

## Gambling 3NT

Consider the following hand ♠Ax ♥xx ♦AKJTxxx ♣xx. You likely have 8 Tricks, you only need 1 Trick from Partner's hand to make a very nice bid of 3NT. Looking at your hand you would need considerably more help from Partner to make a better score than what you would gain from 3NT\*. In this case you do have enough HCP for an Opening bid but that is not a necessity. Much more important is the 7 Tricks and an outside entry into your hand in case you lose a trick in your long suit trying to drive out the one loser. You need a way to get back to your long suit. Some folks insist that you have a 7-Card suit headed by AKQJ. This certainly makes the run of 7 Trick more certain. The more important consideration for the Gambling 3NT is making sure you can get 6 to 7 Tricks from the long Minor. You might note that Game in NT yields the same score as a 5-level Game in a Minor. A hand with a long strong Minor suit has a much easier path in NT than it does in a Trump Contract. With the sample hand you are obviously "gambling" that Partner has a stopper in ♥'s and ♣'s.

### **Optional Responses**

If, as Responder, you don't think your hand can tolerate a NT bid you can ask Partner to play in his Minor by bidding 4♣. If ♣'s are Partners suit he Passes, else he bids 4♦.

\* 3N and 5 of a Minor yield the same score – but you need far more strength for the 5 level bid.