

Rule of eleven

The rule of eleven is a mathematical formula that is used by declarers and defenders. Unlike the plethora of bridge rules that abound and are here today and gone tomorrow the rule of eleven has stood the test of time and was first written about in 1881.

Here is an example of it in action.

The declarer in 3NT receives the lead of the 6 Hrts.

e.g

	(dummy)
	Q1087
6 H ----->	
	A32
	(declarer)

Dummy is first to play and there are various possibilities.

Depending on the whereabouts of the KH or J H it might be right to play the Q or 10 or even 7 from dummy.

Which card should dummy play to win the trick ?

Well a learned card player in 1881 would play the 7 Hrts at trick one and *know* that it would win the trick.

Quite clever you might think. {All will be explained shortly }.

Another example.

The declarer in 3NT receives the lead of the 8 Hrts.

e.g

	(dummy)
	102
8 H ----->	
	AQ3
	(declarer)

Well the lead isn't much of a worry of course and we can simply play low from the dummy and win with the Q or Ace in hand.

The rule of eleven tells us however that if we play the 10 from dummy at trick one, then the play of the 10 will win the trick.

So what is this magical rule ?When you first read it below it will sound like gobbledy gook but give it a chance, after all its been with us for nearly 150 years and deserves a little respect.

In a No Trump contract if a low card is led ,declarer subtracts the card led from 11. The resulting figure reveals how many cards higher than the led card there are between the dummy , the right hand opponent and the declarer.