

# Javea Bridge

Friday January 12th 2018

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I asked last week when you would double a freely bid slam.

My answer is – very rarely and only when I am sure they are going off and when I am sure they cannot find a better spot.

I would never double just because I have two aces against a slam in a suit. If the opposition know what they are doing then they have a void. If they do not then I have a top anyway.

I would never double just because I have good trumps. It would be folly to talk the opposition into a better suit or no-trumps. Just take the money. Even worse if the double warns of the danger and shows declarer how to play the contract.

This last danger is illustrated by below.

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	North Bd12 Dealer W, NS Vul.
	♠ KJ7 ♥ QJ8 ♦ 9 ♣ KQT764
<b>West</b> ♠ T843 ♥ KT72 ♦ J543 ♣ 5	<b>East</b> ♠ 52 ♥ 3 ♦ KQT8762 ♣ J98
	<b>South</b> ♠ AQ96 ♥ A9654 ♦ A ♣ A32

When Mike's contract of 6H was doubled he, sitting S, had the choice between correcting to 6N or living with the double and making the contract. He chose to make the contract by playing trumps in an unusual way.

He won the opening lead and simply led small towards the trumps on table- repeating the process (returning to hand and leading another small trump) when W declined to go up with the King.

The contract made easily enough and the doublers scored a bottom board. Had they not doubled Mike would have finessed the heart and then lost another trump trick later – a top for EW.

If the doubler had actually had 5 trumps he would have defeated 6H but would run the risk that the contract might now be 6S or 6N. **DOUBLES OF SMALL SLAMS ARE DANGEROUS..**