

Dealer: S
Vul: EW

♠ 984
♥ 1084
♦ Q8762
♣ 75

S	W	N	E
P	1C	P	1D
P	1NT	X	XX
?			

What does North's double mean? What sort of hand does he have?
What should South do now with the above hand?

BIDDING 23 - WHEN THEY REDOUBLE FOR BLOOD

Dealer: S
Vul: EW

	♠ A1065	
	♥ AQ72	
	♦	
	♣ A9632	
♠ KQ3		♠ J72
♥ KJ5		♥ 963
♦ J104		♦ AK953
♣ Q1084		♣ KJ
	♠ 984	
	♥ 1084	
	♦ Q8762	
	♣ 75	

S	W	N	E
P	1C	P	1D
P	1NT	X	XX
2H	P	P	3D
P	3NT	P	P
P			

North's double is takeout – showing the unbid suits ie the majors. South should stop to think why North didn't double initially or overcall a major. The likely answers are:

- (1) North didn't double initially because they couldn't. That is, they didn't have 3 or more diamonds for a proper takeout double. However, once diamonds are shown, you can now do a takeout double for the majors.
- (2) North didn't bid a major over the 1♣ opening because they don't have a 5 card major.

Thus, South can almost piece together the North hand – 4/4 in the majors, some length in clubs and short diamonds.

And South should realise that their side is in big trouble. There doesn't look to be anything more than a 7 card fit at most and their side is very points deficient. East's redouble is attempting to penalise NS.

After partner takeout doubles and you face a redouble showing points and likely penalty intent this is what you should do:

- (1) Almost all the time you should bid what you think is your best fit with what partner has shown. This does not show any points at all – you could have zero. Do NOT pass to show weakness – it just makes the opposition sharks bolder. It also could cause partner to bid a suit higher than your best spot.
- (2) On the rare occasions you pass, you are NOT telling partner you are willing to stand the redouble. You are telling partner one of 2 things:

- (a) The decision has to be made from your side and I'll pass what you do. The reason you might give partner the decision is that you have equal length in the unbid suits
- (b) You have 2 suits and are hoping partner will bid one of them so we play in a 4-4 fit rather than a 4-3 fit. If partner bids the third suit you don't have, you correct to one of the other suits and partner is expected to pass.

On the hand in question, South had not discussed with North what a pass would mean, so bid 2H and looked as confident as he could. Neither opponent had a heart holding they felt they could double with and bid to 3NT which went 2 down.

Note the 2H contract is in trouble on the natural $\spadesuit A$ lead. Ruffing this reduces our hearts to 3. You clearly have $\spadesuit A$, $\clubsuit A$, $\heartsuit A$ and 3 ruffs of diamonds, and then it gets hard. Ruffing 2 clubs in dummy is possible on the layout of the cards if the defence don't start leading trumps.