

07- 2024 – Double or Nothing No.2

In this Hand, the Penalty Double was not invoked, and it paid dividends (plus franking credits and trailing commissions!)

2. Dealer South, All Vul, you hold:

EAST
A1097
5
AQ1065
AK6

The bidding goes:

South	West	North	East
1H	P	4H	??? (1)

(1) What should East do? Double looks appealing with 17 Points. If instead you bid a suit, like 4S or 5D, it may be very expensive. You decide to Pass

Here are the full Hands:

NORTH
J62
KQ874
98732
-

WEST
Q843
3
4
10987532

EAST
A1097
5
AQ1065
AK6

SOUTH
K5
AJ10962
KJ
QJ4

At the Club, the Hand was played 9 times that night:

4H making 11 Tricks – 3 times

4H making 10 Tricks – 2 times

4Hx making 10 Tricks – 1 time

4Hxx making 11 Tricks – 1 time (= a score of 1480!)

5H making 10 Tricks – 1 time

5Hx making 10 Tricks – 1 time

CONTRACT

4H by South

THE LEAD & THE PLAY

Where D4 was led, taken by DA and a Diamond returned for a ruff, plus an eventual Spade winner, Declarer was held to 10 Tricks. But at no time were less than 10 Tricks made

THE DOUBLE

As with last week's Hand, looking at a simple risk/reward analysis, East should not Double – if 4H does not make, each undertrick is 100. EW will score well. If game makes, then 620 becomes 790 because of the Double

Should East have bid 4S or 5D? This would be purely a punt (if West had bid 3C after the 1H opening, then East would bid 5C over 4H)

If the Double is takeout (that would be unusual), then 5C by West will only go 1 off. 4S by East has a good chance of making (unless South begins with C4, ruffed, low Heart return to HA, Club Ruff, and an eventual SK winner - hard to find this lead over Hearts)

MORAL OF THE STORY

Doubles with bidding similar to this Hand seldom give rich rewards. Look at how East's apparent CA and CK winners evaporated due to extreme shape with North

Ian Morison

[Now more than half way through our annual 'Dry February']

16 February 2024