WHEN OPPONENTS DOUBLE A SPLINTER

One of the disadvantages of a splinter bid is that it enables an opponent to show a suit (by doubling) without the risk that an overcall would entail. The splinter bidding side must, in retaliation, use the double as a bidding aid for themselves.

When a splinter bid is doubled, the next hand:

-- *With a poor hand* for the circumstances, signs off in a partnership suit. The signoff implies a hand that would not have been able to make its previous bids without the secondary strength held in the splinter suit.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♦	Dbl	4♠/5♣	

Either of these signoffs says that North would not have been able to respond 2♣ if it were not for his secondary strength in diamonds. He bids 5♣ with ♠2 ♥Q87 ♦K76 ♣K108732. He bids 4♠ with ♠Q83 ♥42 ♦KJ3 ♣A8742.

-- *With a fair hand* for the circumstances, passes. A passer says that he would have made his previous bids without any king or queen that he may have in the splinter suit. The hand fits. However, he has little or nothing in the way of extra strength for his previous bid(s).

-- *With a good hand* for the circumstances, redoubles or bids something besides a signoff. A redouble does not imply the ace of the splinter suit. It merely shows extra values for previous bidding, disregarding any king or queen in the splinter suit. "Extra values" means a king or better in excess of what was necessary for previous bidding.