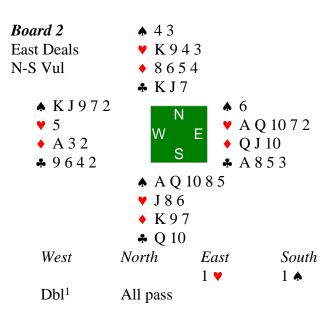
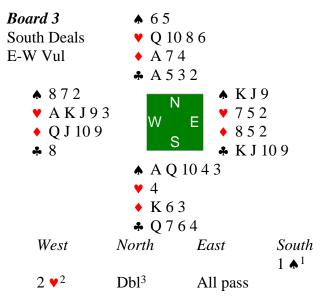


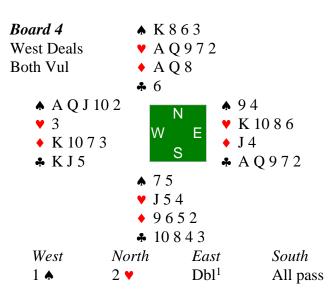
- 1. The single major raise is admissible with just three-card support (and 6-9 points)/
- 2. Inviting the heart game.
- 3. Accepting with a maximum point-count
- 4. The bidding revealing that the opponents have little to spare, the bad trump split (you have two certain tricks) should defeat the game.



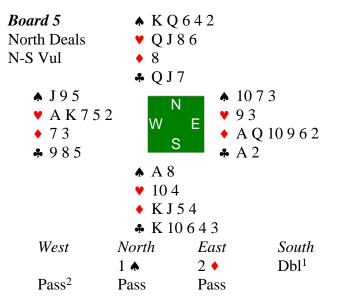
1. Penalties - because partner has bid. West has fantastic spades, and no expectation of making a contract his way (suspecting a misfit).



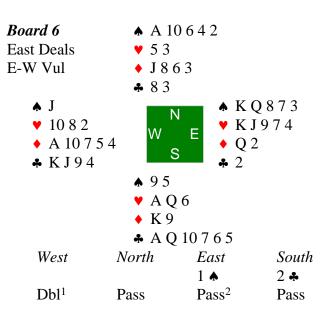
- 1. Thin, but 11 point hands with the powerful 5431 shape should always be opened.
- 2. Perfectly normal overcall although it is about to be punished this time...
- 3. Penalties as partner has bid. Your trumps are good enough; four cards and two honours getting to six the number of tricks needed to beat 2 ♥.



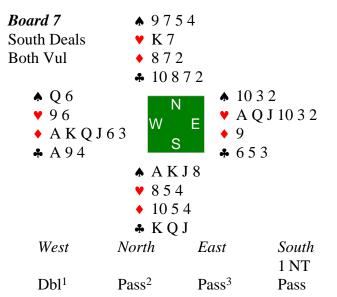
1. Penalties - partner having bid. The trumps are good enough - the number of cards (minimum four), added to the number of honours, getting to the number of tricks needed to beat the contract.



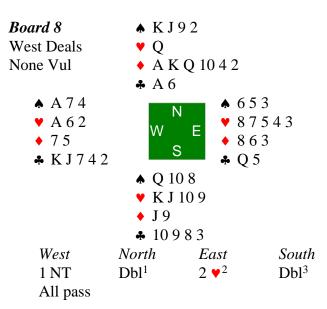
- 1. Penalties. With four cards headed by two honours. South's diamonds are good enough.
- 2. Correct to sit it out, rather than run to 2 ♥. His ♥ AK should be useful to partner in 2 ♦. 2 ♥ would have gone down three (doubled by North). Could East do better in 2 ♦?



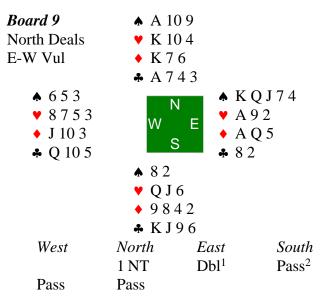
- 1. Penalties partner having bid. Trumps are more than adequate (three likely winners with * KJ94 poised over declarer).
- 2. Mistake. Should remove to 2 ♥; West would pass, and 2 ♥ would make.



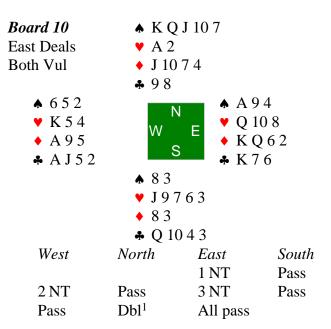
- 1. For penalties, showing any hand with 16+ points.
- 2. Would rescue if holding a five card suit.
- 3. The doubler is expecting hoping that you as his partner will pass. Bear in mind that your hearts may well prove useful in defence...



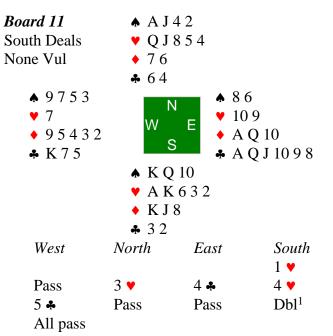
- 1. Penalties any 16+ points
- 2. Mandatory to rescue into a five-card suit. Note that conventional bids such as Stayman and Transfers are off after a double; all bids are natural.
- 3. Penalties (partner having bid). South 's trumps are easily good enough.



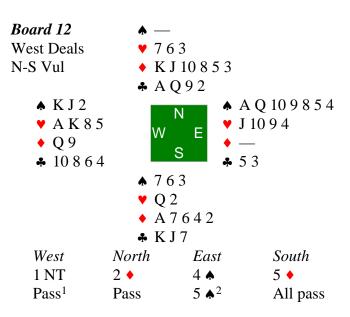
- 1. For penalties any hand with 16+ points
- 2. Pass the double, unless both very weak and very distributional



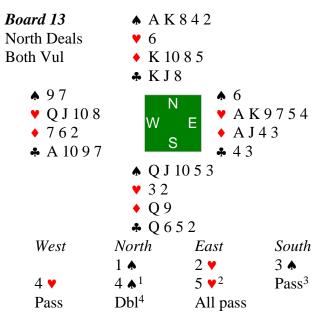
1. For penalties, but with strong lead-directing connotations. It says, "Lead your weakest suit, and choose a major if in doubt".



South does not fancy bidding 5 ♥ (too balanced), but must double in spite of his poor club holding. It is clear E-W are sacrificing and hoping to escape undoubled. South must not let them.

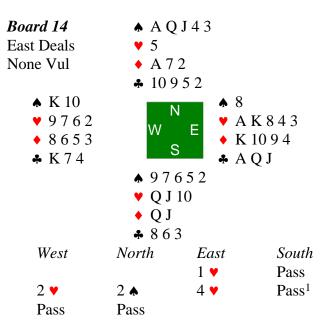


- 1. I have seen many players double in these positions. Wrong! You have already shown partner your hand, so should leave the decision-making to him. Doubling 5 ◆ would be a disaster here. East would accept the double and N-S's doubled game would make easily (for the loss of two hearts). As it is...
- 2. East, with his fine playing hand (and little defence to 5 ♦), bids on to 5 ♠.

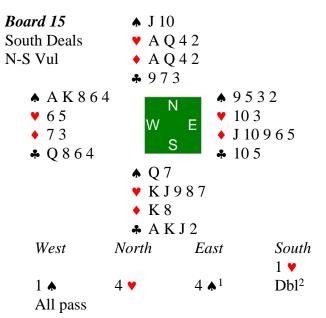


- Usually right to bid Four over four.
 North's singleton heart, and useful-looking six-loser hand, suggests he will make 4 ♠ (indeed he would have freely raised to 4 ♠ if West had passed).
- 2. Close, but East's chunky six-four shape, with all the honours in his long suits, suggests that 5 ♥ will be cheaper (if failing) than 4 ♠ (if making). And, once in a while, 5 ♥ may even make.
- 3. No thought to bidding 5 ♠ having limited his hand, it is his partner's decision.
- 4. Bidding Five over Five is rarely right.

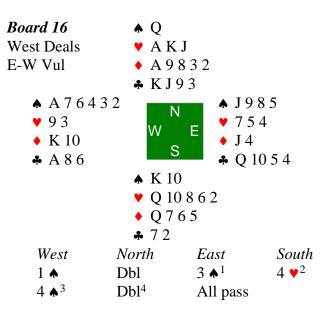
 Though North is far from certain to defeat 5 ♥, he cannot allow his oponents to steal.



1. The key decision. The first instinct is to bid 4 ♠ because of the undisclosed five-card spade support. The trouble is that, leaving aside the lousy 5332 shape, all the honours are in the wrong places. ♥ QJ10 is a certain defensive trick against 4 ♥, but rates to play no role for partner declaring 4 ♠. And ♦ QJ (being short), rates to be better suited to defence (as indeed it proved to be).



- 1. "Green" (non-vulnerable versus vulnerable), is by far the best vulnerability for a sacrifice bid. East has no defence to the opposing 4 ♥, so will lose 620 or so by defending. Whilst he is sure it will fail, bidding 4 ♠ will show a profit, provided his partner can hold the loss to down three (-500). East would not contemplate such a sacrifice (after all he has just one point and, more importantly, no singleton) at any other vulnerability.
- 2. Some temptation to bid on to 5 ♥ at the vulnerability, but South hates his spade holding two fast losers and is sensibly not prepared to gamble on being able to make the remaining 11 tricks. Rightly so N-S can only make 10 tricks in Hearts, losing the ace-king of spades and the queen of clubs.



- 1. Preemptive after a double. Most weak hands with four-card support should do this.
- 2. More than South would have bid with a silent East, but he does have a seven Losing Trick hand, and a known fit.
- 3. Bidding one more because you've guessed it he has more spades than promised
- 4. Fewer hearts than promised (so no 5 ♥ bid), plus a good defensive hand (so double, not pass of 4 ♠). Even ♠ Q is pulling its weight defensively (combining with partner's ♠ K10 to form a trump trick); it is worthless to partner in Hearts.