

08- 2024 – Double or Nothing No.3

In this Hand, the Penalty Double is costly for EW

3. Dealer West, EW Vul

	NORTH	
	AJ1097	
	84	
	102	
	Q972	
WEST		EAST
KQ532		864
Q105		62
J3		AQ6
KJ10		A8653
	SOUTH	
	-	
	AKJ973	
	K98754	
	4	

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
1S	P	2S	4H (1)
P	P	X	P
P	P		

- (1) This is a good bid by South – a 4-loser Hand – South can expect North to be good for a Trick or so, despite the first-round Pass

CONTRACT

4HX by South

THE LEAD & THE PLAY

SK was led, a not unreasonable lead

Declarer played SA, and threw C4 from Hand

South took stock. He is in Dummy, giving a finesse chance. South is looking at 4 possible losers – 3 Diamonds and HQ. The Game will make if East has the HQ (expected as East Doubled). The Game will

also make if East has DA (a bit less than 50%, as West opened, marking him with at least 12 of the missing 22 Points)

My view is South should lead D10 from Dummy and play DK (if DA is not played). It is about 50:50 that East has it, or plays DQ or DJ

There is also a chance that HQ falls under HA or HK

As it turns out, DK wins, but HQ does not fall. But 10 Tricks are made, Doubled = 570 Points

MORAL OF THE STORY

East's Double is not unreasonable. Counting 12+ for Partner, they have 22+ Points leaving NS with a maximum of 18

But is the potential gain of double the Points worth it? Certainly, East would not expect to find South with a 6:6:1 shape

It is worth noting North would have loved East or West to bid 4S, with a virtually certain 4 Spade winners. In such case, North must Double, and NS should win 8 Tricks = 5 down, doubled and vulnerable = 1400

Ian Morison

[Only 7 days to go in our annual 'Dry February' – the misery made worse by a Leap Year]

23 February 2024