

## Redouble by Andrew Robson

We have noted that the general principle for the responder to the opener is to ignore right-hand opponent's take-out double. He does, however, have an extra option. Redouble. This is a rarely used call - for a start you can only use it when an opponent has doubled.

Redouble is an expression of confidence, and the most common situation is the redouble of a take-out double of partner's opening bid. One-of-a-Suit - (Double) - Redouble shows a hand with 10+ points (giving the partnership the balance of the points) and, typically, no good suit (prefer to bid it) or support for partner (prefer to support).

Examples of 1 ♣ - (Double) - Redouble:

Hand i)	Hand ii)	Hand iii)	Hand iv)
♠ Q J 9 7	♠ 10 9 5 2	♠ K J 4 2	♠ A J 9
♥ Q 8 7 3	♥ K 4 2	♥ A J 9	♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ A J 10	♦ K 10 8 5	♦ A 8 6 3 2	♦ Q J 9
♣ 6 4	♣ A 4	♣ 2	♣ K 3 2

That expression of confidence can enable the opening side to penalise the take-out doubling side - the real point of the redouble.

See this deal. Take the West cards and defend:

West Deals	♠ A Q 8		
Both Vul	♥ Q 10 8 2		
	♦ K Q 10 8		
	♣ 7 3		
♠ 7 6		♠ K J 4 2	
♥ K 7 4 3		♥ A J 9	
♦ 5 3		♦ A 7 6 4	
♣ A K J 9 6		♣ 4 2	
	♠ 10 9 5 3		
	♥ 6 5		
	♦ J 9 2		
	♣ Q 10 8 5		

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1 ♣	Dbl	Rdbl <sup>1</sup>	1 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	Pass	Dbl <sup>3</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1 ♠× by South

Opening Lead: ♠ 6

1. 10+ points, no good suit or fit for partner. Thus, looking for a juicy penalty...
2. Redouble counts as a bid, so South can pass the bidding round to partner. Generally a five-card minor or four-card major should be volunteered, however, so South cannot be faulted.
3. For penalties - *"I think they're going down"*.

West led a trump (best - when partner has doubled a partscore), to dummy's eight and East's jack. A club to the ten and West's jack was followed by a second trump to the queen and king.

East led a third trump to dummy's ace and won the king of diamonds with his ace. A second club enabled West to win declarer's eight with the nine and lead out the ace-king- six, East throwing all his diamonds.

Declarer trumped the fifth club and tried to cash a diamond. But East trumped, led the nine of hearts to West's king, and took the last two tricks with ace-jack of hearts over dummy's queen-ten.

Down five and North-South +1400 points - an extreme example to illustrate the purpose of the redouble.

In conclusion, the redouble serves as a potent weapon in the responder's toolkit, particularly when faced with an opponent's take-out double. By opting to redouble, the responder not only signals confidence but also asserts their strength, typically with 10 or more points and no preferable bid or support for their partner. While it may be infrequently employed, its impact can be both decisive and game-changing in the right circumstances.

## 4NT: Quantitative or Blackwood?

by Tony Jackson, a terrific teacher in California

One of my partners asked me to cover this topic. When is 4NT Blackwood Ace asking - and when is it quantitative? And after writing a first draft of this tip, I got an email the other day: **Bidding Disaster! Why Quantitative?**

Tony, I bid 4NT intending it as Blackwood but my partner thought it was quantitative. Auction was:

1NT - (P) - 2C - (P)

2S - (P) - 4NT

Can you explain why 4NT is quantitative and not Blackwood?

Signed,

Missing yet another slam

*[Note from Barbara: The term "Quantitative" means: "Partner, do you have a minimum or a maximum?"]*

### The Story: Quantitative Bid is Needed

A direct jump to 4NT after Stayman is definitely quantitative in the above auction. This confuses many people, so you're not alone. This is, by the way, 100% standard that it is quantitative in that sequence. If you play it as ace-asking you will not be consistent with good bridge players and you will have accidents when you bid with new partners. It's always better to learn the basics before inventing your own meanings.

So why is it Quantitative? Because you always need a way to make a quantitative 4NT bid after one person opens 1NT - unless you have suit agreement. In the above auction you do **NOT** have suit agreement so 4NT is quantitative.

### Now Wait a Minute!

You might be thinking "but I am the one asking, so maybe I know that we have suit agreement. Why can't my 4NT bid promise suit agreement and ask for aces?"

That's a good question, but if you think it through you will see that doesn't always work.

With above auction, what if you didn't have four spades, and instead had four hearts. Wouldn't you still bid Stayman? Of course you would. Now after your partner bids 2 Spades, you know two things:

a) you don't have a fit in Spades (since you don't have 4 spades)

b) you don't have a fit in Hearts (since your partner would have started with a bid of 2 Hearts in response to Stayman)

Wouldn't you like to make a quantitative 4NT bid at this point? Yes, you would. So 4NT absolutely needs to be quantitative.

In other words: You know whether or not you have Spades and so you know whether you want 4NT to be Quantitative or ace-asking. But your partner doesn't know if you have four Spades, so they don't know which way you intend it. You can't have it both ways. Either you lose the quantitative bid or you lose the ace-asking bid. The Quantitative bid is standard, and frankly it's more important.

Experts recognize the importance of quantitative 4NT bids but intermediate players do not appreciate them sufficiently.

## Some General Rules

There are some general "rules" that govern this, but they sound a bit contradictory! Note that in this tip I am going to use "RKC" to mean whichever Ace-asking version you use: regular Blackwood, 3014, 1430, etc.

1. If there is suit agreement, then 4NT is RKC.
2. In Stayman and transfer auctions, 4NT is quantitative if there is not confirmed suit agreement.

After that, things get more complicated! So let's start with some basics.

Case 1: Notrump bidding

1NT - 4NT

This is definitely quantitative. The same is true for other notrump auctions: 2NT - 4NT, 3NT - 4NT, etc.

Case 2: Suit agreement followed later by 4NT

1S - 2C

2D - 2S

3C - 4NT

*The partnership in last auction was playing 2/1.*

When responder bid Spades, there was suit agreement so 4NT is RKC for spades. Even though clubs was bid by both sides, the second club bid (opener's third bid) is a control-showing bid. Once you have suit agreement, you don't change to another suit.

Case 3: Stayman

1NT - 2C

2H - 4NT

This is quantitative. You do not have a known fit so it's quantitative.

Case 4a: Jacoby Transfer

1NT - 2D

2H - 4NT

In this auction, responder transferred to Hearts and then jumped to 4NT. Since there is no suit agreement, 4NT is quantitative in this situation. Responder is saying two things in this auction: that they don't know if this should be played in a suit contract or in notrump, and also that they don't know if it should be played in a game or slam. Opener is now the captain and makes the choice.

*[Ed note: Opener can now choose one of the following:*

*Pass with a minimum & not liking Hearts.*

*Bid 6NT with a maximum and not liking Hearts.*

*Bid 5H with a minimum and liking Hearts.*

*Bid 6H with a maximum and liking Hearts.]*

Case 4b: Jacoby Transfer with super-acceptance

1NT - 2D

3H - 4NT

This time there is definite suit agreement because of opener's jump to 3H (called "super acceptance"). So 4NT is definitely RKC for hearts.

Case 4c: Texas Transfer

1NT - 4D

4H - 4NT

With a Texas transfer, both sides know that there is an 8-card fit since responder needs a 6-card suit to make the Texas transfer. So now the 4NT bid is RKC, not quantitative.

This is one of several good reasons why you should play Texas transfers. (Being able to use them over competition is another good reason, by the way.)

Case 5a: Jacoby Transfer after 2NT auction

2NT - 3D

3H - 4NT

Like the 1NT counterpart, this is quantitative because an 8-card fit has not been established. If you, as responder, intend to transfer and want to ask for aces/keycards, then consider using Texas instead.

Case 5b: Jacoby Transfer after 2C/2NT rebid

2C - 2D

2NT - 3D

3H - 4NT

This is also quantitative. This is just like case 5a, except that opener shows 22-24 points instead of 20-21. *[Some play that this rebid shows 22-23 HCP]*

Case 6: After a natural NT bid

1C - 2NT

4NT

1D - 1H

1NT - 4NT

1S - 2H

2NT - 4NT

In all three auctions, 4NT is quantitative.

Case 8: In competition, a jump to 4NT is RKC for the last bid suit

1S - (3H) - 4NT

The 4NT bid is asking for keycards, with spades as the implied trump suit.

No Suit Agreement

When there is no suit agreement, and opener did not open the bidding with a notrump bid, then things get a little more complicated.

1S - 2C

2H - 4NT

One simple approach is "Ace asking for the last bid suit". This would imply that hearts is the agreed suit.

*[Edited a bit by Barbara because certain treatments are different depending on geography]*

*Thank you, Tony!*

# Famous Bridge Players

**Author unknown.**

Bridge impacts our lives in many ways.

Bridge is the most popular trick-taking card game and is regularly played by millions of people around the world. Which real-life celebrities play or played this game?

Some famous names include:

## **Bill Gates**

Bill Gates co-founded Microsoft back in 1975 with his childhood friend Paul Allen. At one point, he was the richest man in the world. Alongside managing Microsoft, he has involved himself in a number of philanthropic causes and remains a prominent voice in the tech industry.

Despite all these ventures, Gates still finds time to regularly play bridge. In fact, he may be one of the most passionate celebrities, often speaking about his love of bridge and delivering many quotes including 'bridge is the king of all card games' and 'bridge helps you think'. Gates started playing bridge as a child, which he attributes to helping build his intellect, and now plays at a high level - regularly playing with some of the top bridge players in the world.

## **Warren Buffet**

Warren Buffet is a famous stock market guru and is the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. He has also previously held the title of richest man in the world, and is known for his many philanthropic ventures alongside his involvement in the stock market.

He is also a very passionate bridge player. In fact, he is known to have introduced Bill Gates to bridge tournaments and has played on the same team as Gates many times. On his love of the card game, he is quoted to have said: 'Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players'.

## **Winston Churchill**

Winston Churchill is one of the most famous British prime ministers. He led Britain to victory in World War 2 and served a second term in the 1950's. He was known to be an incredible military strategist, having had some military experience himself.

Long before his career as prime minister, Churchill is known to have played bridge, quoting 'it amuses me'. It is said that he learned bridge while on a trip up the Nile in 1902.

## **Dwight Eisenhower**

Dwight Eisenhower was the 34th president of the United States. During his presidency, he ended the Korean War, established NASA, built the Interstate Highway System and signed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Before his presidency, he played an instrumental part in planning the D-day landing among other military operations.

Eisenhower was a very good bridge player. In fact, he regularly hosted [bridge games](#) in the White House and was nicknamed 'the bridge player in chief'. He is known to have had his own operational code: 'play every hand as part of a lifetime bridge career. The result is more slams, less sets, and a fine average record'.

## **Deng Xiaoping**

Deng Xiaoping was the paramount leader of The People's Republic of China from 1978 to 1989. He helped abandon many Maoist ideologies that were previously keeping much of the country in poverty - most notably introducing China to the global market and kickstarting international trade.

Before Deng became leader, bridge was banned in China. Deng himself was a keen bridge player and lifted the ban, hosting the first national bridge contest in 1979. Deng was known to play bridge religiously every Sunday from 3 pm to 10 pm, taking only a short break at 6 pm to have dinner. He believed it was an important way of keeping his mind sharp.

## **Mahatma Gandhi**

Mahatma Gandhi is a renowned spiritual leader and activist, who through acts of non-violence helped gain India's independence from British rule. He has influenced many civil rights movements across the globe.

What many people don't know about Gandhi is that he was an avid bridge player in his younger days. In fact, he used bridge to teach some of his early followers the difference between karma (the hand you are dealt) and dharma (what you do with it). His love for the game is believed to have helped shape his strategic prowess.

## **Martina Navratilova**

Martina Navratilova is considered one of the greatest tennis players of all time. During her career in the 70s and 80s, she won 18 major singles titles, 31 major women's double titles and 10 major mixed doubles titles - the record number of titles in the Open Era.

Tennis is not the only sport that Martina is an avid fan of though. She is known to be an avid bridge player - playing with friends and fellow tennis players. Apparently, it was her tennis coach that also taught her bridge. Her passion for bridge would grow over time and she even contributed to a book on bridge in 1987. She is quoted to have said: 'no matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table'.

## **Omar Sharif**

Omar Sharif was an Egyptian actor, whose most notable roles include Sherif Ali in Lawrence of Arabia and the title role in Doctor Zhivago. He is regarded as one of the greatest Egyptian actors.

A man of many talents, Sharif was known to speak 5 languages and also be a skilled bridge player. In fact, in the 60s and 70s, he began playing in international tournaments and for a brief time he was ranked among the top bridge players in the world. While he is not the only Hollywood actor to play bridge competitively, he is definitely the most successful.

## CREATING EXTRA TRICKS by Barbara Seagram

The bridge gods never deal us enough Aces and Kings so you have to develop some more. In No Trumps, count your sure winners. Almost always, you will not have enough. You must not now play your happy suits first but must attack your project suit immediately. Note that if you have a suit with KQJ10 and no Ace, you have no winners. BUT that would be a great project suit where you can eke out three more winners. Let's look at the hand below:

2C - 2D

2N - 3C (Stayman)

3D - 3N

Opening lead: Spade Jack

### **North**

S Q432

H 109

D 643

C QJ43

### **South**

S AK5

H QJ3

D AQ52

C AK3

Sure winners: Spades: 3 Hearts: 0 Diamonds: 1 Clubs: 4

Total number of winners: 8

Where will the 9th trick come from...what is your project suit?

Many think that they should play the Spade suit and hope for the Spades to divide 3-3. That will work 36% of the time. When the opponent leads a Spade, odds are even higher that West has five Spades.

How about Diamonds? The Diamond finesse will work 50% of the time. What if it loses? And what if West now leads another Diamond, knocking out the Diamond Ace? Now it is too late to try Hearts. Clubs can never be your project because you can only ever get four tricks in that suit.

You only need one more trick. Play Hearts at trick two and lose to the Heart Ace or King. Win whatever is returned and play another Heart, knocking out the other remaining honour. Then you have your ninth trick. Hearts is your project, nothing else. After developing the 9th trick, now you can cash all your Clubs and try Spades in case they divide happily for you. But Hearts must be first.



Furthermore: Win the Spade Q in Dummy at trick one and lead the Heart 10, which looks to the opponents like you are taking a finesse. East will duck and West will most likely win. Your worry is that East will get in and lead a Diamond so don't lead a Heart from your hand, lead the Heart from Dummy. If West wins the trick and leads a Diamond, he cannot hurt you. In fact you would welcome this.