

More Declarer Play In No Trumps

♠ KQ8
 ♥ AQ93
 ♦ AK43
 ♣ 87
 ♠ J54
 ♥ KJ85
 ♦ J62
 ♣ K65
 ♠ 10932
 ♥ 104
 ♦ Q95
 ♣ QJ32
 ♠ A76
 ♥ 762
 ♦ 1087
 ♣ A1094

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1N
All pass		Pass	3N

1 Or a direct blast to 3N

West doesn't have an obvious lead but may decide on leading from "longest and strongest", so ♥5. Declarer counts seven sure tricks (three spades, one heart, two diamonds and a club). We need a further two tricks to fulfil our contract and our best hope is that West has made a fourth best lead. Using the Rule of Eleven we know East holds one card higher than ♥5 (there are 11 minus 5 = 6 cards higher than this in the North, East and South hands; we can see 5 of them). We know East's card is either ♥10 or ♥J (else West would have led ♥J from KJ10 or from ♥J108). This means it's futile playing dummy's ♥9. We should duck in dummy. ♥10 pops up but now we can take a deep finesse of ♥9, return to hand and finesse ♥Q. We've developed two extra tricks and have made 3N.

Key Point : *The Rule of Eleven is helpful to declarer as well as the defenders.*

♠ AQ63
 ♥ 853
 ♦ 97
 ♣ Q962
 ♠ J54
 ♥ KQJ92
 ♦ J1084
 ♣ 4
 ♠ K987
 ♥ 764
 ♦ 63
 ♣ K875
 ♠ 102
 ♥ A10
 ♦ AKQ52
 ♣ AJ103

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾
All pass		2♥	3N ⁽²⁾

1 Could open 2N (19-20, balanced)
2 Hopefully

When we bid 3N we know that the contract is by no means an easy make. West makes the obvious lead of ♥K. We have six definite tricks (three top diamonds and one in each of the other suits). We need to develop three extra tricks. We could hope that diamonds break 3-3 and that the spade finesse works (less than a 20% chance). It's better to hope that East has ♣K (a 50% chance). We must plan our entries carefully. We cross to dummy's ace of spades and should be thinking of catering for East to hold four clubs. We want to be able to finesse, possibly three times, against this king. There is just one way to do this and remain in dummy the right number of times – we play ♣9 and underplay South's ♣3. Now we can run ♣Q (on which ♣10 is played). Then we're able to play a small club and finesse South's knave. Three extra tricks and success.

Key Point : *If short of entries, needing to repeat a finesse, be careful how you play the honours and spot cards in the critical suit*