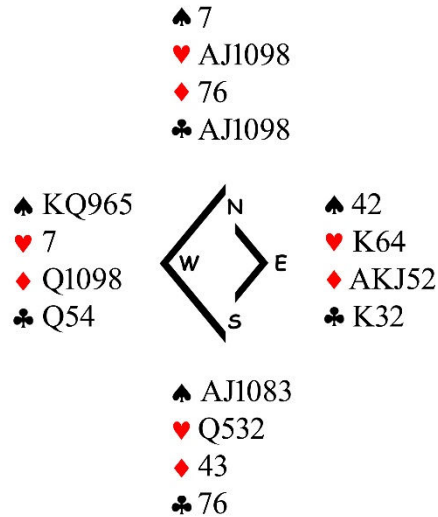


# 347. Sandwich No Trump

Published on page 2 of the Trail Times, Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017



E	S	W	N
1♦	P	1♠	1NT
P	3♥	All Pass	

--East West Vulnerable--

When one opponent opens and the other responds, this is not the best time to declare that one has 15 to 18 balanced points. In fact, against good defenders, it is an impossible contract opposite a partner likely strapped for points and entries.

Therefore, it is a better use to have 1NT to show a five-five or a five-four hand with around eight to 11 HCP's regardless of whether partner previously passed or not. When a player makes this bid at his first opportunity to bid, it must be alerted. If partner is a passed hand, the bid need not be alerted.

### **The Bidding:**

East, with 14 HCP's, opens One Diamond. This is a candidate for a One No Trump opening because of the five-card suit had there been a couple of Ten's. South does not have a One-Spade overcall because, although he has a good suit, he does not have an outside control.

West responds One Spade and North bids One No Trump showing the unbid suits. North has a nice hand with all the good cards in the two long suits.

East passes showing a minimum opening denying six Diamonds. South bids Three Hearts because if he bid Two Hearts and the Opponents competed, he would have clearly bid Three Hearts. Therefore, it is better to bid it right away and limit opponent's communication. East and West cannot compete or they mislead partner about their point count.

I make this bid often and the opponents will always ask, "Is that weak?" I never understand the question when four people are bidding. We all have stuff or we would not be bidding. A Pass is weak to answer the question.

### **Opening Lead:**

The Spade King seems reasonable.

### **The Play:**

Declarer wins the Spade Ace, and puts the Spade Ten, hiding the Jack, on the table. If West ducks, a Diamond goes away and declarer makes ten tricks. However, West will cover, as he should, and the defenders will get their Diamonds and wait for their round suit winners,

### **The Result:**

Declarer will lose no Spades, one Heart, two Diamonds and one Club for +140.