

# Discarding

By Chris Dixon

## **DISCARDING**

- 1 BE SAFE**
- 2 GIVE INFORMATION TO PARTNER**
- 3 CONCEAL INFORMATION FROM DECLARER**
- 4 LOOK AHEAD**

# Signalling Systems

- 1 Count**
  - Standard**
  - Reverse**
- 2 Attitude**
  - Standard**
  - Reverse**
- 3 Suit Preference**

# Signalling Situations

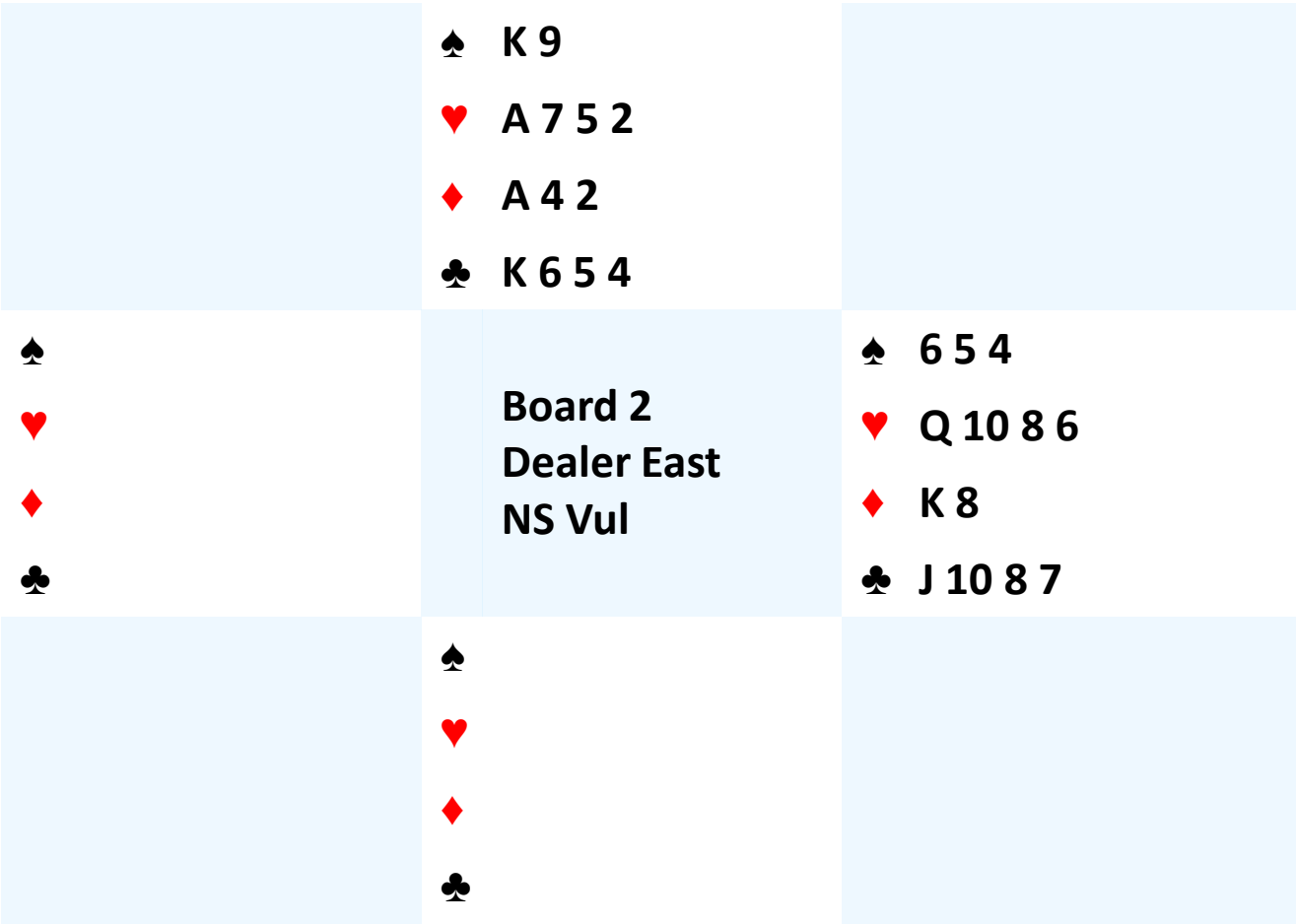
- 1 On Partner's Lead**
  - Attitude**
  - Count**
  - Suit Preference**
- 2 On Declarer's Lead**
  - Count**
  - Suit Preference**
- 3 Discarding**
  - Attitude**
  - Count**
  - Suit Preference**

## Discarding Strategy

- 1 Retain the same length as declarer's side suit**
- 2 Retain exit cards to save against an end-play**
- 3 Don't give declarer a guess in a suit**
- 4 Discard to give suit preference signals**
- 5 Discard to unblock a suit**

## Easy Suit Preference Situations

- 1 When you are giving partner a ruff**
- 2 When you have 2 or 3 small trumps**
- 3 When you are discarding from known cards**
- 4 When partner leads and dummy has a singleton**



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

South plays in 6♠  
 West leads 2♠

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

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

South plays in 6♠  
West leads 2♠



♠ A 2  
 ♥ K Q 9 4  
 ♦ A 9 4  
 ♣ K 9 3 2

♠ Q J 10 8  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ K 9 8 5  
 ♣ Q 10 6 5

Board 7  
 Dealer South  
 Both Vul

♠  
 ♥  
 ♦  
 ♣

♠  
 ♥  
 ♦  
 ♣

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

South plays in 6♥  
 West leads Q♠

♠ A 2  
♥ K Q 9 4  
♦ A 9 4  
♣ K 9 3 2

♠ Q J 10 8  
♥ 8  
♦ K 9 8 5  
♣ Q 10 6 5

Board 7  
Dealer South  
Both Vul

♠ 9 6 5 4 3  
♥ 10 7  
♦ Q J 2  
♣ J 8 7

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

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

South plays in 6♥  
West leads Q♠



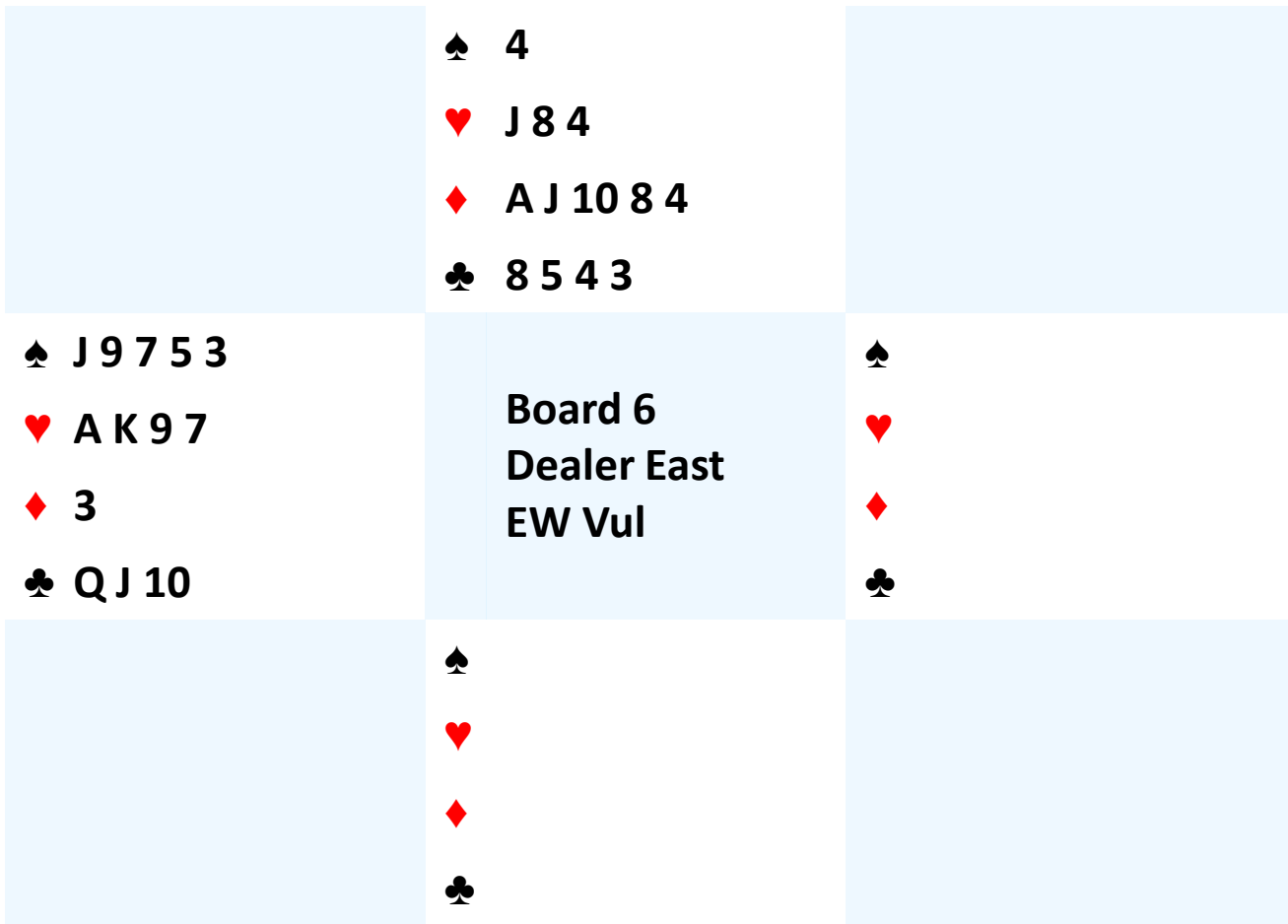
S	W	N	E
4♥	P	P	3♠
	P	P	P

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads A♠ and another. East wins the 10♠ and leads the K♠ which declarer ruffs with the Q♥

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

S	W	N	E
4♥	P	P	3♠
			P

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads A♠ and another. East wins the 10♠ and leads the K♠ which declarer ruffs with the Q♥



S	W	N	E
			P
1♠	P	1NT	P
3♦	P	5♦	P
6♦	P	P	P

South plays in 6♦  
 West leads A♥  
 Declarer ruffs the K♥, leads a trump to dummy's 10♦, ruffs the J♥, and draws two more trumps discarding the 2♣ from hand.

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

S	W	N	E
			P
1♠	P	1NT	P
3♦	P	5♦	P
6♦	P	P	P

South plays in 6♦  
 West leads A♥  
 Declarer ruffs the K♥, leads a trump to dummy's 10♦, ruffs the J♥, and draws two more trumps discarding the 2♣ from hand.

	♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ Q 7 6	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	<b>Board 5</b> <b>Dealer North</b> <b>Both Vul</b>	♠ K J 9 7 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ A K 8 4
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

S	W	N	E
		P	1♣
1♥	P	1NT	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

**South plays in 4♥**  
**West leads J♣ and East plays 3 rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing**  
**Declare now leads 6 more rounds of trumps, discarding 2 diamonds and 2 spades from dummy**

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

S	W	N	E
		P	1♣
1♥	P	1NT	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads J♣ and East plays 3 rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing  
 Declare now leads 6 more rounds of trumps, discarding 2 diamonds and 2 spades from dummy





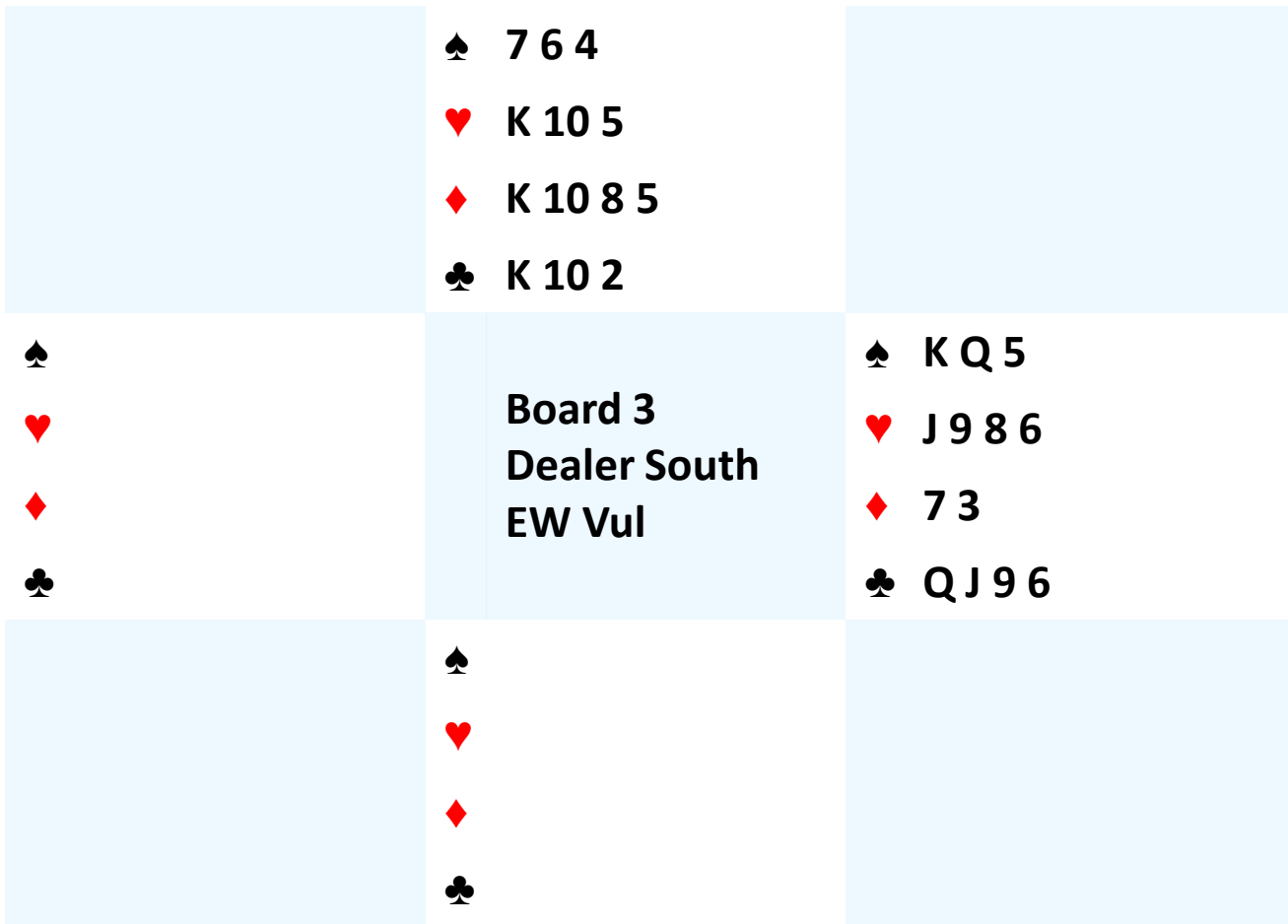
S	W	N	E
			P
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads Q♦

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

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

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads Q♦



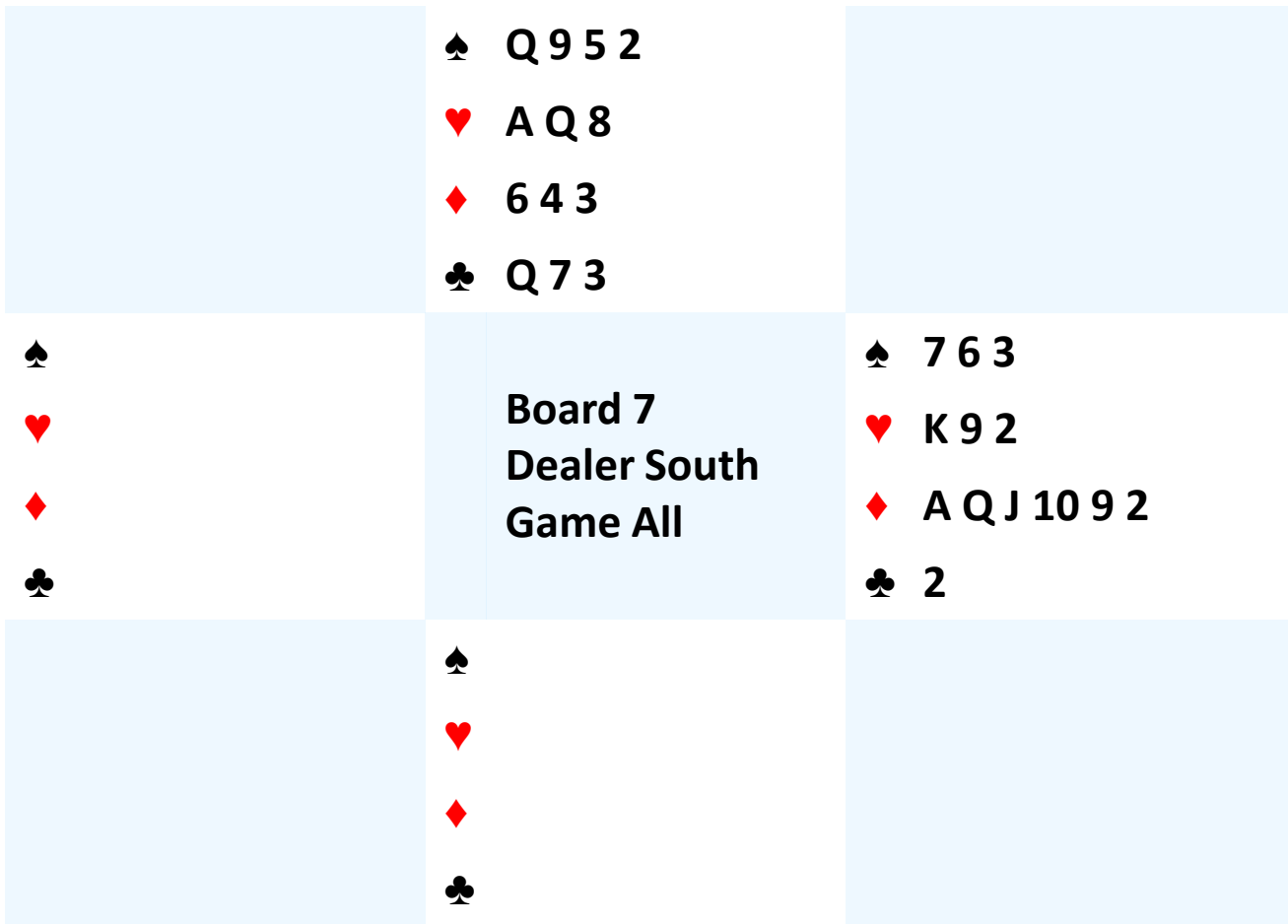
S	W	N	E
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♠ to the 4♠, Q♠ and A♠  
 Declarer cashes 4 rounds of diamonds ending in dummy.

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

S	W	N	E
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♠ to the 4♠, Q♠ and A♠  
 Declarer cashes 4 rounds of diamonds ending in dummy.



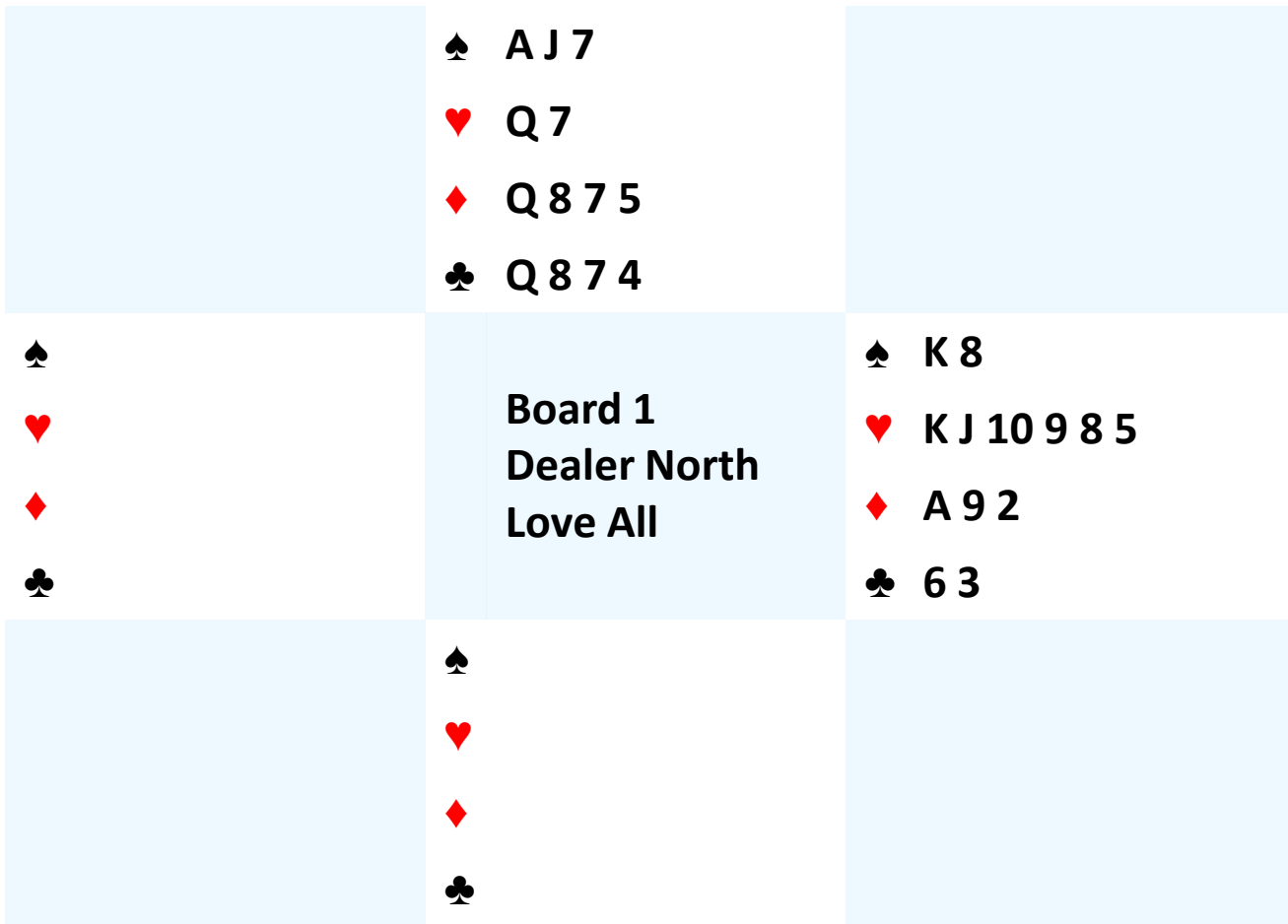
S	W	N	E
1♣	P	1♠	2♦
3♣	P	3♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 7♦ to the 3♦, 9♦ and K♦.  
 Declarer now cashes 6 rounds of clubs discarding 2 diamonds and 1 spade from dummy.

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

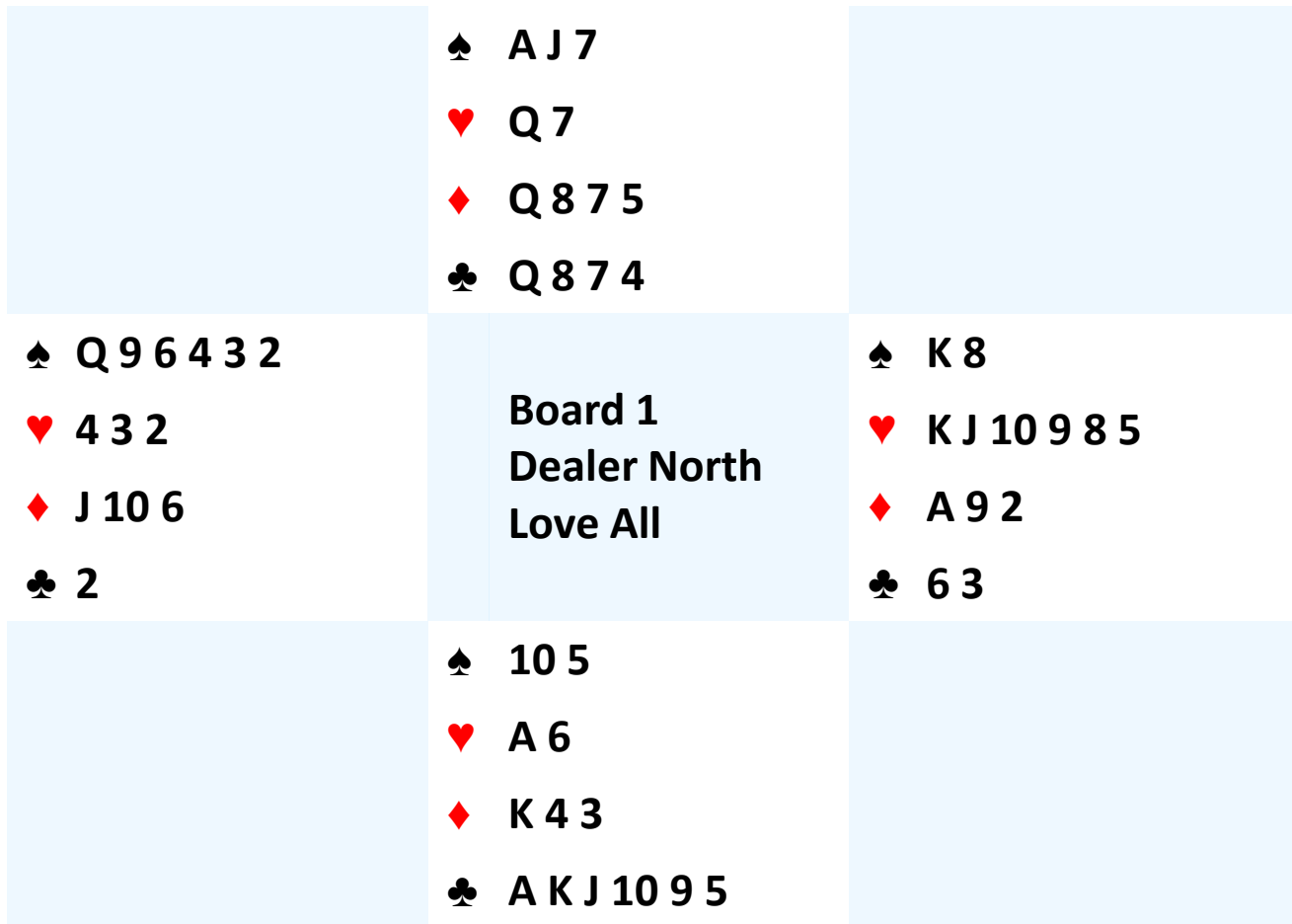
S	W	N	E
1♣	P	1♠	2♦
3♣	P	3♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 7♦ to the 3♦, 9♦ and K♦.  
 Declarer now cashes 6 rounds of clubs discarding 2 diamonds and 1 spade from dummy.



S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
2♣	P	2♥	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 4♥ to the Q♥, K♥ and 6♥  
 Declarer wins the 2<sup>nd</sup> heart with the A♥ and  
 cashes 6 club tricks.



S	W	N	E
		P	1♥
2♣	P	2♥	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 4♥ to the Q♥, K♥ and 6♥  
 Declarer wins the 2<sup>nd</sup> heart with the A♥ and  
 cashes 6 club tricks.



	♠ J 3 ♥ K Q 10 5 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ K 9 5 2	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	<b>Board 14</b> <b>Dealer South</b> <b>Love All</b>	♠ A 6 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 9 4 2 ♣ Q 8 6 3
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

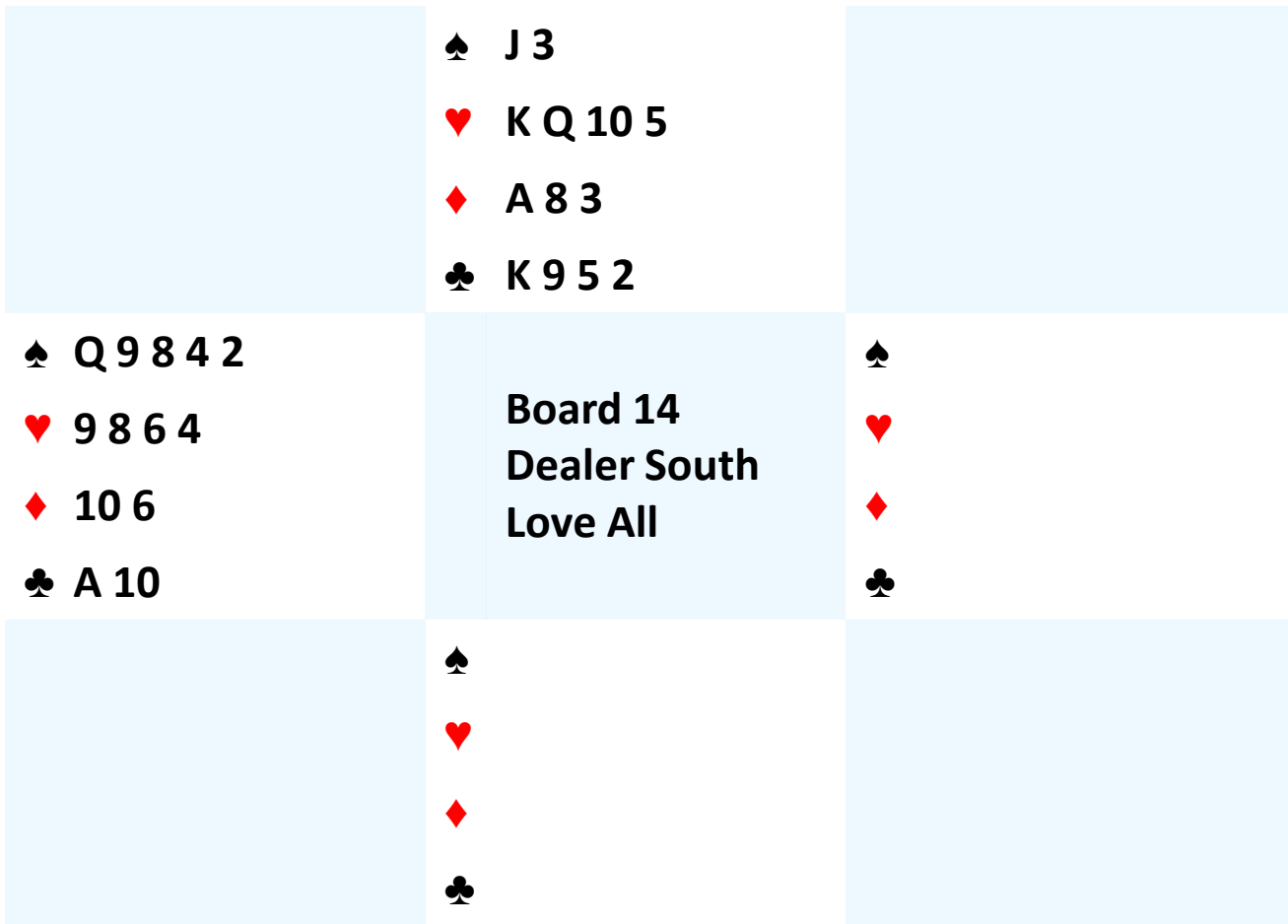
S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

**South plays in 3NT**  
**West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3<sup>rd</sup> round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.**

	♠ J 3 ♥ K Q 10 5 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ K 9 5 2	
♠ Q 9 8 4 2 ♥ 9 8 6 4 ♦ 10 6 ♣ A 10	<b>Board 14</b> <b>Dealer South</b> <b>Love All</b>	♠ A 6 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 9 4 2 ♣ Q 8 6 3
	♠ K 10 7 ♥ A J 2 ♦ K Q 7 5 ♣ J 7 4	

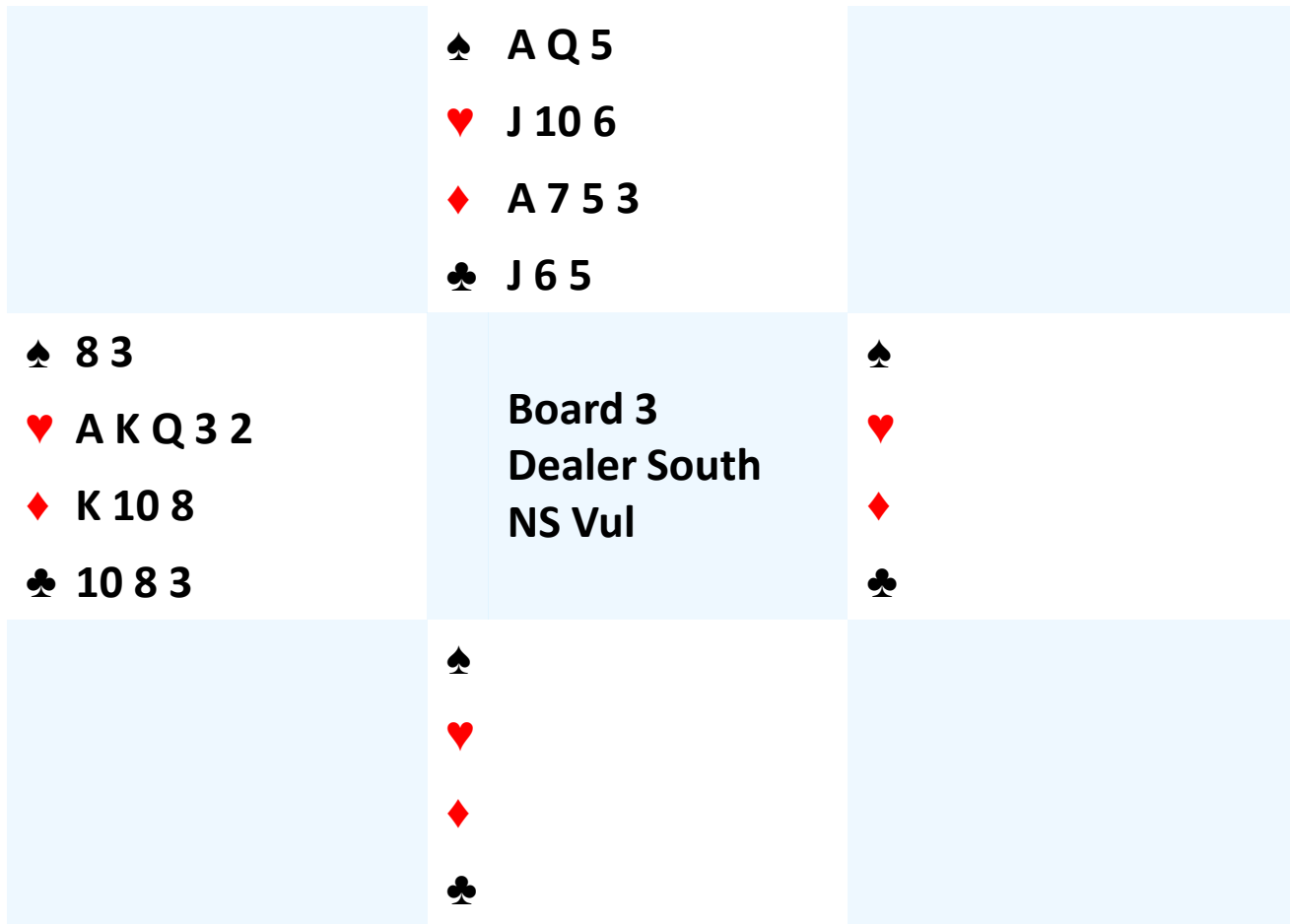
S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3<sup>rd</sup> round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.



S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3<sup>rd</sup> round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.



S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads 3 rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffs and leads 5 rounds of trumps.

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

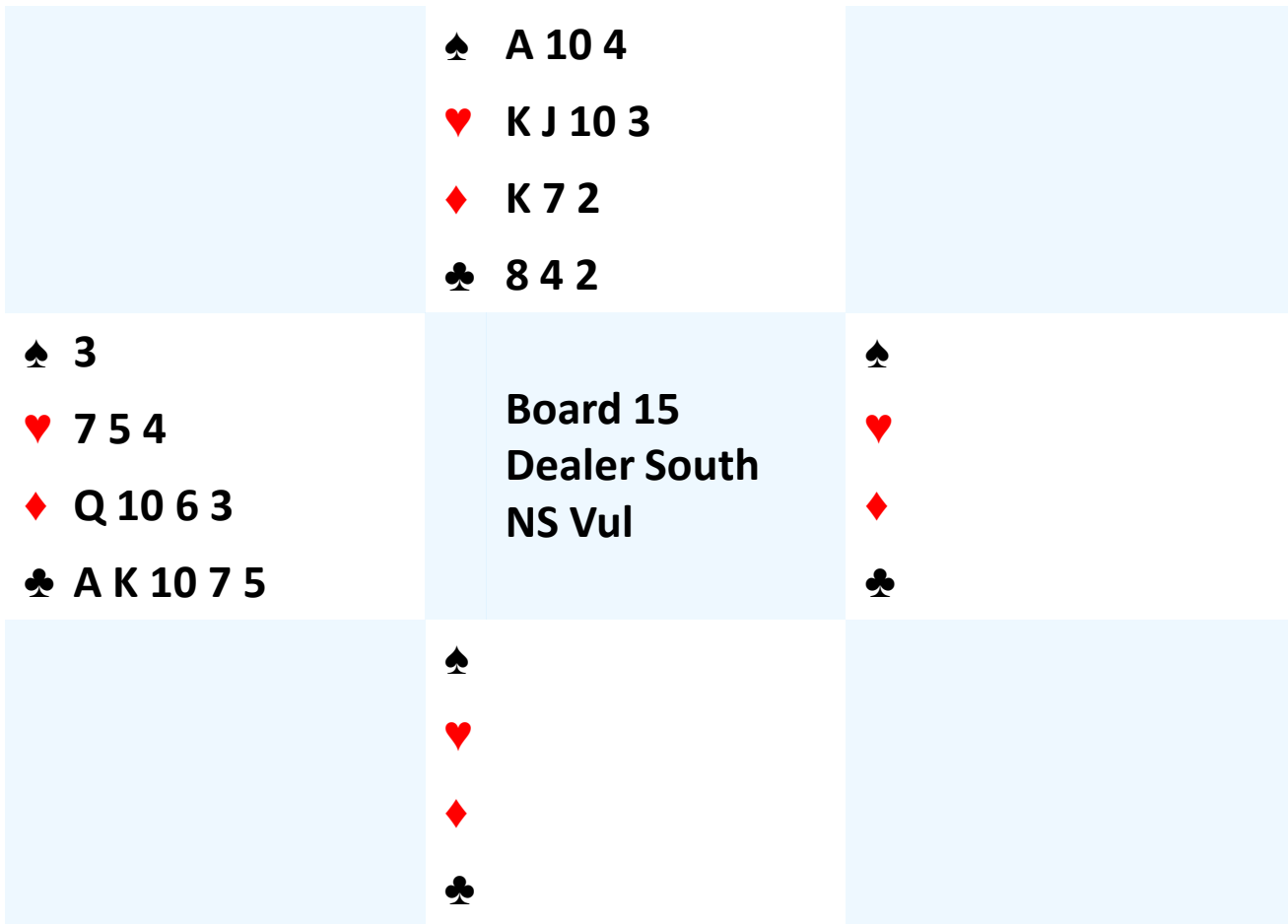
S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads 3 rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffs and leads 5 rounds of trumps.

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

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads 3 rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffs and leads 5 rounds of trumps.



S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♣	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

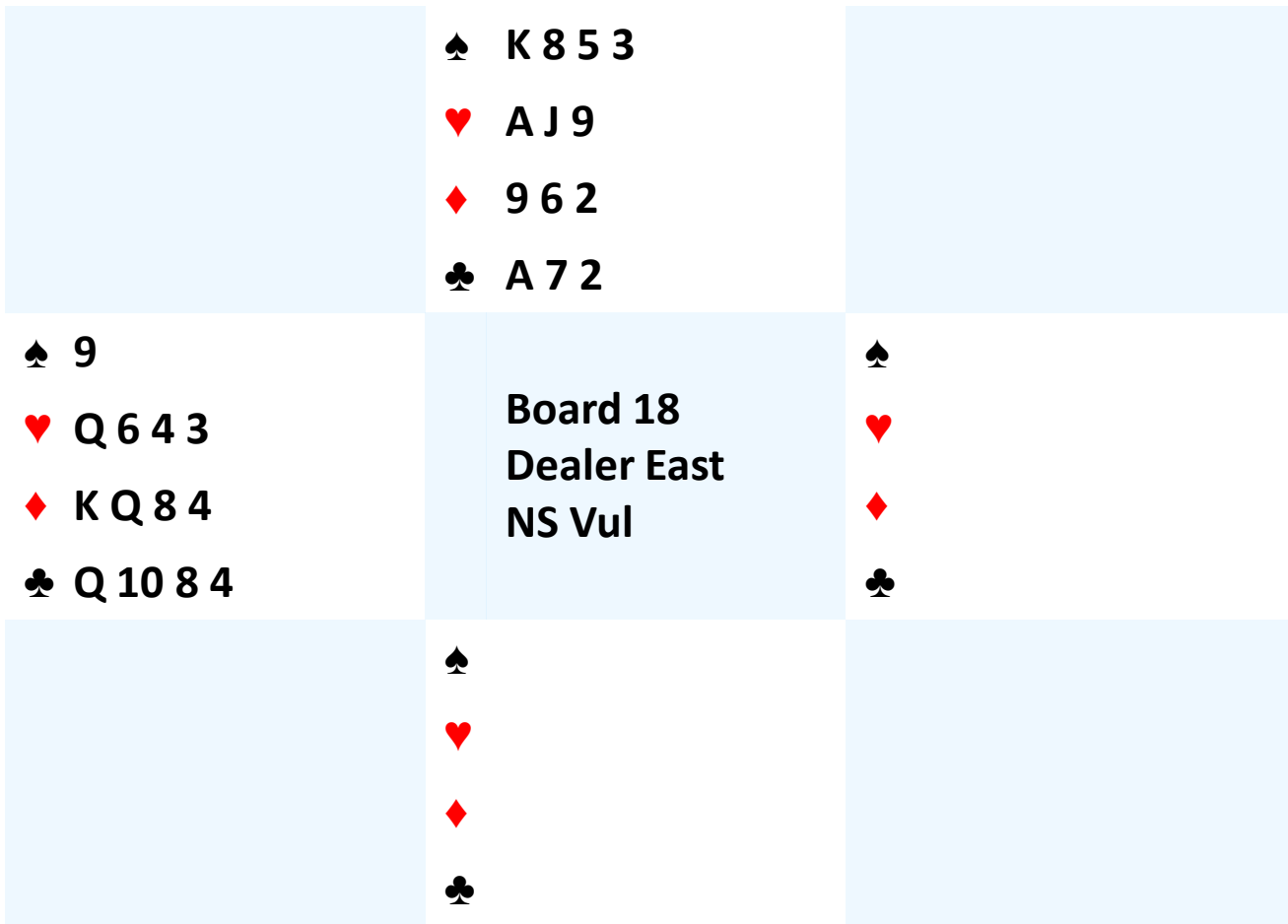
South plays in 4♠ West cashes A♣ and K♣ and declarer ruffs the third round. Declarer then draws three rounds of trumps.

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

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♣	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠ West cashes A♣ and K♣ and declarer ruffs the third round. Declarer then draws three rounds of trumps.





S	W	N	E
1♠	P	3NT	P
4♠	P	P	P

South plays in 4 ♠  
 West leads K♦ to the 2♦, J♦ and 3♦  
 Declarer ruffs the 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond and leads 4 rounds of trumps – East following twice.

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

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	3NT	P
4♠	P	P	P

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads K♦ to the 2♦, J♦ and 3♦  
 Declarer ruffs the 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond and leads 4 rounds of trumps – East following twice.

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

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♣	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
3NT	P	P	

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♥ to the 7♥, K♥ and A♥  
 What next?

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

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♣	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
3NT	P	P	

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♥ to the 7♥, K♥ and A♥  
 What next?

	<p>♠ J 5 2</p> <p>♥ 9 7 6</p> <p>♦ K 9 7 4</p> <p>♣ Q 10 6</p>	
<p>♠</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦</p> <p>♣</p>	<p>Board 4</p> <p>Dealer West</p> <p>Game all</p>	<p>♠</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦</p> <p>♣</p>
	<p>♠ K 10 9</p> <p>♥ Q 10 8</p> <p>♦ A J 10 2</p> <p>♣ A 7 5</p>	

S	W	N	E
	P	P	P
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT  
 West leads 4♥ and the defence cash 5 rounds of the suit

	<p>♠ J 5 2</p> <p>♥ 9 7 6</p> <p>♦ K 9 7 4</p> <p>♣ Q 10 6</p>	
<p>♠ A 4 3</p> <p>♥ K J 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ Q 5 3</p> <p>♣ J 8</p>	<p>Board 4</p> <p>Dealer West</p> <p>Game all</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 7 6</p> <p>♥ A 5</p> <p>♦ 8 6</p> <p>♣ K 9 4 3 2</p>
	<p>♠ K 10 9</p> <p>♥ Q 10 8</p> <p>♦ A J 10 2</p> <p>♣ A 7 5</p>	

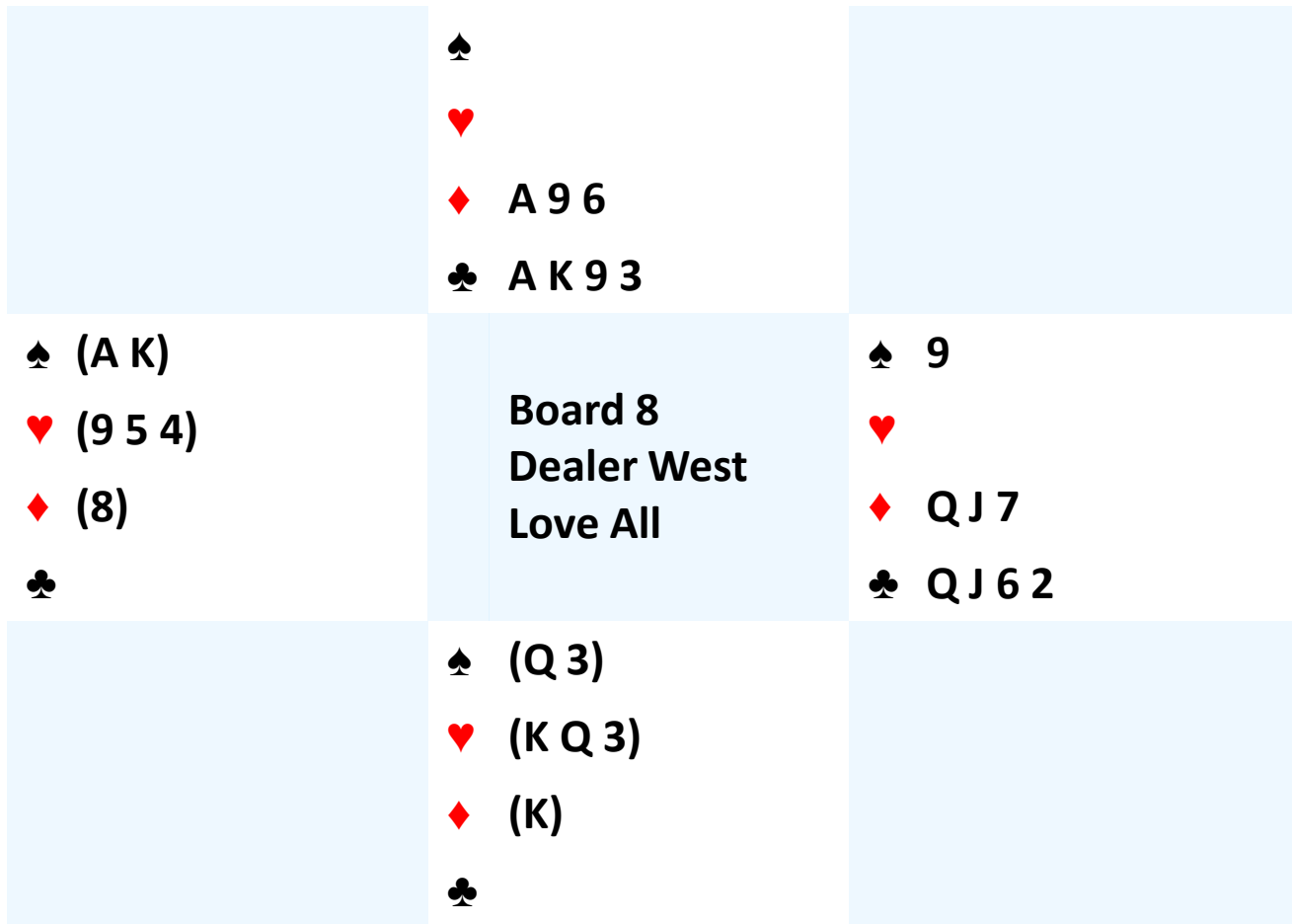
S	W	N	E
	P	P	P
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT  
 West leads 4♥ and the defence cash 5 rounds of the suit

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

S	W	N	E
	2♠	X	P
4♥	P	P	P

**South plays in 4♥**  
**West leads A♠ and K♠ followed by a trump.**  
**Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diamond to the K♦ (West playing the 8♦) and then plays two more trumps.**



S	W	N	E
	2♠	X	P
4♥	P	P	P

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads A♠ and K♠ followed by a trump.  
 Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diamond  
 to the K♦ (West playing the 8♦) and then  
 plays two more trumps.



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

S	W	N	E
	2♠	X	P
4♥	P	P	P

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads A♠ and K♠ followed by a trump.  
 Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diamond  
 to the K♦ (West playing the 8♦) and then  
 plays two more trumps.

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

S	W	N	E
		1NT	2♥
2♠	P	P	P

South plays in 2♠  
 West leads J♥ Declarer wins in dummy,  
 plays the K♦ taken by West's A♦. West  
 leads a 2<sup>nd</sup> heart and East cashes 2 more  
 hearts.

## Summary

- 1 Try to retain length parity with declarer's side suit**
- 2 Discard from short suits to give power to your trumps**
- 3 Keep a card of exit when an endplay is threatened**
- 4 Give signals and watch for signals**
- 5 Count**
- 6 Plan discards in advance**