305. Takeout or penalty or something else?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	?		

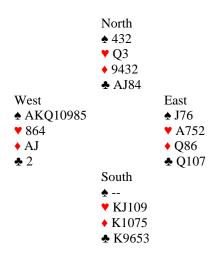
How do you take South's second double?

What would you do as North with:

- **4** 432 **♦**
- **♥** O3
- ♦ 9432
- **♣** AJ84

Today's deal comes from the LAVAZZA vs ROSENTHAL quarter-final match in the 2017 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams):

Board 57: Dealer South: Nil vulnerable



This was yesterday's question:

Dealer South: Nil vulnerable What would you do as South with:

West	North	East	South	♠
			Pass	♥ KJ109
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble	◆ K1075
4♠	Pass	Pass	?	♣ K9653

At one table, South passed and Giorgio Duboin, West for LAVAZZA, had no trouble making 4♠ with 7 spades plus the ♥A and 2 diamonds via the diamond finesse with the ◆K onside (if North leads a heart). In practice, North led a trump. Declarer drew trumps and played ◆A and ◆J for ten tricks that way.

At the other table, South doubled 4♠, as in the problem at the top of the page. South lacks the high card values to look for a contract at the 5-level, but was no doubt enamoured by the shape of the hand. Maybe North had a strong trump holding and would play for penalties. If not, maybe North-South had a decent trump fit somewhere. If North did bid at the 5-level, maybe East-West would bid 5-over-5. South's double can be called a 'Do what's right double'. What should North do after South has doubled 4♠?

Board 57: Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

	North ♠ 432 ♥ Q3 • 9432 ♣ AJ84	
West		East
♦ AKQ10985		♦ J76
♥ 864		♥ A752
♦ AJ		♦ Q86
♣ 2		♣ Q107
	South	
	_	
	♥ KJ109	
	♦ K1075	
	♣ K9653	

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bianchedi	Berkowitz	Madala
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	$4NT^{(1)}$	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Pick your longer or better minor

A natural move by North after South doubled 4♠ would be to bid 5♠, the stronger suit, but you would like to be in your longest combined trump suit. On some days South might have a 1-4-5-3 pattern. Bidding 5♠ lands you in your 4-3 fit, while 4NT finds your 5-4 fit.

Sometimes, North's 4NT might be two-suited in the red suits. Now after 4NT : 5♣, 5♦ would ask South to choose the longer red suit or the stronger one if they have equal length.

Against $5\clubsuit$, West led the \clubsuit A. South ruffed and played the \blacktriangledown 9 to the \blacktriangledown Q and \blacktriangledown A. East shifted to the \spadesuit 6: king – ace – two. West won trick 4 with the \spadesuit J and reverted to the \spadesuit K. South ruffed, cashed \clubsuit A, \clubsuit K and the heart winners, ditching two diamonds from dummy, followed by a diamond ruff. South lost a heart, two diamonds and a club, two down for – 100, but 7 Imps to LAVAZZA, who won the match by 122 Imps to 101.

Had East overtaken the \bullet J (trick 4) with the \bullet Q and returned a diamond, West would ruff and that would be three down. South could always have limited the loss to two down by ducking in hand on East's \bullet 6 at trick 3 and ducking another diamond later. When the \bullet A falls doubleton, South's diamonds become high.

It was certainly surprising that South rose with the \bigstar K. Once East turned up with the \bigstar A, the \bigstar A was bound to be with West. West might have a $1 \bigstar$ opening without the \bigstar A, but it is hard to imagine that West would bid $4 \bigstar$ after $2 \bigstar$ from East if West did not have the \bigstar A. Also, if you give East the \bigstar A and the \bigstar A, surely East would have doubled $5 \bigstar$.

Indeed, East might well have doubled 5♣ anyway. At equal vulnerability, after your side has bid game, many would take West's pass over 5♣ as forcing, inviting East to bid 5♠ or to double 5♣. Clearly East did not think the situation was forcing. I wonder whether West did.

When the deal was replayed in a game on BBO, it went:

Dealer	r South:	Nil vul	nerable	North led the ♥Q, taken by the ace. Avi Kanetkar (W)
West	North	East	South	drew trumps ending in dummy and then finessed the ◆J
			Pass	for ten tricks, +420.
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble	
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♥	?		

What would you do as North with:

- **★** 3 **∀** 4
- ◆ Q1065
- ♣ A1086532

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

My favourite books are the ones where no one bothers me while I read them.