

# A meritless Multi

By Tom Townsend

Dealer East  
Vulnerability North-South

♠ A K 9 8 ♥ Q 8 3 2 ♦ A K ♣ A J 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 3 ♥ A J 9 6 5 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ K 10 8 7	♠ 5 2 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ 7 6 3 2 ♣ Q 9 5 2
N	E						
W	S						
♠ Q J 10 7 6 4 ♥ 4 ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ 6 3							

West	North	East	South
		pass	2♦(1)
dbl(2)	rdble(3)	pass	2♠
pass	pass	dbl(3)	pass
pass(4)	pass		

- (1) Usually a weak 2♥ or 2♠
- (2) 13-15 balanced or 18+ any
- (3) For take-out
- (4) Converted for penalties

Contract 2♠ doubled  
 Declarer South  
 Opening Lead ♦K

HERE is another deal from the London Teams Championship Qualifier. There were eight tables in play on RealBridge. The East cards were opened 1♥ at three of them, including by Young Chelsea BC stalwart Mike Eden.

Eden saw 2♠ (weak) to his left. The jump overcall, at unfavourable vulnerability, was technically unsound and unlikely to gain in practice. Carrie Eden (West) raised directly to 6♥. Mike aced the spade lead in dummy, and led the ♥Q at trick two – covered and won with the ♥A. Playing South, the pre-emptor, for shortage in hearts,

Mike crossed to dummy with a diamond, and finessed the ♥9 to make an overtrick.

There was a matchpoint element to the scoring, so Mike's heart play won the board for his team. Elsewhere, the standard percentage play was taken in hearts – a finesse of the ♥J and then ♥A, losing to the ♥K.

At my table, East passed and South opened 2♦ (Multi). This shows a weak 2♥ or 2♠ or possibly some kind of strong hand, typically 23-24 balanced. The Multi still scatters pigeons in North America where it's scarcely licensed, but has long been tamed by UK experts.

West was Kieran Dyke, an Australian pro selected to play for England in June's European Open Championships (if the event goes ahead). Dyke doubled 2♦ to show points, and calmly passed over 2♠, content to accept a penalty in hundreds. By partnership agreement, his second-round double would have been for take-out. A take-out double from East ended the auction.

Dyke led ♦K and then ♦A (reversing the normal order to show two), and switched brightly to the ♥Q, ducked in dummy.

Declarer ruffed the heart continuation, and played the ♠10 to West's ♠K. She ruffed the next heart, knocked out ♠A, and won the ♠9 return for his third trick.

The defenders had the rest. East scored the ♦Q on the third diamond, and could play a club over to West to draw trump. It had been a rare bloodbath. Next week: Brian Senior lends a hand (or five).

**Table One** 6♥ plus one, N/S -1010  
**Table Two** 2♠ doubled minus five, N/S -1400