



7/5/15: Redouble Aspect

by Bob Gruber

July 5, 2015. Last month I pointed you to the ACBL Bulletin articles under *Writings* and to a particular aspect of the Negative Double. This month I'd like to continue in that vein with what is to many new players a counter-intuitive bid. In an auction such as

1♥ – DBL – RDL – bid below 2♥ or Pass –

2♥ –

new players tend to assume the 2♥ bid shows extra strength. But that's just the opposite understanding of most good players.

The redouble shows 10+ points, tends to deny a fit and generally asks for the chance to make the next call for his/her side. A juicy penalty double may be in the offing.

With a normal (or better) opening hand, opener should pass to give responder a chance to penalty double. It's with a weakish, distributional hand that opener bids. Opener might have a long suit or a 2-suiter, but not the expected 12 or 13 HCPs.

Bidding says my hand is more suited to offense than defense. Don't expect 2½ or 3 tricks on defense from my hand. If you double a low-level contract, you, responder, need a very good hand, either in HCPs or a trump stack. And, of course, shortness in my suit(s).

Having given this message by bidding rather than passing, opener should respect responder's penalty double if one is forthcoming.