



Welcome to



**NEWBURY BRIDGE
CLUB**



Doubles



Most of you are used to doubling for take-out in the 2nd seat.(i.e. immediately after the opener)

Much of today's discussion is about just that but we will also talk about doubling in the 3rd seat (negative doubles) with a mention of doubles in the 4th seat.

Takeout doubles

These are used when you have enough points to compete but your hand is not suitable for a suit overcall or a 1NT overcall.

North
12 HCP

♠	K Q 9 4
♥	2
♦	A 10 8 3
♣	Q J 10 9

West North

1 ♥ ?

The ideal shape for a take-out double is 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-4-0 with 1 or 0 cards in the suit opened. With this shape and opening points you should double.

Takeout doubles

North
14 HCP

♠	K Q 9 4
♥	6 2
♦	A Q 10 9
♣	Q J 10

West North

1♥ ?

With 1 or 2 more HCP you can double with a less ideal shape. With this hand you risk finishing in 3-4 fit in clubs but the extra points compensate for this. **However if your opponents open 1 of a major a double promises 4 of the other major.**

Requirements for a “Take-Out Double”.

- A hand good enough to open.
- Shortage of the opponents’ opening suit. Ideally a singleton or void but it must be at most a doubleton.
- “Tolerance” of the other three suits. Ideally 4+ in each but at least three.
- However if the opponents have opened a major suit, your “Double” promises 4 cards in the other major.
- Because the “Double” is artificial, doubler’s partner must bid if there is no intervening bid; this is known as “taking the double out”. If there is an intervening bid and they are very weak they may pass.
- A double of 1 NT shows 15+ HCP and is for penalties.

The Takeout Double: examples

Consider the following hands after the RHO has opened 1♦

♠	K Q 9
♥	A J 10 7
♦	3
♣	K 9 8 7 2

Hand (i)
13 HCP

♠	J 3
♥	A Q 10 8 4
♦	4
♣	K Q J 8 7

Hand (ii)
13 HCP

♠	J 10 9 8
♥	K Q 9 7
♦	void
♣	A J 10 7 5

Hand (iii)
11 HCP

Which of these hands is suitable for a takeout double of 1♦?

1♦ ?

♠	K Q 9
♥	A J 10 7
♦	3
♣	K 9 8 7 2

Hand (i) is a reasonable take-out double. Of course it would be nice to have a fourth card in spades, but if partner does respond in spades the result will not be too bad.

Hand (i)

It is preferable to give partner the chance to show the suit in which he would like to compete rather than overcall 2♣ when the suit is not strong and there may well be a better fit in a major suit.

1♦ ?

♠ J 3
♥ A Q 10 8 4
♦ 4
♣ K Q J 8 7

Hand (ii)

Hand (ii) is not suitable for a take-out double. It would be fine if partner responded in one of our suits, but if he were to bid spades (perhaps at a high level – after all, you have suggested support for this suit with your double) you could be in trouble

Unless you are playing some special conventional bid to show this sort of hand (two specific suits over the opponent's opening bid) it is probably better to overcall 1♥ and hope to perhaps mention the club suit later if possible.

1 ♦ ?

♠	J 10 9 8
♥	K Q 9 7
♦	void
♣	A J 10 7 5

Hand (iii)

Hand (iii) is a perfectly good double. It may be a minimum opening bid in terms of points, but you have good distribution and excellent support for whichever suit partner responds in – which is exactly what a takeout double promises.

If a fit is found, you and your partner may be able to compete effectively, either reaching a successful contract or pushing the enemy too high. Your takeout double gives partner a choice of three suits in which to compete.

Takeout doubles with stronger hands

North
16 HCP

♠	A K J 9 4 2
♥	K 4 2
♦	A J 10
♣	9 5

West North

1♥ ?

With 16+ HCP and a six-card suit start with a double then bid your suit next time around.

Takeout doubles with stronger hands

North
18 HCP

♠	A K J 9 4
♥	K 4 3 2
♦	A K 10
♣	5

West North

1♦ ?

With 18+ HCP and a good five-card suit you should also start with a double then bid your suit next time around. This is better than overcalling 1 spade. (especially as you have both majors)

Takeout doubles with stronger hands

North
18 HCP

♠	A K J 9 4
♥	K 4 3 2
♦	A K 10
♣	5

West North

1♦ ?

With 19+ HCP and a balanced hand you are too strong for a 1 NT overcall. Start with a double then bid NT at the lowest level next time around.

Responding to Take-out Doubles

The bidding has started:

	South	West	North	East
	1♥	dbld	pass	?

The main courses of action open to you (East) are as follows:

- With a weak hand, bid your best suit at a minimum level.
- With a stopper in their suit and 6-9 HCP, respond in NT.
- With fair values (about 9-12 points) make a jump response.
- With a stronger hand (e.g. about opening strength) either jump to game or cue-bid the enemy suit.
- With exceptional strength in the suit doubled, you may pass (converting the take-out double into a penalty double) **RARE**

Example 1 Responding with a weak, featureless hand

You hold:

♠	10 7 4
♥	J 8 3 2
♦	J 6 4 3
♣	3 2

S	W	N	E
1♥	dbl	pass	?

Respond 2♦. This is a bad hand, but partner has promised support for whichever suit you bid. It would be an awful mistake to pass on the grounds that it will not matter too much if the opponents make 1♥ doubled. It will matter if they make two or three overtricks at 200 a time. Do not be tempted to bid 1NT on the grounds you have a heart stop (possibly) you do not have the points.

Had North bid, the situation would have been different and you could have passed with a clear conscience.

Example 2

You hold:

♠	8 6 4 2
♥	Q 7 6
♦	6 3
♣	K 9 8 2

S	W	N	E
1♥	double	pass	?

Although the clubs are better than the spades, the best response is, in fact, 1♠.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the bidding remains at a lower level; secondly, the double of an opening bid of 1 of a major strongly suggests at least a 4-card holding in the other major suit (remember this when you have the hand where you are contemplating making a take-out double).

Example 3:

With a stopper in the enemy suit together with some values, respond in No Trumps

	S	W	N	E
You hold:	♠ J 4	1♥	pass	?
	♥ K 10 9 2	dbler		
	♦ 7 6 3 2			
	♣ Q 5 2			

On this hand the natural response is 1NT. This response guarantees some values, about the same as a 1NT response to an opening bid, i.e. about 6-9 points and a stop in the enemy suit.

Without the queen of clubs, the right response would be 2♦, a simple response in a suit which promises no strength.

You hold:

♠	J 9
♥	A Q 9
♦	K 10 7 4
♣	7 6 5 2

1♥ dble pass ?

This is an example of a hand which is suitable for a response of 2NT to partner's takeout double.

Partner has promised about opening strength, so this is similar to a response of 2NT to an opening bid. It shows about 10-12 points and guarantees a good stopper in the opponent's suit.

You hold:

♠	10 8 6 2
♥	K 5 3 2
♦	Q J 5
♣	7 6

1♥ dble pass ?

Do not respond in No Trumps. The heart stop is not very good, and there is an excellent alternative: respond 1♠.

Remember that partner is inviting you to respond in your best suit. In addition, a player who makes a takeout double of an opening bid in a major suit is very likely to hold 4 cards in the other major, so you have almost certainly found a fit. Give partner the good news.

With exceptional strength in the suit that has been doubled, responder to the double may pass (converting the take-out double into a penalty double)

You hold:

♠	Q 6
♥	K J 9 7 3
♦	7 4 2
♣	10 5 2

1♥ dble pass ?

The trump holding in this hand is not strong enough for a penalty pass – remember that the hand with the heart suit is sitting over you. How many trump tricks do you imagine you will make if opener holds something like ♥ A Q 10 8 6 sitting over you?

Respond 1NT. This shows a heart stop and some values.

You hold:

♠	4 2
♥	K Q J 9 8 7
♦	4 2
♣	Q 9 7

1♥ dble pass ?

This is a rare example of a hand that is suitable to make a penalty pass: the trumps are nearly solid and the hand will probably be of little use to partner in any of his suits.

Incidentally, should this become the final contact, the doubler should always lead a trump (if he has one) to prevent opener from making his little trumps by ruffing.

Note how good your trumps must be to pass the double!

You hold:

♠	8 6 4 2
♥	K Q 10 8 5
♦	5 4 2
♣	7

1♥ dble pass ?

The hearts are quite strong here (although not quite strong enough for a penalty pass), but it would be completely wrong to pass the double for another reason.

This hand (unlike the previous example) may be very useful to partner in a spade contract: respond 1♠.

With fair values (about 9-11 points) make a jump response

Again, the bidding starts:

1♥ dble pass ?

You hold:

♠	K J 8 7
♥	6 5 4
♦	A 10 8 5
♣	J 9

Respond 2♠

♠	6 2
♥	7 6 5 4
♦	Q 6
♣	A K 8 6 3

Respond 3♣

This bid is not forcing, but with better than a minimum double partner may proceed.

With a stronger hand (e.g. about opening strength) either jump to game or cue-bid the enemy suit

You hold:

♠	K J 7
♥	5 4
♦	A 10 7 2
♣	K Q 6 4

1♥ dble pass ?

With this hand opposite a take-out double there must be a game somewhere, and the best move is to put the ball back into partner's court by responding 2♥. This is forcing to game.

Again, the bidding starts:

1♥ dble pass ?

♠	K J 9 7 2
♥	7 6 5
♦	K 3
♣	A J 8

This is a typical response of 4♠. Although this is minimum, every card should be useful. Opener has promised opening values and some distribution – an opening bid opposite an opening bid equals a game.

Takeout Doubles - Recap

If opposition do not bid partner *must* bid. Partner bids:
(*include shortage points)

Hand	Bid
Weak (0-9 pts),	Bid 4 card suit, 3 if necessary
Intermediate (10-12 pts)*	Jump bid in 4+ suit(preferably a major)
Strong (13+ pts)*	Jump to game or cue bid enemy suit
6-9 pts stop in enemy suit	Bid 1 NT
10-12 pts usually 2 stops in enemy suit	Bid 2 NT
13+ pts at least 2 stops in enemy suit	Bid 3 NT

Double for take-out or penalties?

A double of any bid after **anyone** at the table has bid no trumps naturally is usually for penalties!

For example

W	N	E	S	This is for penalties.
1NT	dbl			

W	N	E	S	This is for penalties.
1♦	1NT	2♠	pass	
pass	dbl			

However!

W	N	E	S	This is a notable exception, over the
1♥	pass	1NT	dbl	dustbin bid 1 NT the double is for take
				out of ♥s. But be wary, you need a good
				hand as partner has passed.

W	N	E	S	And the double of a transfer bid (or 2♣
1NT	pass	2♥	dbl	Stayman) shows a good holding in the
				suit bid, ♥ in this case suggesting that
				lead should opener end up as declarer.

Hand 1 (S)

Takeout Double Type A
Dealer W
neither side vulnerable

West

 K 2
 A K Q 5 3
 8 3
 Q 10 9 7

1 H

pass





North

 A 5 4 3
 8 6
 K 7 6 5
 A K 8

double

pass

East

 10 9 6
 10 9
 A 10 9 4 2
 J 4 2

pass

pass

South

 Q J 8 7
 J 7 4 2
 Q J
 6 5 3

1 S

HAND 2(N)

Takeout Double Type A

Dealer E

EW vulnerable

North



9 7 6 5

3 H



K Q 7 3 2

pass



A 4



7 5

West



10 8



8 6



10 7 6 5



A 10 8 6 3

pass

pass

East



A K Q 4 3 2



10 4



Q J 9



9 4

1 S

pass

pass

South



J



A J 9 5



K 8 3 2

double



K Q J 2

4 H

HAND 3:

Takeout Double Type A

Dealer E

NS vulnerable

North



6 5

pass



J 10 8 2

pass



Q 10 8 7 2

pass



10 5

East



K 10 4



A 5 4



A 4 3



Q 7 4 3

West



Q J 9 7 3



K Q 6 3



K J 6



9

double

2 S

3 H

South



A 8 2



9 7



9 5



A K J 8 6 2

1 C

double

pass

2 C

2 NT

4 S

HAND 3a:

Takeout Double Type A
Dealer E
NS vulnerable

North



6 5

pass



J 10 8 2

pass



Q 10 8 7 2

pass



10 5

East



K 10 4 3



A 5 4



A 4 3



Q 7 4

West



Q J 9 7



K Q 6 3



K J 6



9 3

South



A 8 2



9 7



9 5



A K J 8 6 2

double

2 S

3 H

1 C

double

pass

2 C

2 NT

4 S

HAND 4(E)

Takeout Double Type C

Dealer E

NS vulnerable

North



A 8

1 C



8 4 3

2 C



A 10

pass



K Q 10 8 3 2

East



K



A Q J 10 9 2



K Q J 7



A 7

West



J 5 4 3 2



K 7 5



6 2



J 6 5

1 S

4 H

South



Q 10 9 7 6



6

pass



9 8 5 4 3

pass



9 4

pass

Double

3 H

pass

HAND 5:


Against a pre-empt
Dealer S
NS vulnerable

North

 6 5

 A 7

 8 4

 K Q 10 9 8 7 3

3C

pass

West

 K J 9 7

 J 2


 K J 9 7


 J 6 5

pass


4S

East

 A 10 4 2


 K Q 10 8


 A Q 10

 4 2

South

 Q 8 3

 9 6 5 4 3

 6 5 3 2

 A

pass

pass





double

pass

HAND 5:

Converting to penalty double
Dealer E
neither vulnerable

North

 A Q J 3
 A J 7 6 2
 8
 J 8 2





double

pass

West

 K 10 9 4 2
 K Q 10 8
 5
 7 6 5

East

 7 5
 5
 A K 10 7 4 3 2
 K 9 4

South

 8 6
 9 4 3
 Q J 9 6
 A Q 10 3

3D

pass

pass

pass





pass

pass

HAND 7:

Negative Double


North

 8 6 4 3
 A J 9 3
 J 7 6
 9 2

Double

pass

West

 A K Q 10 5 2
 5
 5 4 3
 J 6 5





1 S

pass

East

 J 9
 10 8 7 4
 A K 10 8 2
 10 4

South

 7
 K Q 6 2
 Q 9
 A K Q 8 7 3

1 C

4 H

pass

pass