



# St Annes Bridge Club

Lytham St Annes



# Suit Overcall Recap

A one level overcall shows at least 8 points and a good 5+ card suit

A two level overcall shows at least 10 points and a good 6+ card suit (or very good 5 card suit)

Good means at least 2 honours

If you have a fit (3+) for partners overcall respond aggressively if not be cautious

Consider vulnerability.

# Competitive bidding: takeout doubles

Sometimes the opponent on your right will open the bidding and you would like to compete but no obvious overcall suggests itself. For example, RHO opens 1♥ and you hold

♠	K Q 9 4
♥	2
♦	A Q 10 8
♣	Q J 10 9

West	North
1♥	?

You can provide an excellent supporting hand for partner if he happened to bid any of the other three suits. However, you do not have a good overcall yourself.

As it is unlikely that you will have a hand suitable to make a penalty double of the opponent's opening bid of a suit at the 1-level, this bid ("double") may be put to a better use.

Conventionally, the double of the opponent's opening bid is for "take-out", asking partner to respond in his best suit and suggesting a suitable supporting hand for him whichever suit he may choose to bid.

The strength required for this bid is about that for an opening bid; the quality of the suits and the distribution are important factors.

## Important Note:

The double of an opponent's opening bid of 1NT is for penalties (NOT takeout).

# 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)

♠	J 3
♥	A Q 10 8 4
♦	4
♣	K Q J 8 7

Hand (ii)

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

Hand (iii)

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.

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) 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) 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.

# 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 some values, respond in NT.
- With exceptional strength in the suit doubled, you may pass (converting the take-out double into a penalty double) **RARE**
- With fair values (about 9-11 points) make a jump response.
- With a stronger hand (e.g. about opening strength) either jump to game or cue-bid the enemy suit.

## Responding with a weak, featureless hand.

You hold:

♠	10 7 4
♥	J 8 3 2
♦	J 6 4 3
♣	3 2

1♥ dble 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.

You hold:

♠	8 6 4 2
♥	Q 7 6
♦	6 3
♣	K 9 8 2

1♥ dble 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).

You hold:

♠	8 6 4
♥	K 6 3 2
♦	6 3 2
♣	9 8 5

1♥ dble pass ?

This hand is nasty! However, it would be quite wrong to pass, as there is nothing to suggest that the opponents will not enjoy playing a contract of 1♥ doubled.

A bid of 1 No Trump is also wrong (as we shall see in a moment, this would show some values, which you just don't have). The best response is 1♠ : partner will probably hold at least four spades (see above) and you are not likely to get doubled and beaten badly in a contract at the 1-level.

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

You hold:

♠	J 4
♥	K 10 9 2
♦	7 6 3 2
♣	Q 5 2

1♥ dble pass ?

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♠
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♠	6 2
♥	7 6 5 4
♦	Q 6
♣	A K 8 6 3

Respond 3♣
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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

Double of the enemy suit is not for penalties it is for *takeout*.  
If opposition do not bid partner *must* bid. Partner bids:

Hand	Bid
Weak (0-8 pts),	Bid 4 card suit, 3 if necessary
Intermediate (9-11pts)	Jump bid in 4+ suit(preferably a major)
Strong (12+ 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
13-15 pts at least 2 stop in enemy suit	Bid 3 NT

# HAND 1

## North

♠ K Q 10

♥ A 5

♦ K Q 8 7 5 4

♣ 8 5

1 D

pass

## West

♠ J 9 3

♥ Q 10 7 2

♦ A 3 2

♣ Q J 7

3 H

## East

♠ A 8 5 4

♥ K J 8 6

♦ J

♣ A 9 4 3

double

## South

♠ 7 6 2

♥ 9 4 3

♦ 10 9 6

♣ K 10 6 2

pass

pass

pass

# HAND 2

## 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

**North**

♠ 7 6  
♥ 10 9 2  
♦ J 10 9 7 5  
♣ K Q 10

pass

pass

**West**

♠ 5 4  
♥ A K 8 5  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ A 9 6 3

double

pass

**East**

♠ K J 9  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ Q 6 4 2  
♣ J 4 2

1 NT

**South**

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

1 S

pass

# HAND 4

## North

♠ A 5 4 3

♥ 8 6

♦ K 7 6 5

♣ A K 8

double

pass

## West

♠ K 2

♥ A K Q 5 3

♦ 8 3

♣ Q 10 9 7

1 H

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

# Homework

- Revise Pgs 96 -99
- Read Pgs 100 -101
- Quiz Pg 107