

Double or not

Board 14 resulted in various outcomes.

South was the dealer and for those playing weak 2s, the likely opening bid is 2H. West has a decision to make, although he only has ten points a solid spade suit and shape makes 2S a reasonable bid. North with Hx in hearts, singleton ace of spades, a diamond holding and seven clubs to the ace has an easy raise to 4H. Now the spotlight falls on East, three people doubled.

I can well understand this especially after partner overcalled 2S, they could expect a bit more for this bid. In fact, the KQJ of spades are wasted and offer up only one trick. East has four hearts to the king, the diamond ace and the club king. It is not difficult to envisage four tricks.

The counter argument is the hearts have no stuffing and if North has raised with three there may no heart trick, to offset this you do have an ace and king.

I don't think there is a right answer to this, on another day partner will have both black aces and something in diamonds.

Funnily enough the three doublers were unable to defeat the contract, whilst the two who were passive beat the contract. Deep finesse says it always makes.

Another consideration is the potential gain against the loss. Doubling a non-vulnerable game gains 50 for one off, but losses 170 extra for making. It can also assist declarer in placing the cards.

A difficult decision, it depends on your temperament and how lucky you feel.