

## Sriram's Question:

I have a few questions related to the following sequence 1A (A is any suit) - X - XX -

1. What does pass by 4th hand show? Playing 1H XX is best for us (anything else may be worse)? No preference for any of the other suits?
2. How does the side redoubling we avoid playing 1A XX with a bad fit. If A is a Major and promises 5 cards then this may not be so and (still could be 5-0 fit) but if A is minor should opener ever bid in front of the XX (typically bidding in front of the XX would show weak hand)? Should XX not be made with a void in partners suit (but then XX tends to deny fit)?
3. Do you have suggestions for general agreements and followups for the doubling side as well as the redoubling side.

## Sridhar 's views :

Dear Sriram <

Traditionally a XX is used to show strength , length in unbid suits and an inclination to penalize ; naturally a fit partner's suit is ruled out , logic being we have tricks outside, if opening bidder has a decent suit , it is a playable spot ; Usually the outgunned opponents run to their best suit fit , so there used to be no worry for opener to declare a ' bad ' contract .

However, some smart players had adroitly designed a psychic redouble to escape from playing in 1A dbl , I e normally opener would have played in 1A X all pass ; the responder found an innovative route to escape by a psychic XX , knowing they will run . To counter this the PASS to a XX, by 4<sup>th</sup> bidder, suggested length in opener's Suit and keenness to defend . This needs partnership understanding , it is an exception that is required ONLY vs a few that psyche a XX , else it is not needed.

In modern game of ultra-light openings and light take out doubles, it is very possible for all 4 players to have a decent hand and a PASS of XX is required to show a good balanced hand. If XX shows 8-10 Bal , then the Take out Doubler is well placed to decide further . Non Jump suit bids by 4<sup>th</sup> hand should show weakness, jumps should ignore the XX - you would have bid the same without the XX ; This is my recommendation for your Question no 1.

To your Question no 2 , the opener should ask for the meaning of PASS by the 4<sup>th</sup> bidder before deciding - if he has opened 1m and it has gone X,XX,P, he should consider bidding if the PASS showed willingness to defend ; if it shows neutral attitude ( some even play , weak , unable to bid other suits), then he can consider a Bold PASS . In short the opener should always PASS unless the opponents have systemically threatened to defend his redoubled contract. Of course suit bids by opener , when the PASS on his right is not for penalties, will show shapely , light hand -including the rebid of his original suit.

Question no 3 : - I have only one suggestion ( in addition to what I have stated above) for the meaning of REDOUBLE - it should be 10+ HCP, max of 2 card support , ability to double and defend at least TWO of the 3 remaining suits . It should NOT be (1) single suiter (2) wild shape (3) sound support for opener - opener should be confident that these 3 holdings are RULED out in his partner's hand , it makes his further decision easy. Partnerships should design other methods for these 3 holdings, popular method is to ignore the X .

With best wishes,

**Sridhar**