

# One Notrump Doubled -- Problem

## **Board 9**

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K Q J 8  
♥ —  
♦ K Q 10 8 7  
♣ K 8 5 4

♠ 10 5  
♥ 8 6  
♦ A 5 3  
♣ Q J 10 9 7 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Partner's vulnerable overcall shows something like an opening hand. Ordinarily, a new suit over partner's overcall is forcing for one round, but here, all our goods hands double 1 NT. There is much to be said for offering 2 ♣ here, but we elected to pass.

Partner's reopening double is for takeout, surely with a full opening bid. We pass again, planning to use the ♦ A as the entry to run our clubs -- partner likely has a top club. We duly lead the ♣ Q, and dummy comes down. Declarer ducks the lead, everybody following with a small club.

Who has the ace of clubs? Who has the ace of spades? What should we lead next?

# One Notrump Doubled -- Solution

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North Deals

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		♠ K Q J 8	
		♥ —	
		♦ K Q 10 8 7	
		♣ K 8 5 4	
♠ 10 5			♠ A 9 4 2
♥ 8 6			♥ A K J 10 9 4
♦ A 5 3			♦ 9 4
♣ Q J 10 9 7 2			♣ 3
		♠ 7 6 3	
		♥ Q 7 5 3 2	
		♦ J 6 2	
		♣ A 6	

EW 2♥; NS 3♦; NS 1♠; W 1♣; Par +110; NS 3♦=

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

The black aces are probably divided between partner and declarer. If partner has the club ace, they could have played it, and returned the small club to assure setting the contract. But maybe not. Change the deal so that partner has ♠ 9-4-2 and ♣ A-3, and otherwise the same. With these magnificent hearts, East can always set the contract on a heart shift, using the ♣ A as the entry. Swap the ♣ 9 and ♣ 6, and West would still lead a club, but dummy's ♣ 8 is a second stopper, making the play of the ♣ A fatal. East's actual holding is much more likely, because the double promises spades, for sure. (East planned to convert clubs to hearts.)

Join declarer for a moment. Surely East has at least six hearts headed by the A-K or A-K-J, because a heart was not led. East needs one side ace for the double, and West needs one for the pass. The odds favor East for the ♠ A and West for the ♦ A. If West has six clubs (the actual case), South can guarantee the contract by winning the first trick in hand, and leading a spade. East must duck, as that's the entry to the hearts. South turns to diamonds, eventually taking four of them, two clubs, and a spade. There are multiple ways South might make an overtrick.

Suppose clubs are 5-2 and South wins the first trick. South attacks spades, to lock out the hearts. East wins, and establishes the clubs. West takes the first diamond and cashes three clubs before leading a heart for seven defensive tricks. However, if clubs are 4-3, the defense comes to only six tricks. It must be right for declarer to win the first trick because ducking blocks the suit, and ...

Back to West's problem. It does not matter who has the ♣ A or ♠ A. We can never run the clubs, so leading another is futile. Furthermore, that chunky dummy and declarer's free bid of 1 NT should produce seven tricks, unless we get busy. A heart shift now, after the duck, sets the contract *two* tricks.