

Playing Laydown Contracts

By Chris Dixon

The Problems of Card Play

1 TRICKS

2 ENTRIES

3 CONTROL

STAGE 1 – Count Tricks

- 1 Estimate probable tricks in each suit**
- 2 Assume normal breaks but ignore extras from finesses**
- 3 First Count Trump Tricks**
- 4 Assess Potential Extra Tricks**

Ways of Making Tricks

1	Top Tricks	A 6 2 A Q 7	K J 8 K J 2
2	High Card Promotion	K J 7 J 9 7 2	Q 10 6 3 K 10 3
3	Long Suit Promotion	A K 7 5 3 K 8 4 2	9 6 2 A 6 5 3
4	Finesse	A 7 2 A 10 7	Q 6 5 Q 5 2
5	Ruffing	Without reducing trump length	

Finesses

A J 10	A J 9	A 10 6
7 3 2	7 3 2	Q 7 2
K 7 2	K 10 4	A Q 9
J 5 3	9 8 2	6 3 2

Combinations

A J 10 4	A Q 9 3	Q 7 2
K 8 7 3 2	K 10 5 2	A K 10 9 8 3
8 4 2	K 8 4 2	4
A Q 9 7 5 3	A J 9 3	A J 10 7 6 5

STAGE 3 – Check on Entries

1 Entries needed for suit establishment

One entry for each loser

2 Entries needed for finesses

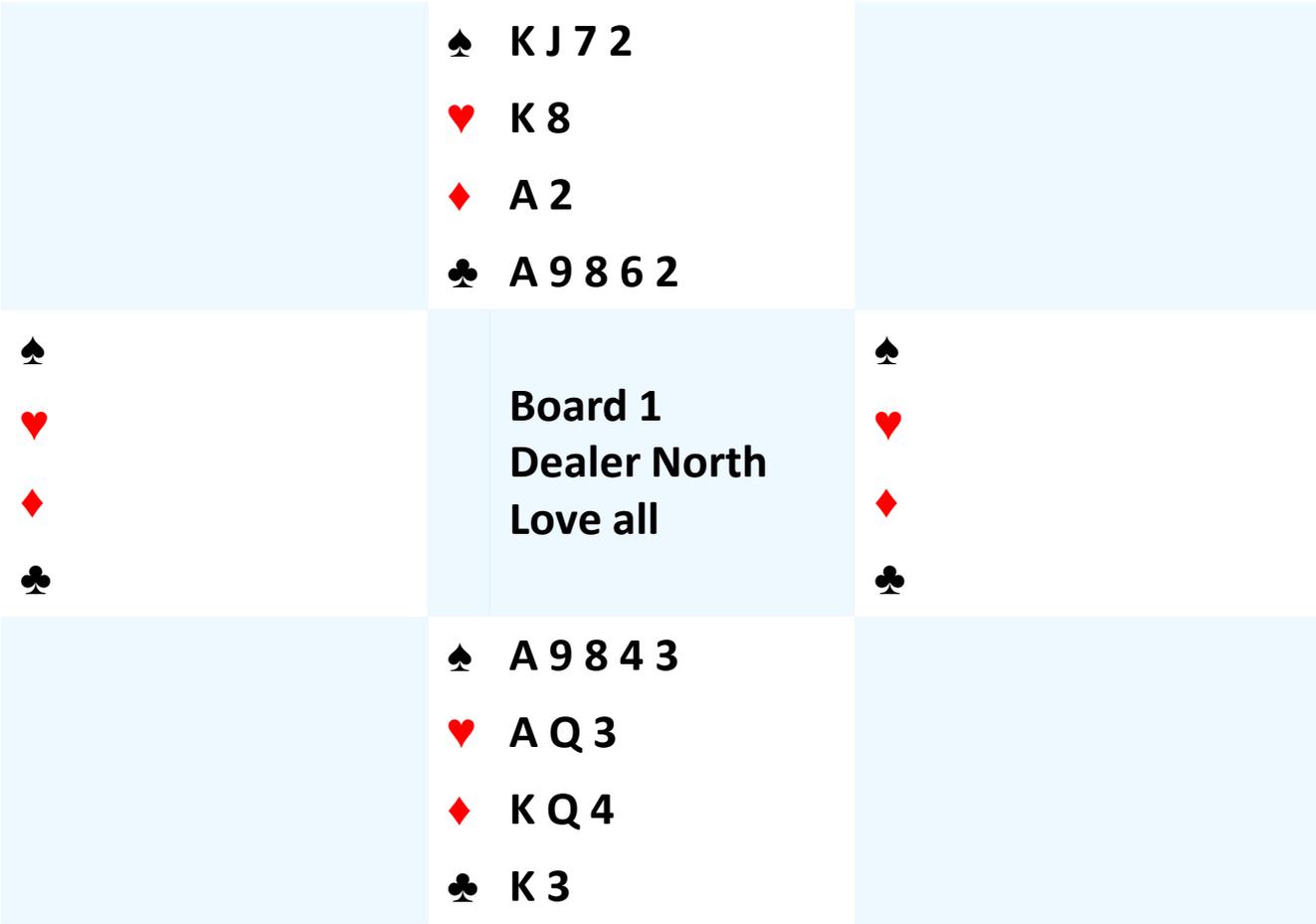
One entry for each finesse

3 Entries needed for ruffing

One entry for each ruff

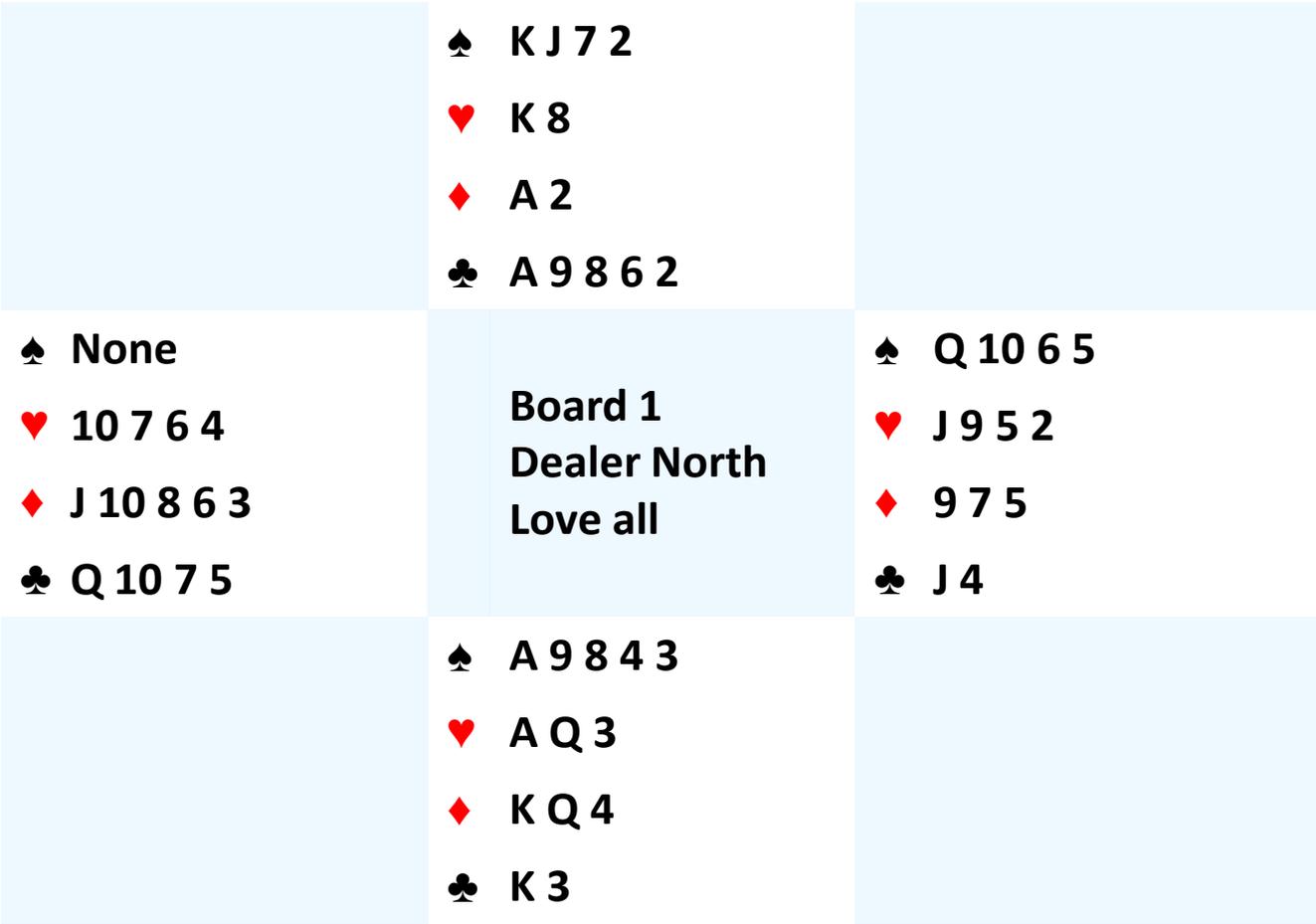
STAGE 4 – Control

- 1 Equality of Controls and Losers**
- 2 Discard Losers**
- 3 Hold Up**
- 4 Keep the Danger Hand Out**
- 5 Finesse**



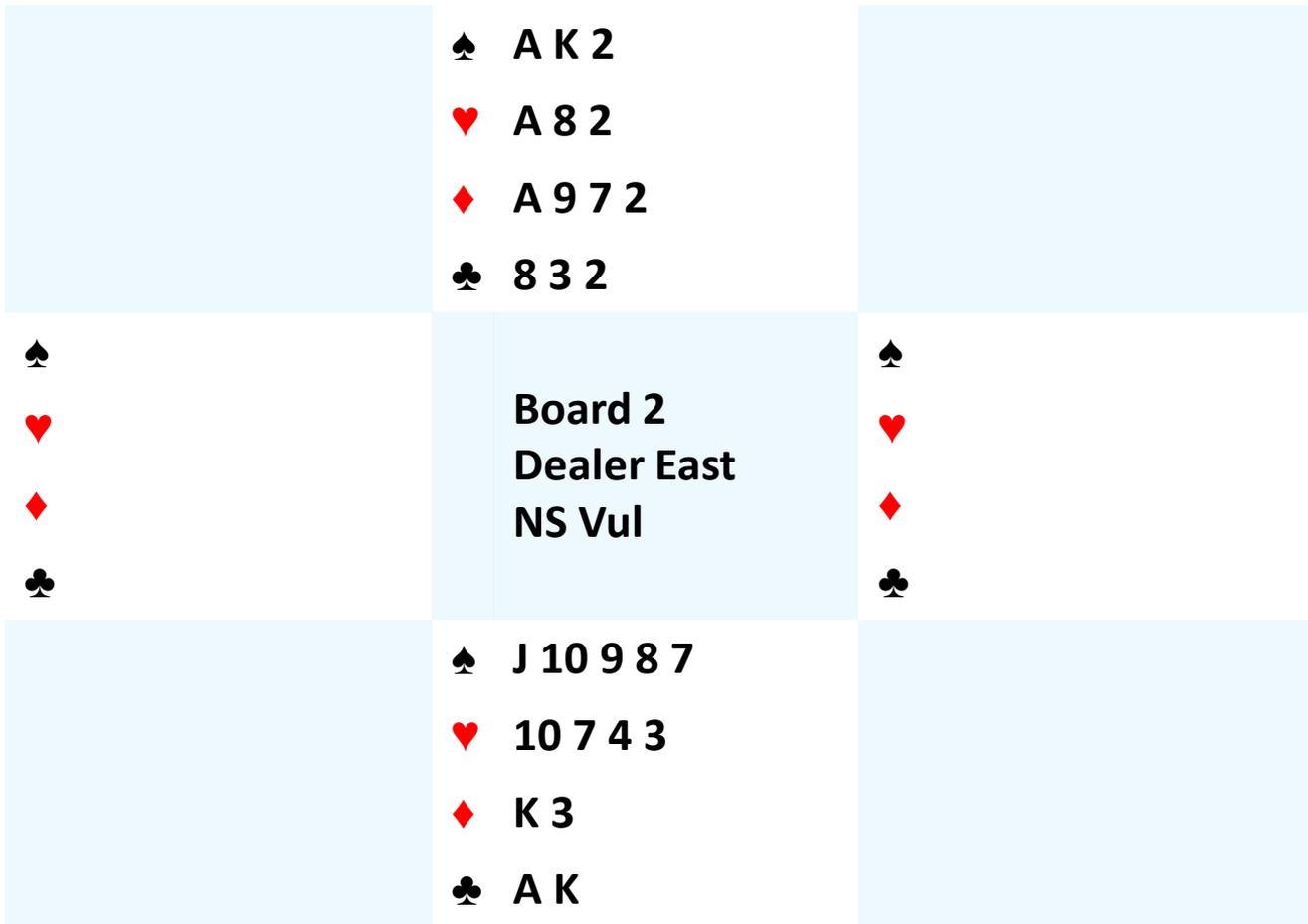
S	W	N	E
		1♣	P
1♠	P	3♠	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
5♦	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 6♠
 West leads J♦



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

South plays in 6♠
 West leads J♦



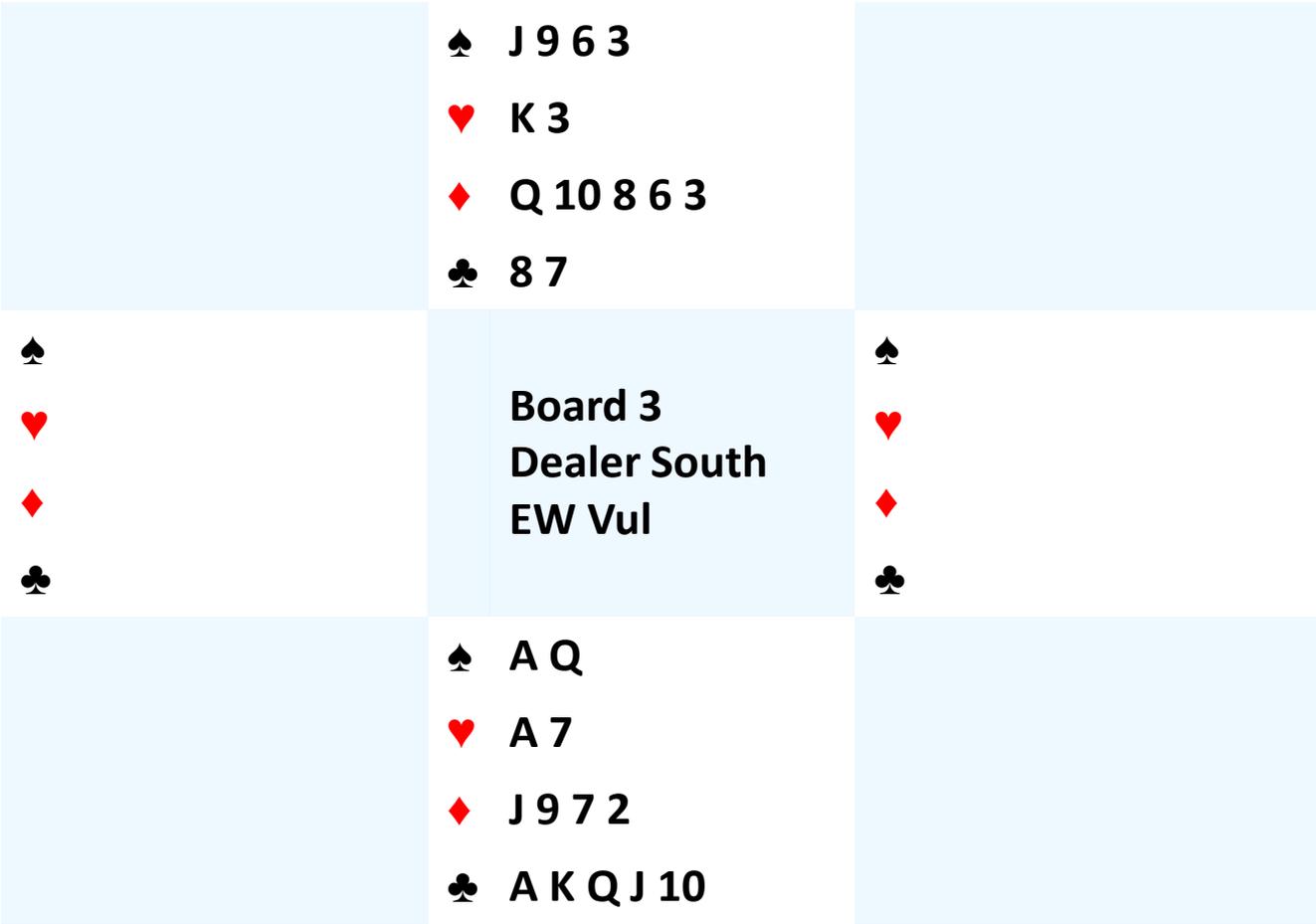
S	W	N	E
P	P	1♦	P
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♣	P	2♠	P
4♠	P	P	P

South plays in 4♠
West leads Q♣

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

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

South plays in 4♠
West leads Q♣



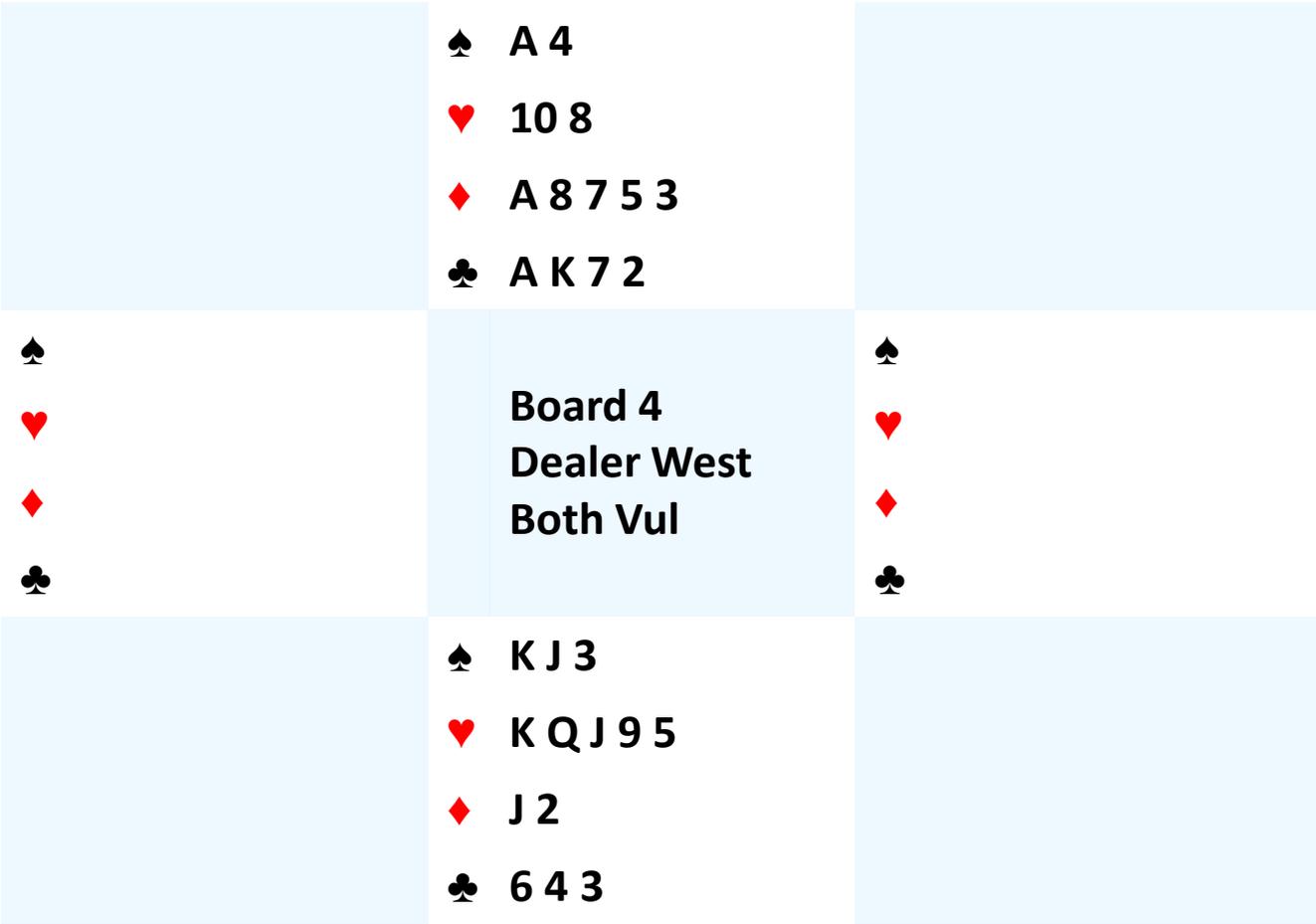
S	W	N	E
2NT	P	3♣	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT
 West leads Q♥

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

S	W	N	E
2NT	P	3♣	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT
 West leads Q♥



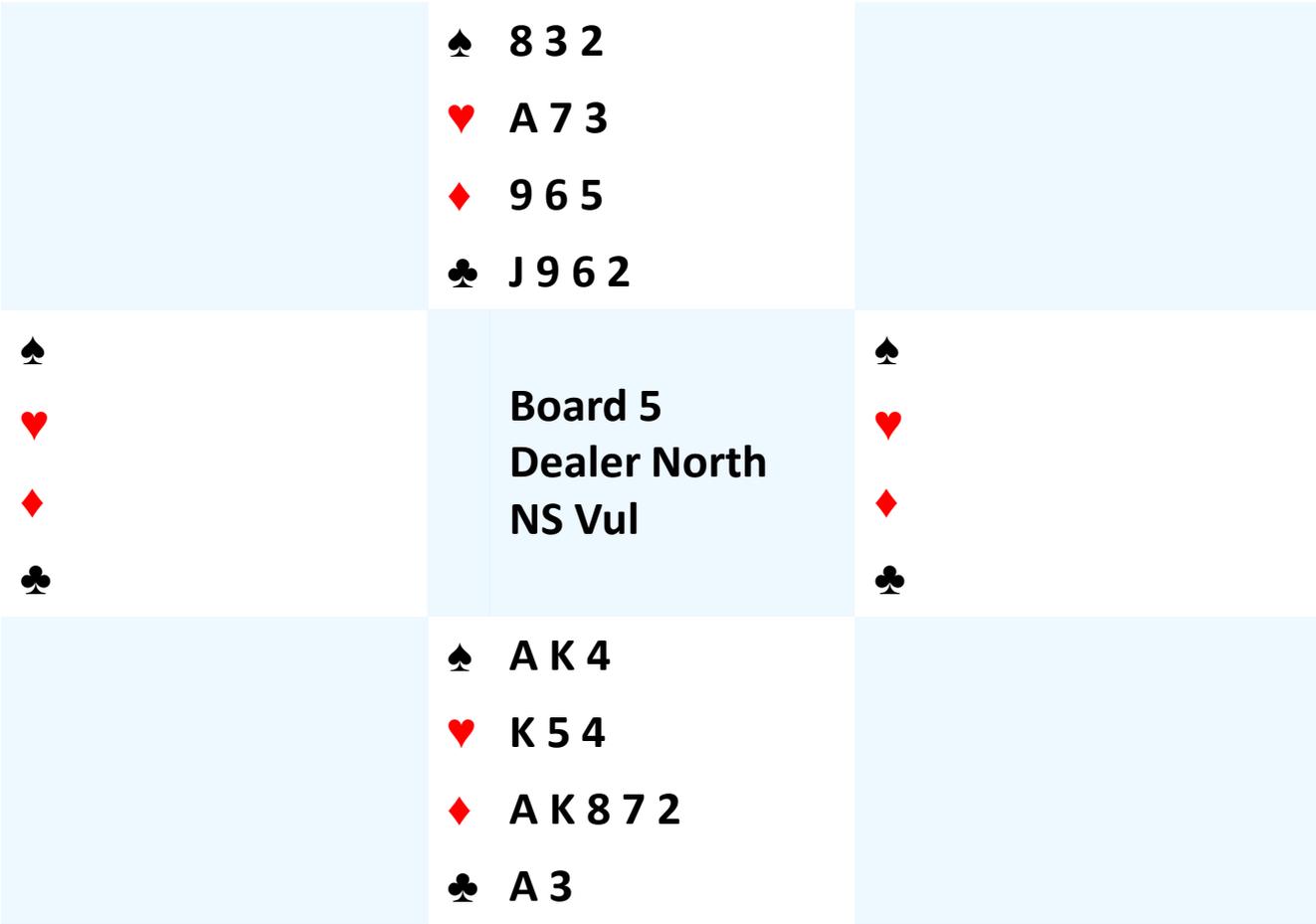
S	W	N	E
	P	1♦	P
1♥	P	2♣	P
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 10♠

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

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

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 10♠



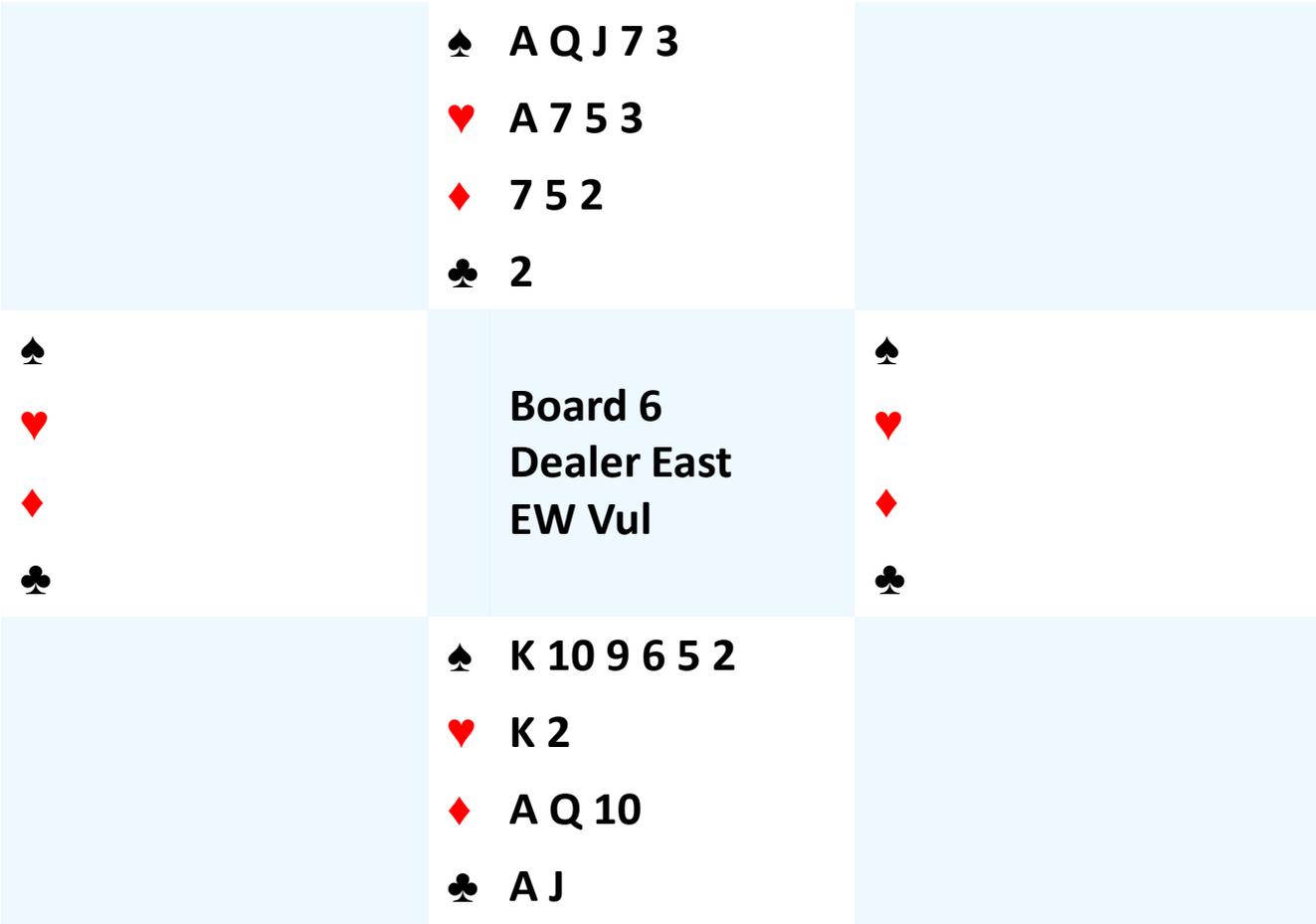
S	W	N	E
		P	P
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P	P	

South plays in 3NT
 West leads Q♥
 On the A♦ West plays the 10♦
 and East plays the 2♦

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

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

South plays in 3NT
 West leads Q♥
 On the A♦ West plays the 10♦
 and East plays the 2♦



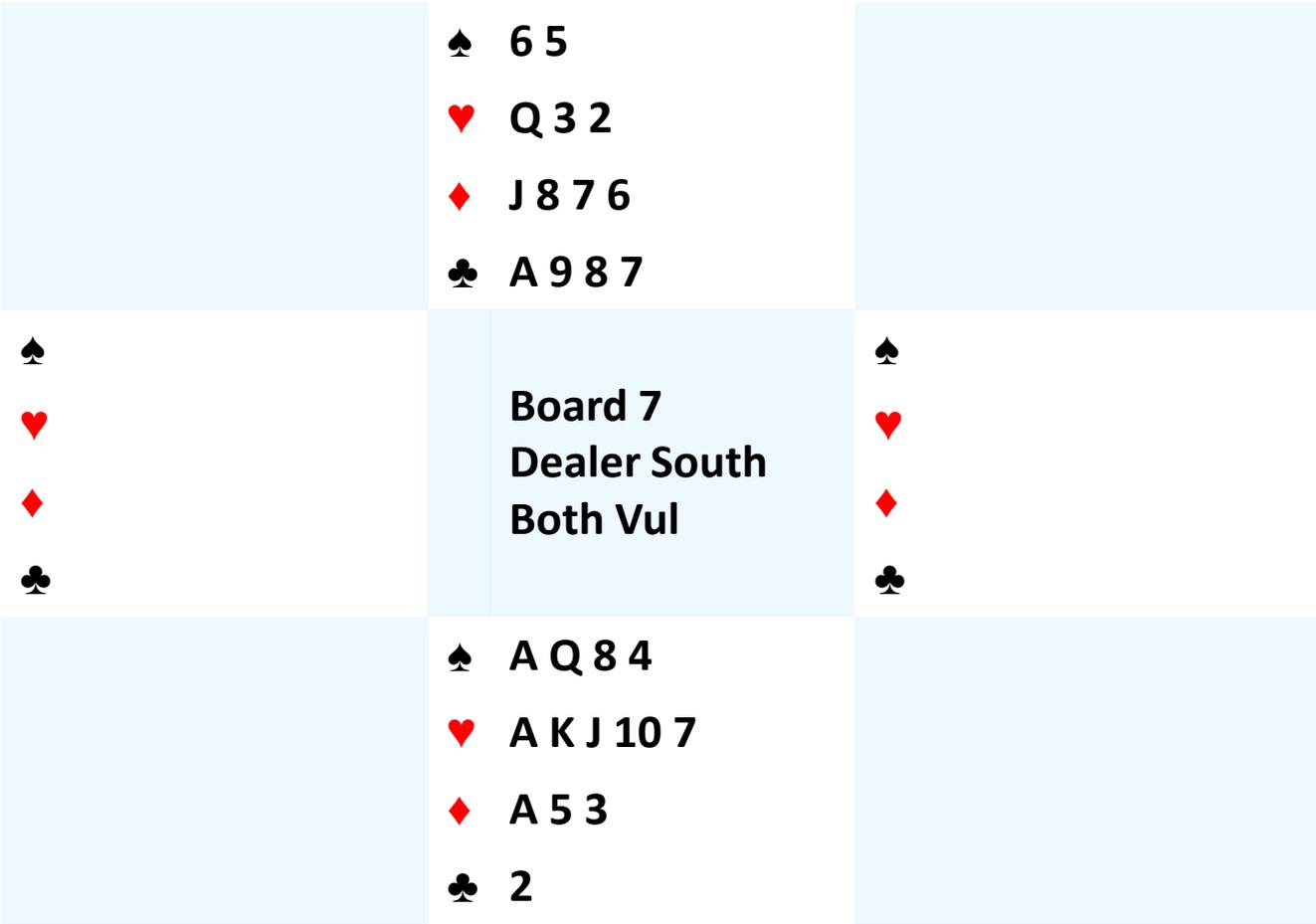
S	W	N	E
			P
1♠	P	4♣	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
5NT	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 6♠
 West leads J♥

	♠ A Q J 7 3 ♥ A 7 5 3 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 2	
♠ None ♥ J 10 8 7 ♦ K J 9 4 ♣ Q 10 8 5 3	Board 6 Dealer East EW Vul	♠ 8 4 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ K 9 7 6 4
	♠ K 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ A J	

S	W	N	E
			P
1♠	P	4♣	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
5NT	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 6♠
 West leads J♥



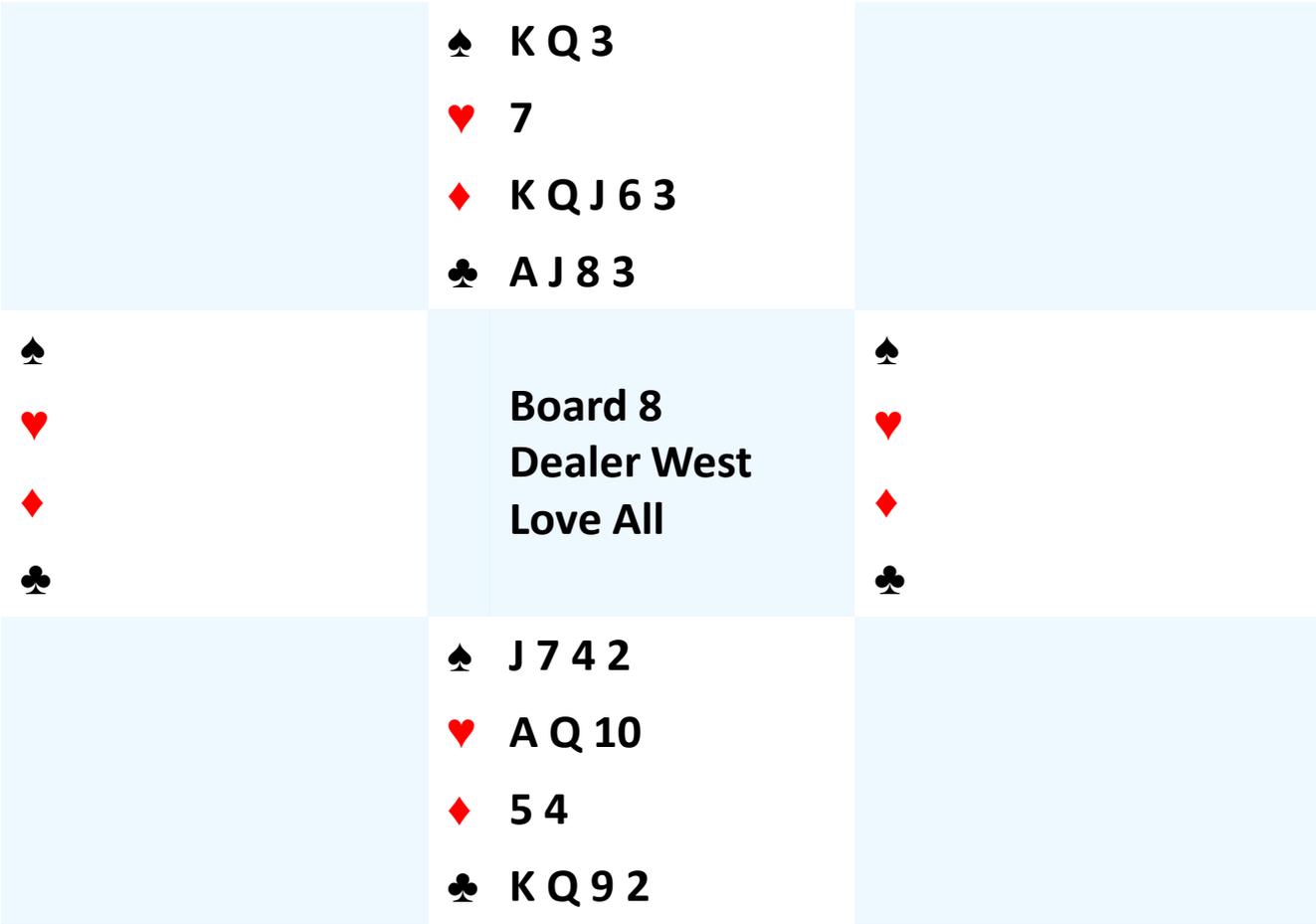
S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♥	2♠
4♥	P	P	P

South plays in 4♥
West leads 3♠

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

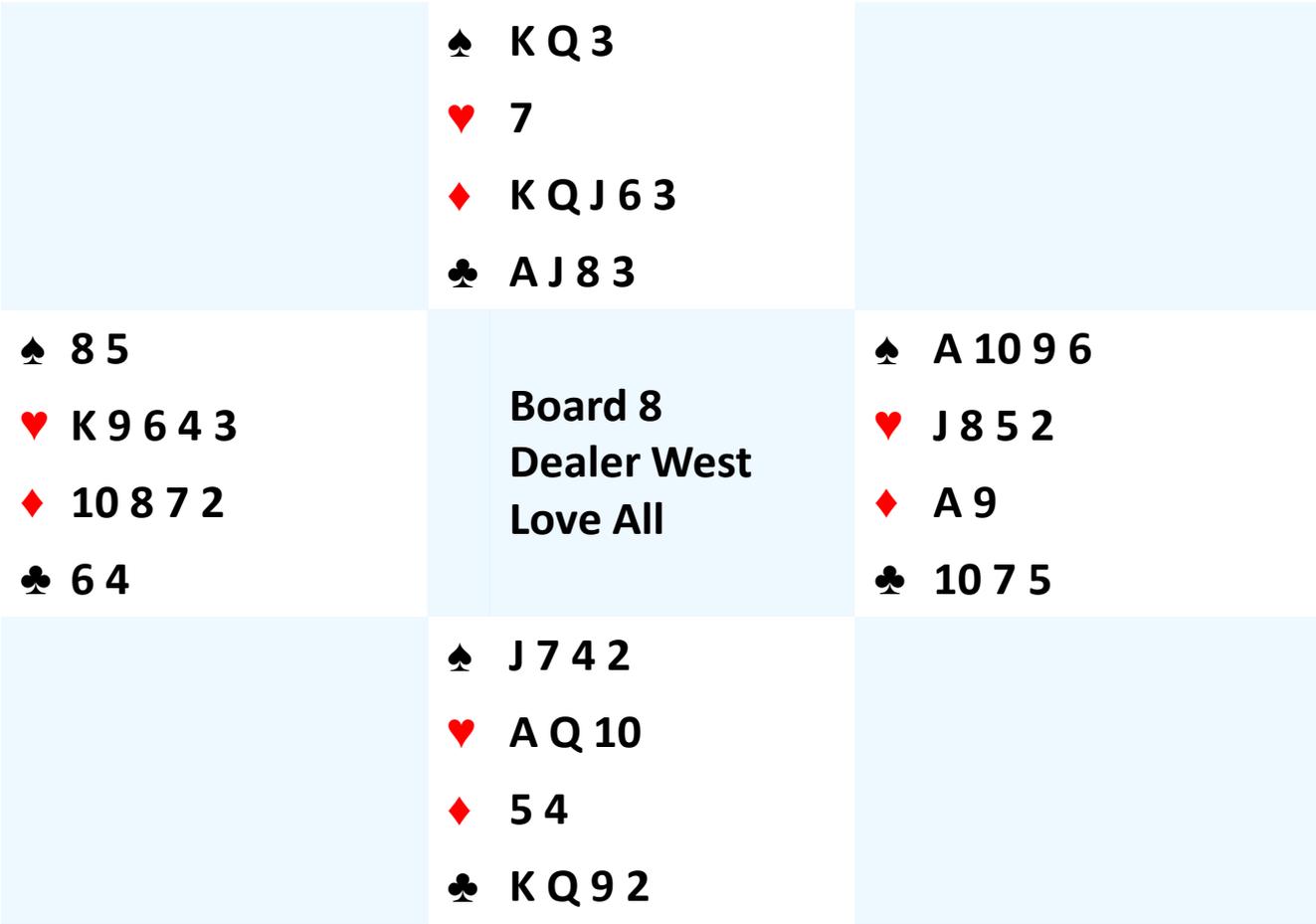
S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♥	2♠
4♥	P	P	P

South plays in 4♥
West leads 3♠



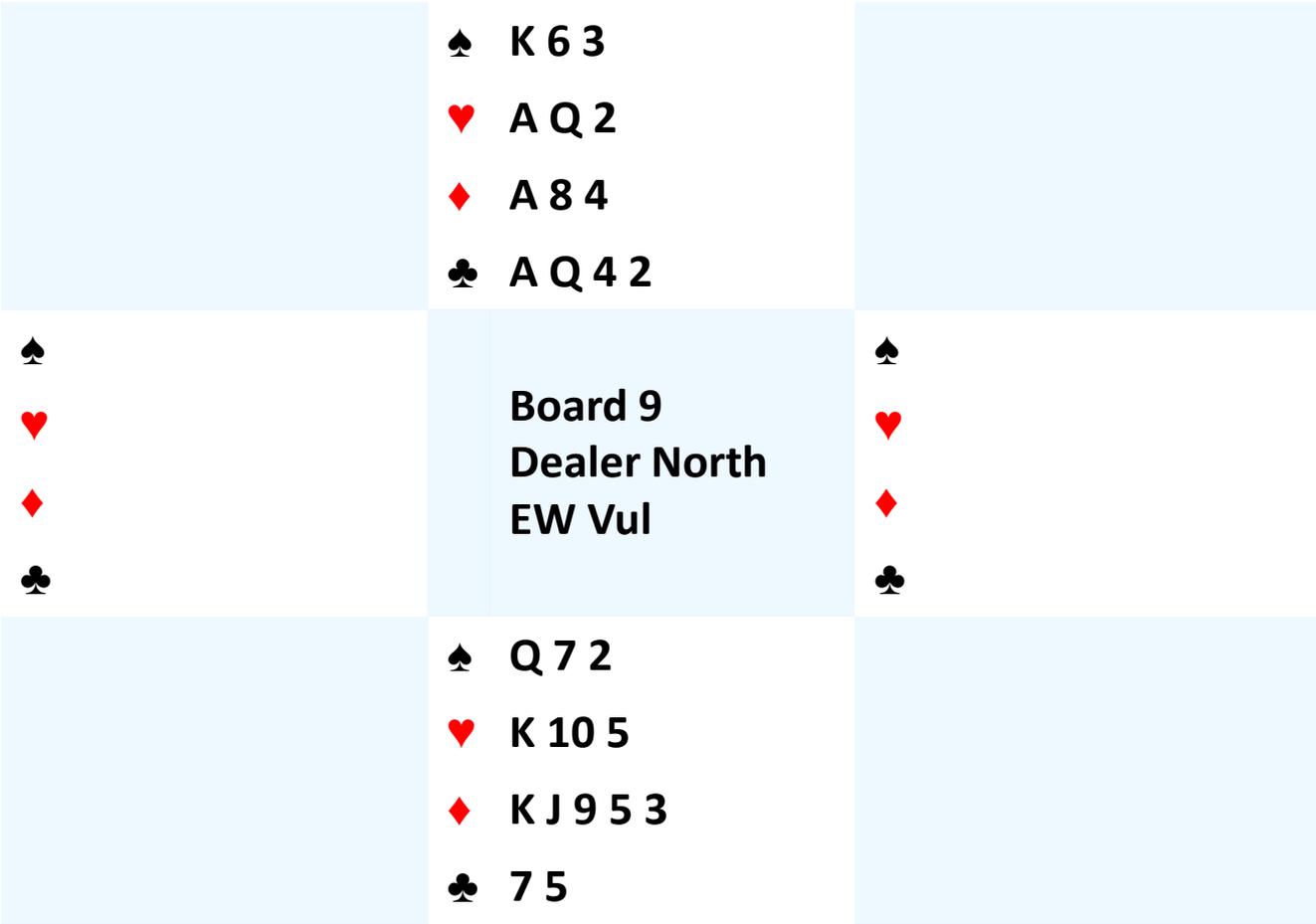
S	W	N	E
	P	1♦	P
1♠	P	2♣	P
2NT	P	3♠	P
3NT	P		

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 4♥



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

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 4♥



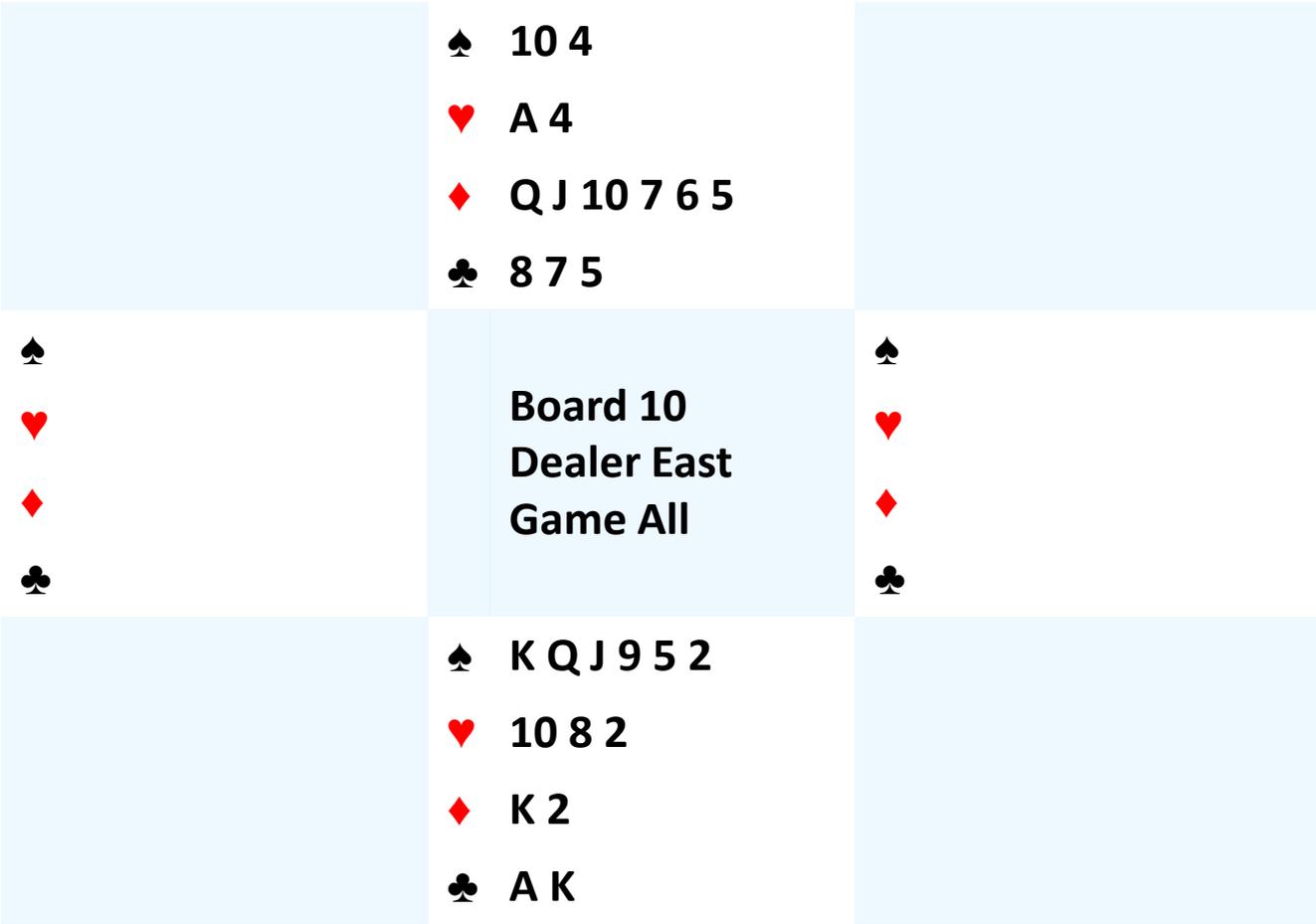
S	W	N	E
		1♣	1♠
1NT	P	3NT	P
P			

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 9♠

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

S	W	N	E
		1♣	1♠
1NT	P	3NT	P
P			

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 9♠



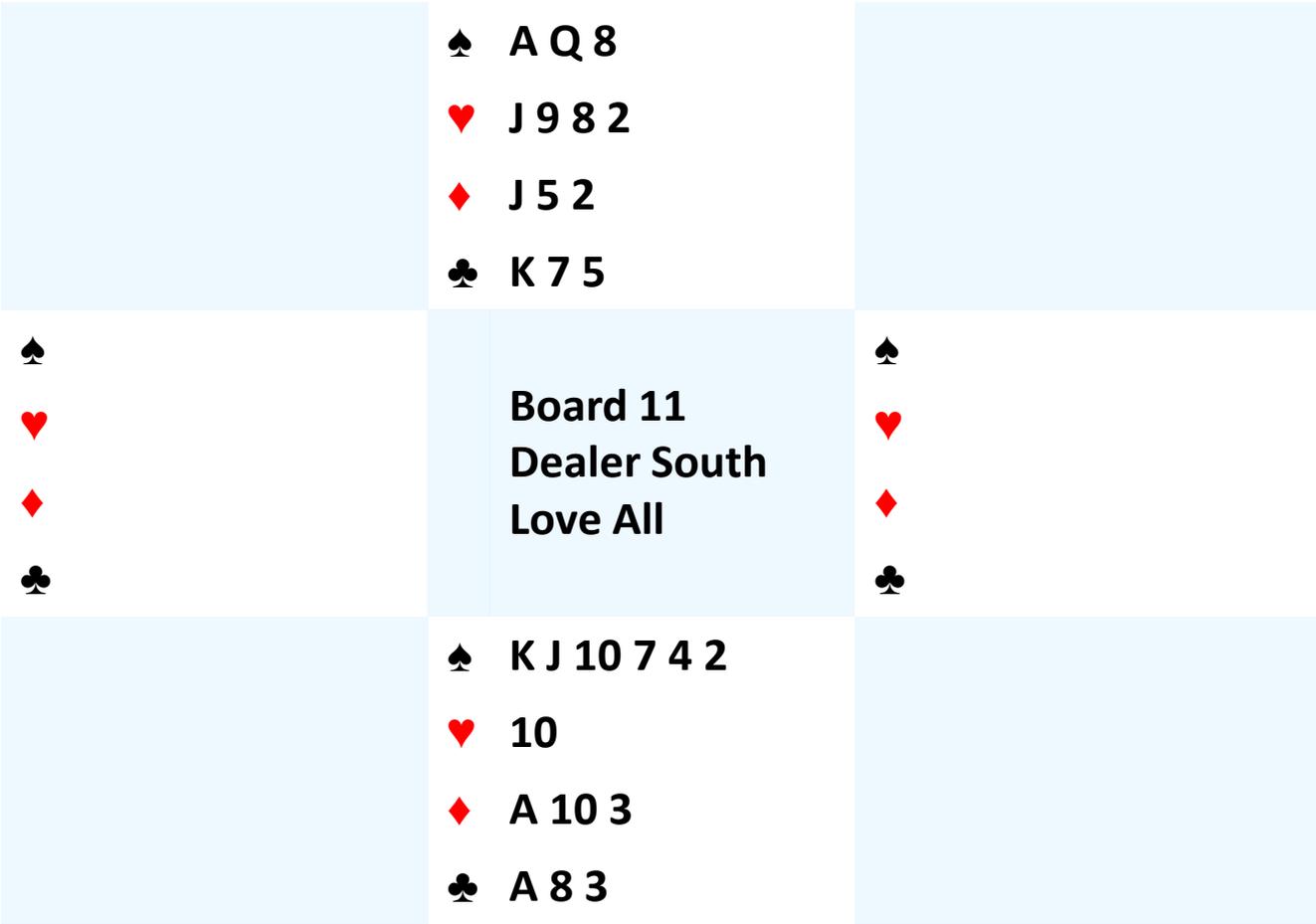
S	W	N	E
			P
1♠	P	1NT	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P			

South plays in 4♠
 West leads K♥

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

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

South plays in 4♠
 West leads K♥



S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♣	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P			

South plays in 4♠
West leads 3♠

	♠ A Q 8 ♥ J 9 8 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ K 7 5	
♠ 9 3 ♥ A Q 4 3 ♦ K 8 7 4 ♣ J 6 4	Board 11 Dealer South Love All	♠ 6 5 ♥ K 7 6 5 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ Q 10 9 2
	♠ K J 10 7 4 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ A 8 3	

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♣	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P			

South plays in 4♠
West leads 3♠

♠ J 9 5
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ 8 4 2
 ♣ 9 7 5 4

♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

Board 12
 Dealer West
 NS Vul

♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

♠ K 10 4
 ♥ A 9 6 5
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ A K 2

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

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 3♠

	♠ J 9 5 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ 9 7 5 4	
♠ Q 8 7 3 2 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ Q 10	Board 12 Dealer West NS Vul	♠ A 6 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ J 9 5 3 ♣ J 8 6 3
	♠ K 10 4 ♥ A 9 6 5 ♦ A K 7 ♣ A K 2	

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

South plays in 3NT
 West leads 3♠

Summary

- 1 Count Tricks**
- 2 Check Losers**
- 3 Check Entries**
- 4 Identify any Problem**
- 5 Apply Solution**
- 6 Make your Contract**