

Counting and Card Reading

By Chris Dixon

What To Count

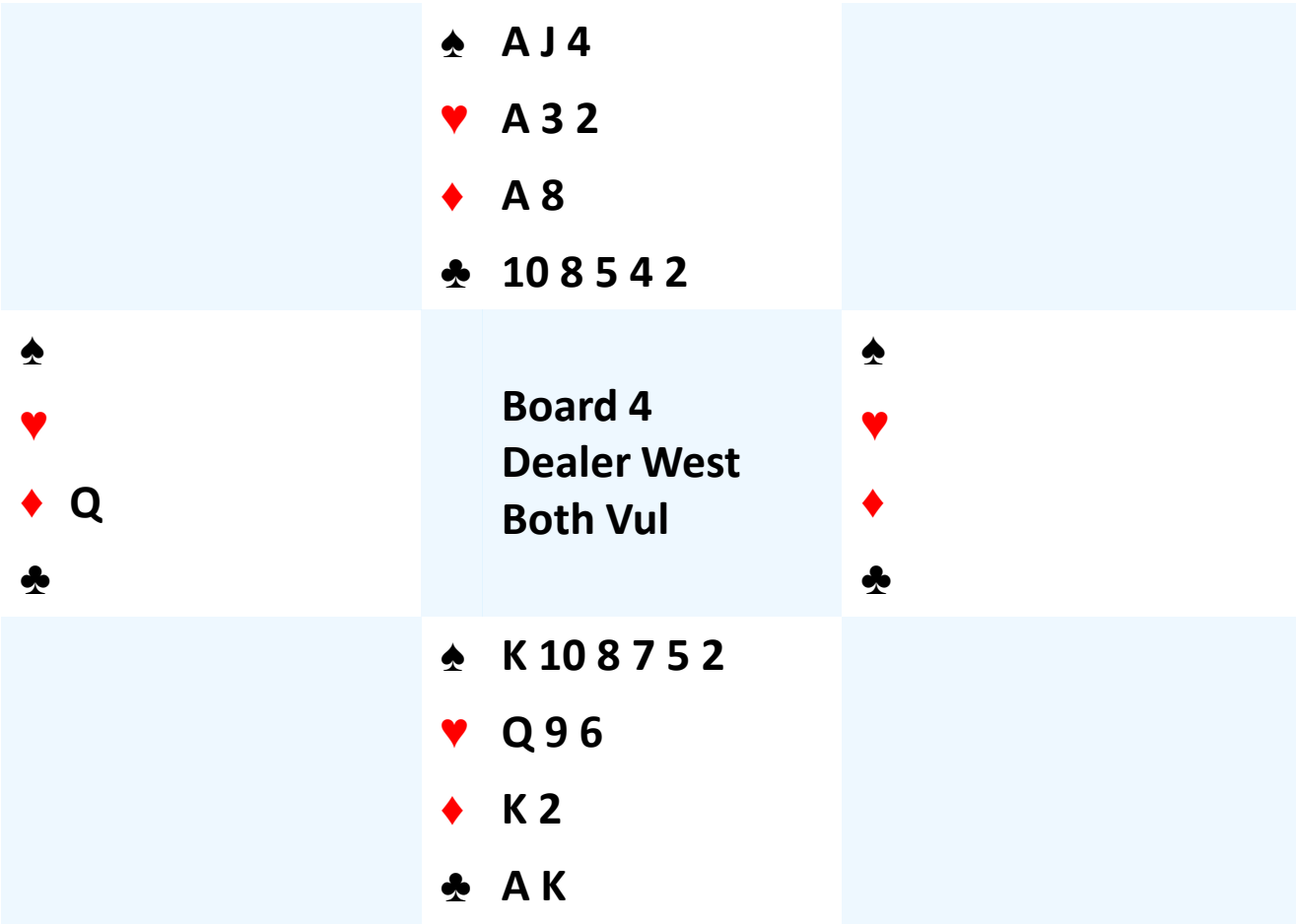
- 1 **Count High Card Points**
- 2 **Count Tricks**
- 3 **Count Losers**
- 4 **Count Distribution**

How to get Information

- 1 Direct Evidence**
- 2 Evidence from Signals**
- 3 Reasonable Inferences**
- 4 Necessary Assumptions**

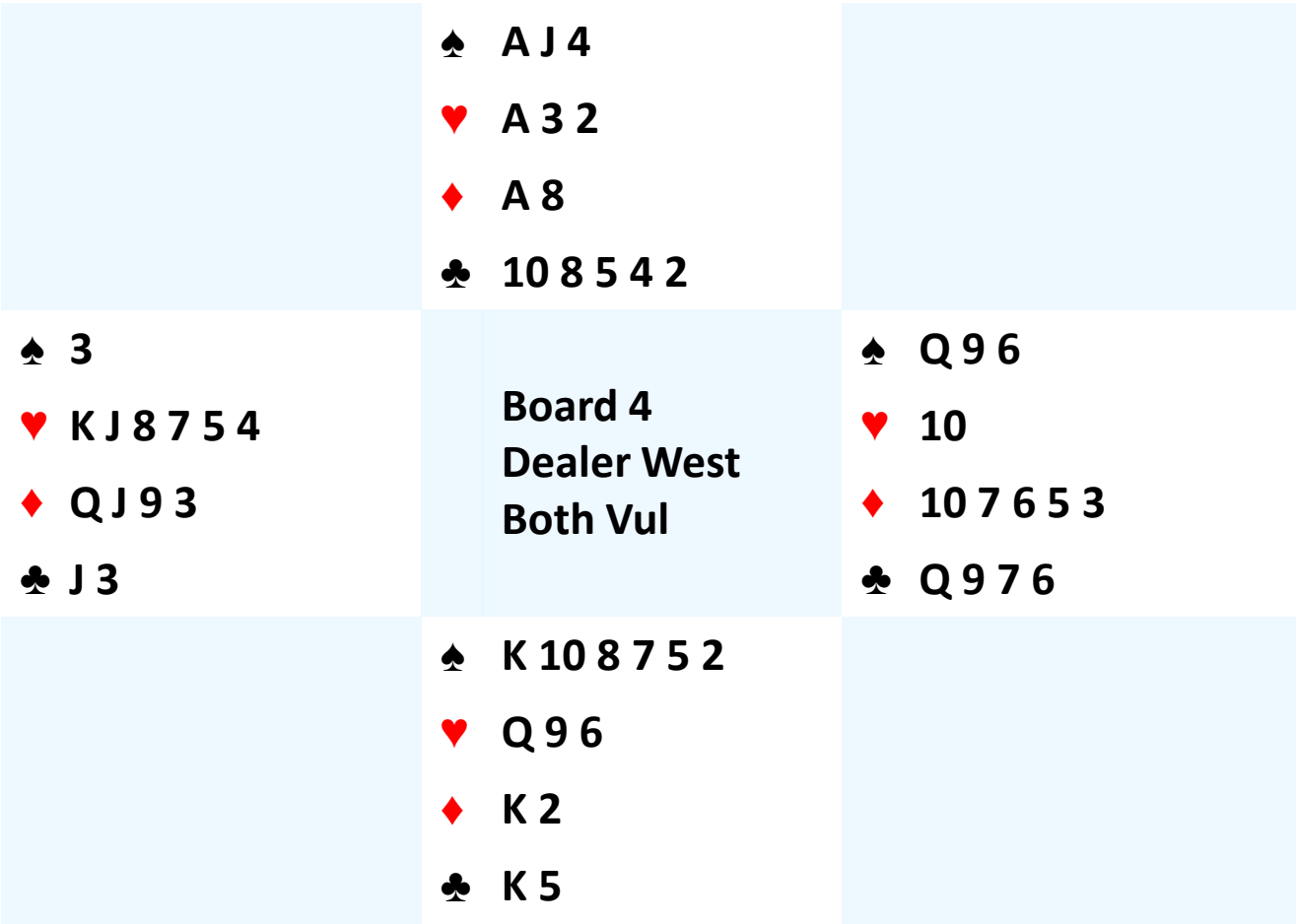
Principles

- 1 Principle of Vacant Spaces**
- 2 Principle of Restricted Choice**
- 3 The Strange Behaviour of the Dog in the Night**



S	W	N	E
	2♥	P	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
4♠	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 6♠
 West leads Q♦



S	W	N	E
	2♥	P	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
4♠	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 6♠
 West leads Q♦

	♠ Q 8 6 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ Q 6	
♠ ♥ 5 ♦ ♣ A K	Board 20 Dealer West Both Vul	♠ K 10 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ J 9 8 2
	♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♦ ♣ 3	

S	W	N	E
	1♣	X	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠
 West leads A♣, then K♣. South ruffs,
 crosses to dummy with the A♥ and leads
 the Q♠

	♠ Q 8 6 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ Q 6	
♠ A ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ ♣ A K 4	Board 20 Dealer West Both Vul	♠ K 10 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ J 9 8 2
	♠ J 5 4 3 ♥ 9 4 ♦ ♣ 3	

S	W	N	E
	1♣	X	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠
 West leads A♣, then K♣. South ruffs, crosses to dummy with the A♥ and leads the Q♠. West wins the A♠ and exits with a heart which is taken in dummy. Declarer ruffs a heart and exits with the J♠

	♠ Q 8 6 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ Q 6	
♠ A ♥ J 8 5 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A K 10 7 5 4	Board 20 Dealer West Both Vul	♠ K 10 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ J 9 8 2
	♠ J 9 7 5 4 3 ♥ 9 4 ♦ K 10 9 6 ♣ 3	

S	W	N	E
	1♣	X	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠
 West leads A♣, then K♣

	♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	
♠ ♥ A 2 ♦ ♣	Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	♠ ♥ 8 3 ♦ ♣
	♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ A J 8 4	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT
 West leads A♥, then 2♥

	♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	
♠ ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 10	Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	♠ ♥ 10 8 6 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 5
	♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ A J 8 4	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT
 West leads A♥, then 2♥

	♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	
♠ 7 5 3 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 10	Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	♠ J 6 ♥ 10 8 6 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 5
	♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ A J 8 4	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

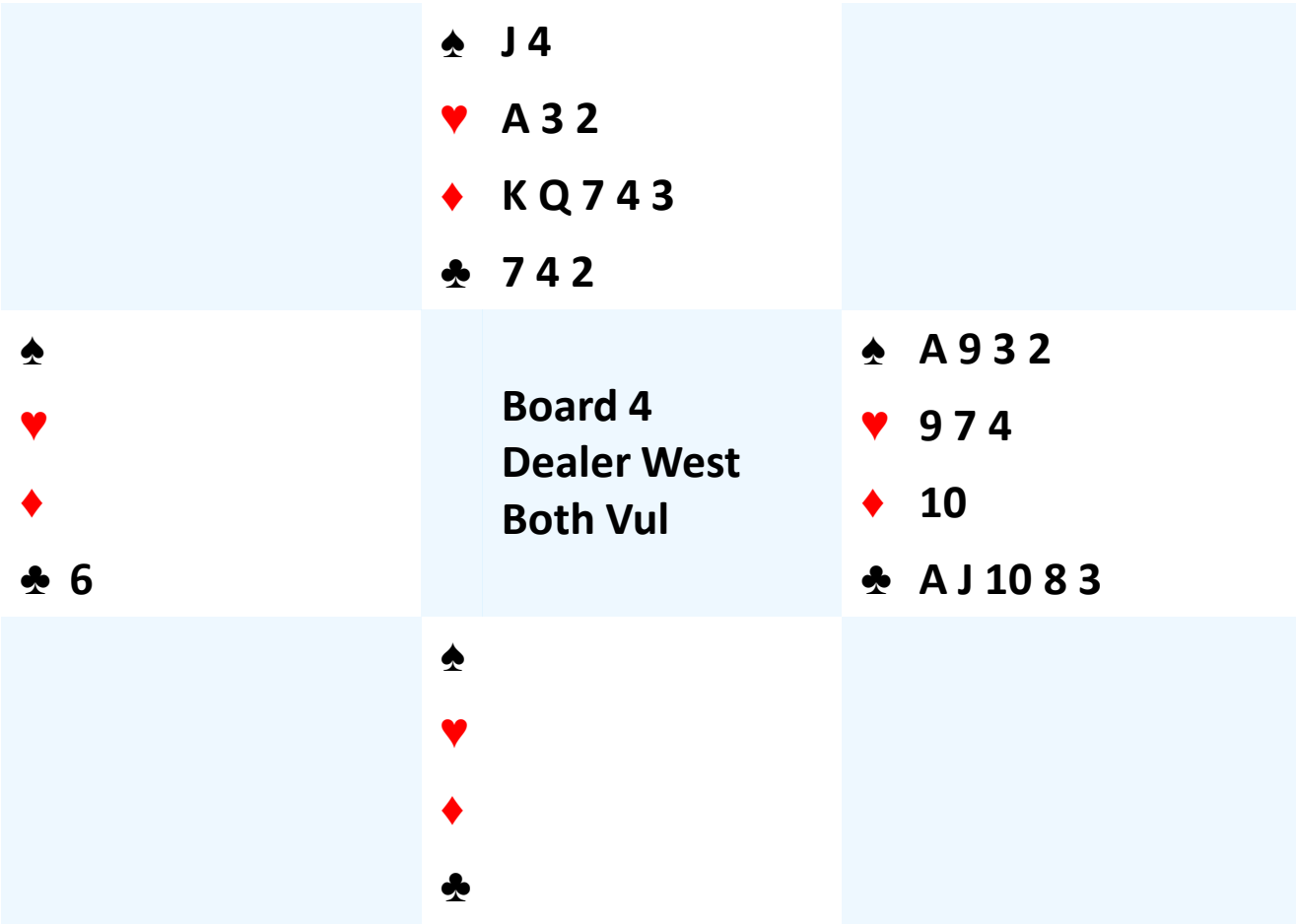
South plays in 1NT
 West leads A♥, then 2♥

	♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	
♠ 10 7 5 3 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ Q 9 ♣ K 10 7	Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	♠ J 6 ♥ 10 8 6 3 ♦ K J 10 4 ♣ Q 6 5
	♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ A J 8 4	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

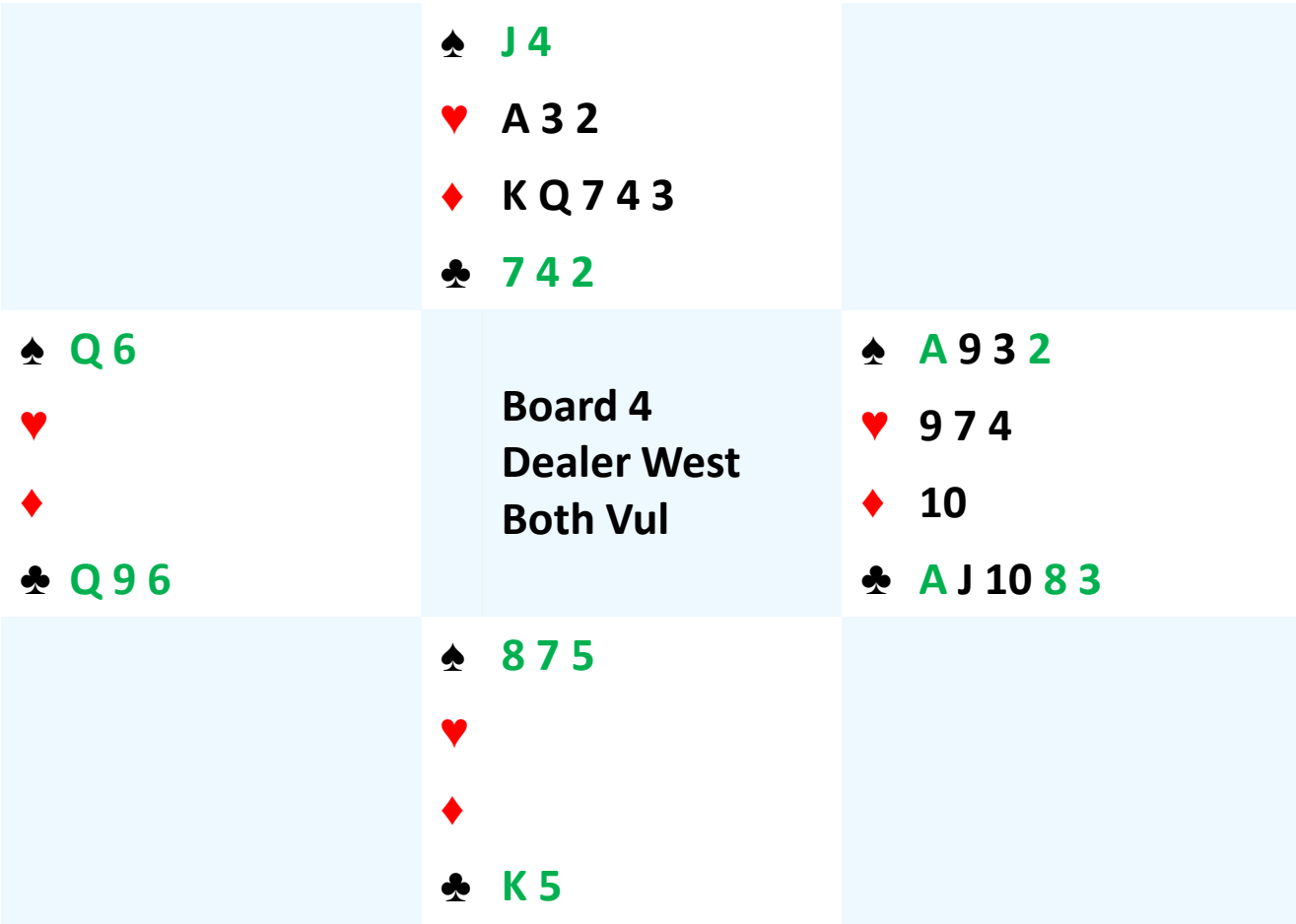
South plays in 1NT
 West leads A♥, then 2♥

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S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♣
1♠	X	2♦	P
2♠	P	P	p

South plays in 2♠
 West leads 6♣



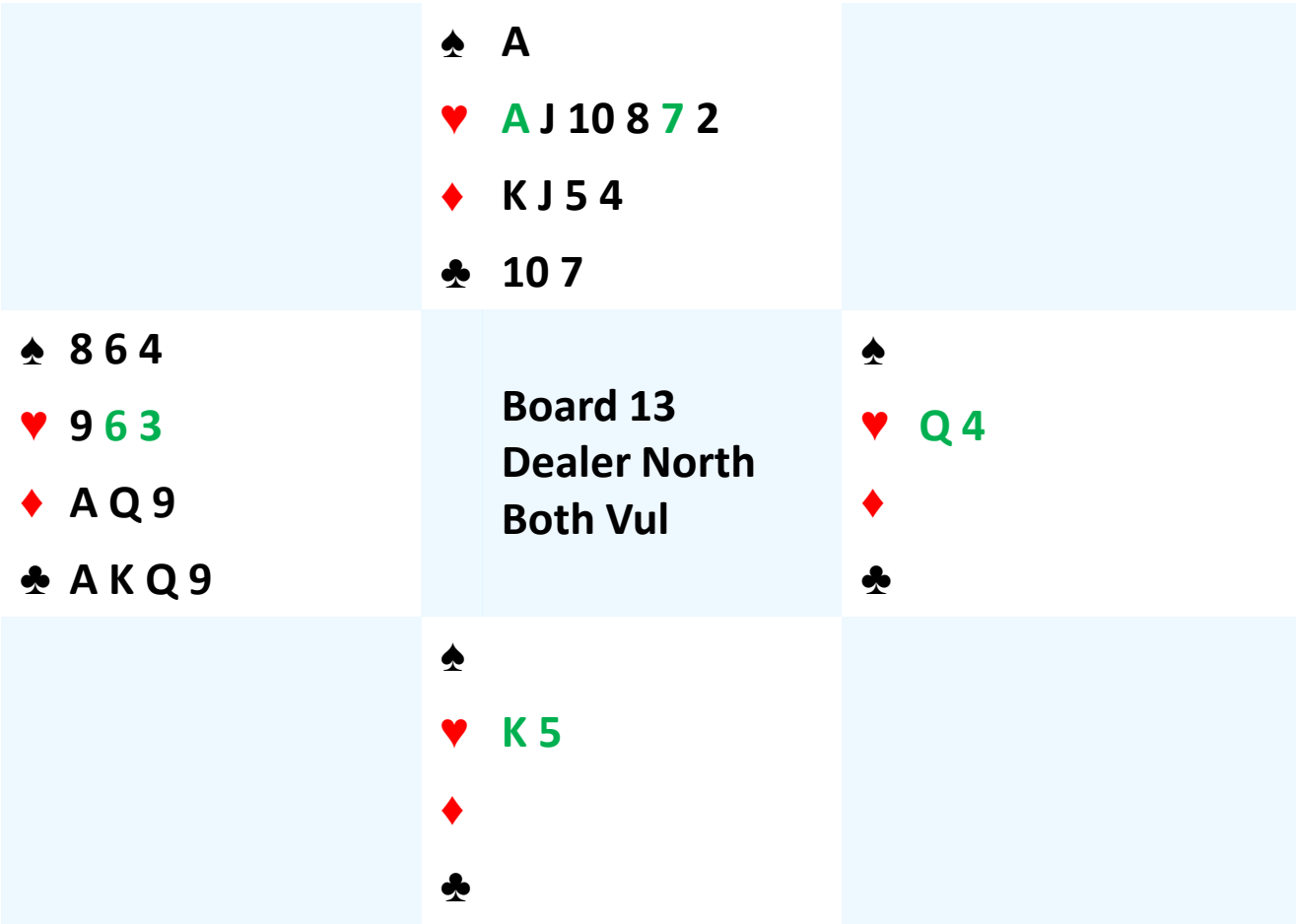
S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♣
1♠	X	2♦	P
2♠	P	P	p

South plays in 2♠
 West leads 6♣

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

S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♣
1♠	X	2♦	P
2♠	P	P	p

South plays in 2♠
West leads 6♣



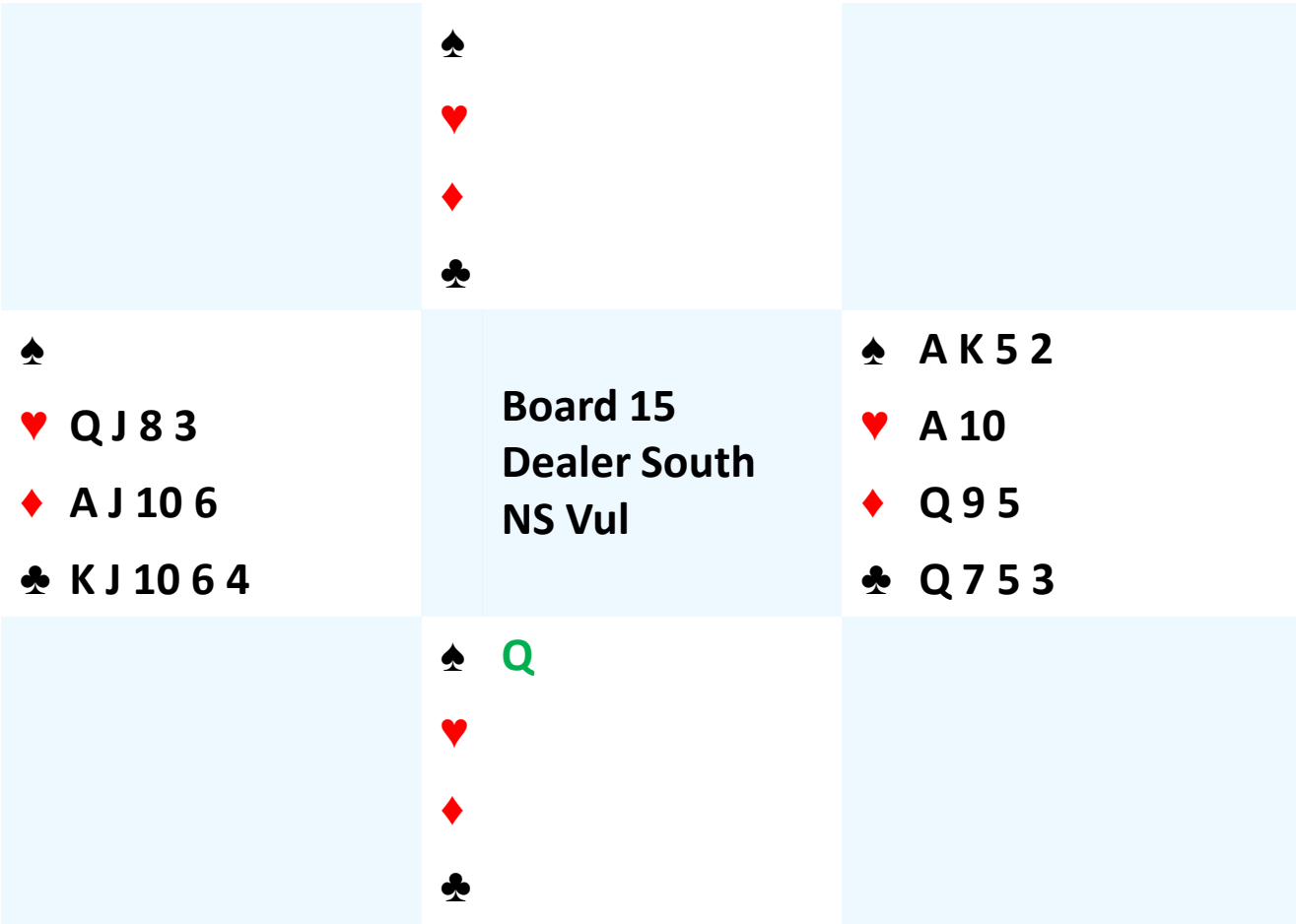
S	W	N	E
		1♥	1♠
P	2♥	X	2♠
P	4♠	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♠
 South leads K♥

	♠ A ♥ A J 10 8 7 2 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ 10 7	
♠ 8 6 4 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ A K Q 9	Board 13 Dealer North Both Vul	♠ K Q J 9 3 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ 3 ♣ 8 5 3 2
	♠ 10 7 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ 10 8 7 6 2 ♣ J 6 4	

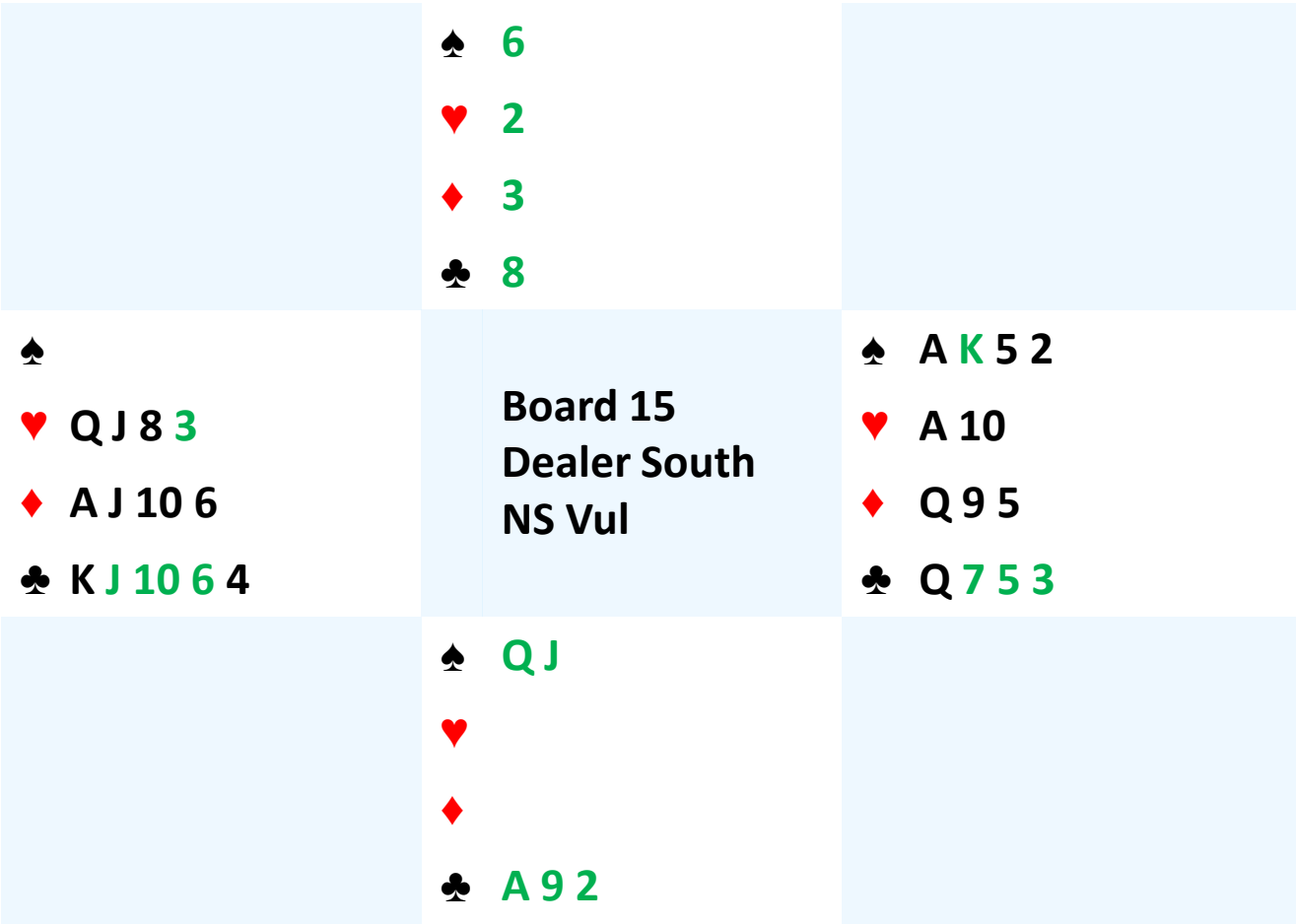
S	W	N	E
		1♥	1♠
P	2♥	X	2♠
P	4♠	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♠
 South leads K♥



S	W	N	E
2♠	X	3♠	3NT
P	P	P	

South plays in 3NT
West leads Q♠



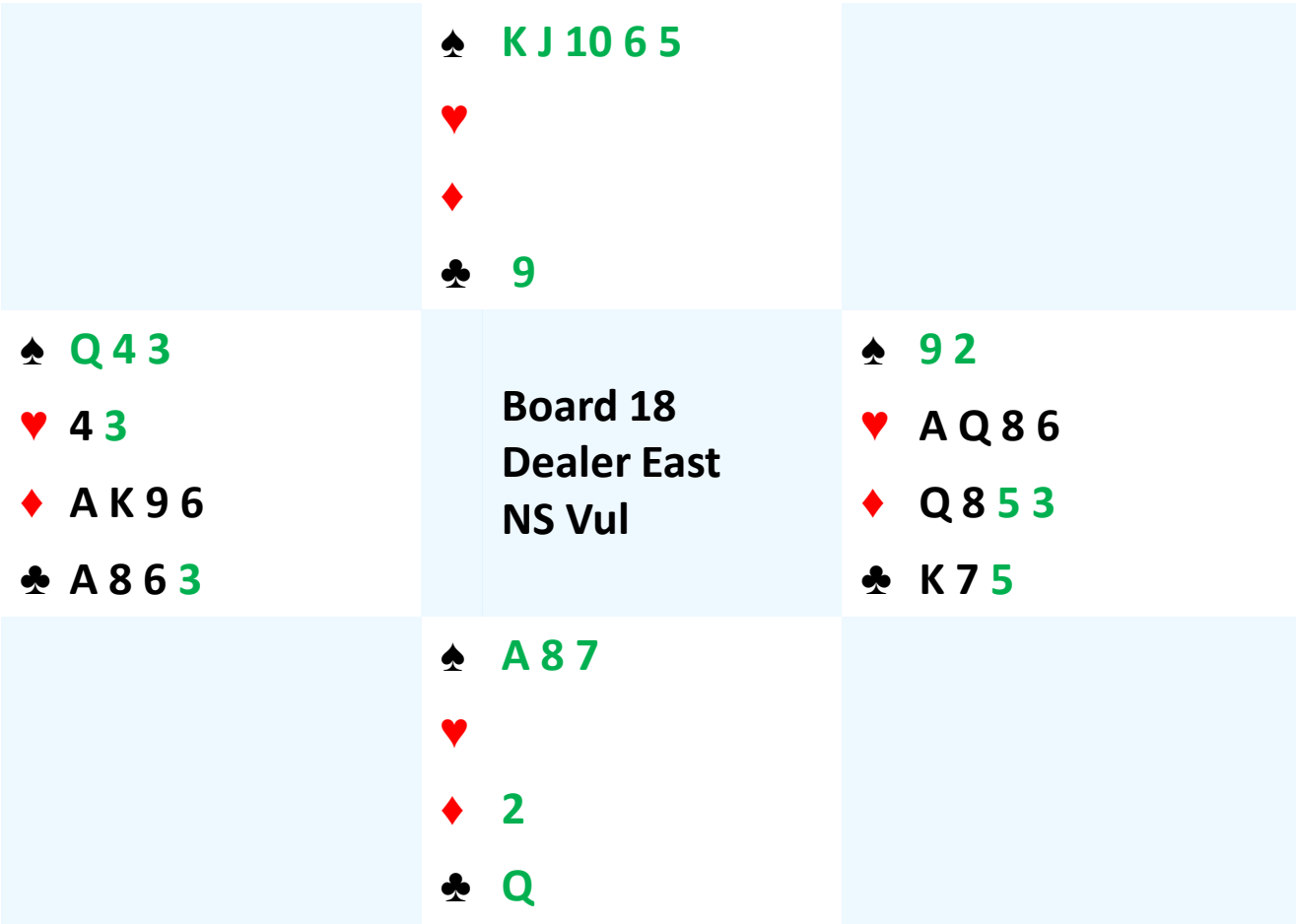
S	W	N	E
2♠	X	3♠	3NT
P	P	P	

South plays in 3NT
West leads Q♠

	<p>♠ 8 7 6</p> <p>♥ K 9 5 4 2</p> <p>♦ K 7 4 3</p> <p>♣ 8</p>	
<p>♠</p> <p>♥ Q J 8 3</p> <p>♦ A J 10 6</p> <p>♣ K J 10 6 4</p>	<p>Board 15</p> <p>Dealer South</p> <p>NS Vul</p>	<p>♠ A K 5 2</p> <p>♥ A 10</p> <p>♦ Q 9 5</p> <p>♣ Q 7 5 3</p>
	<p>♠ Q J 10 9 4 3</p> <p>♥ 7 6</p> <p>♦ 8 2</p> <p>♣ A 9 2</p>	

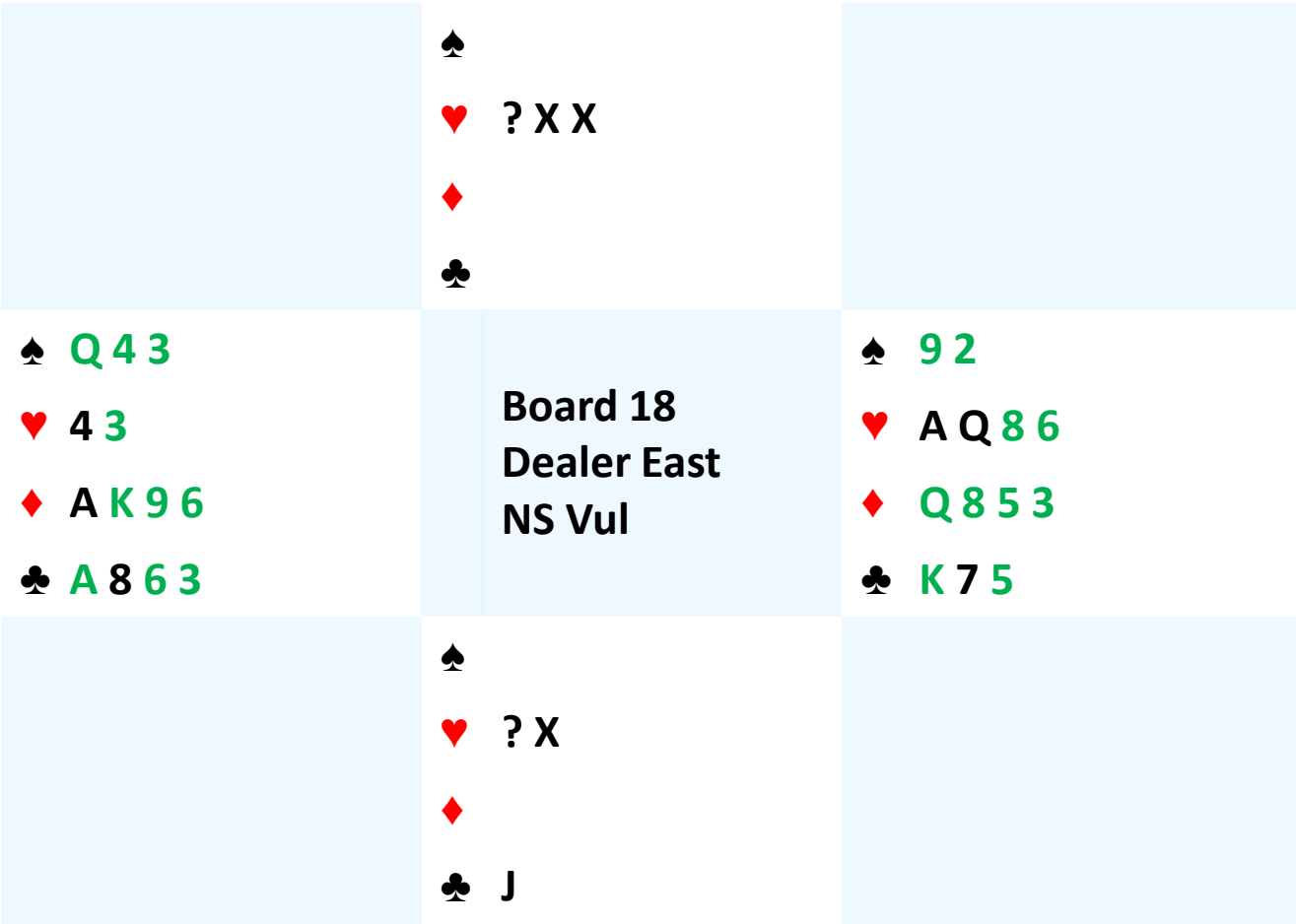
S	W	N	E
2♠	X	3♠	3NT
P	P	P	

South plays in 3NT
West leads Q♠



S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT
West leads J♠



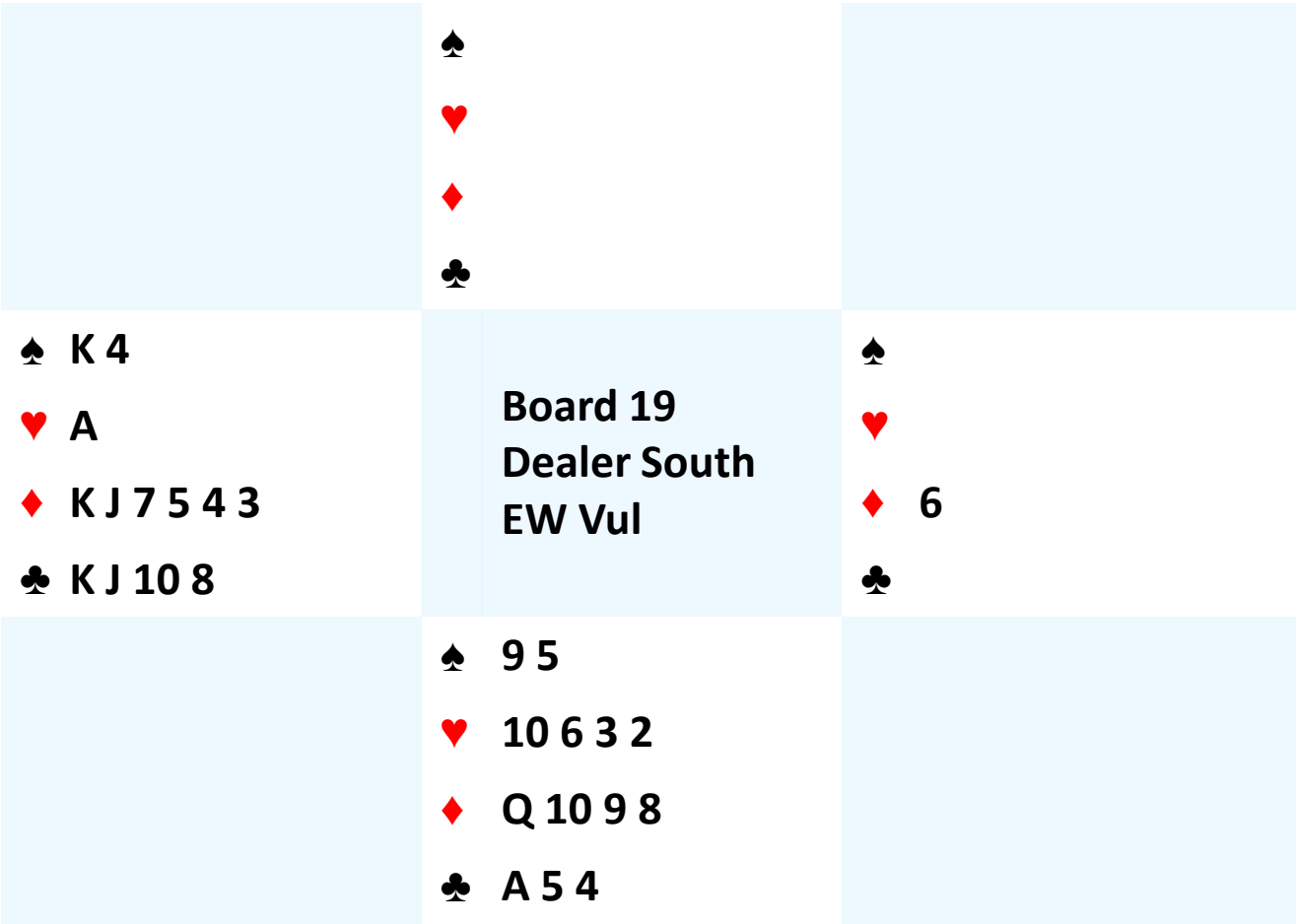
S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT
West leads J♠

	♠ K J 10 6 5 ♥ J 10 7 2 ♦ 10 7 ♣ 9 4	
♠ Q 4 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A K 9 6 ♣ A 8 6 3	Board 18 Dealer East NS Vul	♠ 9 2 ♥ A Q 8 6 ♦ Q 8 5 3 ♣ K 7 5
	♠ A 8 7 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 2	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT
 West leads J♠



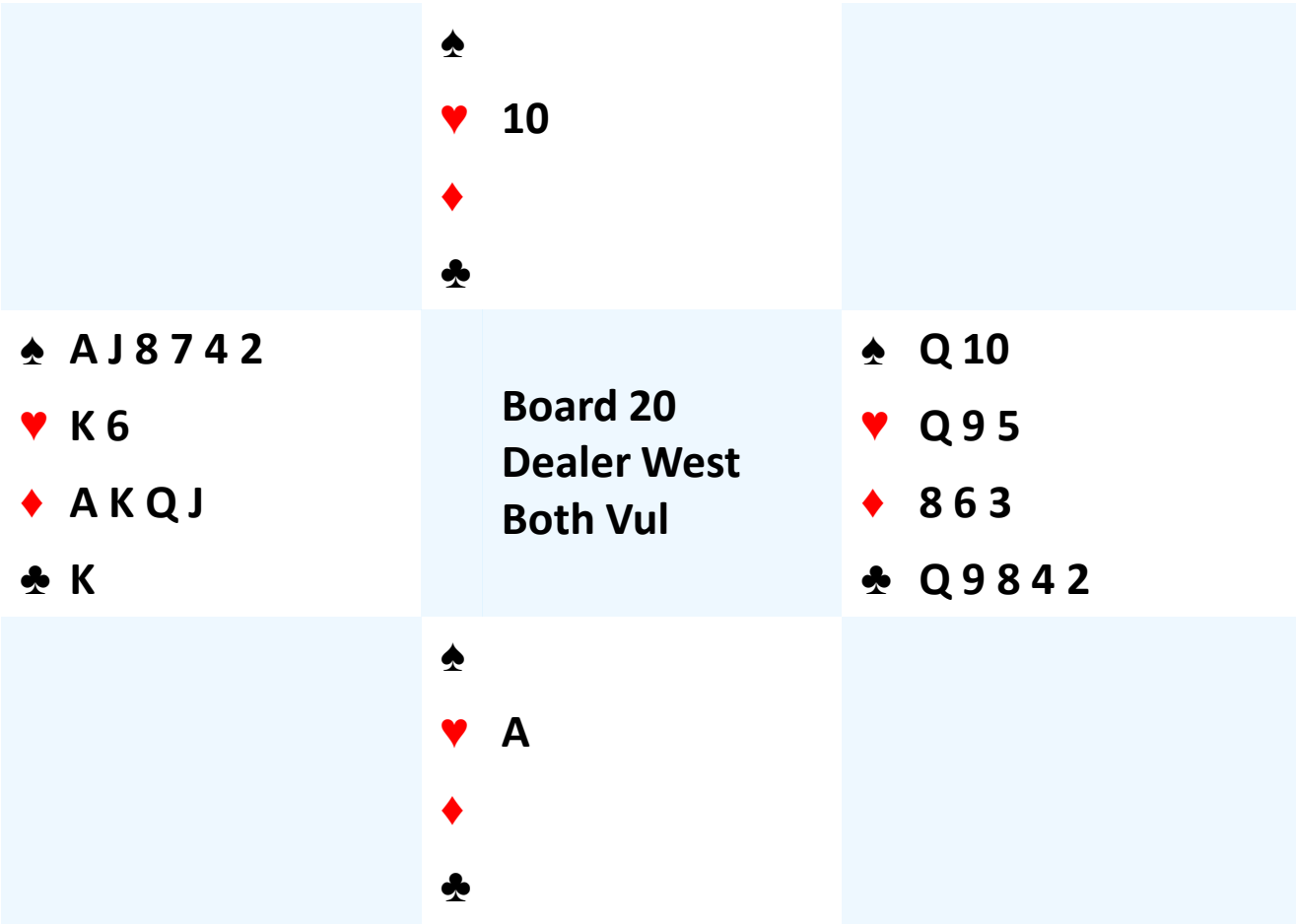
S	W	N	E
	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

North plays in 4♥
East leads 6♦

	<p>♠ 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♥ K Q J 8 7 4</p> <p>♦ A</p> <p>♣ Q 6</p>	
<p>♠ K 4</p> <p>♥ A</p> <p>♦ K J 7 5 4 3</p> <p>♣ K J 10 8</p>	<p>Board 19</p> <p>Dealer South</p> <p>EW Vul</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 10 8</p> <p>♥ 9 5</p> <p>♦ 6 2</p> <p>♣ 9 7 3 2</p>
	<p>♠ 9 5</p> <p>♥ 10 6 3 2</p> <p>♦ Q 10 9 8</p> <p>♣ A 5 4</p>	

S	W	N	E
	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

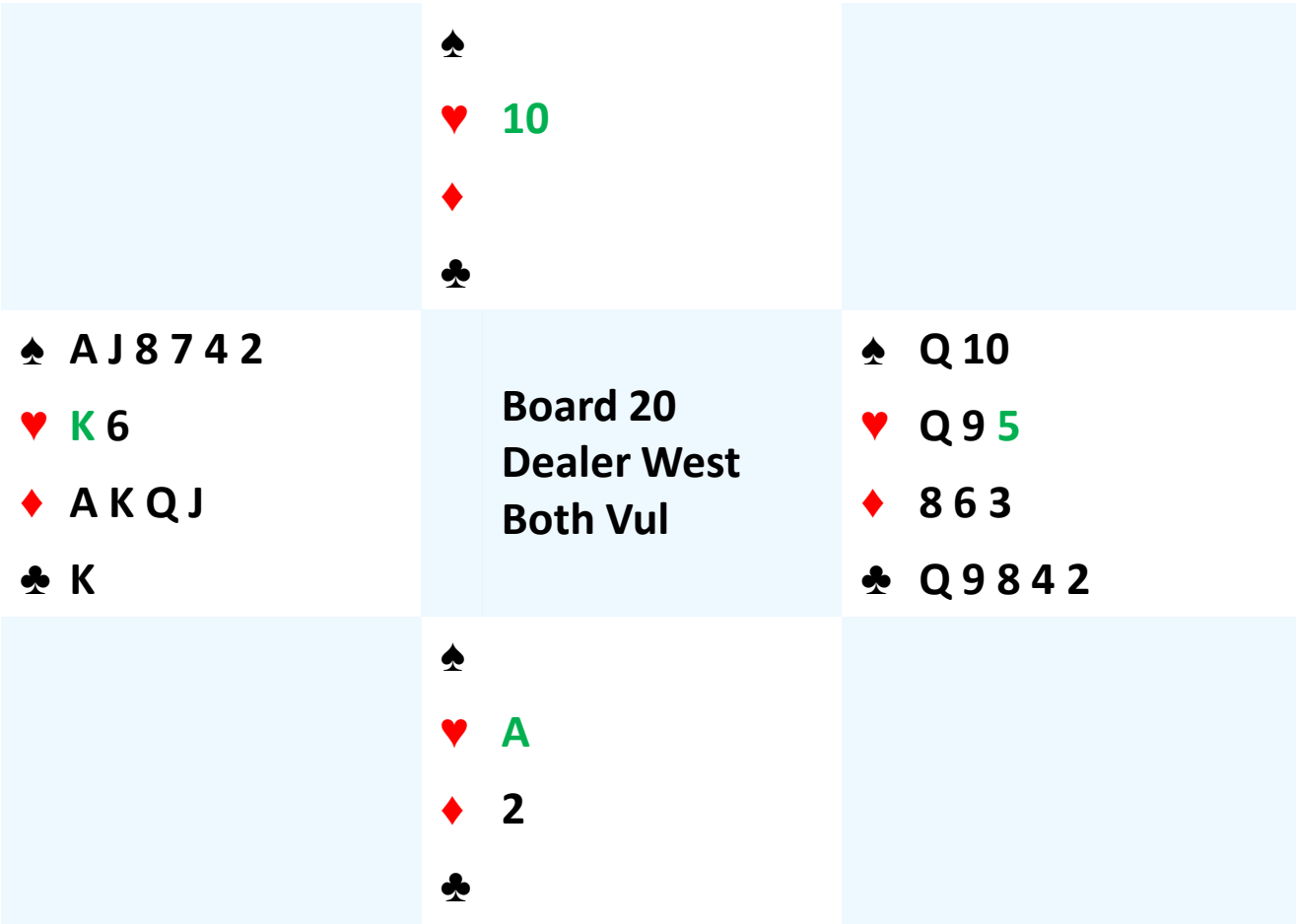
North plays in 4♥
East leads 6♦



S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♥*	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♠	P	P
P			

* = Transfer

West plays in 4♠
 North leads 10♥



S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♥*	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♠	P	P
P			

* = Transfer

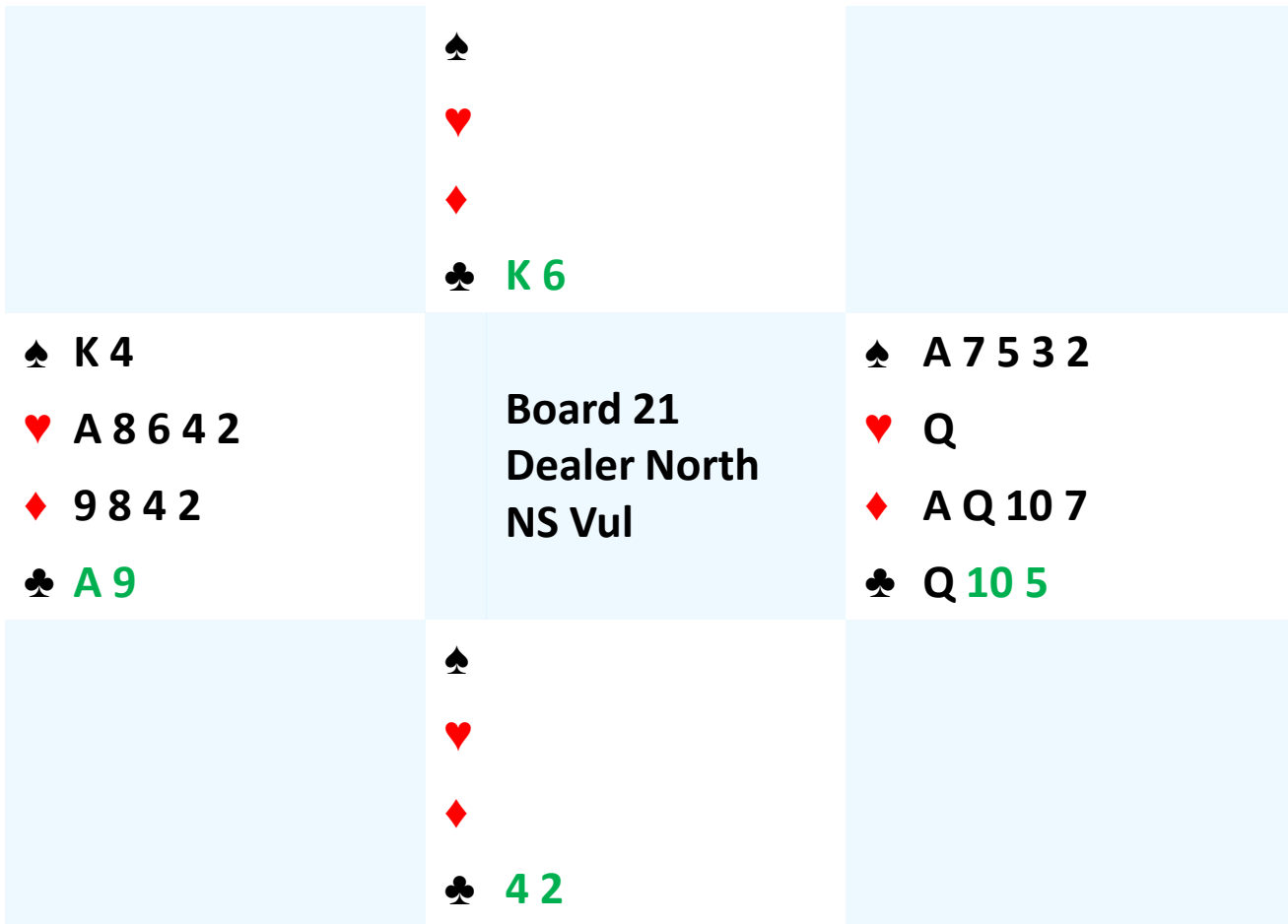
West plays in 4♠
North leads 10♥

	♠ K 9 3 ♥ 10 7 ♦ 10 9 7 5 4 ♣ A 10 5	
♠ A J 8 7 4 2 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K Q J ♣ K	Board 20 Dealer West Both Vul	♠ Q 10 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ Q 9 8 4 2
	♠ 6 5 ♥ A J 8 4 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ J 7 4 3	

S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♥*	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♠	P	P
P			

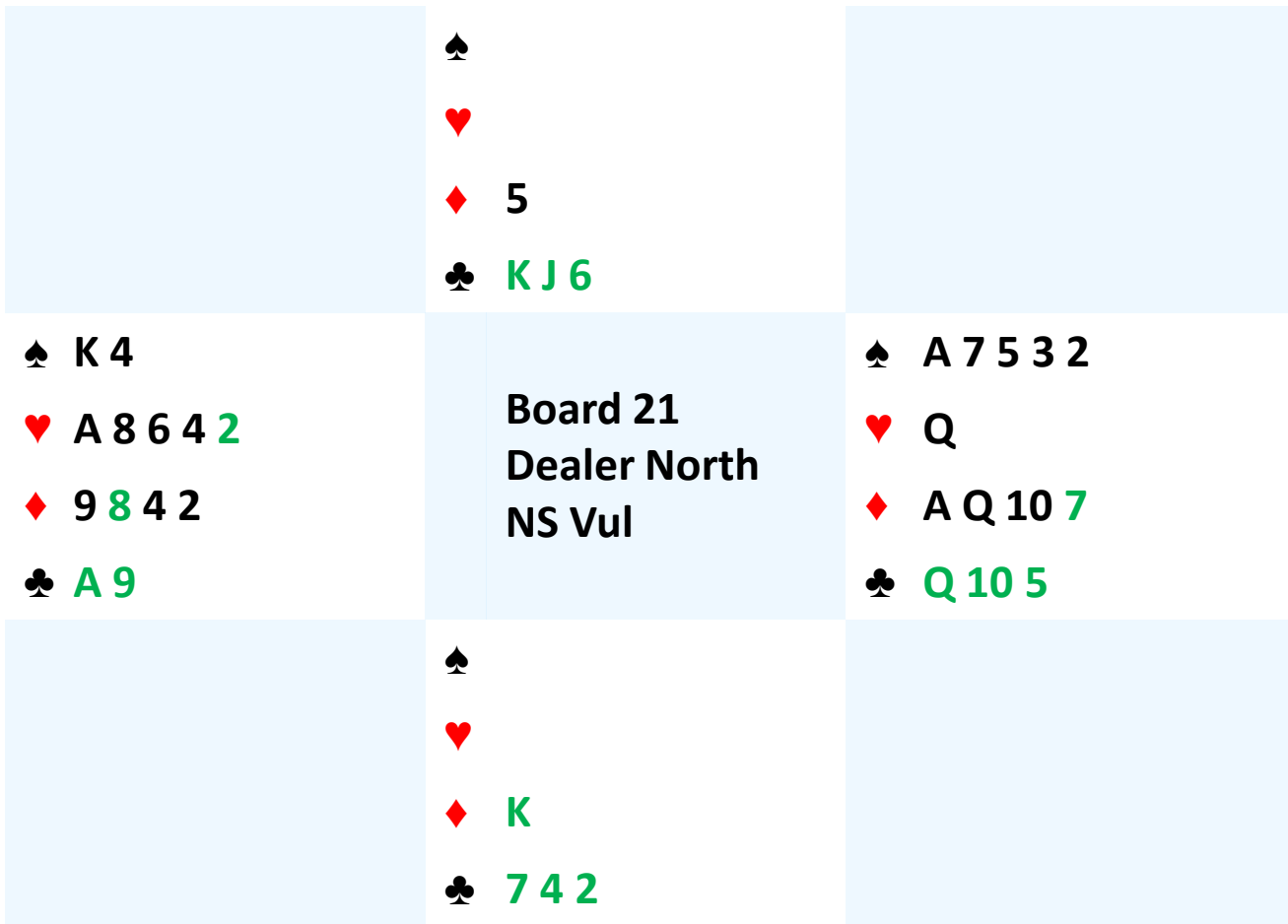
* = Transfer

West plays in 4♠
 North leads 10♥



S	W	N	E
P	2♥	P	1♠
P	3NT	P	2NT
P	P	P	P

East plays in 3NT
South leads 4♣



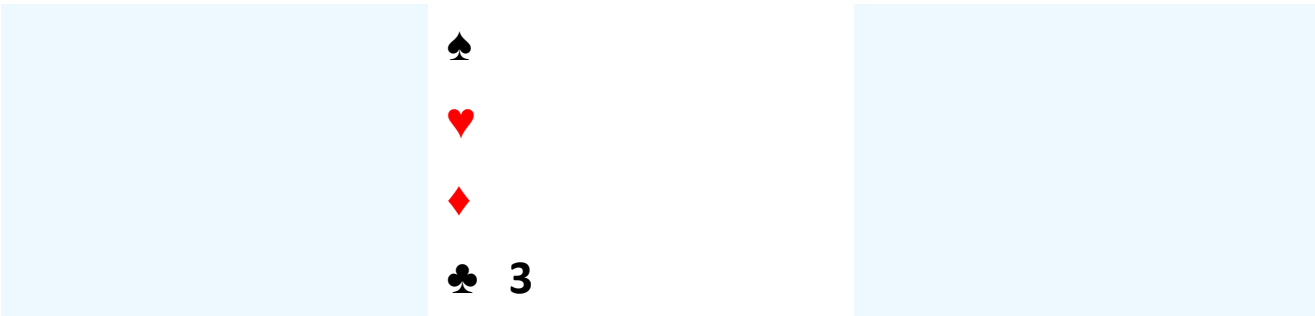
S	W	N	E
P	2♥	P	1♠
P	3NT	P	2NT
P	P	P	P

East plays in 3NT
South leads 4♣

	♠ J 9 8 ♥ J 9 5 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ K J 8 6	
♠ K 4 ♥ A 8 6 4 2 ♦ 9 8 4 2 ♣ A 9	Board 21 Dealer North NS Vul	♠ A 7 5 3 2 ♥ Q ♦ A Q 10 7 ♣ Q 10 5
	♠ Q 10 6 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ 7 4 3 2	

S	W	N	E
		P	1♠
P	2♥	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P	P		

East plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♣



♠ A K 7
 ♥ K Q 9 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ J 10 6 5

Board 22
 Dealer East
 EW Vul

♠ 2
 ♥ A J 10 2
 ♦ A Q 8 5 2
 ♣ A 9 8



S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	1♥	P	3♠
P	3NT	P	4♣
X	P	P	XX
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♣
P	5NT	P	6♥
P	P	P	

West plays in 6♥
 North leads 3♣

	♠ 10 4 3	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ 3 2	

♠ A K 7	Board 22	♠ 2
♥ K Q 9 6	Dealer East	♥ A J 10 2
♦ K 9	EW Vul	♦ A Q 8 5 2
♣ J 10 6 5		♣ A 9 8

	♠ 8 6 5	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ Q 7	

S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	1♥	P	3♠
P	3NT	P	4♣
X	P	P	XX
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♣
P	5NT	P	6♥
P	P	P	

West plays in 6♥
North leads 3♣

♠ Q J 10 4 3
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 10 7 6 4 3
 ♣ 3 2

♠ A K 7
 ♥ K Q 9 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ J 10 6 5

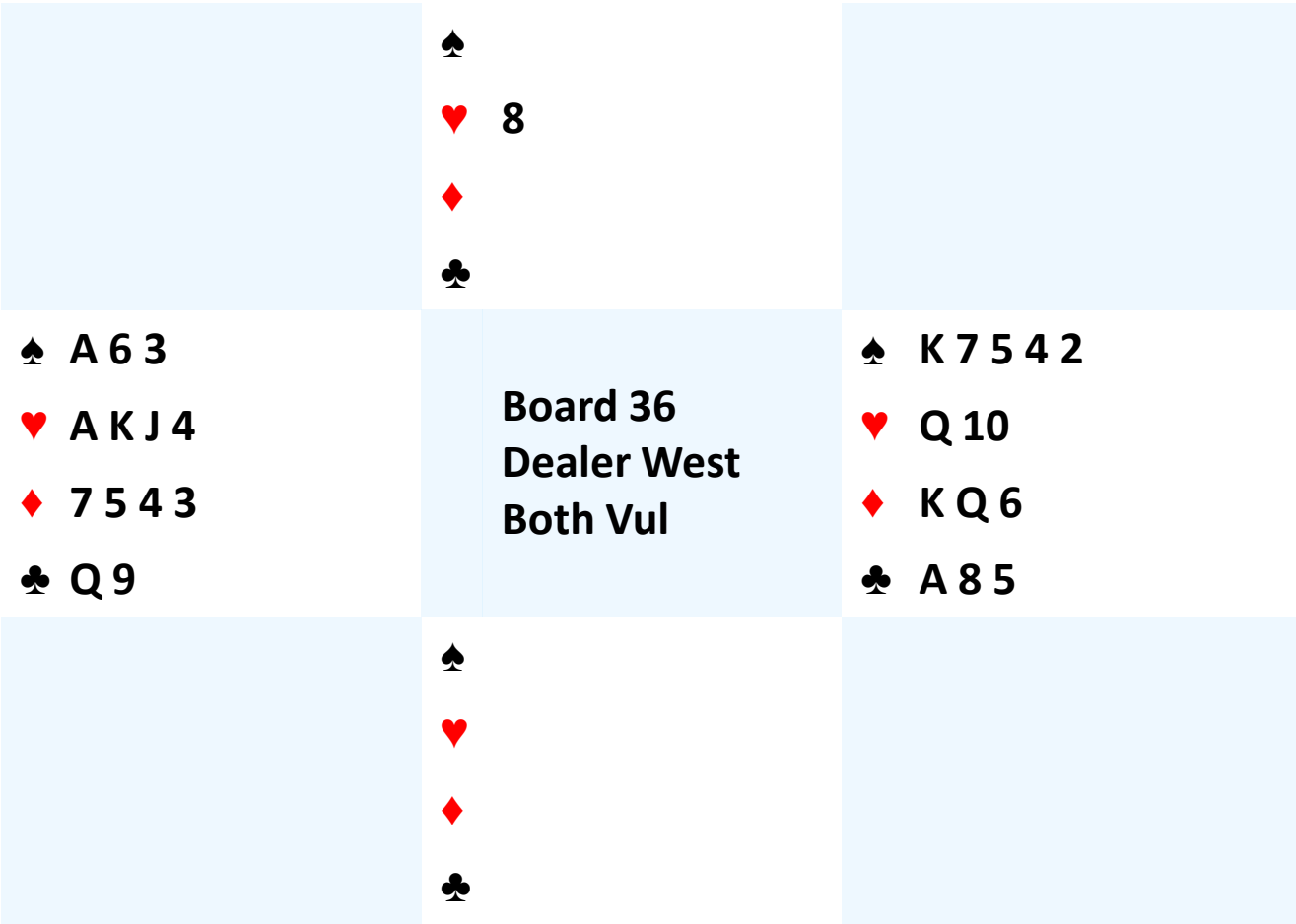
Board 22
 Dealer East
 EW Vul

♠ 2
 ♥ A J 10 2
 ♦ A Q 8 5 2
 ♣ A 9 8

♠ 9 8 6 5
 ♥ 8 7 4 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K Q 7 4

S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	1♥	P	3♠
P	3NT	P	4♣
X	P	P	XX
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♣
P	5NT	P	6♥
P	P	P	

West plays in 6♥
 North leads 3♣



♠ A 6 3
 ♥ A K J 4
 ♦ 7 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 9

Board 36
 Dealer West
 Both Vul

♠ K 7 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ K Q 6
 ♣ A 8 5

S	W	N	E
	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	P	3NT
P	4♠	P	P
P			

West plays in 4♠
 South leads 8♥



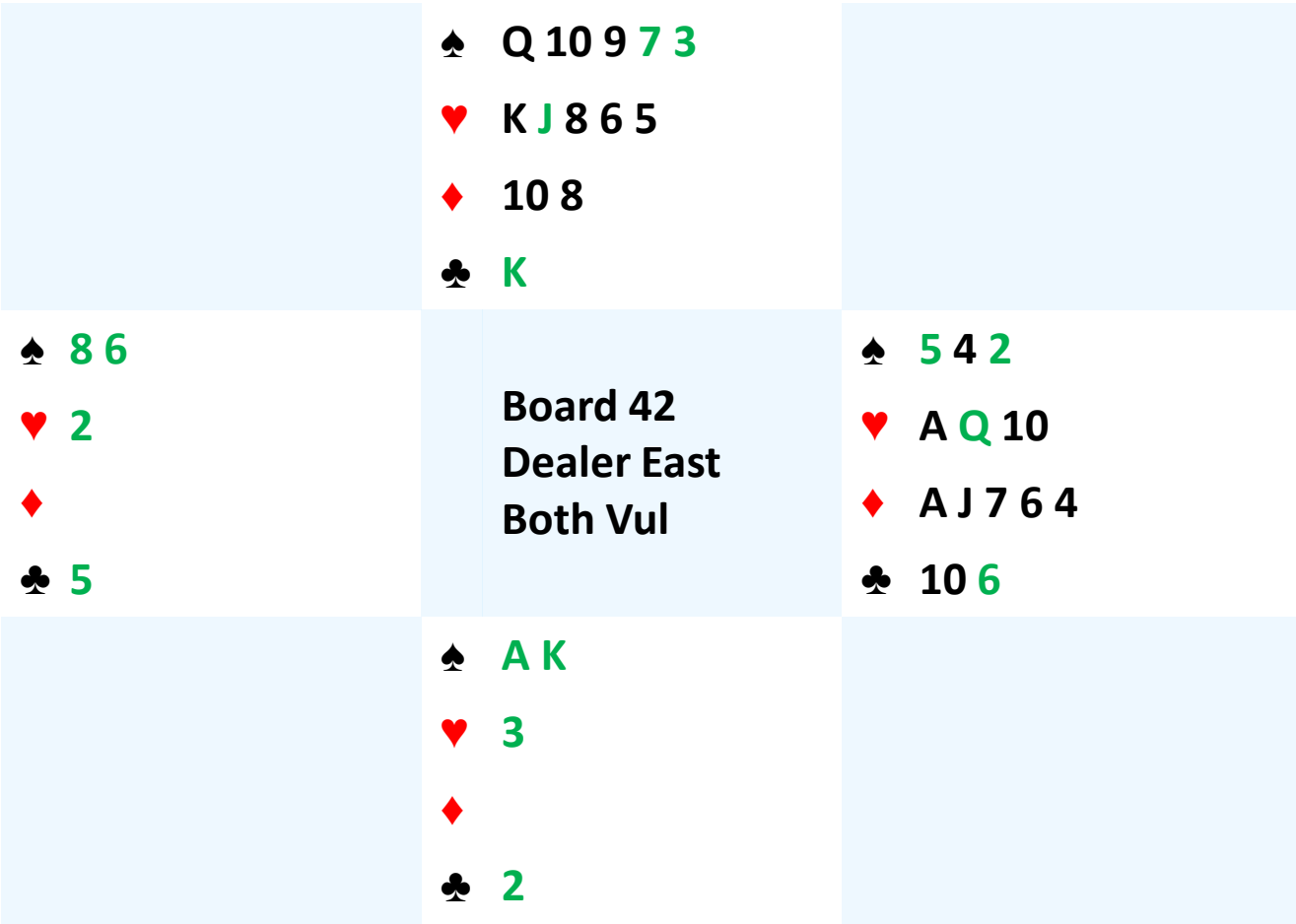
S	W	N	E
	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	P	3NT
P	4♠	P	P
P			

West plays in 4♠
South leads 8♥

	♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ 9 8 4 3 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ K 4	
♠ A 6 3 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ 7 5 4 3 ♣ Q 9	Board 36 Dealer West Both Vul	♠ K 7 5 4 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ A 8 5
	♠ 9 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ J 10 7 6 3 2	

S	W	N	E
	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	P	3NT
P	4♠	P	P
P			

West plays in 4♠
 South leads 8♥



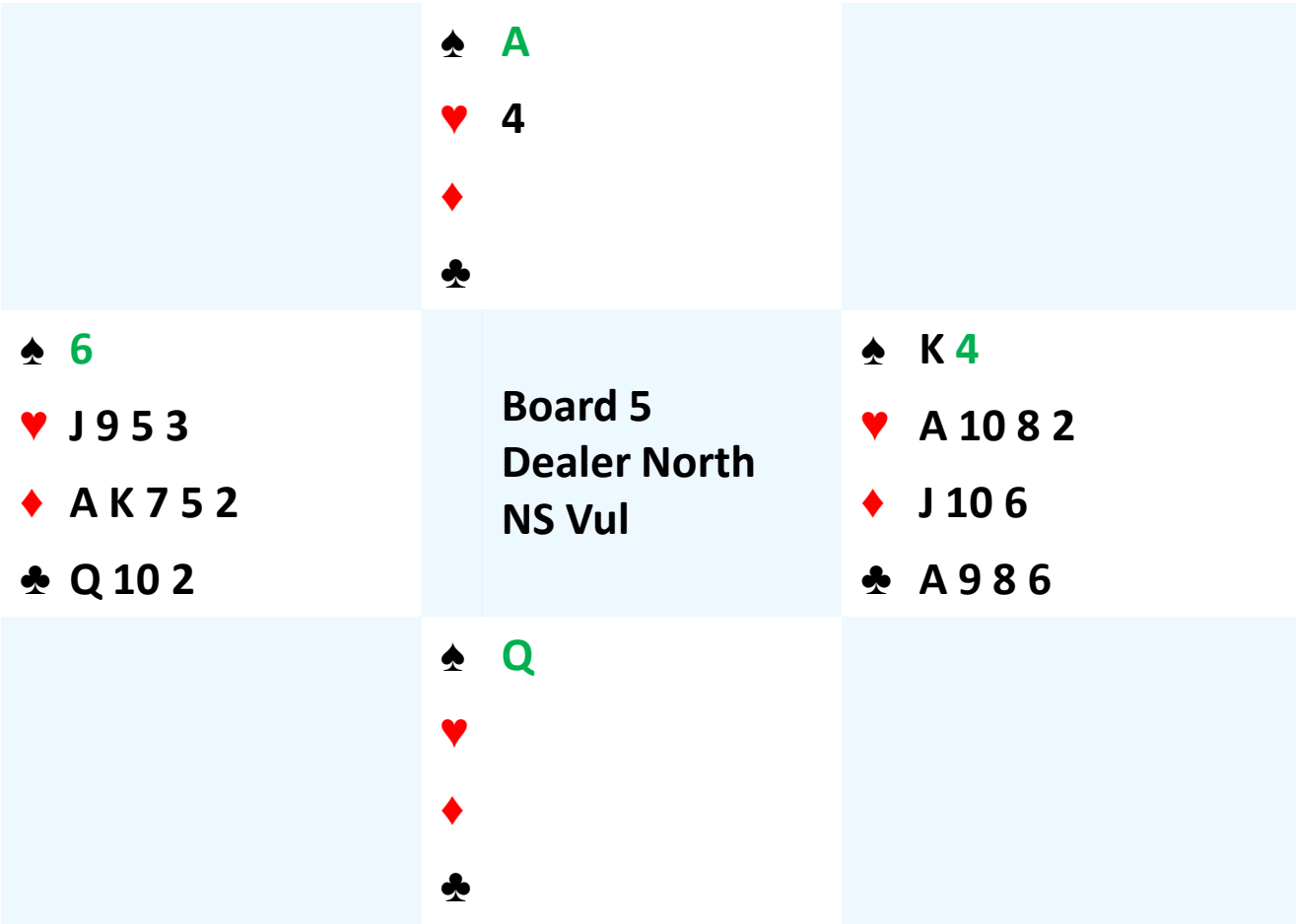
S	W	N	E
X	2♣	3♣	1NT
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 5♣

	♠ Q 10 9 7 3 ♥ K J 8 6 5 ♦ 10 8 ♣ K	
♠ J 8 6 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ J 9 7 5 4	Board 42 Dealer East Both Vul	♠ 5 4 2 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ A J 7 6 4 ♣ 10 6
	♠ A K ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q 9 5 2 ♣ A Q 8 3 2	

S	W	N	E
X	2♣	3♣	1NT
3NT	P	P	P

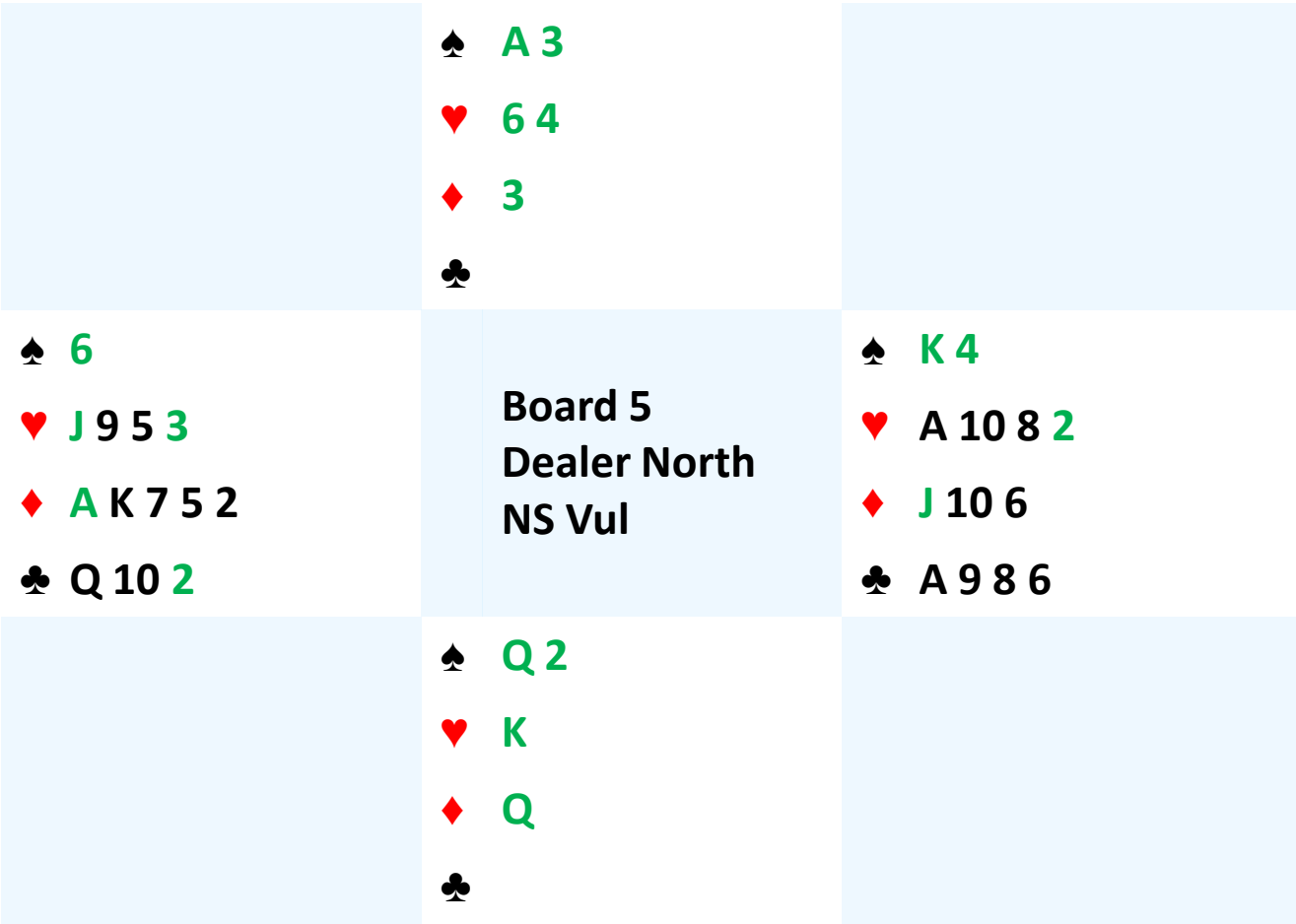
South plays in 3NT
 West leads 5♣



S	W	N	E
		2♦*	P
2♥	P	2♠	P
P	X	P	4♥
P	P		

*=Multi

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♠. North wins and plays 4♥



S	W	N	E
		2♦*	P
2♥	P	2♠	P
P	X	P	4♥
P	P		

*=Multi

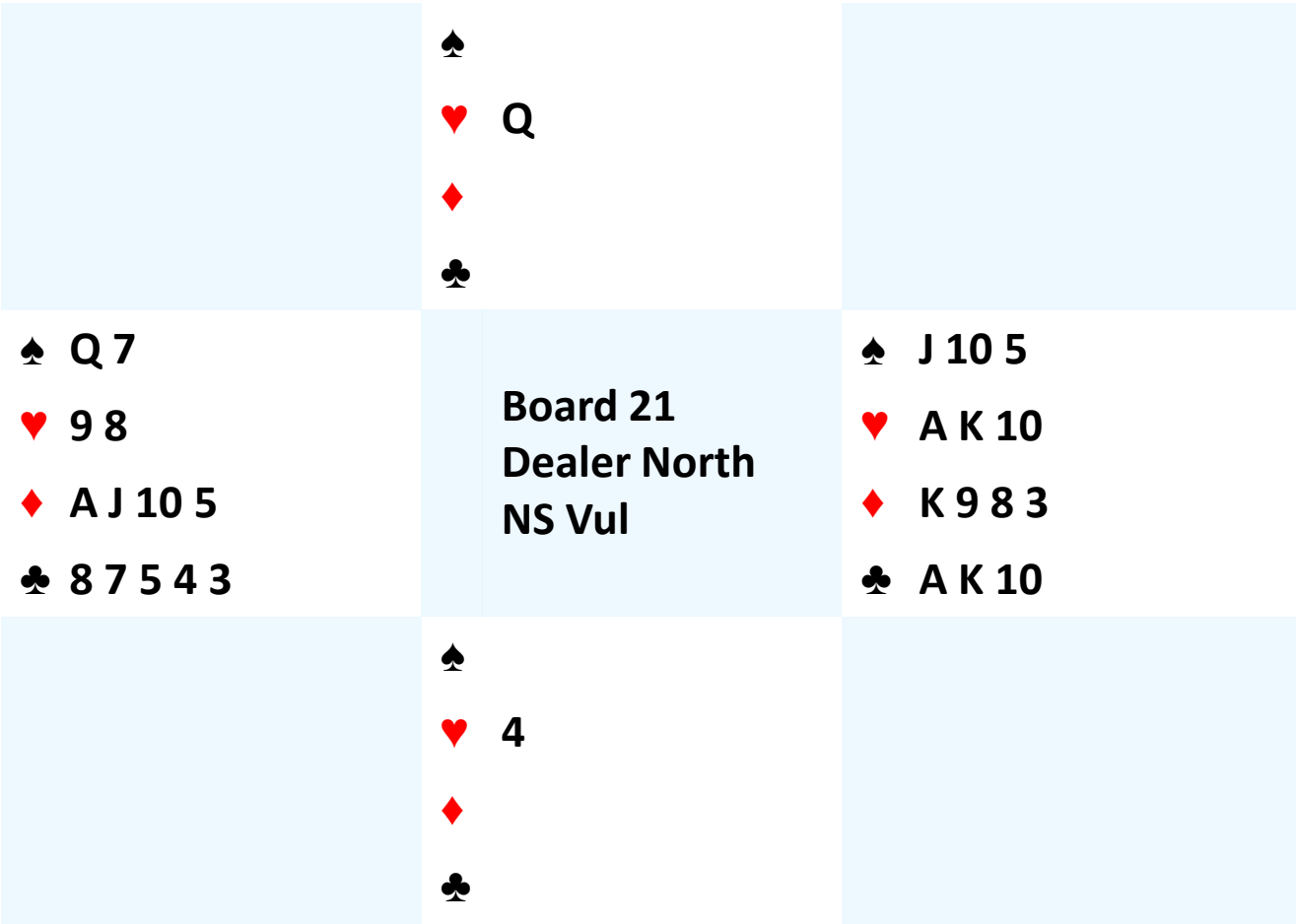
East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♠. North wins and plays 4♥

	♠ A 10 9 8 5 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 8 3 ♣ K 5 4	
♠ 6 ♥ J 9 5 3 ♦ A K 7 5 2 ♣ Q 10 2	Board 5 Dealer North NS Vul	♠ K 4 ♥ A 10 8 2 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ A 9 8 6
	♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ J 7 3	

S	W	N	E
		2♦*	P
2♥	P	2♠	P
P	X	P	4♥
P	P		

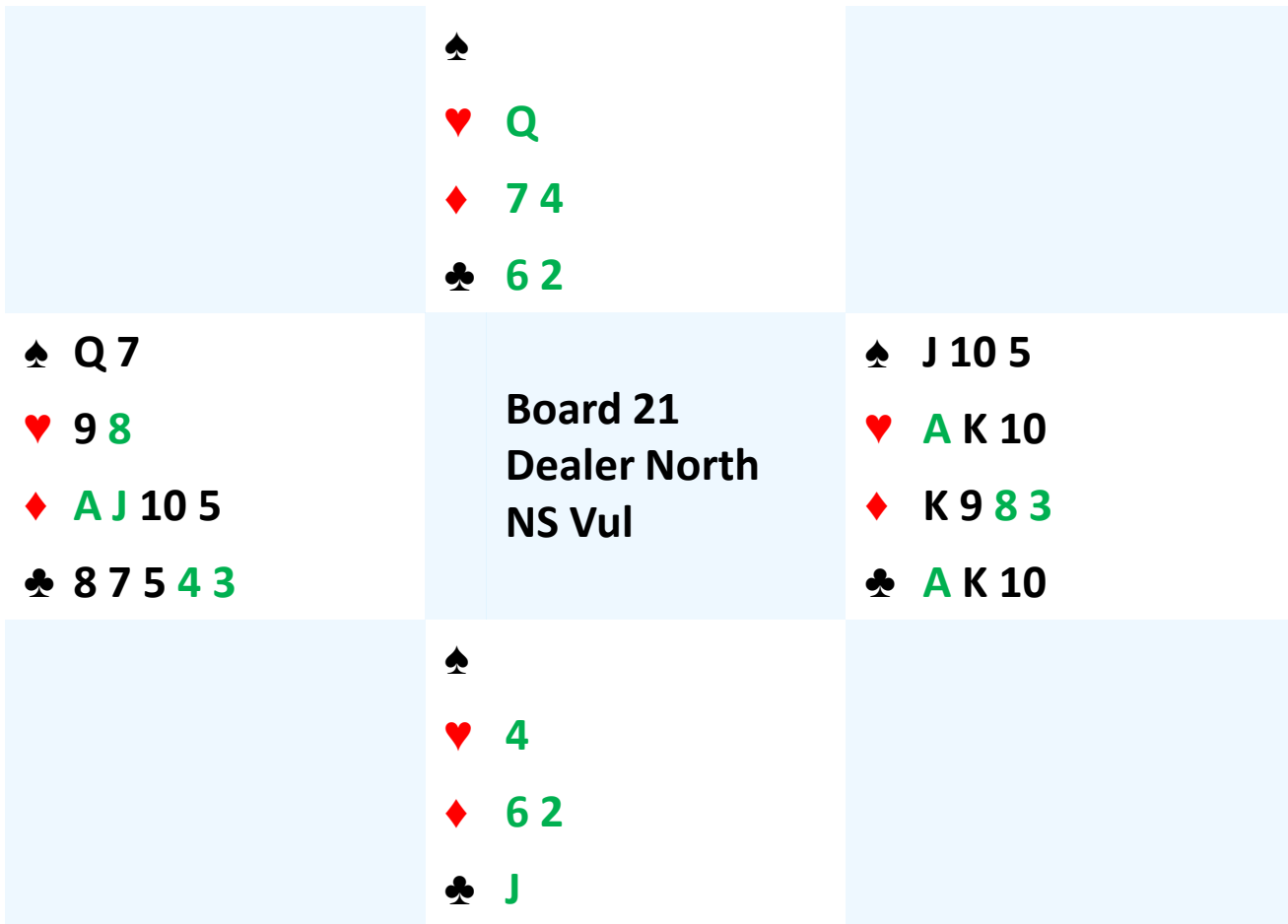
*=Multi

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♠. North wins and plays 4♥



S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	3♦*	P	3NT
P	P	P	
*=Weak			

East plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♥ to the 8♥, Q♥ and A♥



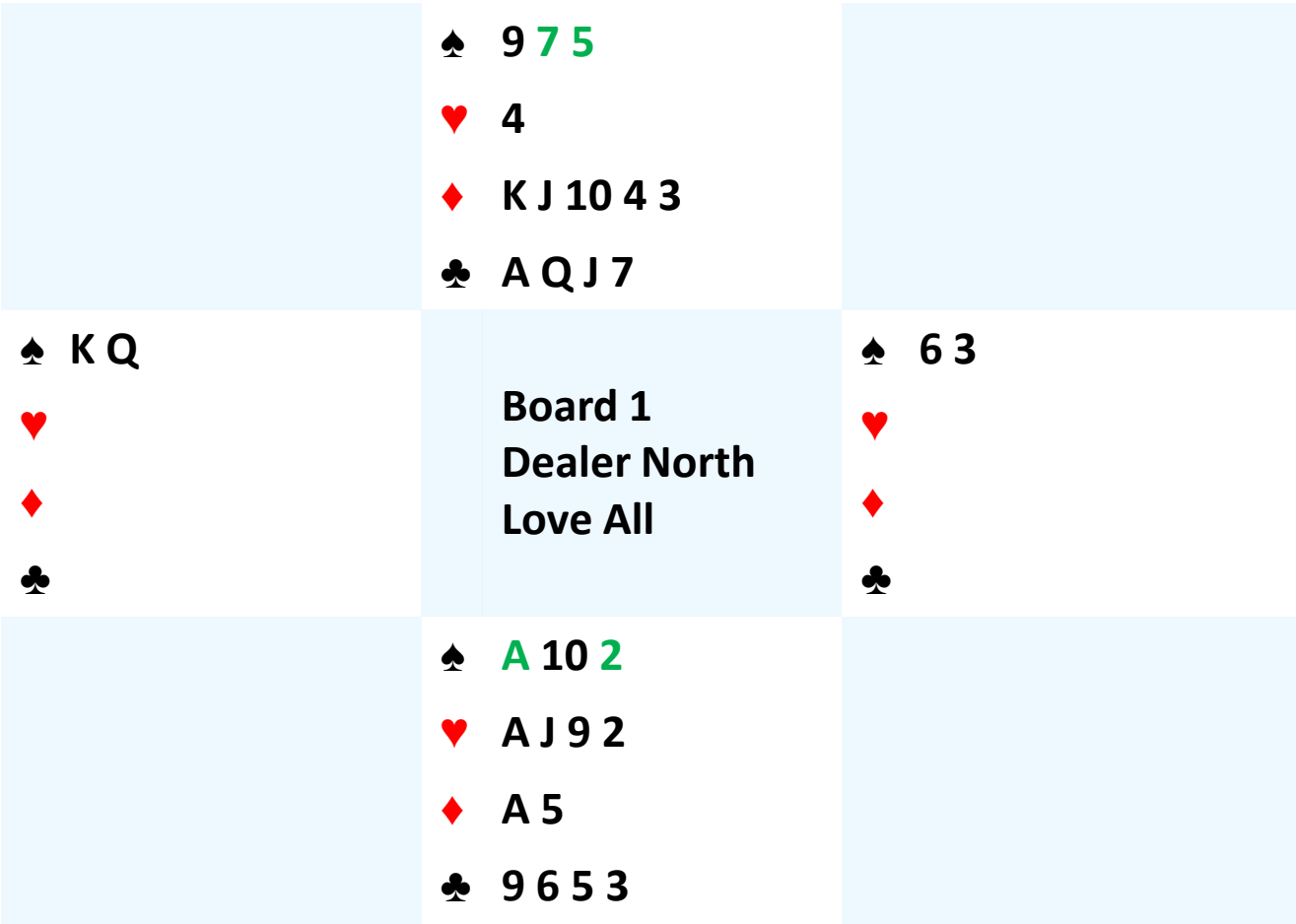
S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	3♦*	P	3NT
P	P	P	
*=Weak			

East plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♥ to the 8♥, Q♥ and A♥

	♠ A 9 3 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ Q 9 6 2	
♠ Q 7 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A J 10 5 ♣ 8 7 5 4 3	Board 21 Dealer North NS Vul	♠ J 10 5 ♥ A K 10 ♦ K 9 8 3 ♣ A K 10
	♠ K 8 6 4 ♥ J 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ J	

S	W	N	E
		P	1♦
P	3♦*	P	3NT
P	P	P	
*=Weak			

East plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♥ to the 8♥, Q♥ and A♥



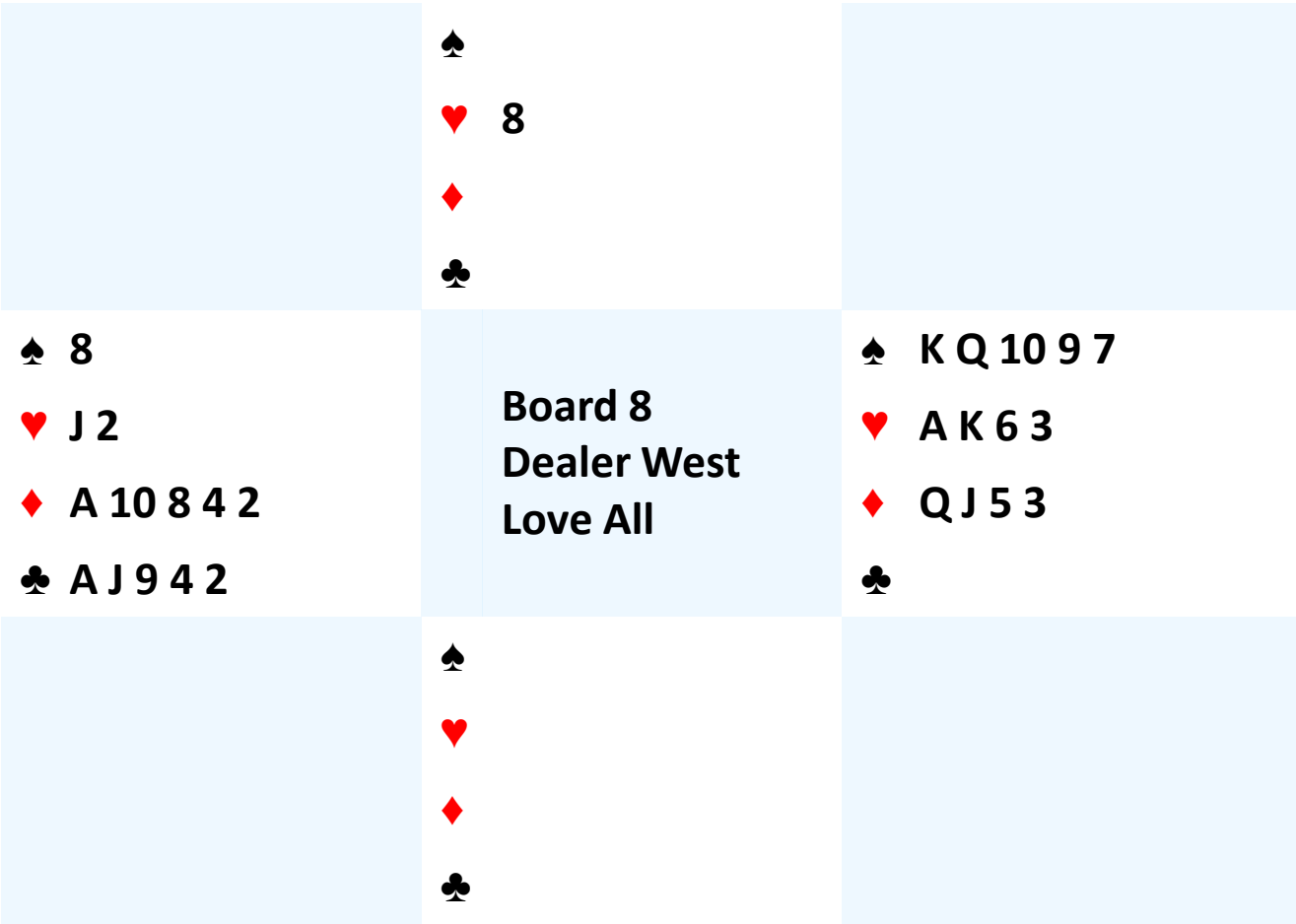
S	W	N	E
		1♦	P
1♥	1♠	P	P
X	P	2♣	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT
 West leads K♠

	<p>♠ 9 7 5</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ K J 10 4 3</p> <p>♣ A Q J 7</p>	
<p>♠ K Q J 8 4</p> <p>♥ Q 7 6</p> <p>♦ 8 6 2</p> <p>♣ K 8</p>	<p>Board 1</p> <p>Dealer North</p> <p>Love All</p>	<p>♠ 6 3</p> <p>♥ K 10 8 5 3</p> <p>♦ Q 9 7</p> <p>♣ 10 4 2</p>
	<p>♠ A 10 2</p> <p>♥ A J 9 2</p> <p>♦ A 5</p> <p>♣ 9 6 5 3</p>	

S	W	N	E
		1♦	P
1♥	1♠	P	P
X	P	2♣	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT
West leads K♠



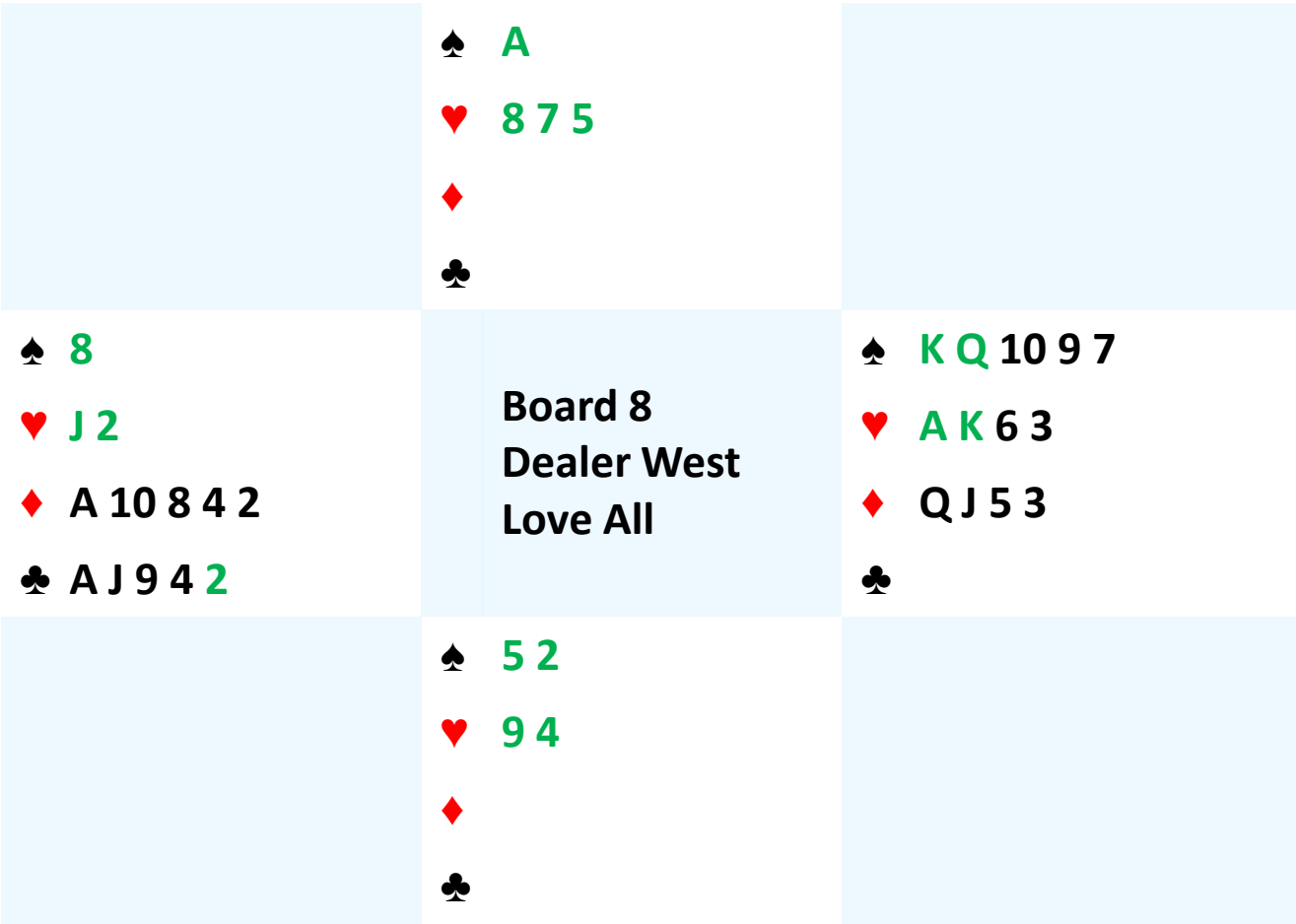
♠ 8
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ A 10 8 4 2
 ♣ A J 9 4 2

Board 8
 Dealer West
 Love All

♠ K Q 10 9 7
 ♥ A K 6 3
 ♦ Q J 5 3
 ♣

S	W	N	E
	1♦	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♥
P	3♣	P	4♦
P	5♣	P	5♦
P	P	P	

West plays in 5♦
 North leads 8♥



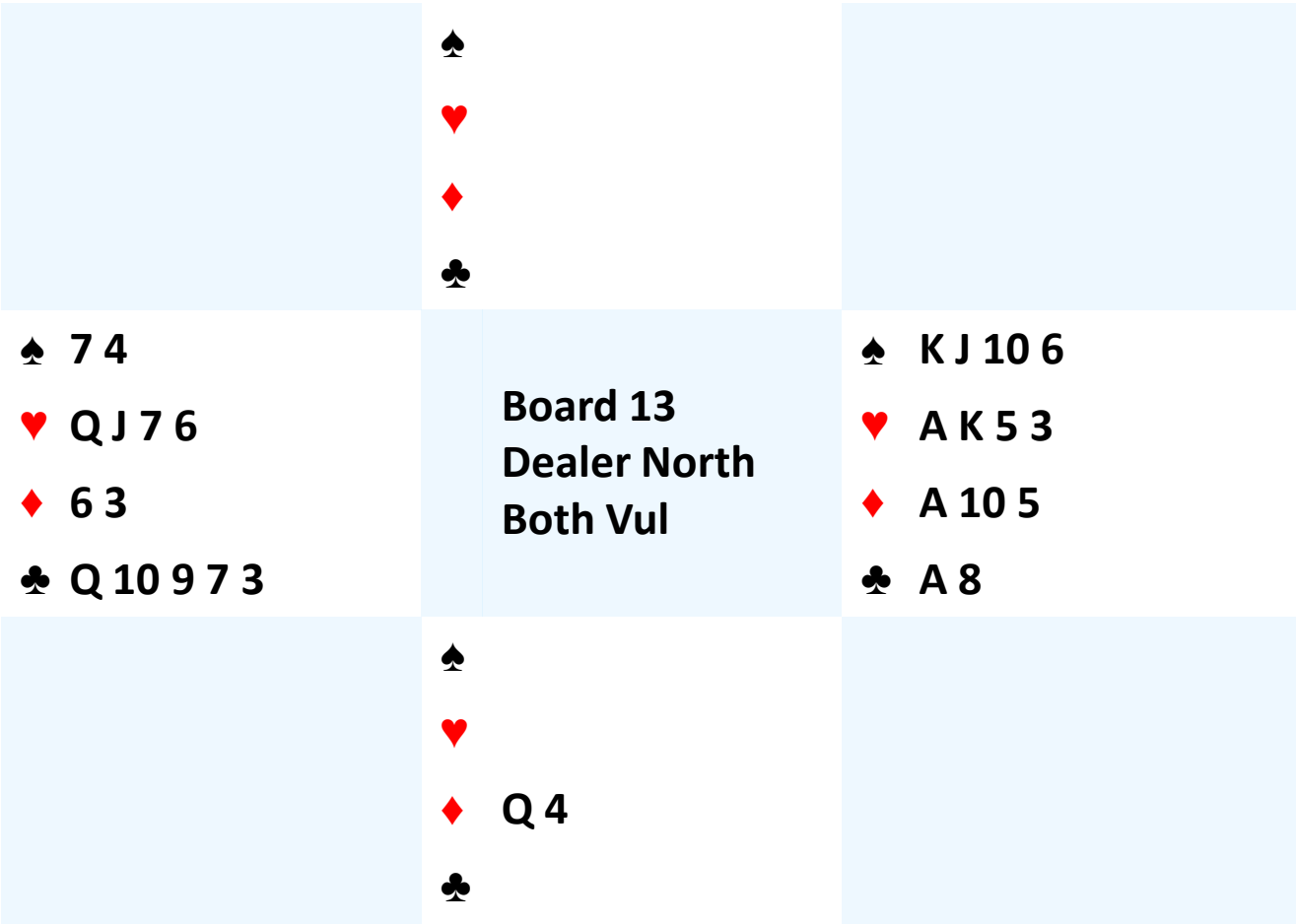
S	W	N	E
	1♦	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♥
P	3♣	P	4♦
P	5♣	P	5♦
P	P	P	

West plays in 5♦
North leads 8♥

	♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ 7 5	
♠ 8 ♥ J 2 ♦ A 10 8 4 2 ♣ A J 9 4 2	Board 8 Dealer West Love All	♠ K Q 10 9 7 ♥ A K 6 3 ♦ Q J 5 3 ♣
	♠ J 5 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 9 ♣ K Q 10 8 6 3	

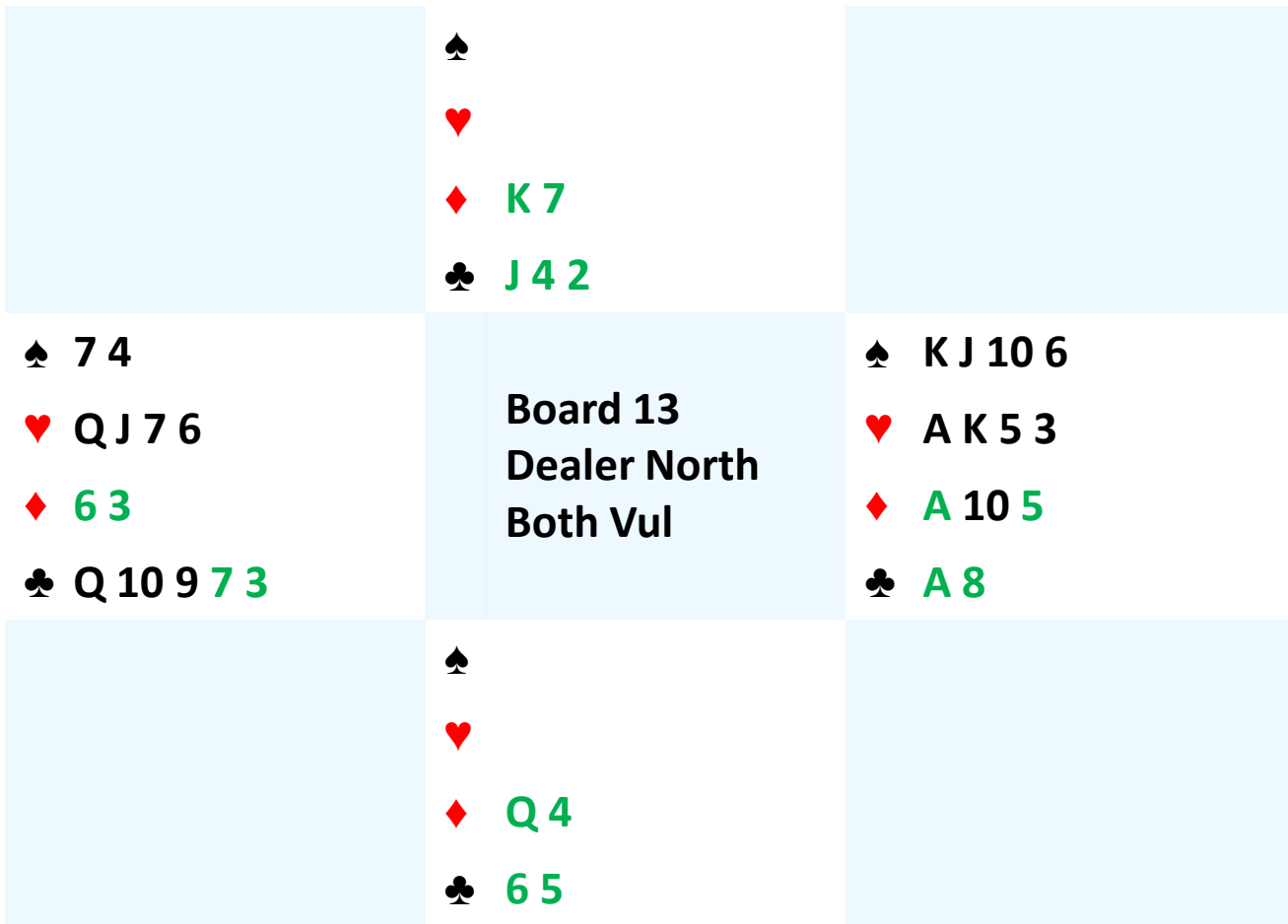
S	W	N	E
	1♦	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♥
P	3♣	P	4♦
P	5♣	P	5♦
P	P	P	

West plays in 5♦
North leads 8♥



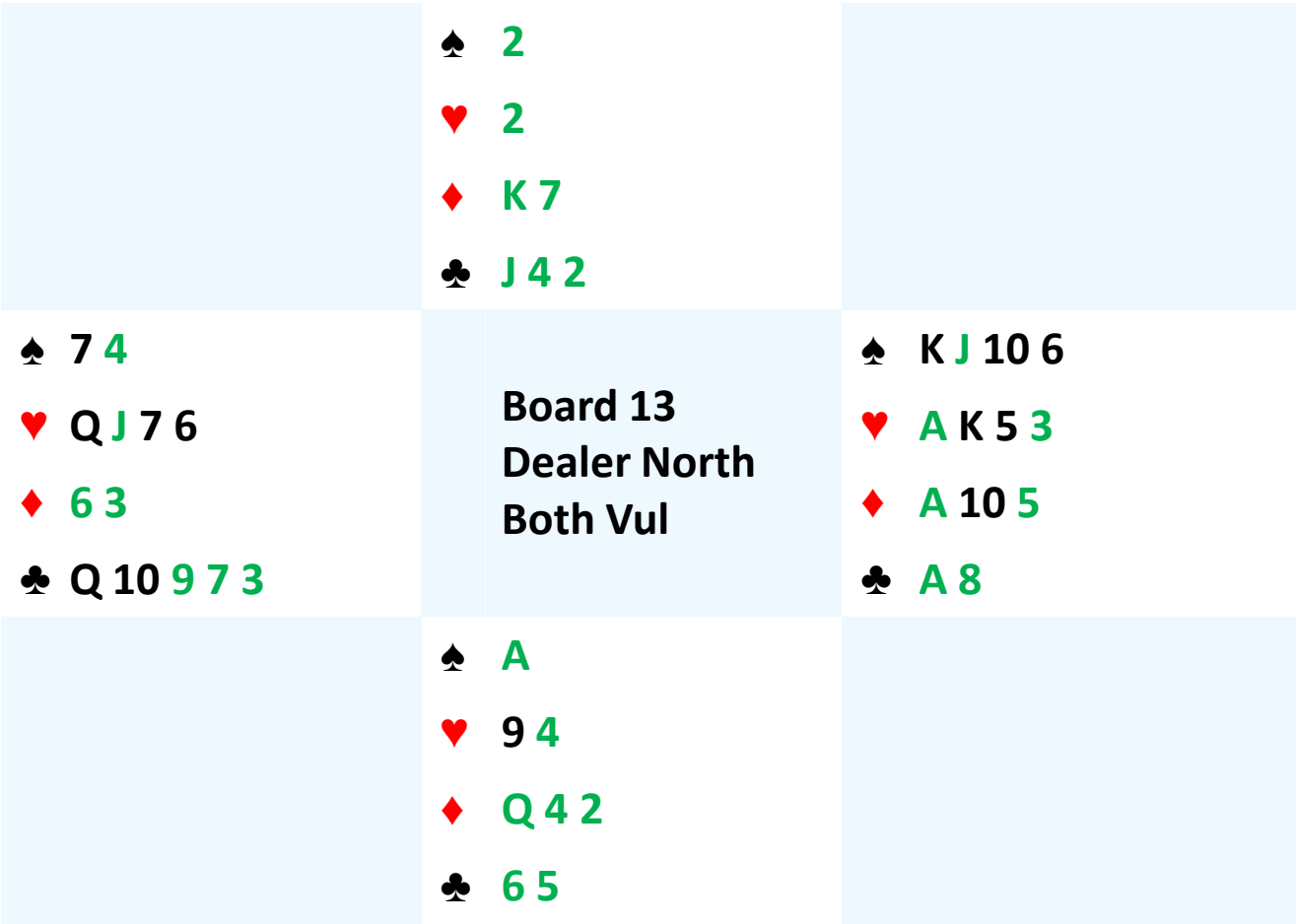
S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♥
South leads Q♦ and continues with 4♦ to the 6♦, K♦ and A♦



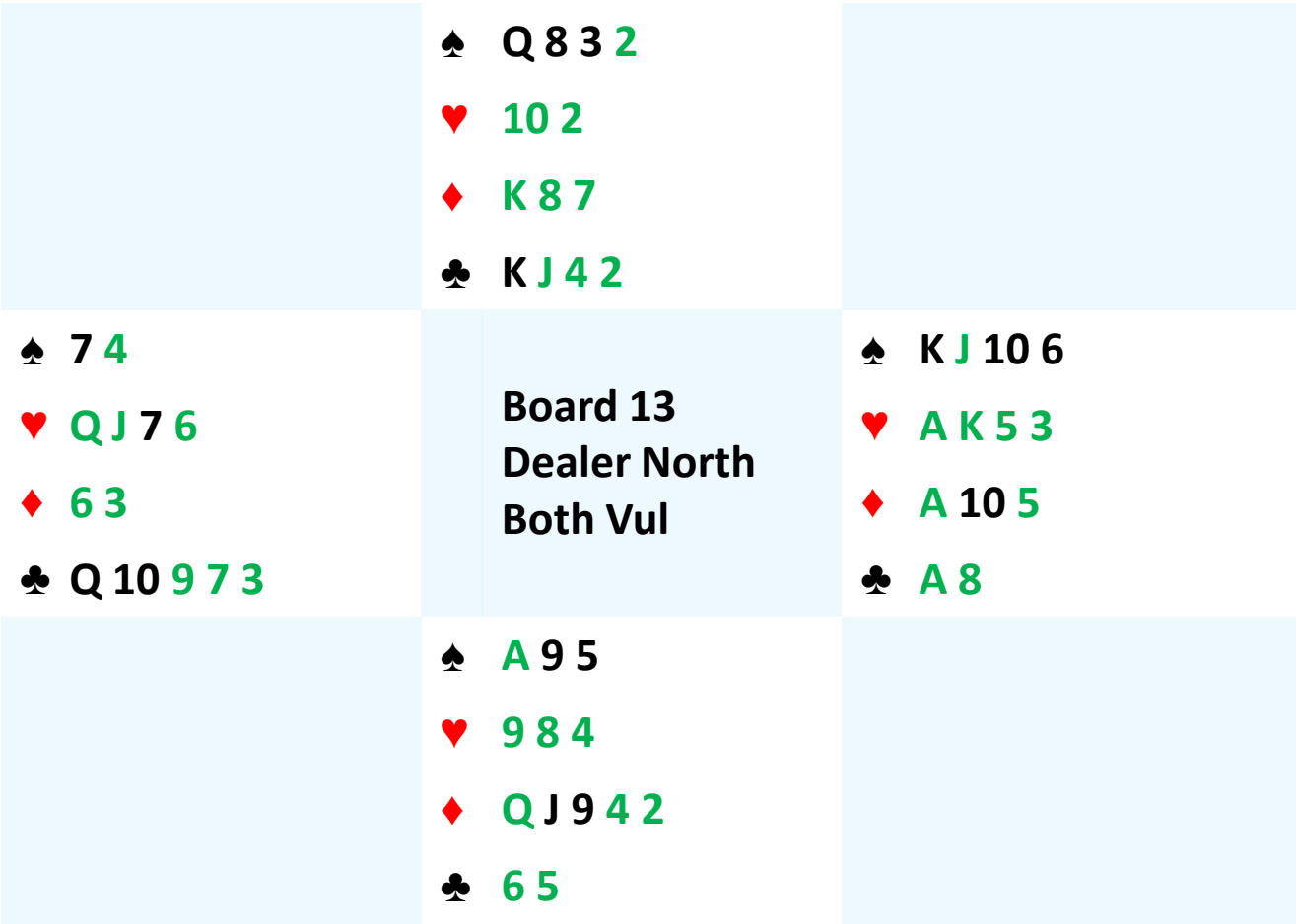
S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♦ and continues with 4♦ to
 the 6♦, K♦ and A♦



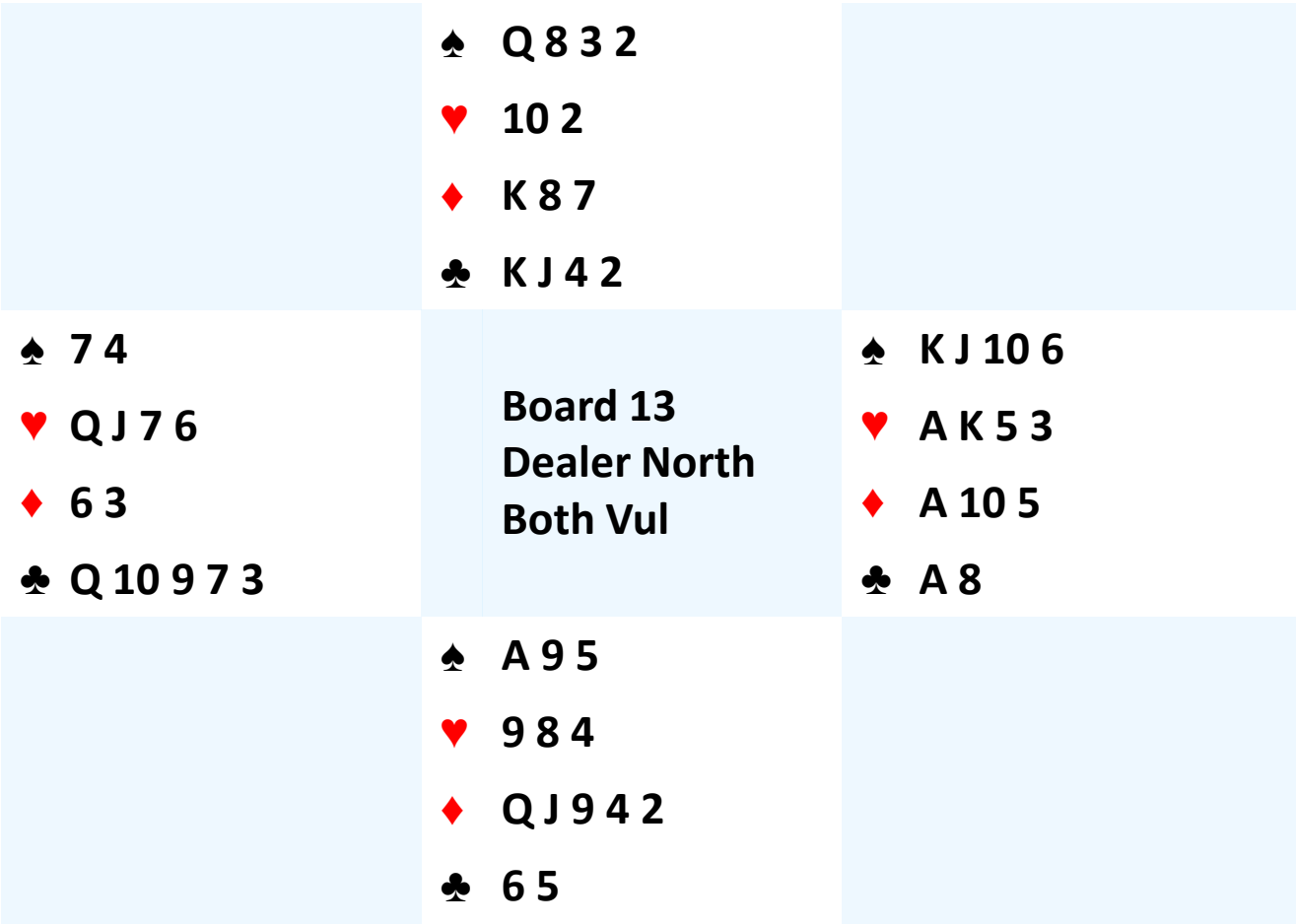
S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♦ and continues with 4♦ to
 the 6♦, K♦ and A♦



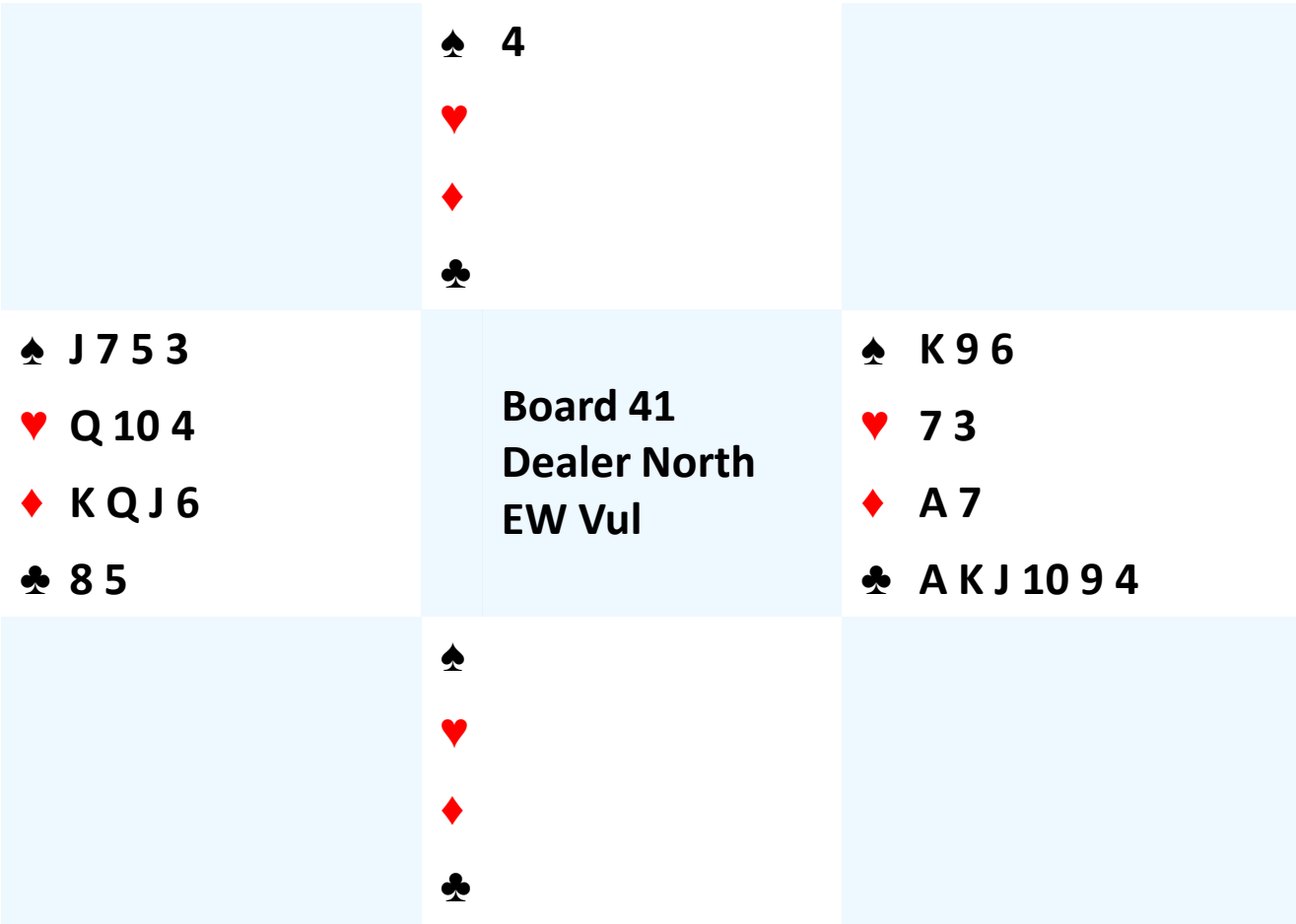
S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♦ and continues with 4♦ to
 the 6♦, K♦ and A♦



S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	P	P
P			

East plays in 4♥
 South leads Q♦ and continues with 4♦ to
 the 6♦, K♦ and A♦



S	W	N	E
P		P	1♣
P	1♦	1♥	3♣
P	3NT	P	P
P			

West plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♠

	♠ 4 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣	
♠ J 7 5 3 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ K Q J 6 ♣ 8 5	Board 41 Dealer North EW Vul	♠ K 9 6 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ A K J 10 9 4
	♠ A Q 10 ♥ ♦ 5 3 2 ♣	

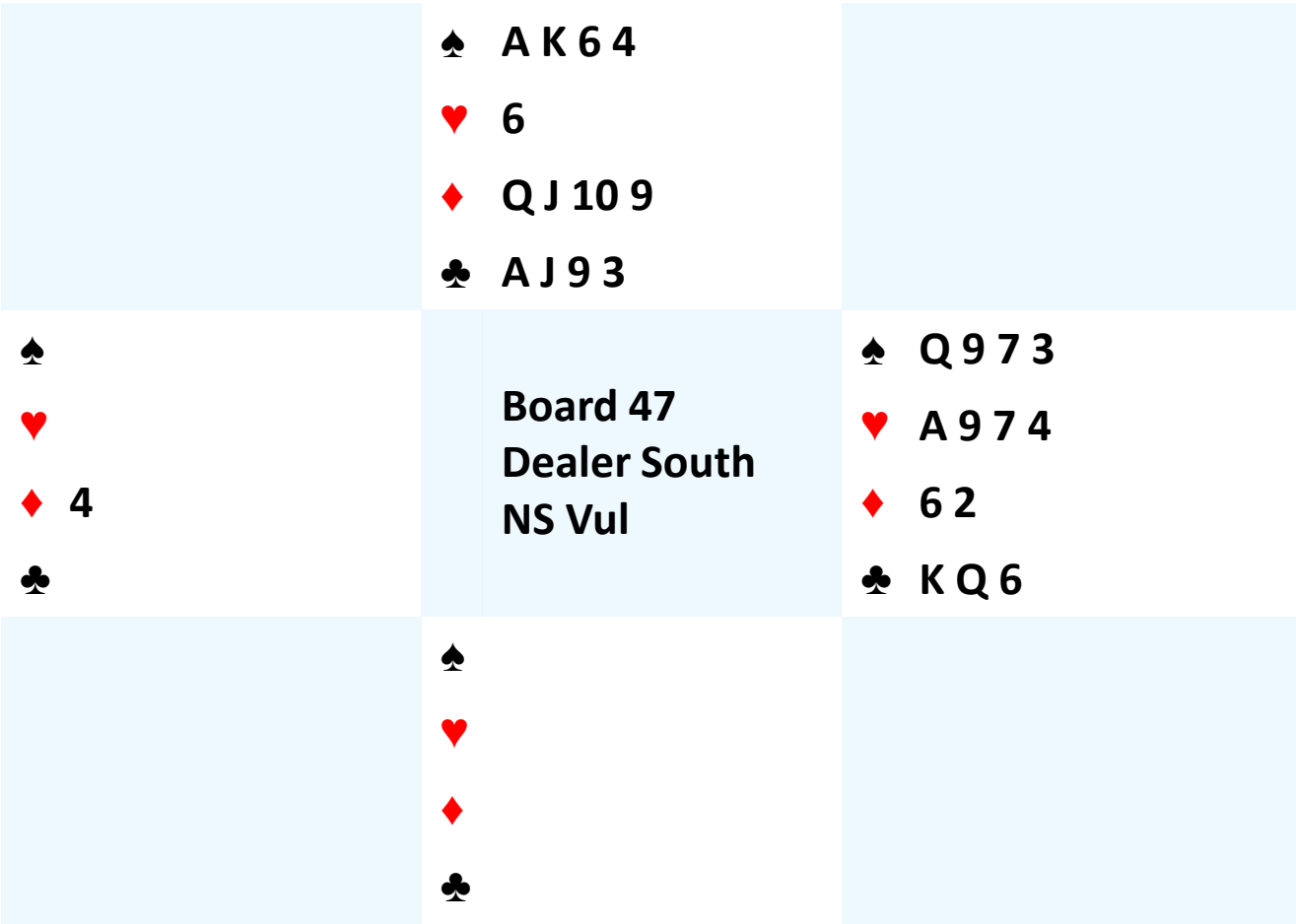
S	W	N	E
P	1♦	1♥	1♣
P	3NT	P	3♣
P		P	P

West plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♠

	♠ 4 2 ♥ A K J 9 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣ Q 7 6 2	
♠ J 7 5 3 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ K Q J 6 ♣ 8 5	Board 41 Dealer North EW Vul	♠ K 9 6 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ A K J 10 9 4
	♠ A Q 10 8 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ 3	

S	W	N	E
P	1♦	1♥	1♣
P	3NT	P	3♣
P		P	P

West plays in 3NT
 South leads 4♠



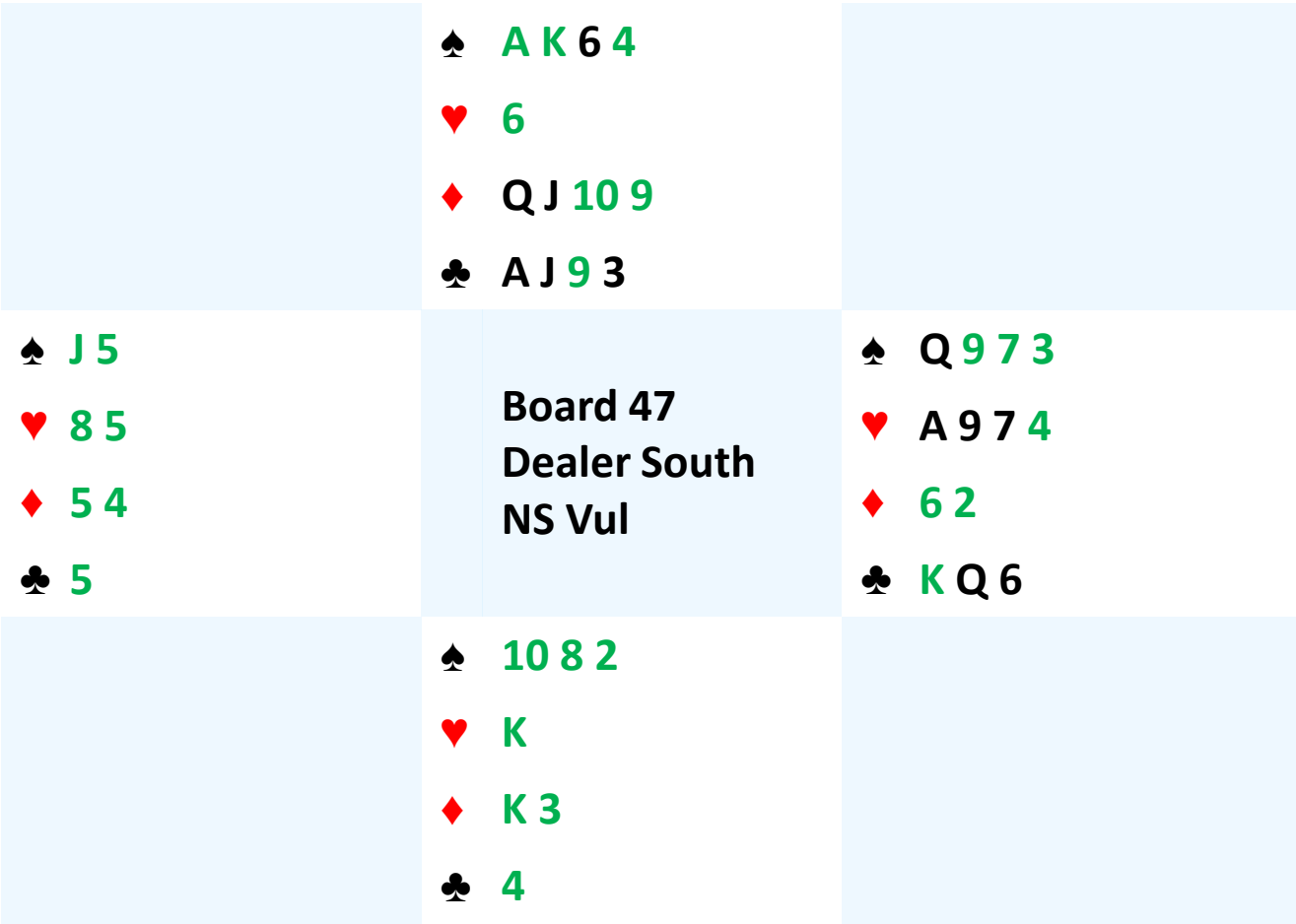
S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♠	P
5♦	P	P	P

South plays in 5♦
 West leads 4♦

	<p>♠ A K 6 4</p> <p>♥ 6</p> <p>♦ Q J 10 9</p> <p>♣ A J 9 3</p>	
<p>♠ J 5</p> <p>♥ 8 5</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣</p>	<p>Board 47</p> <p>Dealer South</p> <p>NS Vul</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 7 3</p> <p>♥ A 9 7 4</p> <p>♦ 6 2</p> <p>♣ K Q 6</p>
	<p>♠ 10 8 2</p> <p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣</p>	

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♠	P
5♦	P	P	P

South plays in 5♦
West leads 4♦



S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♠	P
5♦	P	P	P

South plays in 5♦
West leads 4♦

	♠ A K 6 4 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♣ A J 9 3	
♠ J 5 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 10 8 7 5	Board 47 Dealer South NS Vul	♠ Q 9 7 3 ♥ A 9 7 4 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K Q 6
	♠ 10 8 2 ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ A K 8 3 ♣ 4 2	

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♠	P
5♦	P	P	P

South plays in 5♦
 West leads 4♦



S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♦
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♣	P	P	P

South plays in 3♣
 West leads 8♦



S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♦
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♣	P	P	P

South plays in 3♣
 West leads 8♦



S	W	N	E
	P	P	1♦
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♣	P	P	P

South plays in 3♣
 West leads 8♦

Summary

- 1 Always count distribution**
- 2 Modify the pattern as play progresses**
- 3 Draw Inferences from Play or Signals**
- 4 Make Assumptions where necessary**
- 5 Note any unexpected bids or plays**