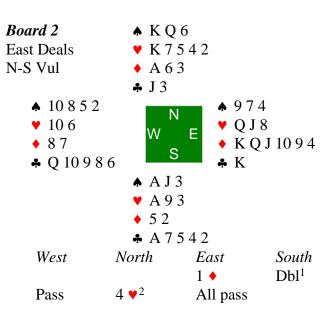
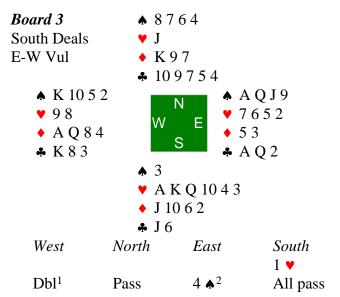


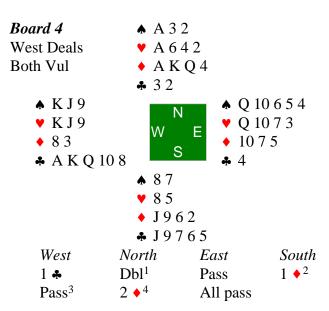
- 1. Take-out double = "partner please bid".
- 2. Bidding his best other suit (choosing the major over the minor)



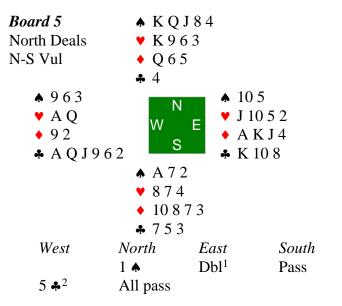
- 1. For "take-out". Far better than overcalling that moth-eaten club suit, or limply passing.
- 2. Facing a partner with opening values and support for all unbid suits (at least three hearts).



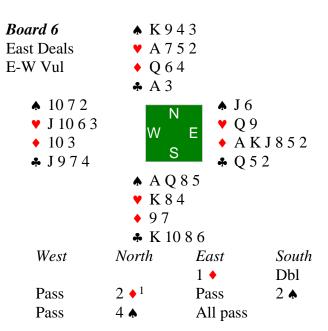
- 1. A minimum take-out double, but he does have 4 cards in the unbid major
- 2. Enough strength for game, and his four spades are so chunky that even three cards opposite should make a satisfactory trump suit



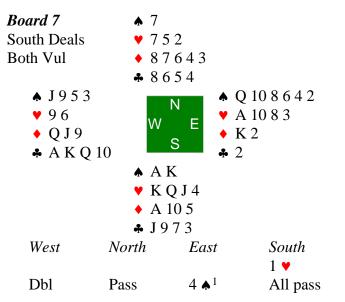
- 1. Take-out "SOS"
- 2. Bidding his best other suit NOT passing
- 3. Perhaps (probably) West should make a take-out double himself at this point (we will discuss such second-round doubles later). This would lead to a successful E-W spade part-score
- 4. Note that North treads warily. Even though he has 17 prime points and super support, 2 ◆ is sufficient. North must remember that he has forced his partner to speak, that SOuth may have nothing at all.



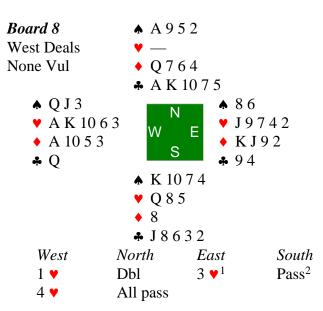
- 1. Take-out "please bid your best other suit, jumping with sufficient strength".
- 2. Big club fit and the values for game.



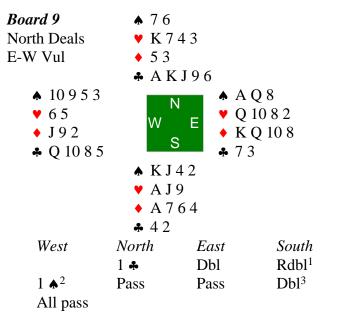
"We're going to game, but I don't know which one - more information please".
 Without this sophistication, North would have to guess whether to bid 3 NT (which should fail), 4 ♥ (which has no chance), or 4 ♣.



Just nine points, but facing a partner who has shown an opening hand with short hearts and support for the other major, it is clear to bid 4 ♠. For Losing Trick Count fans (like me - although performing the LTC when partner has not guaranteed fourcard support is less than ideal), you have just six Losing Tricks (♠ AK, ♥ KQ, ♠ A,♣ A), facing a presumed seven for the double.

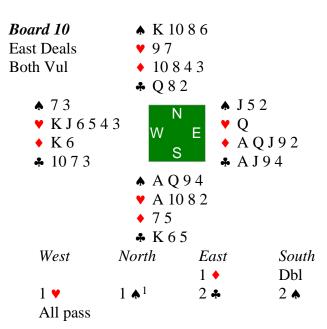


- 1. Aggressive raises after a double. In truth East is closer to 4 ♥ than 2 ♥
- Would have bid 2 ♠ over 2 ♥, leading to North competing to 4 ♠(making) over 4 ♥.

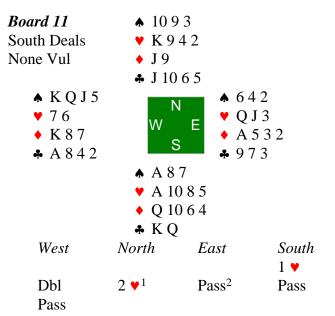


- 1. 10+ points, no good suit or fit for partner. Thus looking for a juicy penalty...
- 2. Redouble counts as a bid, so West can pass the bidding round to partner.

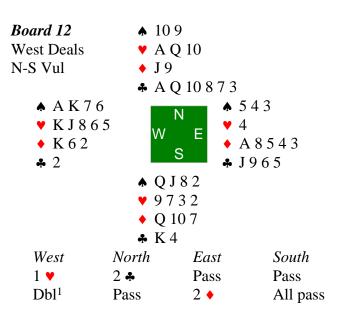
  Generally a five card minor or four-card major should be volunteered, however, so West cannot be faulted.
- 3. For penalties "I think they're going down".



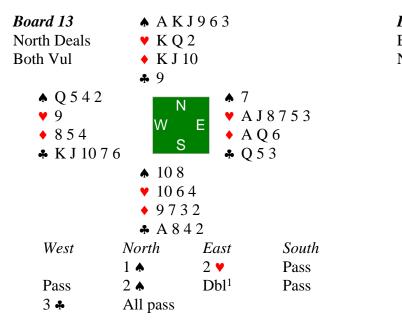
1. With a likely spade fit and five working points, it is clear to bid, even though West's bid has removed the obligation. Note that this is not a strong bid - with nine+ points, North would jump.



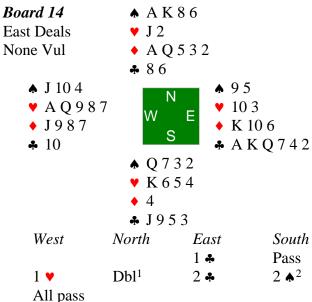
- 1. Support boldly after a double.
- 2. Normally a position to be bold. But don't take the principle to excess with this barren, defensive hand.



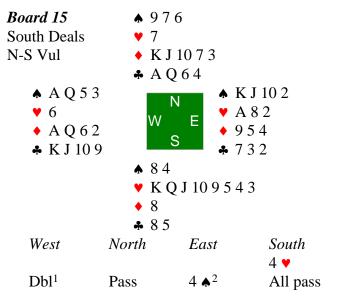
1. Still for take-out. Because partner hasn't yet bid, double asks him to speak



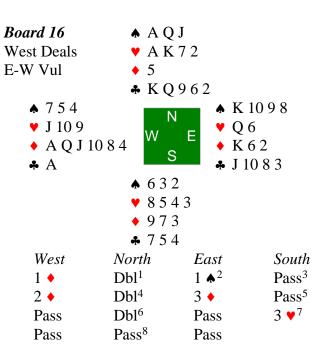
1. Take-out. Partner has not yet bid, so double says "bid".



- 1. Take-out partner hasn't yet bid and a clever way to bid both diamonds and spades in one go.
- 2. When the opponents have bid two suits and partner doubles, he is (98%) guaranteeing four+ cards in both unbid suits. Knowing of the eight-card spade fit, South must bid 2 ♠



- 1. Take-out partner has not bid.
- 2. Delighted to have the one suit that he can bid at the four-level. It is worth pointing out that, although the double of 4 ♥ is take-out, partner always has the option (at this high level) of passing and playing for four + tricks on defense. Swap East's spades with a minor, and it would be more sensible for him with his flat, defensive-looking collection to pass the double (converting the take-out into penalties) rather than bid 5 ♣/♦.



- 1. Take-out you can never be too strong.
- 2. Ignoring the double.
- 3. Delighted the double has been cancelled.
- 4. More take-out
- 5. Again delighted the double has been cancelled
- 6. Even more take-out North now clearly has a fair bit more than minimum opening values
- 7. Taking a deep breath but he does have four cards in the unbid major.
- 8. Tempting though it is to bid 4 ♥, North must reflect that he has forced South to bid, and that South has refused two earlier opportunities. On a bad day, South might have been forced to bid a three-card heart suit (what else could he do with a heart less and a spade/diamond more ?).