

## TEACH THE OPPONENTS A LESSON

Everyone is vulnerable and West, the dealer, opens with a pre-emptive 2♠. His partner raises to 3♠ and it is now your turn.. What would you do?

S	South
♠	K9
♥	Q1043
♦	AK1064
♣	AQ

You have a big hand. It has 18 HCP and thus it is too strong for an overcall. The proper action is to double and bid diamonds on the next round (unless partner bids hearts). If you do double, West will pass and your partner will advance with 4♣. This is a weak action. It promises four or more clubs but says, “partner, you forced me to bid and this is the most minimal bid I can make.” To your surprise, East doubles 4♣ and it’s back to you. What do you do now?

Well, you don’t like clubs – that’s for sure. You were planning on bidding diamonds anyway, so your best bid is 4♦. Your partner will pass to confirm his weak advance, and East again doubles. What should you do now?

Since West opened with a weak hand and long spades, neither of West’s doubles should be viewed as take-out doubles. The pre-emptive opener has said everything he could with his first bid. He very, very seldom should bid again. You would like to be in a game, but making 4♦ is tantamount to being in game. Just pass and concentrate on making the contract.

This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dbl
Pass	4♣	Dbl	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

West leads the ♣7 and the dummy comes down:

N	North
♠	6
♥	KJ9
♦	7532
♣	J10842

♣7

S	South
♠	K9
♥	Q1043
♦	AK1064
♣	AQ

You are surprised to see that partner has 4 of your diamonds in addition to 5 clubs – the suit he bid. This is looking good. Given the lead, you have no club losers. You see one heart loser – the unavoidable loss to the ♥A. You will have to lose a spade if the ♠A is in West. There may also be a diamond loser. You have 9 diamonds and the most probable split is 3-1, with the ♦Q in the hand with the 3 diamonds. These three losers will allow you to make your contract, and since it was doubled, you will get a very good score – beating anyone else to bids 4♦ undoubled.

But overtricks in a doubled contract, especially vulnerable, are especially lucrative. Each overtrick adds 200 points to an already doubled score. There are certainly clues to the missing diamond honor that can be found in the auction. Rather than just plunking down the ♦AK, you should assume that those honors are with the doubler. If you can get to the dummy, you can finesse against the ♦QJ by leading to your hand. You can lead a heart to the dummy. There are 3 equal honors there and only one of those can be taken by the ♥A.

East will probably hold the ♥A and he will lead a spade through your ♠K9. You will lose the spade to West, but when he leads another club, you win and lead another heart to get to the dummy. Lead a diamond and if East plays low, insert the ♦10. If West

follows suit with a low diamond, you can pull the last two trump. If West shows out on the first heart, you go back to the dummy and lead another diamond for a second finesse. If this works you will make 5♦ for a score of +910.

This is the entire deal:

	<b>N</b> North ♠ 6 ♥ KJ9 ♦ 7532 ♣ J10842	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♠	P	3♠	X	P	4♣	X	4♦	P	P	X	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S																		
	2♠	P	3♠	X																		
	P	4♣	X	4♦																		
P	P	X	P																			
P	P																					
<b>W</b> West ♠ AQ8542 ♥ 862 ♦ 9 ♣ 765	<b>E</b> East ♠ J1073 ♥ A75 ♦ QJ8 ♣ K93																					
<b>S</b> South ♠ K9 ♥ Q1043 ♦ AK1064 ♣ AQ	4♦x S      NS: 0 EW: 0																					

I must say that West's double was rather thin. It was probably based on winning a spade, a heart, a diamond and a club. Often times, the double itself gives the declarer that added information that allows him to make the contract – something he might not have done had he not had the double.

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/hbmvzbg>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own. If you click on GIB, the software will analyze the hand and show the result for each opening lead.