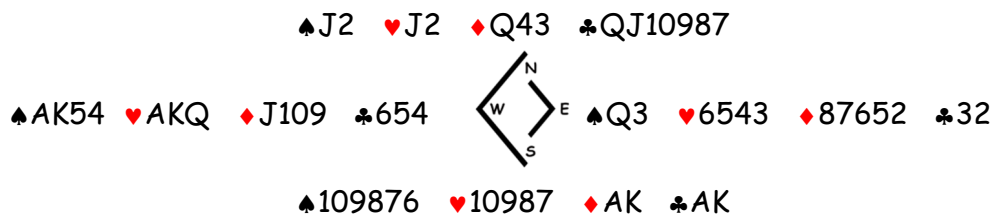
Cash the ♥A and put the ♥Jack on the table. If it is not covered then pitch a losing spade. If it is covered, ruff and go to the ♣Ace and make spade discards.

The defend must duck smoothly because declarer might decide to ruff the King out. South covers when he has to.

Even if West is the closed hand, learn to recognize when declarer is doing a ruffing finesse. If he had two hearts in West he takes the normal finesse.

Board 3

South Dealer East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
1NT ^F	P	2♥	P
2♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠4 against 2♠
 West does not want ♥'s ruffed.

Analysis:

North cannot show his club suit, that may be taken as invitational. North picks Spades.

If 1♠ 3♣ is invitational with a long club suit, then 3♣ after forcing No Trump is weak.

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
3♣			shows 10-12 HCP's and 6 ♣'s

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
1NT	P	2♥	P
3♣	P	P	P
			shows 6-9 HCP's and 6 ♣'s

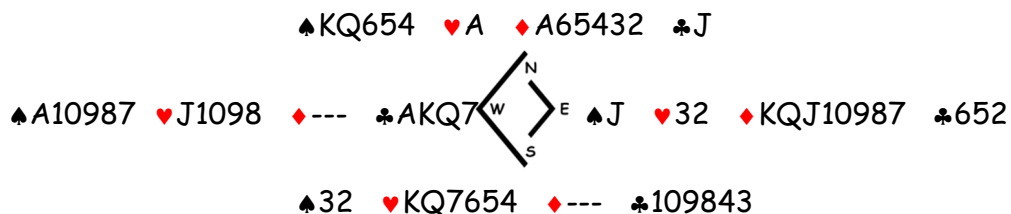
Look at the club suit quality and end-up in 3♣ making for +110.

Where to park a misfit sometimes takes a bit of luck, but look at the spots.

When partner opens the bidding, Jumps to the two-level are weak (0-5 with a six-card suit) and jumps to the three-level are invitational.

Board 4 It's Worse than the Star Wars' Trap

West Dealer Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
			1♠
P	1NT ^F	P	2♣
P	2♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: If West bid ♠'s and ♣'s then lead ♥King
 If West bid ♠'s and ♥'s then lead ♣10

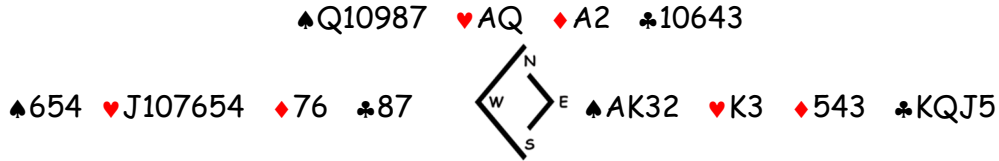
Analysis:

Careful in misfit situations. Please avoid bidding empty six card suits at the to-level. You do not want the following auction.

N	E	S	W
			1♠
2♦	P	P	Dbl
All Pass			

Board 5

North Dealer NS Vulnerable



	♠J ♥982 ♦KQJ1098 ♣A92
N	E S W
1♠	P 1NT ^F P
2♣	P 3♦ P
3NT	All Pass

Opening Lead:

♣8

With outside entry lead ♥6, lead ♥Jack with three touching honours, ♥J109xx or ♥J108xx

Analysis:

2♦ would be to play. South could have bid 3♦ over 1♠, but when a complete misfit is possible then go as slow as you can by using forcing No Trump.

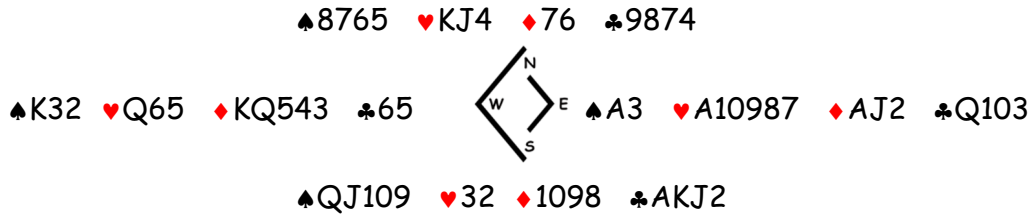
Discover quickly that East has all the points and try to end play him. Never take the Heart finesse and try to know where your ninth trick is coming from before running Diamonds and squeezing yourself. Exit J♠ and then use the ♦Ace to knock out the last Spade honour and use the ♥Ace to cash the good spades then run Diamonds.

Yes cashing a long suit is sometimes good except when you get squeeze as well as the opponents. If the opponents just get squeezed then do it.

Board 6 Three-Card Limit Raise

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	1NT ^F
P	2♣	P	3♥
P	4♥	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣A (better of the two natural leads)

Analysis:

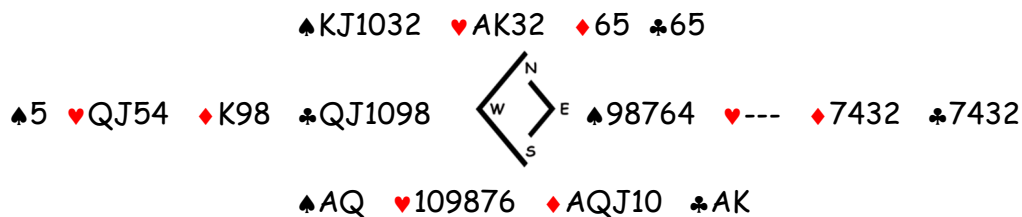
East could open 1NT but he should have three in the unbid major in case partner has ♥ support (and he does not know it) and transfers to a bad 5-card spade suit and passes.

This is how one shows a three-card limit raise.

Defense will cash the two top clubs when faced by such a good diamond suit in dummy. North will encourage a club because there is absolutely no need or benefit in a switch.

Board 7 Not the Time to Lead a Stiff

South Dealer Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
		1♥	P
3♥	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	6♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♣Queen, not a stiff because it looks like you have two natural trump tricks if you do not double 6♥

Analysis:

Even in Standard American, a limit raise should show four-card support. In Two-Over-One, you saw on the last board that you go through forcing No Trump with only a three-card limit raise. With a three-card limit raise in Standard American, one makes a bid of a new suit then goes to three of the major. Bidding a new suit at the two-level and then two of partner's major shows 10+ but partner may think you are just preferring the major over his second suit.

Often when in slam, it is best to play it safely. Put the ♥10 (Duck smoothly West) on the table and let it ride. You will likely lose to the Jack or Queen but now slam is guaranteed. If you are in 7♥, you will try cashing a top ♥ honour and then take the finesse when you see East out. Therefore 7♥ is down one and 6♥ makes seven.