

START WINNING

Chapter 1: TRUMPS

Whatever you have been taught so far, let me tell you what I think is the most important thing that you should base all your bidding on: TRUMPS. As far as I am concerned, having a trump suit is far more important than not having a suit as trumps, provided that you have a majority of trumps, i.e. more trumps than your opponents, and a good majority at that. That, in simple terms means at least eight trumps between you and dummy. That is a good majority.

That is what bidding should be about, finding that trump suit so you can do better than your opponents. Bidding is all about finding a trump suit that you can play in, and finding a level at which you can play, with your opponents doing the same thing, finding a suit that they want as trumps, and bidding to a level that will be higher than yours if they want to play the hand. It is in playing the hand that the points will be scored.

If, of course, you cannot find a trump fit, or do not have one, then you have the option of playing in No Trumps. But one thing that is obvious and one I must stress: if you choose No Trumps, then neither side has an advantage due to trumps, they merely have an advantage by way of point count, i.e. high card strength. If you and your partner choose to play in No Trumps, make sure you choose to do so because you do not have a suit that can be nominated as trumps.

Playing with a suit as trumps will give you a decided advantage in trick taking, so never pass up the opportunity to find that fit if you can do so. That is your cornerstone of bidding.

You may have been taught that you should open the bidding with 1NT when you have a certain type of hand. If you will bear with me and re learn what you have been taught (if that is what you have been taught), I will take you through the process of searching for a trump fit and only then give you the option of not looking for the trump fit when you *choose* to open the bidding with a bid of 1NT.

Then, if you do choose to play Acoll or any other system, you will at least know why you do so, and the choice will be yours.

START PLAYING and START WINNING!