

Play/bidding revision

Here follows a short resume of a number of bids and plays that the student "knows" BUT (it seems anyway) q-u-i-t-e often doesn't put into practise. If this handout sounds a bit like a harangue , well so be it.

Rule of 11

Quite easy to remember { "subtract the card led from 11 which shows how many cards higher than the led card are held by the next three players" } but how often do you actually use it ?

In 3NT the 7 spades is led

(declarer)	(dummy)
93	AK10
AQ5	876
KQJ7	10983
8654	AK3

Perhaps your eye is taken off the ball by the high spades you have in the dummy. You can see the A + K spades and think "well theres no problem there" and give the lead no second thought. You play the Ace spades and ...subsequently go off in the laydown contract.

And yet all you had to do was to apply the R.o.11 and realise that the 10 spades would win at trick 1 (and would give you that elusive 9th trick and the contract). You should make it a point of principle to always examine leads (at N.Ts) to see if the R.o.11 has anything to reveal.

Suppose the 6 spades is led here :-

(declarer)	(dummy)
97	AJ8

well it might seem odd but the R.o.11 shows that the 8 (yes the 8 !) will win at trick 1.

And here the 8 spades is led

(declarer)	(dummy)
76	AQ10

...the R.o.11 tells us that the 10 can not be beaten in dummy.

Sometimes the rule doesnt get us anywhere e.g 3 spades led

(declarer)	(dummy)
76	AQ10

and it is a complete guess which card to play BUT it is essential to at least go through the motions of checking out what the Rule has to tell us just in case .