

WHEN TO REDOUBLE

R.P Saxena's question :- When you raise your partner because of good shape of your hand, for example-Partner -1S-RHO-2C, you hold, ♠K9872

♥K2 ♦DJ98754 ♣C-,and bid 4 spade, If the contract is doubled by opponents, whether you should redouble or not?

Sridhar's views :-

The considerations involved in deciding on a redouble are :

1. Confidence of making the contract- when you redouble you better be very sure, taking into account that suits may not be breaking, opponents may hold positionally-well placed honor cards .
2. What surprise do we have that the opponent did not know when he doubled our contract ? For example (a)when you hold the Ace of trumps as dummy when partner has opened the bidding in that suit and your RHO doubled with the hope of making a trick with his King of trumps sitting above the opener, (b) you have a void in enemy suit and they expect an Ace to cash in that suit etc.
3. what 'run-out' options do the opponents have over your redouble and whether you have adequate defense against those contracts ? Keep in mind the opponents get one more chance to bid over your redouble and they may run to their contract. For eg it is better to collect 590 / 790 in 4♠ doubled than let them run to 5♣ for + 300 or even 500 !
4. Occasionally experts do engage in BLUFF redoubles in the hope that opponents will trust them and run . This requires special skills of judgment and is not advisable to the average player.

Now when we apply these to the actual problem, I find redouble is not wise at all- first of all I am not sure that 4S will make – give partner a hand like ♠AQJXX ♥XXX ♦QX ♣AXX , you are gambling on the location of ♥ Ace ! ; secondly what will you do if they run to 5♣ where you hold a void and have no confidence of beating it ? The only surprise you hold for them in 4S doubled is your club void and that is not adequate for the redouble; I recommend a pass. I will redouble if I held something like ♠KXXXX ♥AX ♦KJ109X ♣X – here the chances of making are higher AND I can take care of their 5♣ as well.