

When to double the opponents.

I appreciate that players are reluctant to double their opponents (not out of some sort of misguided notion of propriety - wait until you've been doubled and that one will soon vanish) but because they don't want to get it wrong.

And of course doubling the opponents *into game* is never a good look.
(ie if you double 2H and it makes, the score is in excess of what 4H would have made).

Howeverone good thing about duplicate is that even if you are hopelessly wrong on one hand (say you do double the opponents and they make it and score a frighteningly high score) it's only a bottom . Its not like rubber bridge or chicago where even one bad score will make it very difficult to win the rubber.

Back to the duplicate.

Let us say that your side have bid 3H and expect to make it.

You know that that will score you 140 or even 170 if you can make an overtrick.

Now let us imagine that the opponents have competed vigorously over your 3H and have rested in 3Sp.

You don't think they will make it but you can hardly bid on to 4H.

Well in rubber or chicago (or "Teams" where rubber thinking is applied) you would settle for the 1 or 2 off you are hoping to get.

In duplicate , 1 or 2 off is *not enough*. Not enough unless you have doubled.

Really its a question of mathematics but heres a full auction to help bring it to life.

N	E	S	W
1H	1S	2H	2S
3H	P	P	3S
?			
A3			
KQ98			
AQ87			
876			

As above it seems likely the opponents are going off but if they are not vuln even 2 off (100) will not compensate you for your missed 3H (140). You almost *have* to double.
Now if they are 2 off NV they will lose 300 and you win the board.

Please note that I am not saying they will always go off (though they usually do !) but if you don't double you will lose out anyway.

One last example and then it will be up to you to get doubling in the next duplicate you play.

N	E	S	W
1NT	2C	2S	P
P	3C	?	
		AJ987	
		62	
		Q92	
		K98	

Double is the call.(These opponents are stealing from you -fight back. DOUBLE).

