



Doubling

How to compete, penalise and avoid disaster

Aims of the seminar

- Know the terminology relating to doubles better.
- Understand when a double can help develop the auction or lead to a big fat penalty
- Lose the sick feeling in your stomach when partner doubles and you have no idea what it means or the even sicker feeling when you double and partner hesitates before getting it wrong!
- Learn how to judge the best way of playing doubles
- Concede fewer -670's and get more +800's

The Vocabulary

Take out	Support
Penalty	Co-operative
Sputnik/Negative	Optional
Responsive	Protective (Re-opening)
Competitive	Game Try
Action	Specific e.g. DOPI
Lightner	Doubles of Artificial Bids

It's so simple Q1

- The auction starts

West	North	East	South
1H	X	No	2C
No	2D		

- Do you have A or B or either?

	A		B
S	AJ85	S	A86
H	K3	H	J3
D	AQ763	D	AKQ976
C	65	C	K4

Who is in trouble? Q2+Q3

- 1H (4S) **x** or (4S) **x**
- Penalty or take out?
- If it is for take out then when do you take it out?
- If you take it out do you know what bids mean? Example 1H (4S) **x** (No) 4NT?
- Does the level make a difference?
- Only remove to a making contract?

After a high level pre-empt Q3

- They pre-empt to make your life difficult
- You won't always get it right. No-one does!
- Suggestion: Keep double as flexible as possible
- The auction starts with 4H on your right and you call?

A	B	C
S AQ97	S A3	S AK7
H 6	H KJ94	H K9
D AQJ74	D A32	D AQJ6
C KJ4	C KQ5	C K1095
?	?	?

- Be prepared to pass as responder if you can see no chance of making a game

After any pre-empt Q4

- In 1970 more than 50% played double of a pre-empt for penalty and struggled on with Fishbein, Herbert, FILM and many more. They even played Hackett vs Weak 2's!
- In 2010 no experts do anything other than play double for take out
- Many players still, however, play a double of a high level pre-empt as penalty still although the same arguments apply

1S No 1NT x Q5

- Penalty of no trumps?
- Take out of spades?
- Suggestion: On the grounds of frequency it is better to play it as takeout of spades

S 7
H AQ104
D KJ953
C KJ3

- If take out of spades then if opener rebids 2S and partner doubles? 1S No 1NT x 2S x
- If opener bids a new suit and partner doubles? 1S No 1NT x 2D x

Why do people play negative doubles?

- Flexibility in the auction
- Able to compete more effectively
- The higher they bid the more you need it
- You can still get the penalty! Partner can re-open.

West	North	East	South
1H	2S	No	No
X	No	?	

S	KJ97
H	65
D	A1054
C	QJ10

Double reduces the need to guess

1S	x	2S	?
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- You hold

S	97
H	KJ54
D	Q1076
C	K97

- What should you do?
- **x** shows a desire to compete and two places to play
- 2NT opposite this is useful as two places to play

Doubling for penalty

- To avoid problems in a partnership you need some rules. You can't discuss every sequence so general principles are best e.g.
- If they wander in over a pre-empt then a double is for penalty e.g. 2S 3D x or 3C 3H x
- If they protect x is for penalty
- e.g. 1S No 2S No No 3C x is penalty

Doubling for penalty (2)

- When you double a 1NT opening and they start to escape many play methods so as to confuse and maximise their chance of escaping.
- If they xx 1NT as an escape then pass this if you would have passed the double and bid if not
- If they remove agree what doubles are penalty and what take out. Their methods make you work or get poor results
- Decide if any passes are forcing. E.g. 1NT x 2C ?

They bid over your 1NT Q7

- 1NT 2S x ?
- 1NT 2C x ? 2C is the Majors or 2C is Hearts and another
- 1NT 2C x 2H x 2C was Hearts and another
- Suggestions
- If they overcall naturally then play double as take our or values
- If you hold an ordinary no trump with a doubleton in their suit consider re-opening

We double 1NT

- This is a complicated area
- Players use rescue mechanisms in an attempt to confuse
- Are your doubles penalty?
- What happens if they redouble?
- Suggestions
- Ignore redouble, do what you would do anyway
- If they bid 2C or 2D then double=penalty and pass=forcing

Lastly

- You need agreements
- You can't discuss every single double so have some general rules
- Don't worry too much about trying to extract huge penalties. It's more important for you to declare when it is right to do so
- **Statement of the obvious:** In pairs understand that if the field get +110 and you get +100 it is a bottom. If the same field gets +110 and you get -670 it's still the same bottom. Depending on partner it maybe psychologically different
- Double is a flexible tool
- It's also important to agree what happens after the double. Can you show 2 suits? Can you show a weak or strong hand?