

## 323. Double meaning

*By Ron Klinger*

Today's deal arose in the 2017 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams) semi-final between [LAVAZZA](#) and [SCHWARTZ](#).

Board 8: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

North	
♠ A652	
♥ 4	
♦ 10543	
♣ A743	
West	East
♠ Q9843	♠ 10
♥ AQ85	♥ J1032
♦ QJ	♦ 8762
♣ J5	♣ Q1096
South	
♠ KJ7	
♥ K976	
♦ AK9	
♣ K82	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>
1♠	Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

(1) Artificial, strong

(2) 5-7 (8) points

West led the ♥5: four – ten – king. South returned the ♥6: eight – ♣3 – ♥10. East switched to the ♠10. South won with the ♠K, cashed the ♦K and exited with the ♥7, taken by the ♥Q. West tried the ♠Q, won by the ♠A. After ♦4: six – ace – queen, South had 10 tricks (3 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs) for +430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Rdbl <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	1NT(15-17)
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

(1) Spades and a second suit

(2) Strong

West led the ♦Q: three – two – ace. South cashed the ♦K, the ♦9, ♣K, ♣A and ♦10, discarding the ♣8. As West had shown 5 spades and 4 hearts, South knew West now had no cards left in the minors. He played the ♠2: ten – jack – queen. West was left with ♠9-8-4 and ♥A-Q-8. No matter how he played he could not avoid giving South a trick with the ♥K. If he returned a spade, South would play ♠K, ♠A and the ♠6 to West, who would be forced to lead a heart next. Given the values expected for West's bidding, it was virtually certain that the ♥A would be with West.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	?		1NT(15-17)
(1) Majors			

What would you do as North with:

♠ A652  
♥ 4  
♦ 10543  
♣ A743

Board 8: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

		North	
		♠ A652	
		♥ 4	
		♦ 10543	
		♣ A743	
West		East	
♠ Q9843		♠ 10	
♥ AQ85		♥ J1032	
♦ QJ		♦ 8762	
♣ J5		♣ Q1096	
		South	
		♠ KJ7	
		♥ K976	
		♦ AK9	
		♣ K82	

At one table in the Spingold, North's double showed 5-7(8) points. At the other table, West's double showed spades and a second suit (which turned out to be hearts). When the deal was replayed in a game on BBO, the auction went like this:

West	North	East	South
			1NT(15-17)
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Dble	2♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Majors

What did North's double mean? If 2♣ showed clubs or hearts and another or minors or something similar, the Double of 2♣ could be sensibly played as Stayman. When 2♣ showed both majors, North would not be looking for a major suit fit. In this context, North's double could be showing (a) a strong holding in clubs or (b) a hand worth a game invitation (if 2NT is not available because it is a transfer to diamonds) or (c) a strong hand and interested in penalties. The preferred meaning of the double here is worth discussing with your partners.

West led the ♠4: two – ten – jack. South played ♦A, ♦K, ♦9, ♣K, ♣A, ♦10, ♠K, ♠A and dummy's fourth spade. West won and had to open the hearts.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 7542  
♥ AQ3  
♦ AK  
♣ Q943

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*Once you die and reach heaven and eternity awaits you, are you stuck always wearing the clothes in which you were buried?*