

## Double fits

Some of the most difficult hands to predict are those where the points are shared almost equally. As you may suspect, both sides will be active in the bidding. It will be of great assistance if you can identify that your side has a double fit. This makes the combined hands far more powerful, but if you have a double fit, it is likely that the opposition are in a similar position.

Board 17 all non-vulnerable, North the dealer

North  
S 95  
H 762  
D A1042  
C AJ92

West  
S KJ8743  
H AKQ9  
D 98  
C 8

East  
S Q102  
H 10853  
D KJ75  
C 65

South  
S A6  
H J4  
D Q63  
C KQ10743

Likely auction  
P – P – 1C – 1S  
3C – ?

West has the first decision, does he make a simple overcall, or does he have a way to show both majors?

North has a normal 3C bid, but for those playing 5 card majors where the club can be short, it is not as easy.

With six points and three spades can East support his partner? More difficult if you don't play support doubles showing three cards in the suit.

Say both East and South pass. Does West bid on? If so, 3H or 3S? The spade suit is broken but the hearts are robust. Remember the opponents have made no move towards game. Partner doesn't know how good you are, so you are worth another bid. I would bid 3H. Partner is now aware of the double fit and may stretch to game.

Should South sacrifice over 4M. He knows that they have a ten card club fit, at best good for one trick in defence. The AS is one trick, where are the other two tricks coming from to beat the contract? If P has the AC and possibly the JC he has probably another 4-6 points. Will this give you

two diamond tricks assuming the majors are solid after your AS? The odds are against the contract going off, bid 5C. You never know they may compete to 5M. -300 is a good sacrifice as 420 is available.

To make 4S you need to get the diamonds right and all three declarers made ten tricks.

Three tables played in clubs only one in 5C undoubled. Eleven tricks is always problematical, if you believe that they have stolen your contract, double. The worst that can happen is an extra 150 if it makes, only 4 imps at teams.

Don't underestimate the power of hands with double fits. Points rarely carry their usual weight, here 19 points was enough for E/W to make a major game.