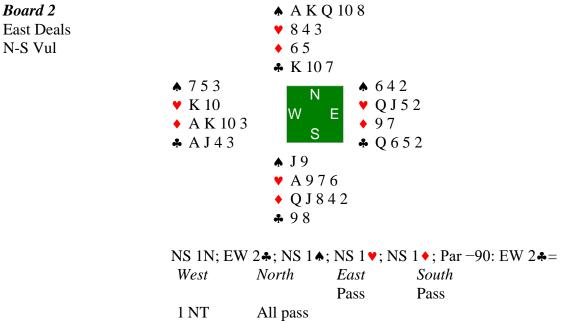
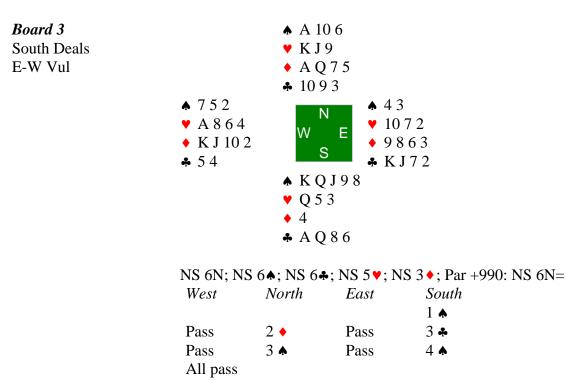


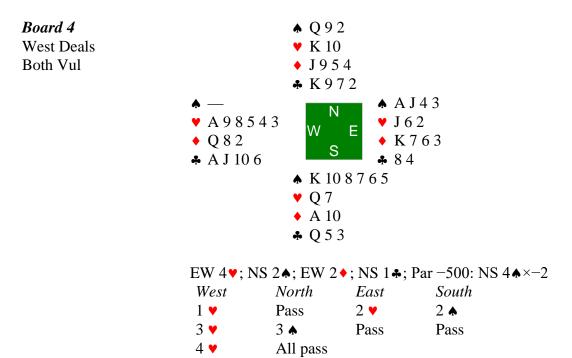
North might get a little bit aggressive on the auction holding a shapely 7-5 hand but all roads will likely lead to 4 or $5 \spadesuit$. If a heart is not led there is thirteen tricks for E/W.



North will likely pass 1 NT despite the good spades it will not be enough to compensate for the balance shape and being vulnerable. The defense should be able to collect 7 tricks, five spades ,one heart and one club.



With 14 HCP North will make 2/1 game forcing bid. After South shows a club suit North will confirm 3 card spade support with 3 \(\blacktriangle \). Some partnership might have continuations on how to explore for a potential slam but lacking those agreements, South without enough extras will settle for 4 \(\blacktriangle \). The contract should take 12 tricks with both club honors onside and plenty of entries to dummy. Declarer should be mindful to let the \(\blacktriangle \)T ride one the first round in the clubs suit playing a club to the queen only gains if West has the stiff jack of clubs.

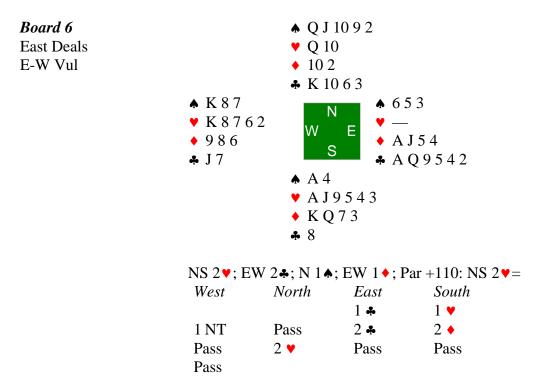


One of the good tenets to follow in bridge is to support with support. East should not overthink on their first bid and simply raise hearts instead of looking for a 4-4 spade fit. Yes it is correct 4-4 fits play better than a 5-3 fits, however in bridge you can not communicate everything and sometimes you need to prioritize your message. East has a one bid hand and should show West heart support. Note with game-forcing hands East should feel free to explore a better fit. After E/W establish the heart fit they will likely get pushed into 4 v which should have no problem taking ten tricks with the friendly heart break. Some N/S might be tempted to sacrifice in 4 v which will go down 2 or 3 tricks.

Board 5 **▲** J4 North Deals **♥** KQ842 N-S Vul **♦** Q 9 **4** 10 9 8 2 **♠** AQ62 **★** K 10 7 5 **v** 753 **♥** AJ6 W **♦** J 10 ♦ A K 6 S ♣ A K 7 3 **♣** J 6 5 **♦** 983 **v** 10 9 ♦ 875432 ♣ Q 4

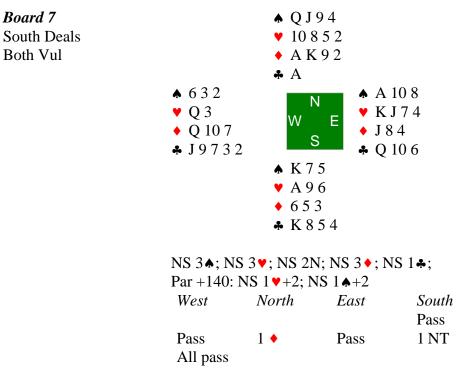
EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 4♥; EW 5♣; EW 3♦; Par −990: EW 6N=				
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1 NT	Pass	
2 🚓	Pass	2 🛦	Pass	
4 🛦	All pass			

E/W should have a routine auction to find the 4-4 major suit fit and play in game. The contract will be take a very lucky 12 tricks with everything being very well placed.

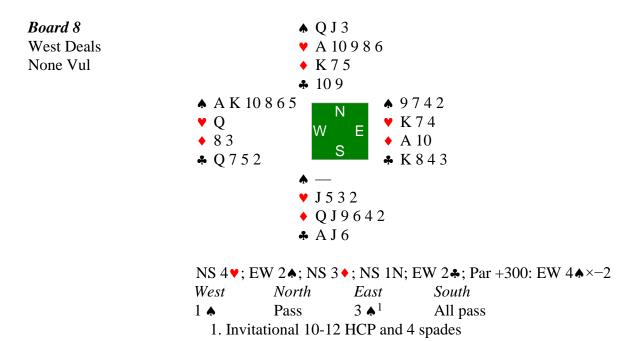


East will open the nice 11 count hand and rebid their clubs. South will mention a second suit and North will correct back to their first bid suit. With N/S having AQJT9 of hearts between the two should have no trouble handling the 5-0 break and come to at least 8 tricks and some declarers will collect a 9th.

Note East should not bid $2 \bullet$ at their second turn as they would be a reverse showing 17+ points and will have to settle for a measly $2 \bullet$.

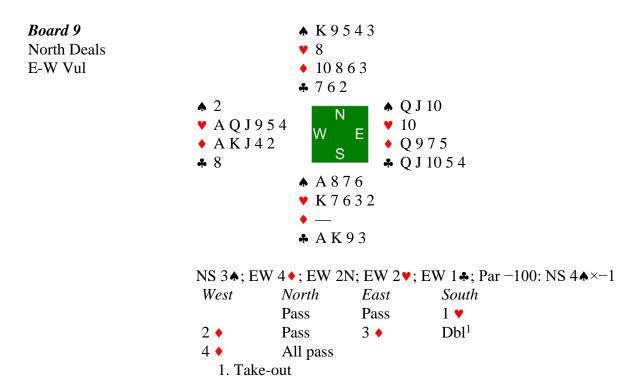


Despite having 24 HCP N/S will stop in 1 NT and not even explore slam. Note North should not raise 1 NT to 2 NT as this will show 18-19 balance. With double stoppers in suit South shall be able to set up the spade suit and come to at least 8 tricks while some declarers might be lucky and also set up the diamond suit and collect 9 tricks.

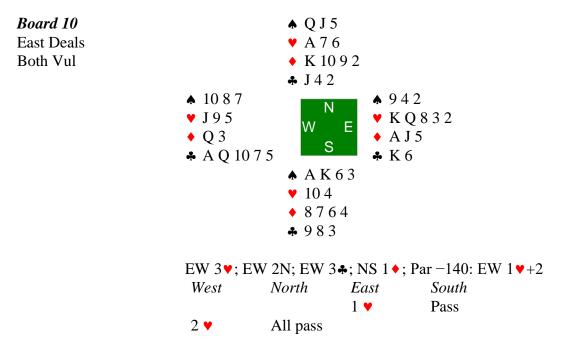


This is hand will a wide variety of contracts, with anything ranging from pass-out to $5 \vee \text{ or } 5 \wedge \text{.}$ The West hand is in between an opener and a weak 2. Some Wests will choose to solve this dilemma by passing and will be disappointed when the auction proceeds to get passed out! Other will preempt and might buy the contract in $3 \wedge \text{ or might find themselves playing in } 4 \wedge \text{.}$ Finally some might open $1 \wedge \text{ and might compete with the N/S on who gets to play the hand.}$

Any spade contract will have at least four losers, there is five double dummy while those in hearts have only three losers.

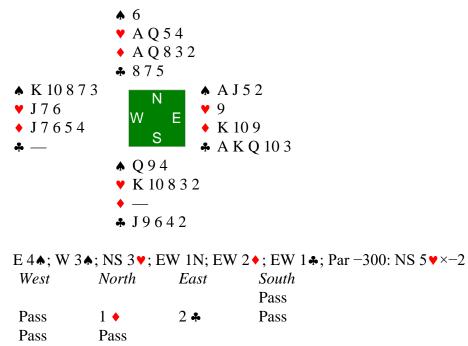


West will be surprise that South starts with $1 \checkmark$ and will be reduced to overcalling $2 \checkmark$. South will likely take advantage of the favorable vulnerability and the prime cards to make a take-out double on their second bid. Generally South should be a little stronger to make this double but it pays to be aggressive at matchpoints. West will likely compete to $4 \checkmark$ but some might choose to pass and let N/S play in spades. In a diamond contract E/W should be ok claiming 10 tricks on a cross-ruff line while in spades N/S will come to 9 tricks also on a cross-ruff line.



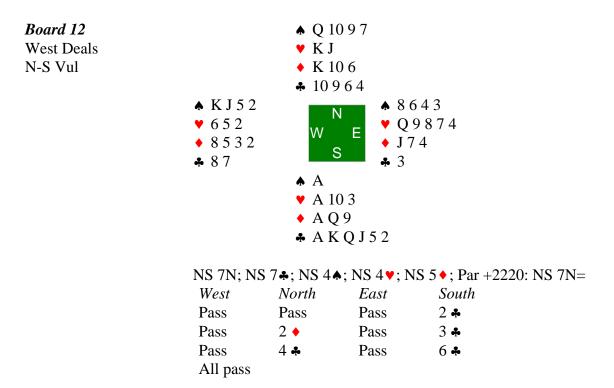
E/W should have a mundane auction to $2 \checkmark$. Play on this hand should go pretty quick as N/S will take the first three spade tricks before collecting their ace of hearts.





Both sides will struggle to find their major suits fits, as South& West will likely not have enough points to make a bid. East will have to chose between doubling without heart support, overcalling 1 NT with a singleton heart, or bidding 2 & which might miss a spade fit. Those that double and overcall 1 NT will find a nice spade fit which will take ten trick. Those that overcall 2 & with AKQTx will be rewarded by playing in 5-0 fit.

While south might be tempted to make a negative double of $2 \clubsuit$, having a void in partners suit will strongly discourage this. Also making a negative double at 2-level you would like to have 8 points while South holds only 5 HCP + the dubious jack of clubs.



South will pick up the best hand they have seen in a while and start with $2 \clubsuit$. North will bid a waiting $2 \spadesuit$. Most partnerships will prefer to 3 of minor by the $2 \clubsuit$ opener as game forcing as it will solves a lot of problems. North will have an easy raise to show a club fit. Those that have in depth tools for keycard(asking for kings) might find the grand but most will settle for the small slam. South might take the risk and try to matchpoint the contract by bidding 6 NT.

Board 13 **★** KQ97 North Deals **y** 3 Both Vul ♦ J 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ A 6 **▲** 10 4 3 2 **▲** J85 QJ82 **v** 10965 **•** 6 • A K 7 S ♣ J 10 8 2 **♣** K 9 5 **♦** A 6 ♥ A K 7 4 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ Q743 NS 3N; NS 5♦; N 3♠; S 2♠; NS 2♣; NS 1♥; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

Everything in bridge is always done in context. South will be reluctant to overcall 1 NT looking at just Qxxx in clubs. North will balance with 1 ◆ and South will cuebid 2 ♣ showing a limit raise or better in diamonds. South 2 NT here will show a club stopper and a hand that was just below overcalling 1 NT. In the context of the auction North holds an absolute maximum and will be able to raise 2 NT to 3 NT which will take nine tricks.

East

1 &

Pass

Pass

All pass

South

Pass

2 🚓

2NT

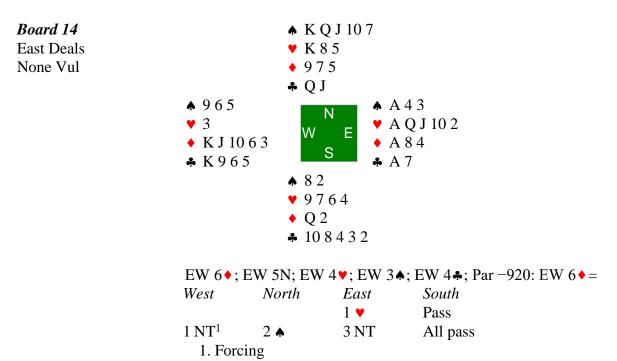
North

Pass

1 •

2 •

3 NT

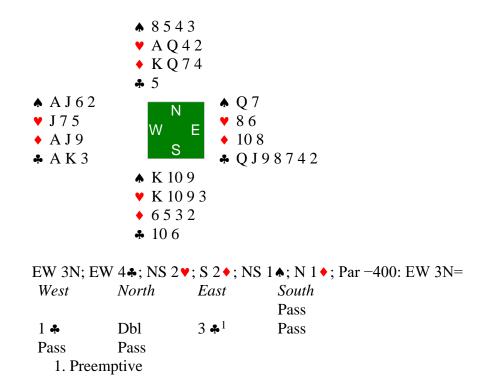


After a forcing 1 NT most partnerships will not have a distinction between opener raising to 2 NT and 3 NT. Most will have the informal agreement that 2 NT shows 18-19 that can be passed while 3 NT is a solid 18-19 which insist on game. East has a 19 HCP with a solid 5 card suit and will have no problem raising partner to 3 NT, indeed some might directly open this hand 2 NT.

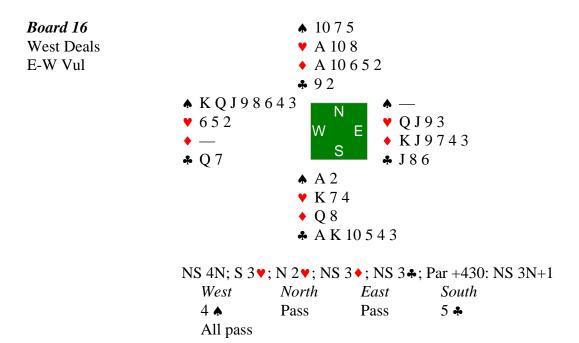
Raising to 3 NT East shows a spade stopper while if they did not have a spade stopper they make forcing cuebid of 3 \(\blacktriangle \) asking for a stopper. Also note that if East was to rebid 2 NT after the 2 \(\blacktriangle \) overcall this would still show 18-19 balance.

Declarer will take 9-11 tricks depending on the diamond guess.





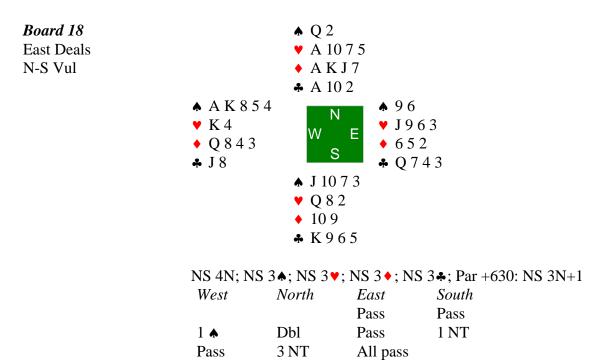
West will pick up a nice 18 count and start with 1 . North will have no trouble make a routine takeout double. Depending on the partnerships method East will either preempt in clubs and make a simple raise. Those that make a simple raise might find themselves in game while those that preempt will play in clubs. West despite having 18 HCP will be reluctant to drive to game with 4-3-3-3 shape and 3 little hearts, the 6th and 7th card in the club is a valuable source of tricks that let 3 NT make.



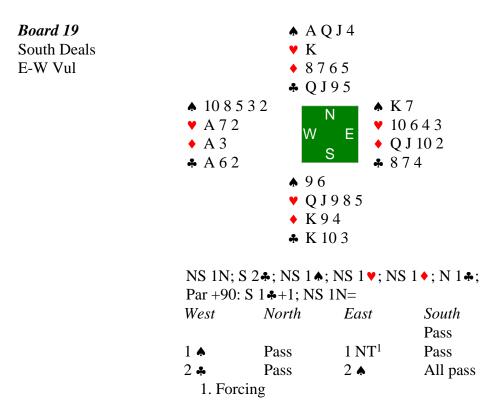
West with a nice 8 card spade suit will make a normal 4-level preempt although some might downgrade to 3 ♠. South will face a tough decision but will likely take the plunge and bid 5 ♣. Although there is a small chance that East/West get a cross ruff going on defense I suspect the defense will collect just 3 tricks. Those that choose to defend 4 ♠ will find themselves collecting a nice +200 at matchpoints or potentially more.

Board 17 **▲** K 10 8 3 2 North Deals ♥ J9762 None Vul ♣ J64 **↑** 76 **A** A Q J ♥ Q 10 A 8 4 3 W ◆ A 8 7 2 ◆ J963 ♣ A K 9 8 7 ♣ Q 3 **♦** 954 **♥** K 5 ♦ KQ1054 **♣** 10 5 2 EW 5N; W 5♦; W 5♣; W 3♥; E 4♦; EW 2♠; E 2♥; Par -460: EW 3N+2 West North East SouthPass 1 • Pass $2 \checkmark^2$ 2 **♣**¹ Pass Pass **3** ♦ Pass 3 NT All pass 1. Game Forcing 2. Not a Reverse

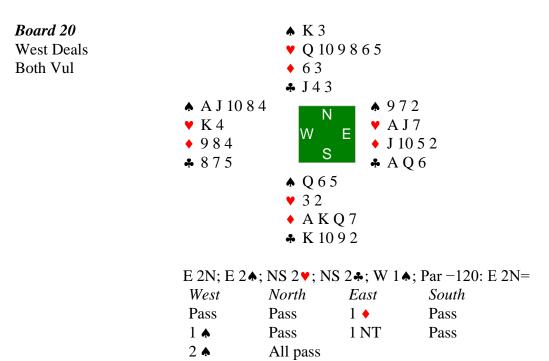
South should probably settle for leading the unbid suit on this auction. E/W will still collect 11 tricks with clubs breaking.



South bidding 1 NT not only shows a spade stopper but also guarantees values, 6-11 points. If South had a spade stopper but less than 6 points they would have to bid find another bid besides 1 NT. The reason for 1 NT guarantee values so if North was doubling with a strong hand that are free to raise South to game as is the case on this hand. With West marked for most of the outstanding HCP South should be able to collect 10 tricks.

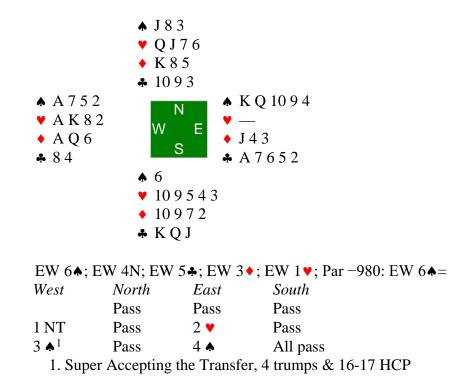


East will correct 2 & into the known 7 card fit by rebidding 2 . Those that do not play a forcing notrump will play the contract in 1 NT. 1 NT will probably come to 6 tricks after the spade ace shows up onside. Those that play in 2 & will collect between 5-7 tricks with most getting 6.



Norths which preempt $2 \checkmark$ will likely buy the contract there and make their contract. If North chooses to pass will have a simple auction to reach $2 \spadesuit$. Most players with a 5 card major will rebid the suit after partner rebids 1 NT. The premise is that partner has either 2 or 3 spades, if they have 2 spades the 7 card fit will likely play better than a 1 NT contract while if they have 3 spades they will be in their 8 card fit.





East meets the rule of 20 (HCP + length of two longest suits) but it would strongly preferred if the diamond jack was in either spades or clubs. Easts that open $1 \clubsuit$ will likely find themselves in a decent slam (West will likely drive to slam opposite $1 \clubsuit$ opener). Declarer will have to be careful in the play to make sure the club suit is set up before drawing too many rounds of trumps.