

## Support Doubles and Redoubles

### Rationale

This is your opening hand after the following auction:-

♠K63            1D (P) 1S (2H)  
 ♥J85            ?  
 ♦AT98  
 ♣AJ3

You haven't got 4 card support for responder's spades. You haven't got a heart stopper and you haven't got a rebid! Your probable action – and it's not an unreasonable one – is to pass. Then, responder will have a problem. Should he be competing? If so, what with? Even a five card spade suit rebid could work out badly if opener doesn't hold three. *Support doubles* allow opener to act. These are doubles by **opener** when the opposition have overcalled at the 1 or 2 level. Opener shows *three* card support for responder's 1 level suit, provided the suit can then be bid at the 2 level. e.g. Here

•1D (P) 1H (1S)  
 X

This shows 3 hearts. Note that, if you weren't playing support X, this double would be penalties since there is only one unbid suit. It is unlikely that you would want that meaning.

•1C (P) 1H (X)  
 XX

Redouble shows 3 hearts.

•1C (1D) 1H (2D)  
 X

Double shows 3 hearts because partner bid at the 1 level and can still rebid at the 2 level.

•1C (P) 1H (2D)  
 X

shows 3 hearts because partner bid at the 1 level and can still rebid at the 2 level.

•1C (P) 1H (3D)  
 X

Double is penalties. Partner can't rebid at 2 level.

- Sometimes, opener has to decide which is more important – to rebid 1NT to show values and stopper or to make a support double. Judgment call.

- Pass by opener will usually deny the ability to make a support double. i.e. Only a doubleton is held.

1C (P) 1H (2D)  
 P

- Pass shows a doubleton heart at best. Opener should *not* rebid 2NT here with a balanced minimum.

- The support double or redouble should be preferred by opener to rebidding a five card suit.

Try bidding these hands. West is dealer

♠K4            ♠873    1D (P) 1H (1S)  
 ♥A86           ♥KT93   X<sup>1</sup> (P) 2H<sup>2</sup> all pass  
 ♦KJT6           ♦A94  
 ♣Q876           ♣J92

<sup>1</sup>Opener has rebid choices of pass, 1NT, 2C or X  
 The support X looks to be best option.

<sup>2</sup>Responder reverts to his suit.

♠K7            ♠A9432    1C (1D) 1S (2D)  
 ♥A962           ♥K43       P<sup>1</sup> (P) 2S<sup>2</sup>  
 ♦74            ♦Q86       all pass  
 ♣KQ432           ♣87

<sup>1</sup>Opener has no action available. 3C would require 6  
<sup>2</sup>Responder is not prepared to let them play in their fit at the two level.

♠8            ♠Q93       1D (P) 1H (1S)  
 ♥KQ62           ♥A943       2H<sup>1</sup> (2S) P (P)  
 ♦AQT4           ♦532       3H<sup>2</sup> all pass  
 ♣JT32           ♣987

<sup>1</sup>Bidding 2H shows a *four* card raise

<sup>2</sup>Bit of a push. 2S stands to make.

♠KQ4           ♠765       1C (P) 1H (1S)  
 ♥Q2            ♥A987       1NT<sup>1</sup> all pass  
 ♦AT54           ♦Q76  
 ♣K432           ♣765

<sup>1</sup>1NT is a better description than a 2C rebid.

♠432           ♠AJ9       1D (P) 1H (1S)  
 ♥AQ2           ♥T943       X (P) 3NT<sup>1</sup>  
 ♦A432           ♦KQ65  
 ♣K76            ♣A2

<sup>1</sup>east knows there is a diamond fit (see Lesson 15)  
 However, 9 tricks are easier than 11.

♠AQ9           ♠43        1D (P) 1H (1S)  
 ♥KQ4           ♥AT872     3NT<sup>1</sup> all pass  
 ♦AT43           ♦987  
 ♣A43            ♣QJ65

<sup>1</sup>Opener has a choice of rebids. The support double can't cost. The unilateral 3NT seems unjustified except to show the HCP. Better to make the support X, then follow with 3NT, choice of contracts.

♠K93           ♠QT42     1D (P) 1S (X)  
 ♥AT6           ♥74        XX (2H) all pass  
 ♦QJ32           ♦T  
 ♣K43            ♣AT8752

Yes, we may make 3C. The system is not perfect.

♠6            ♠432    1D (1S) X (P)  
 ♥AQ7           ♥K864    3S<sup>1</sup> (P) 4NT<sup>2</sup> (P)  
 ♦AK93           ♦QJ8    5C<sup>2</sup> (P) 5D<sup>2</sup> (P)  
 ♣AQ42           ♣K53    5S<sup>3</sup> (P) 6H

<sup>1</sup>splinter. Responder can see all values must be working. 2S would be a stopper ask!

<sup>2</sup>RKC. Opener has 3 aces and HQ

♠A86           ♠T7       1C (1S) 2H<sup>1</sup> (2S)  
 ♥K93           ♥QJ654    3H<sup>2</sup> (P) 4H<sup>4</sup>  
 ♦K96           ♦A83       all pass  
 ♣A432           ♣K76

<sup>1</sup>2H shows 10+ HCP and a 5 card suit

<sup>2</sup>X would be penalties in most partnerships.

Unfortunately, 3H overstates opener's hand.

<sup>4</sup>With an 8 loser, opener won't pass. However, does responder really have more than already promised?