

# The Elements of Squeeze Play

By Chris Dixon

## Constituents of a Squeeze

- 1 A Squeeze is a card play device in which an opponent is forced to release one of two (or more) controls enabling you to gain a trick, an entry or to avoid a loser.**
- 2 You must have at least two threats against the same opponent**
- 3 One of the threats must be accompanied by an entry – either in the same suit (a linked threat) or in the suit of the other threat**
- 4 You must have no surplus losers outside the threat suits**
- 5 The Squeeze Card (SQC) is the last winner to be cashed outside the threat suits and is the trick which causes the squeeze to take effect.**

## **What you need to be able to do**

- 1 Recognise Threats**
- 2 Visualise Ending Patterns**
- 3 Plan the play to reduce to the required ending pattern**
- 4 Cash all winners in the threat suits in advance except those needed to provide entries.**

## Simple Squeeze Requirements

- 1. Two threats against the same opponent**
- 2. At least one of the threats must be in the hand opposite the squeeze card**
- 3. There must be an entry to that threat and that entry must be in one of the threat suits**
- 4. You must have no losers left outside the threat suits**

# Threats

<b>Unlinked Threat (UT)</b>	<b>A losing card in a suit</b>	<b>K</b>	
<b>Linked Threat (LT)</b>	<b>A threat accompanied by a linked winner</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>A J</b>
<b>Doubly Linked Threat (DLT)</b>	<b>A threat accompanied by a linked winner in each hand</b>	<b>K 2</b>	<b>A 10 3</b>
<b>Split Threat (ST)</b>	<b>A linked winner opposite the threat</b>	<b>Q 2</b>	<b>A 3</b>
<b>Blocked Threat (BT)</b>	<b>An unlinked winner opposite the threat</b>	<b>Q 2</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Extended Threat (XT)</b>	<b>Any of the above with an additional unlinked winner accompanying the threat</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>A K J</b>
<b>Invisible Threat</b>	<b>Threats against entries or losers</b>		

## The UNLINKED THREAT

- 1 An unlinked threat is a card of losing rank in which one opponent holds all cards higher in that suit.**
- 2 You do not have a winner either accompanying the threat or in the hand opposite.**
- 3 It is often necessary to play off surplus winners or losers in the threat suit to isolate the threat against a single opponent.**
- 4 The simplest example is a King against the opponent holding the Ace**

# The LINKED THREAT

- 1 A linked threat is a threat accompanied by a winner with a link card opposite to provide an entry.**
- 2 A threat must be linked when it is opposite the squeeze card and the other threat is an unlinked threat**
- 3 Simplest example is AQ opposite a singleton against an opponent holding a guarded King.**

## The DOUBLY LINKED THREAT

- 1 A doubly linked threat is a threat accompanied by a winner with a link card in both hands.**
- 2 This type of threat may be needed in cases in which you have an unlinked threat opposite the squeeze card.**
- 3 Simplest example is A J x opposite a K x against an opponent holding a twice guarded Queen.**

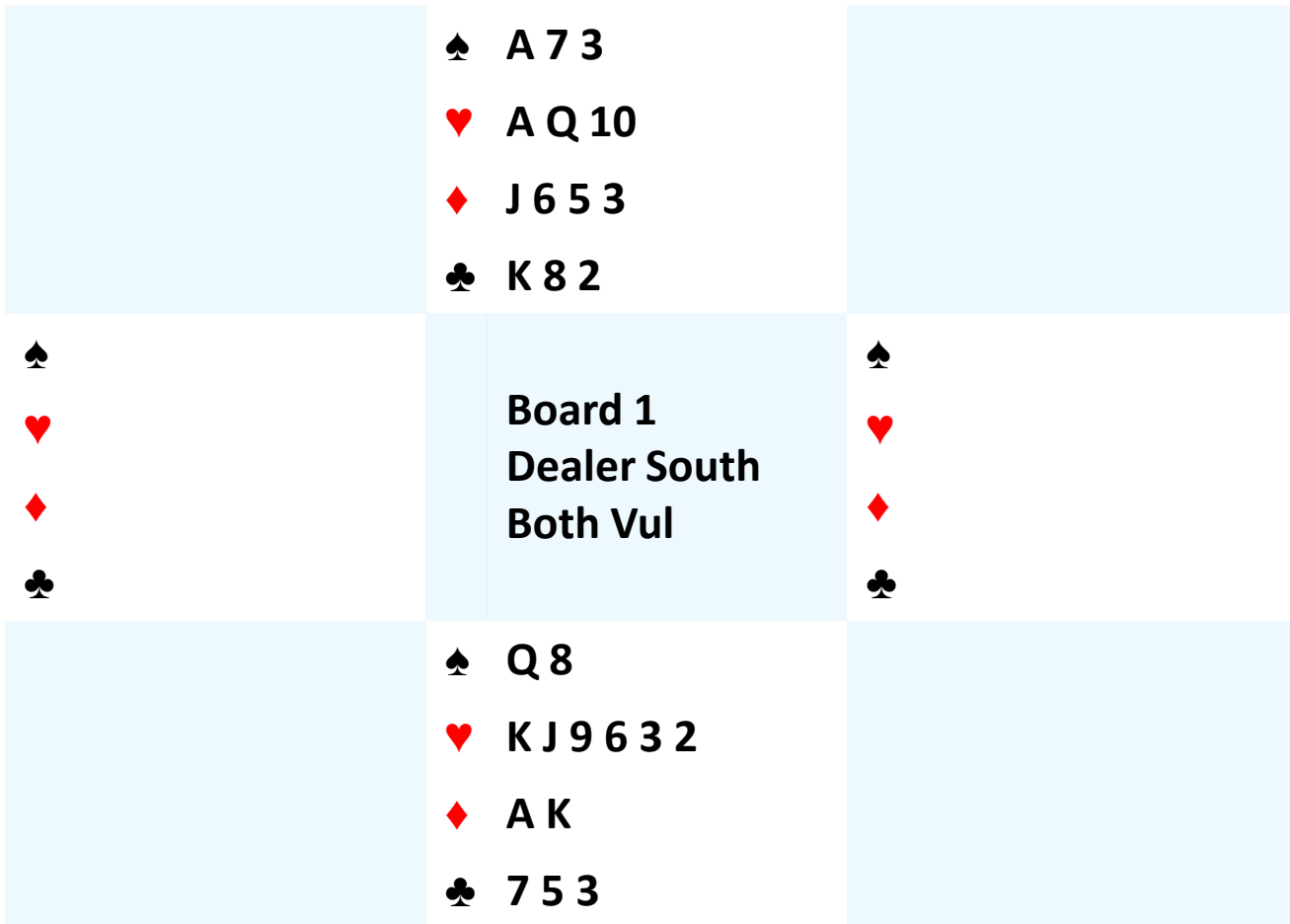


# The SPLIT THREAT

- 1 A split threat is a threat accompanied by a link to a winner in the opposite hand. The winner must be accompanied by a small card to provide the link back to the threat.**
- 2 This type of threat is needed in cases in which your other threat is an unlinked threat opposite the squeeze card and you have no doubly linked threat available**
- 2 Simplest example is A x opposite a Q x against an opponent holding a twice guarded King.**

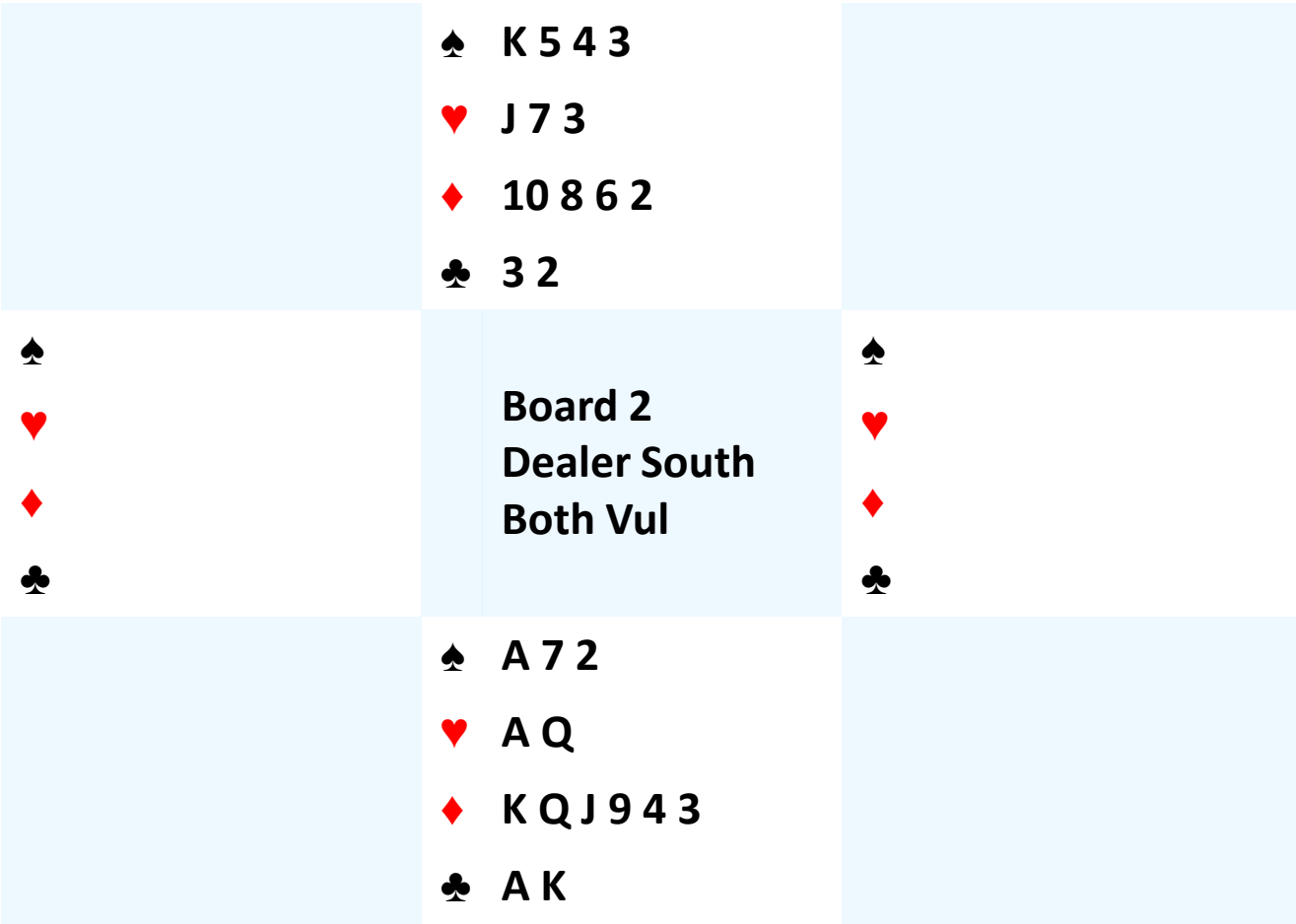
# The BLOCKED THREAT

- 1 A blocked threat is a threat accompanied by a link to a winner in the opposite hand. The winner is not accompanied by a small card.**
- 2 This type of threat is needed in cases in which your other threat is also a blocked threat in the other hand.**
- 3 Simplest example is Q x opposite a A against an opponent holding a twice guarded King.**
- 4 A squeeze with two mirrored blocked threats is called a Criss-Cross Squeeze**



S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♥  
 West leads Q♣. The defence take the first 3 club tricks and then exit with a trump.



S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥

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

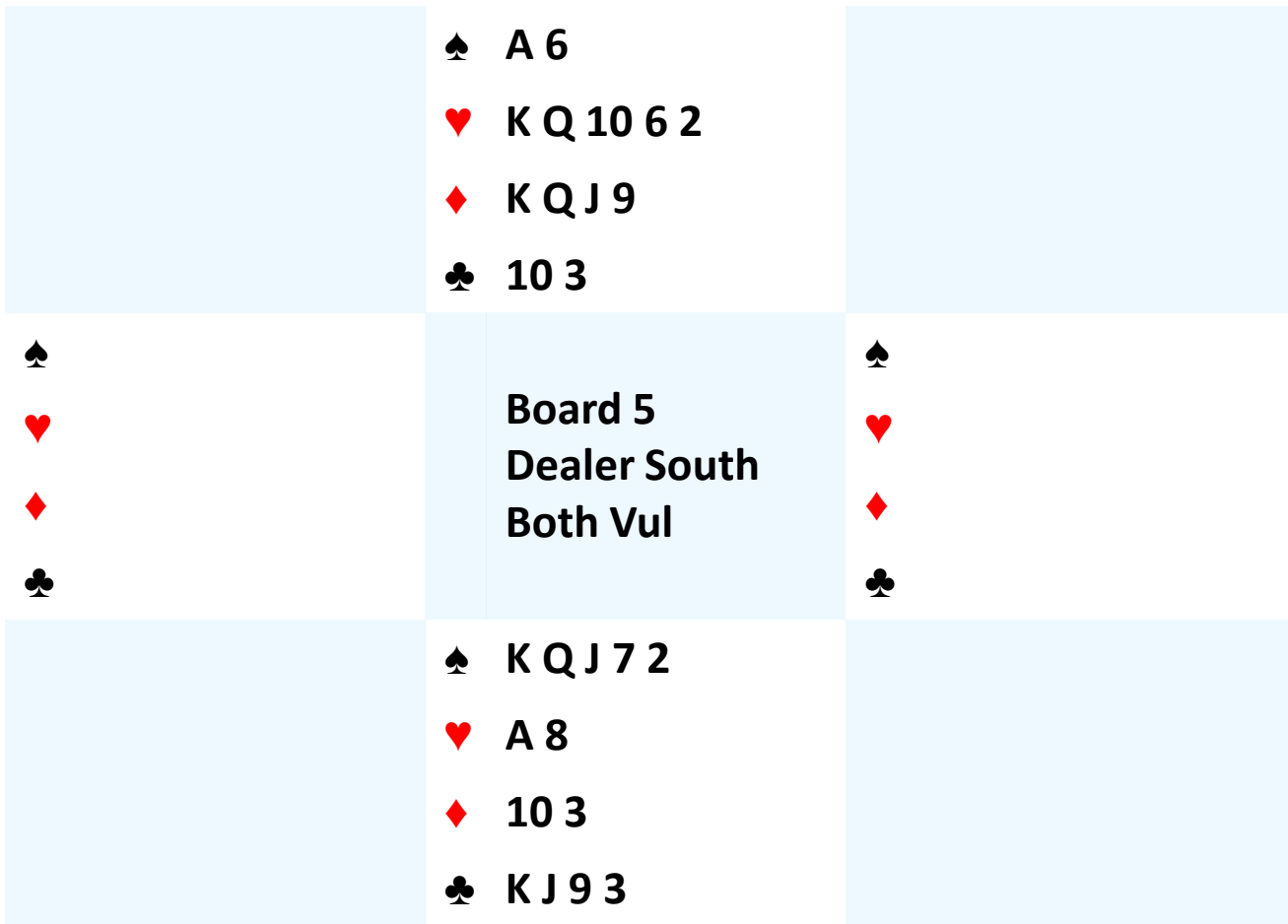
S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

South plays in 1NT  
 West leads 10♣ and the defence cash 4 club tricks. You discard a diamond from both hands and West then switches to the J♠.

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

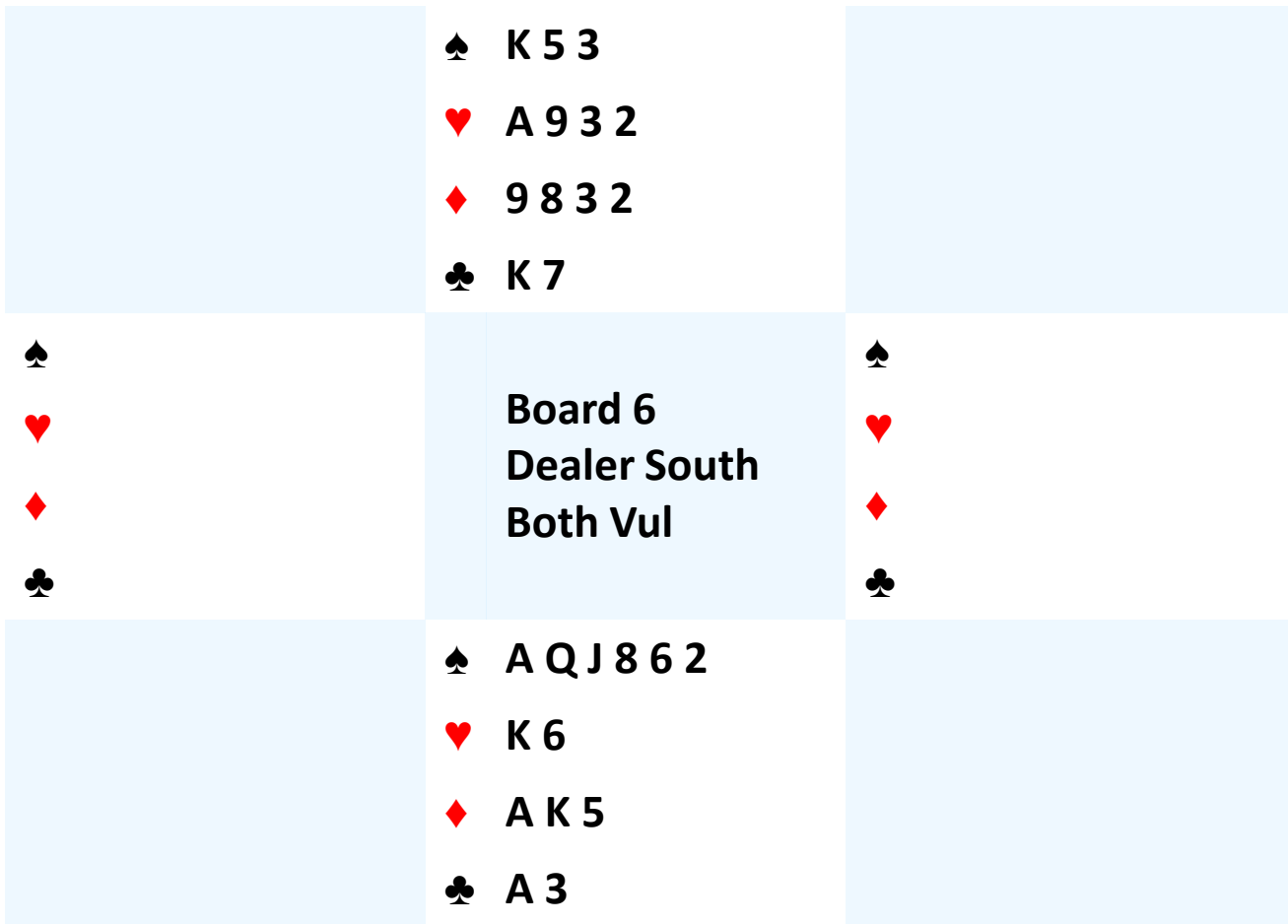
S	W	N	E
1NT	P	6NT	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads J♣ and continues with the 10♣  
 after winning the A♦



S	W	N	E
		1♥	P
1♠	P	2♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 8♦ taken by East who returns the 5♠



S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2NT	P
3♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♥	P
5NT	P	6♣	P
7♠?	P	P	P

South plays in 7♠  
West leads Q♣



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

S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2NT	P
3♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♥	P
5NT	P	6♣	P
7♠?	P	P	P

South plays in 7♠  
West leads Q♣

# Simple Squeeze Patterns

## Pattern A - AUTOMATIC

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Unlinked Threat	
Link	Linked Threat
A	2
<u>K</u>	
2	A <u>J</u>

# Simple Squeeze Patterns

## Pattern B - POSITIONAL

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
	Unlinked Threat
Link	Linked Threat
A	
2	<u>K</u>
2	A <u>J</u>

# Simple Squeeze Patterns

## Pattern C - AUTOMATIC

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
	Unlinked Threat
Doubly Linked Threat	Link + Entry
A	2
	<u>K</u>
A <u>10</u> 2	K 3

# Simple Squeeze Patterns

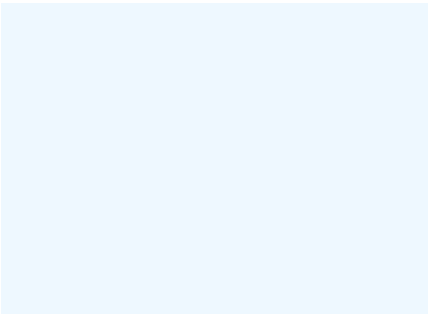
## Pattern D - POSITIONAL

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Split Threat	Link + Entry
	Unlinked Threat
A	
<u>Q</u> 2	A 3
	<u>K</u>

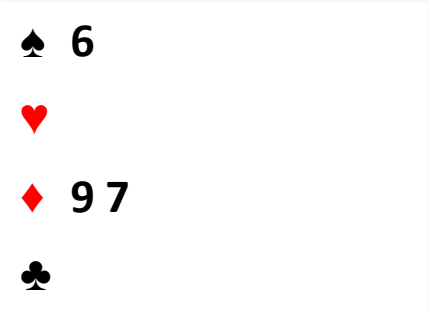
# Simple Squeeze Patterns

## Pattern E – AUTOMATIC (CRISS-CROSS)

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Blocked Threat	Entry
Entry	Blocked Threat
A	2
<u>Q 2</u>	A
3	<u>Q 2</u>



♠ A J 7



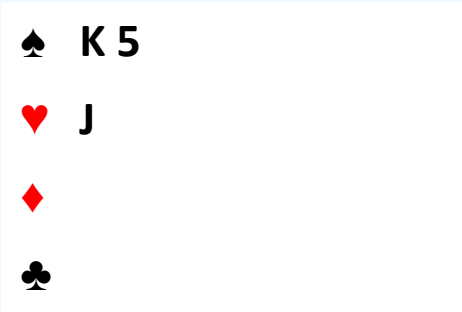
♠ 6



♦ 9 7

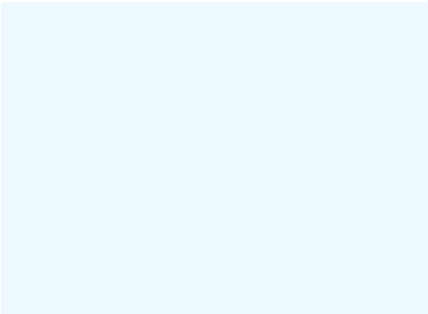


Board 7  
Dealer South  
Both Vul



♠ K 5

♥ J

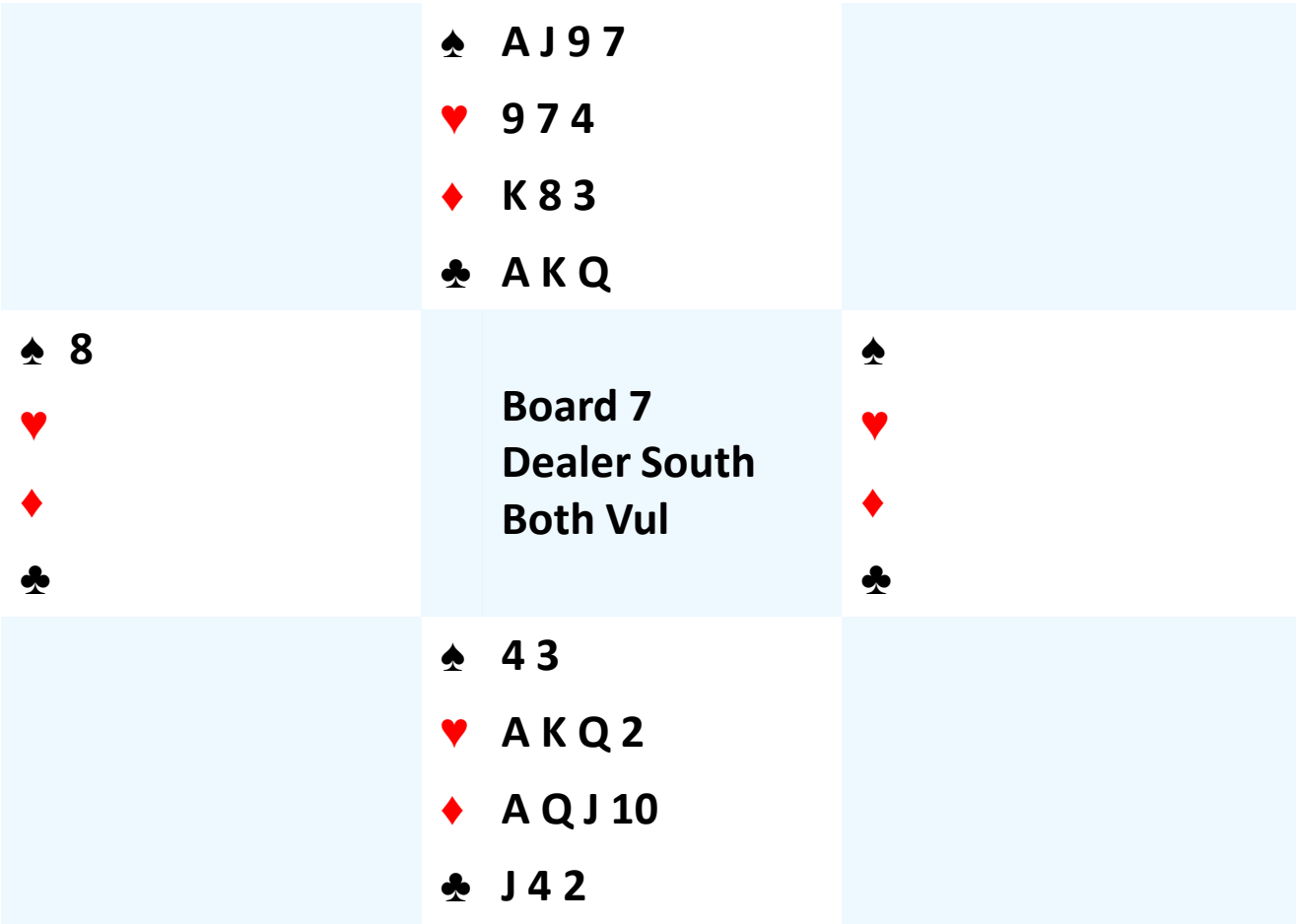


♠ 4

♥ 2

♦ J





S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	4NT	P
6NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
West leads 8♠



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

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	4NT	P
6NT	P	P	P

**South plays in 6NT**  
**West leads 8♠. East wins with the 10♠ and switches to the 4♣ taken by dummy's Q♣.**  
**You play 3 top hearts but West discards a small club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round.**

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

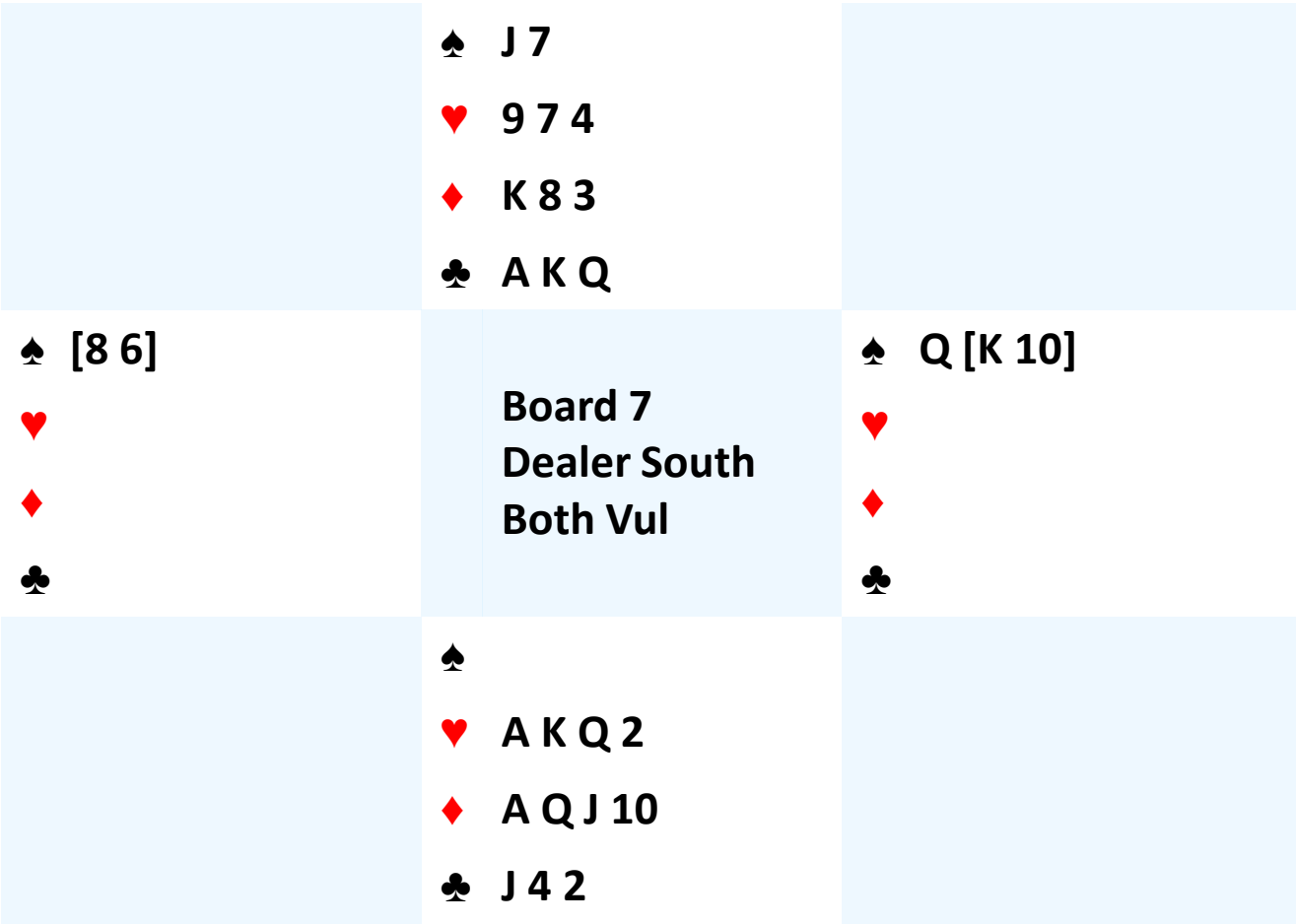
S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	4NT	P
6NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 8♠. East wins with the 10♠ and switches to the 4♣ taken by dummy's Q♣. You play 3 top hearts but West discards a small club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round.

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

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	4NT	P
6NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
West leads 8♠



S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	4NT	P
6NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 8♠

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

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♣. East wins the J♣  
 and continues with Ace and a 3<sup>rd</sup> club.  
 West cashes the 13<sup>th</sup> club and exits with the 2♥

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

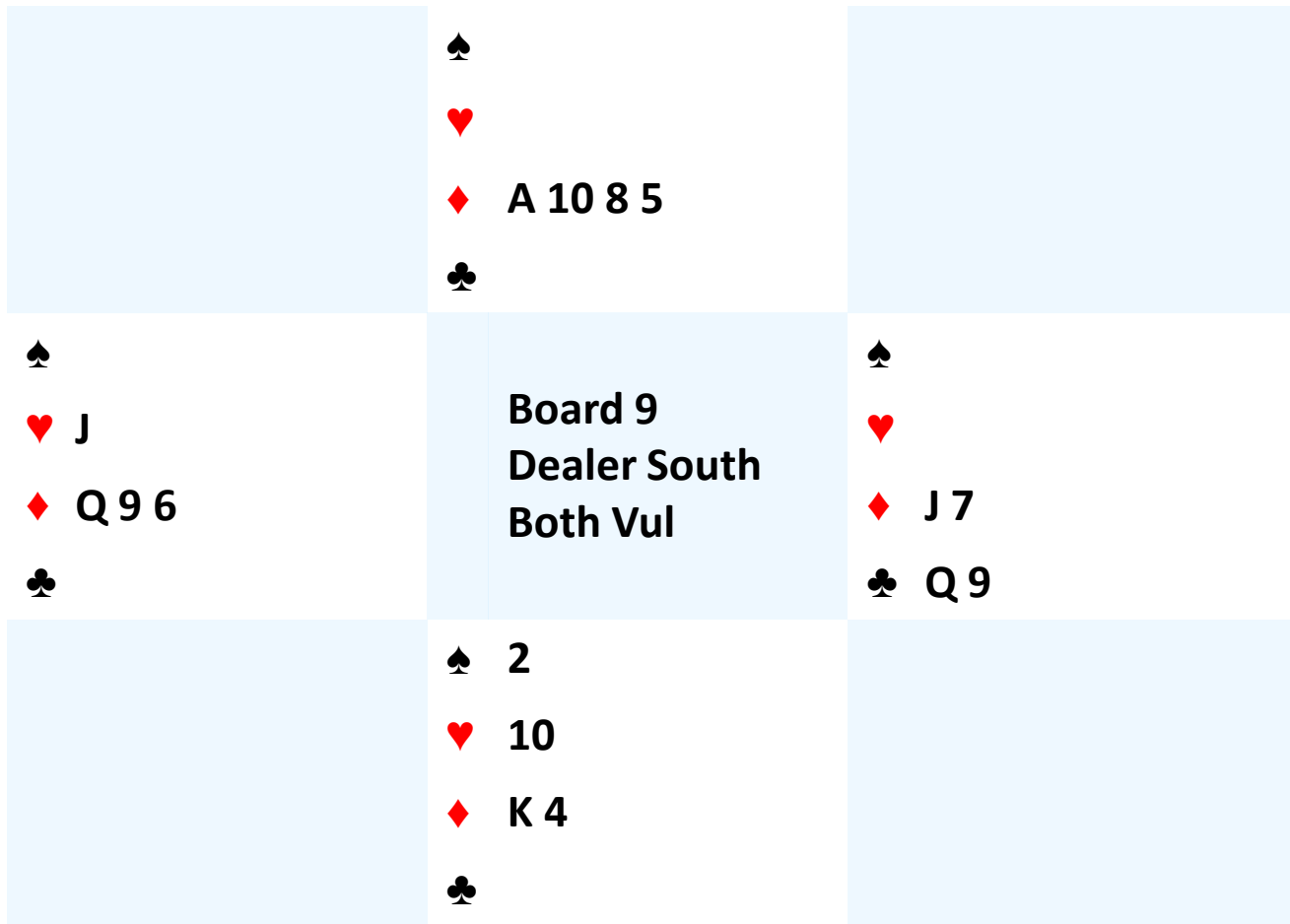
S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 3♣. East wins the J♣  
 and continues with Ace and a 3<sup>rd</sup> club.  
 West cashes the 13<sup>th</sup> club and exits with the  
 2♥

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

S	W	N	E
1♠	X	P	2♣
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads A,K♥. East ruffs the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart  
 and leads the 3♣.



S	W	N	E
1♠	X	P	2♣
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

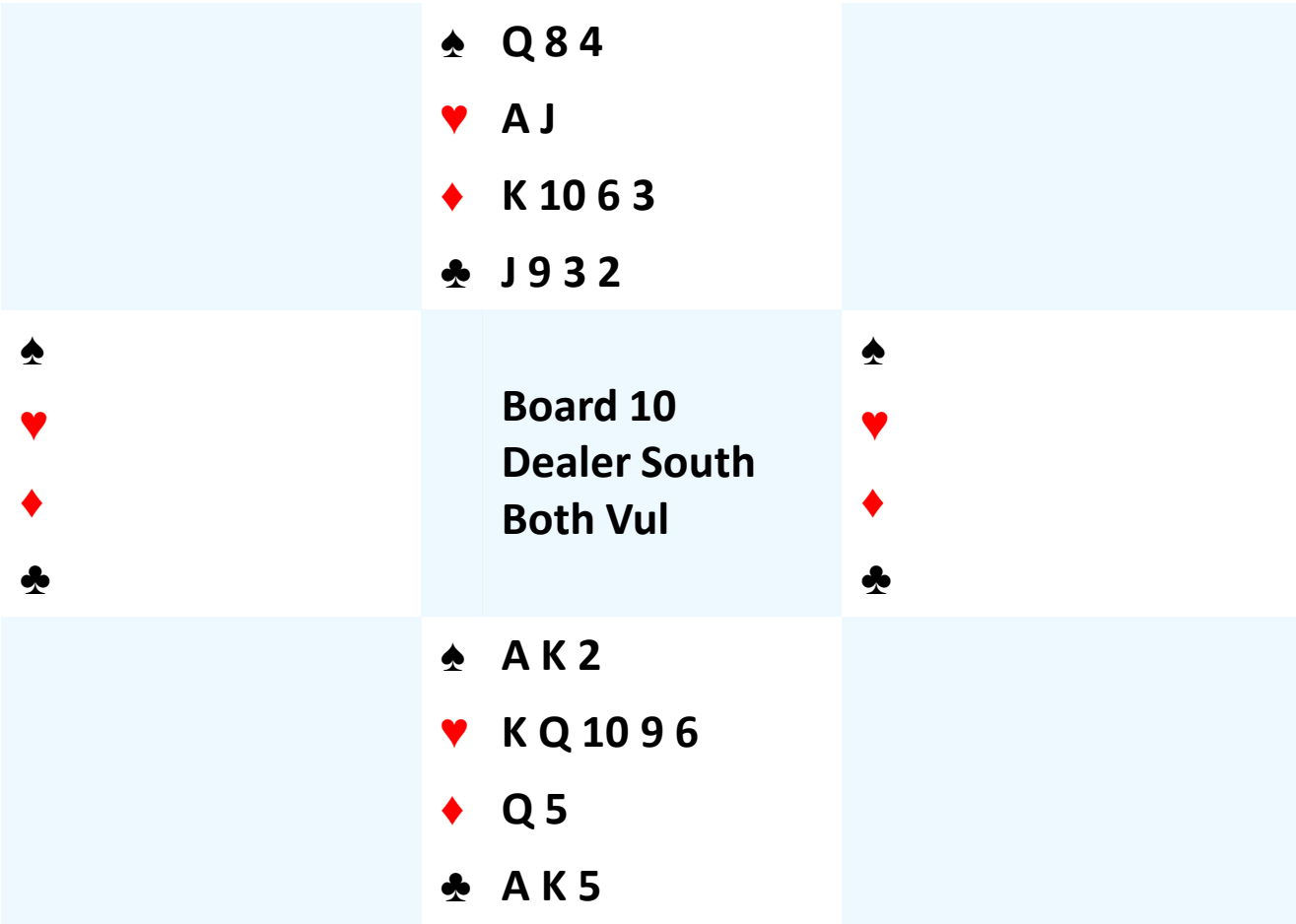
South plays in 4♠  
 West leads A,K♥. East ruffs the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart  
 and leads the 3♣.



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

S	W	N	E
1♠	X	P	2♣
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♠  
 West leads A,K♥. East ruffs the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart  
 and leads the 3♣.



S	W	N	E
2NT	P	4NT	P
6♥	P	6NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads J♠.

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

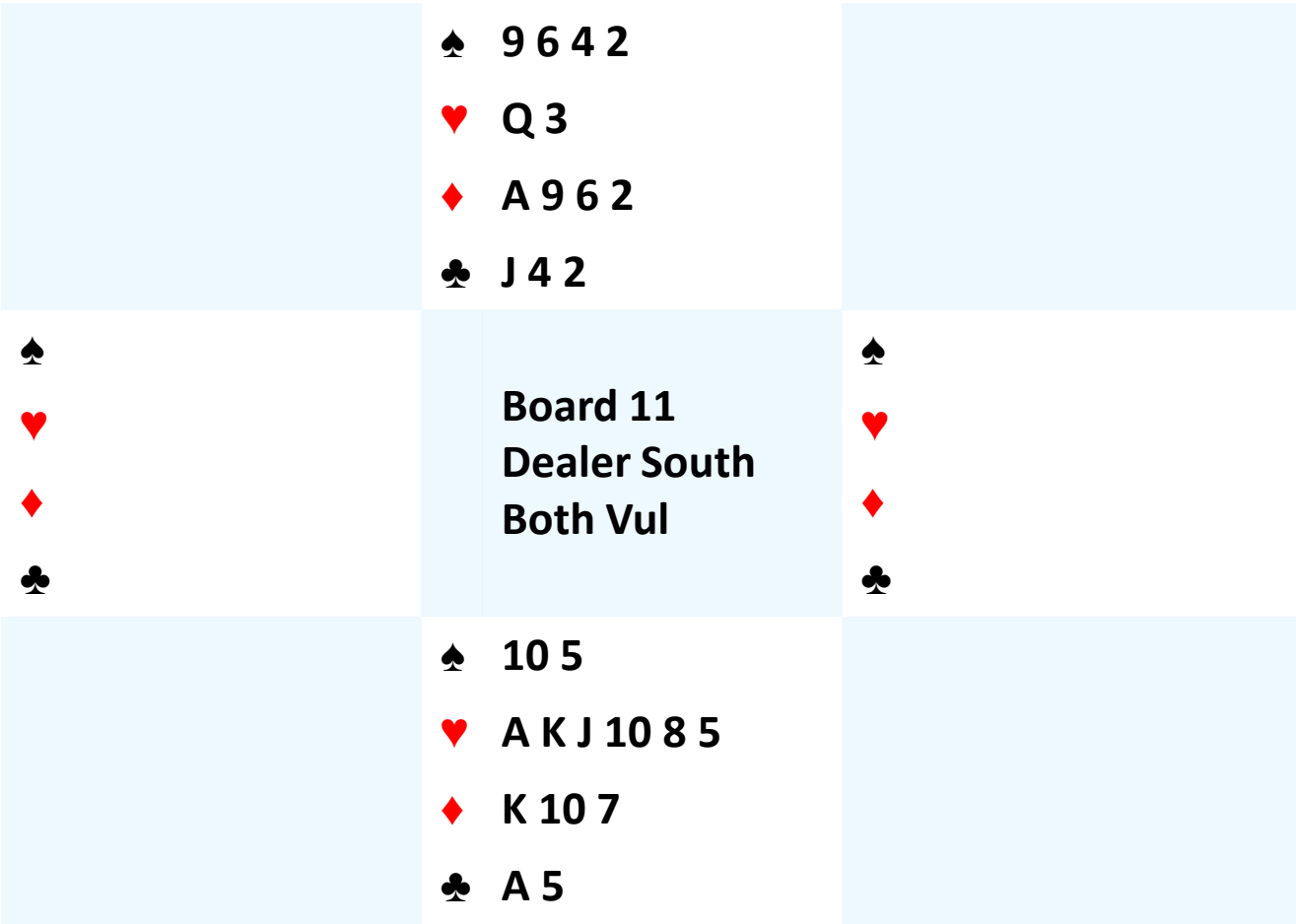
S	W	N	E
2NT	P	4NT	P
6♥	P	6NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads J♠. Win with the A, cross to A♥  
 and lead a diamond to the Q and A.

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

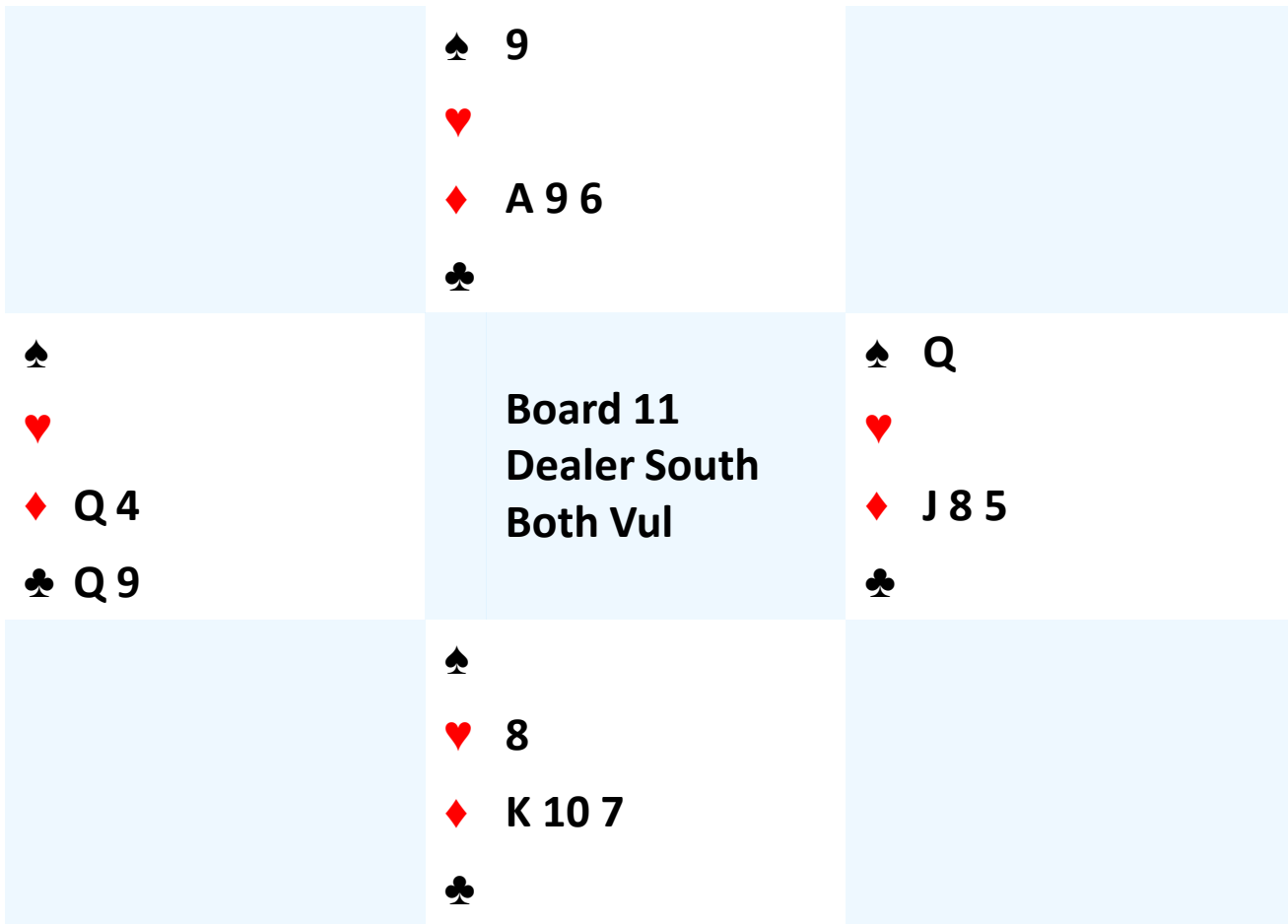
S	W	N	E
2NT	P	4NT	P
6♥	P	6NT	P
P	P		

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads J♠.



S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♥  
West leads 10♣.



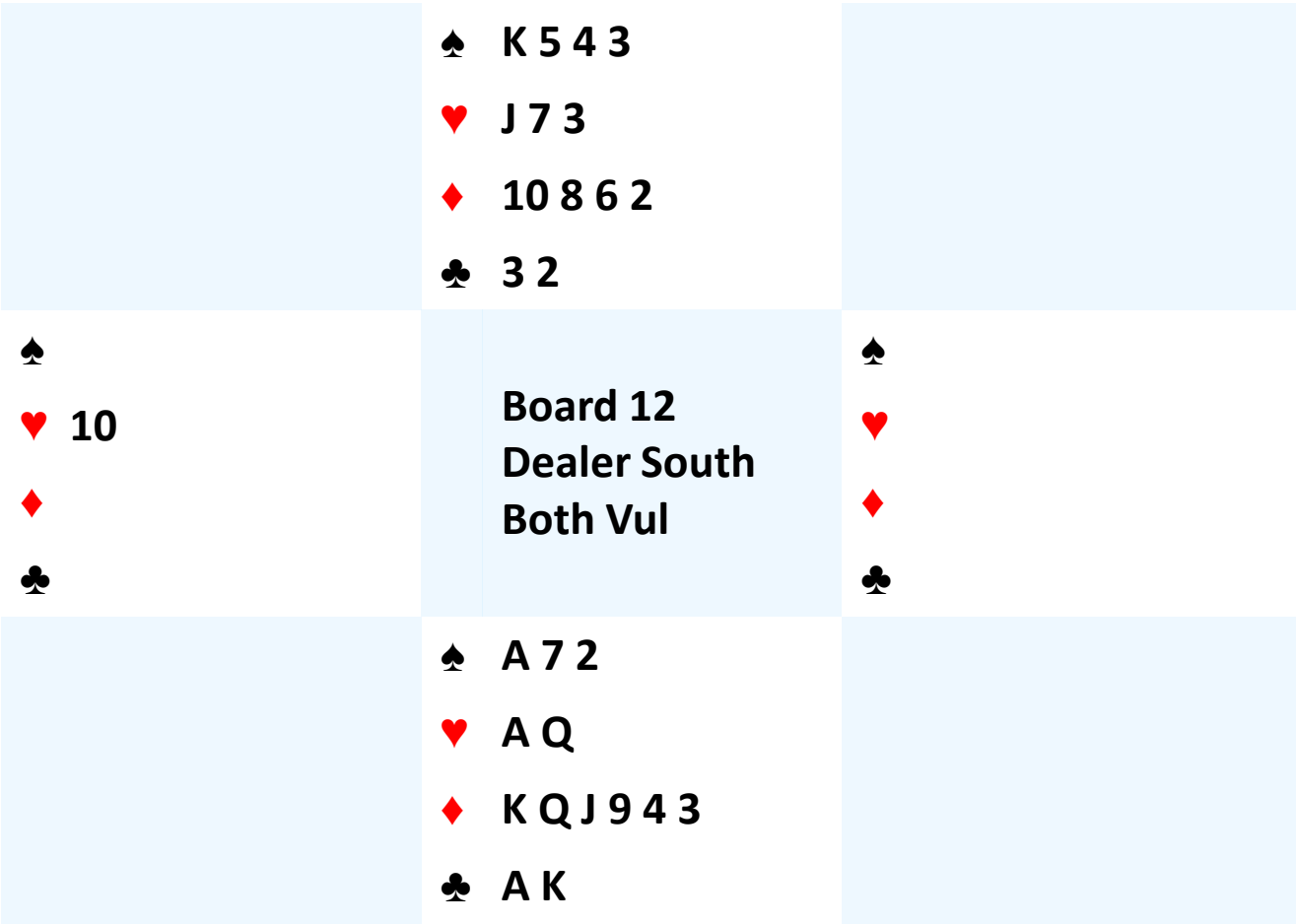
S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

South plays in 4♥  
West leads 10♣.

	<p>♠ 9 6 4 2</p> <p>♥ Q 3</p> <p>♦ A 9 6 2</p> <p>♣ J 4 2</p>	
<p>♠ A J 3</p> <p>♥ 6 4 2</p> <p>♦ Q 4</p> <p>♣ Q 10 9 6 3</p>	<p>Board 11</p> <p>Dealer South</p> <p>Both Vul</p>	<p>♠ K Q 8 7</p> <p>♥ 9 7</p> <p>♦ J 8 5 3</p> <p>♣ K 8 7</p>
	<p>♠ 10 5</p> <p>♥ A K J 10 8 5</p> <p>♦ K 10 7</p> <p>♣ A 5</p>	

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

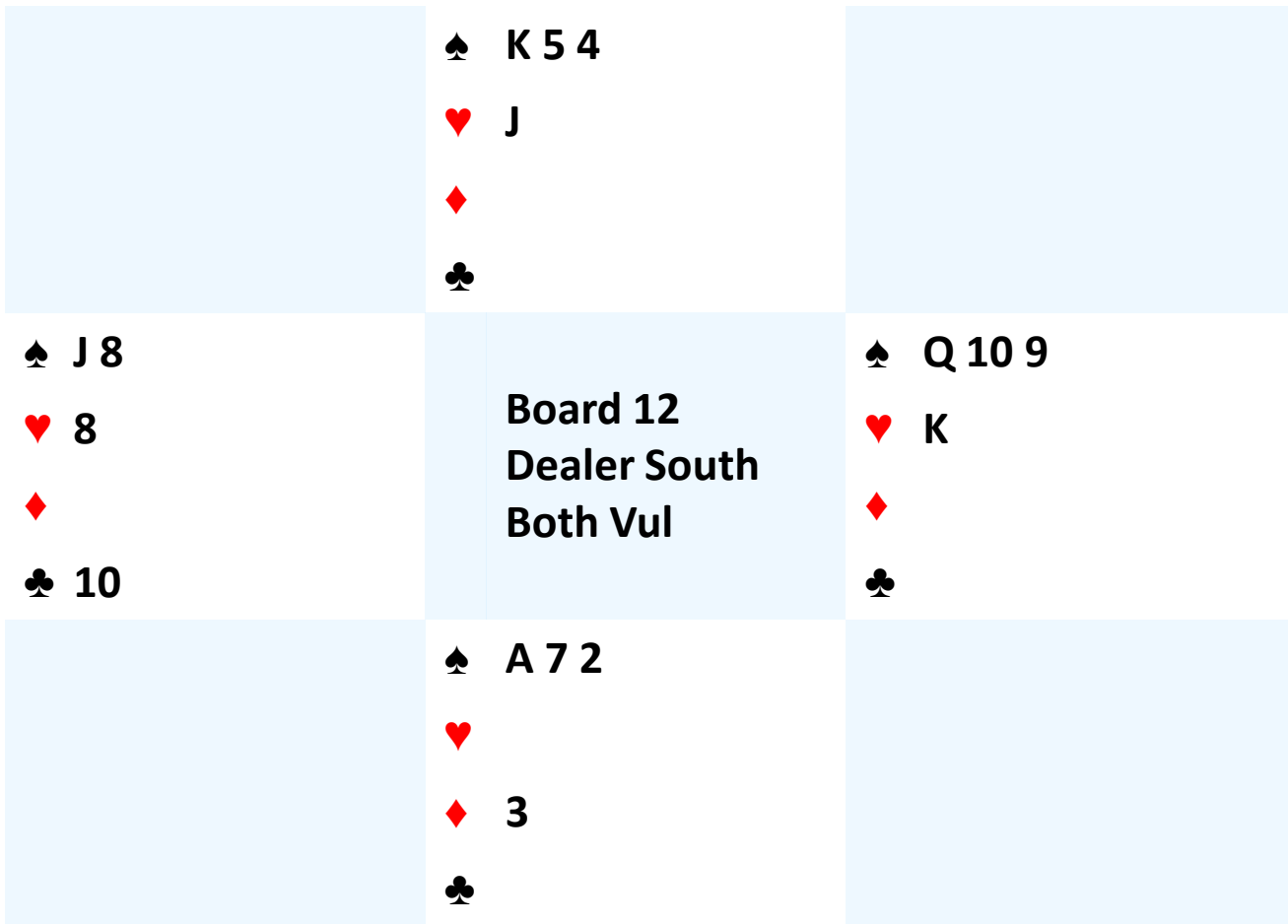
South plays in 4♥  
West leads 10♣.



S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥





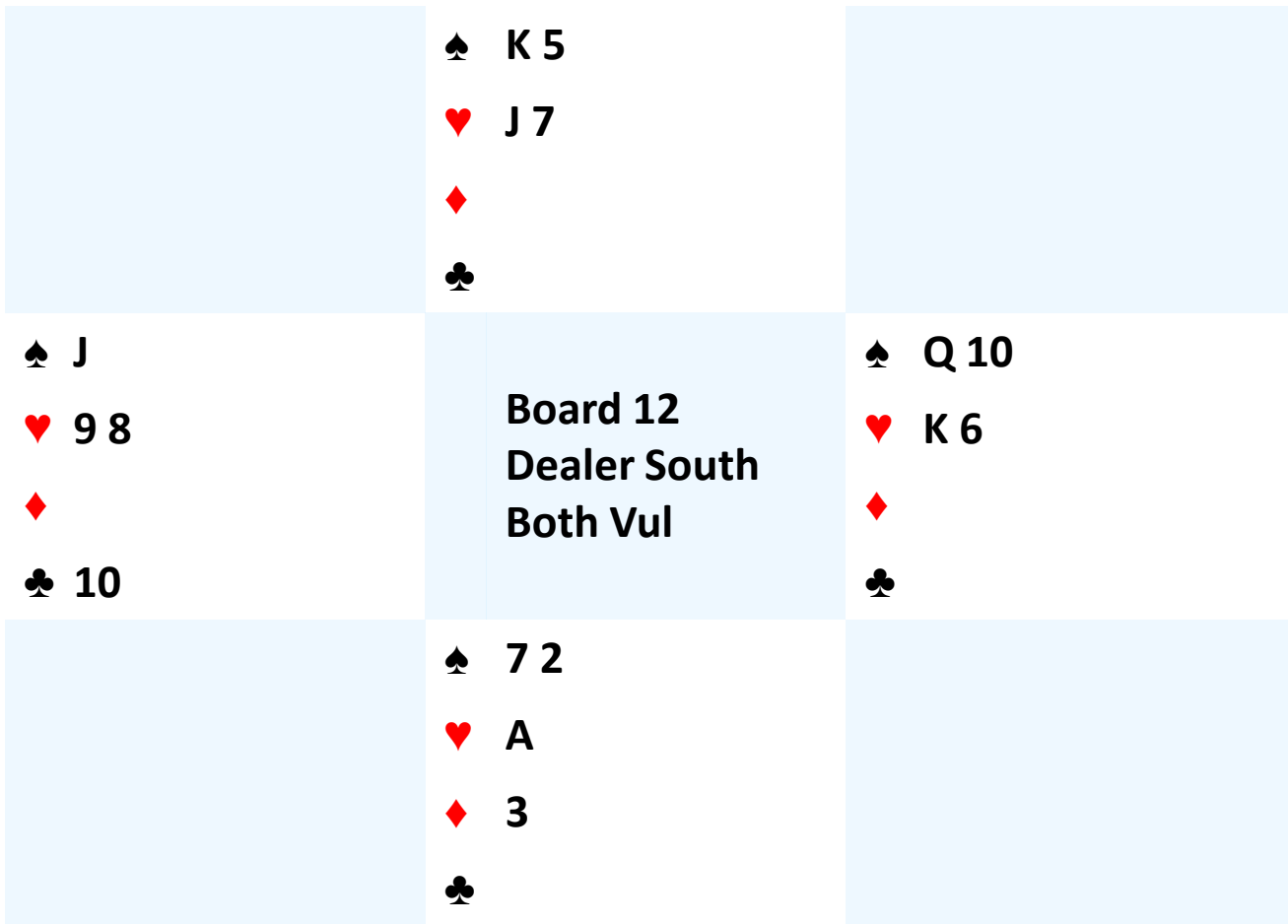
S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥

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

S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥



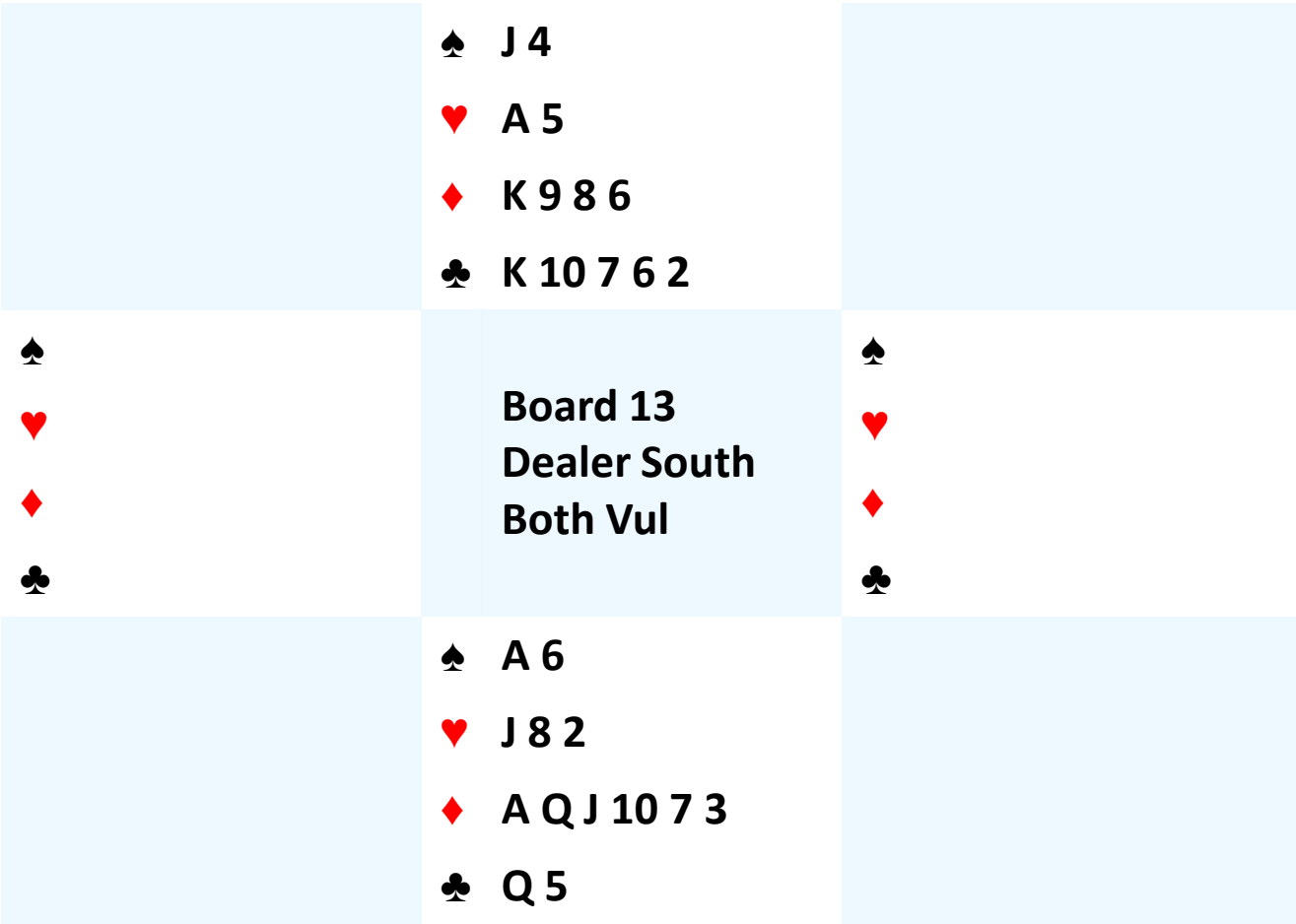
S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥

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

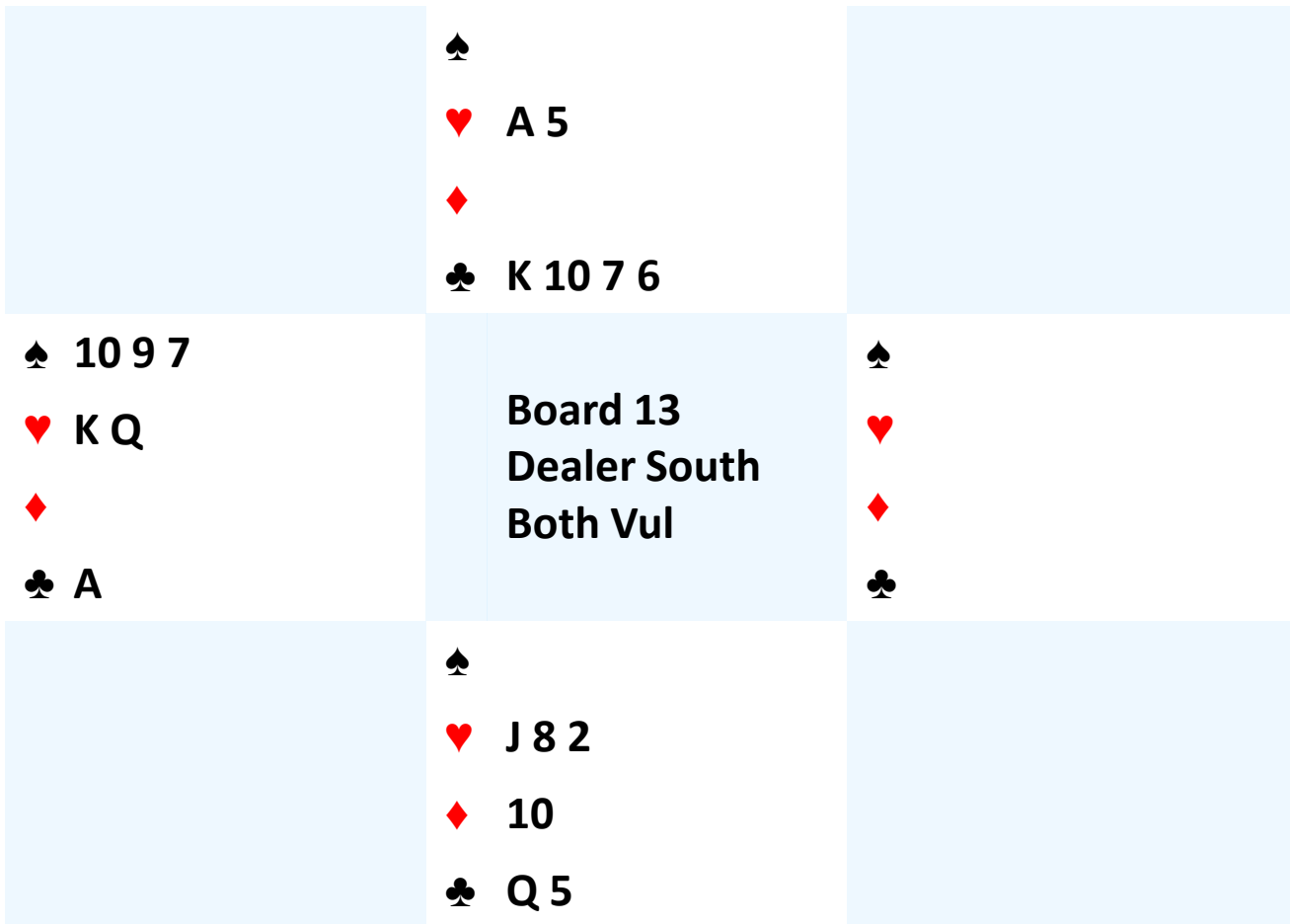
S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6NT?	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads 10♥



S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	P
3♦	P	3♠	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads K♠



S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	P
3♦	P	3♠	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
 West leads K♠. You take the second spade  
 and cash 5 rounds of diamonds.

	<p>♠ J 4</p> <p>♥ A 5</p> <p>♦ K 9 8 6</p> <p>♣ K 10 7 6 2</p>	
<p>♠ K Q 10 9 7 3</p> <p>♥ K Q 6</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣ A 8 3</p>	<p>Board 13</p> <p>Dealer South</p> <p>Both Vul</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 2</p> <p>♥ 10 9 7 4 3</p> <p>♦ 5 2</p> <p>♣ J 9 4</p>
	<p>♠ A 6</p> <p>♥ J 8 2</p> <p>♦ A Q J 10 7 3</p> <p>♣ Q 5</p>	

S	W	N	E
	1♠	P	P
3♦	P	3♠	P
3NT	P	P	P

South plays in 6NT  
West leads K♠

	♠ A 5 4 ♥ J 8 4 3 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ A 9	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	<b>Board 14</b> <b>Dealer South</b> <b>Both Vul</b>	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	♠ K 9 3 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q J 10 8 3 ♣ K 7 5	

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

South plays in 6♦  
 West leads A♥ followed by the 9♥

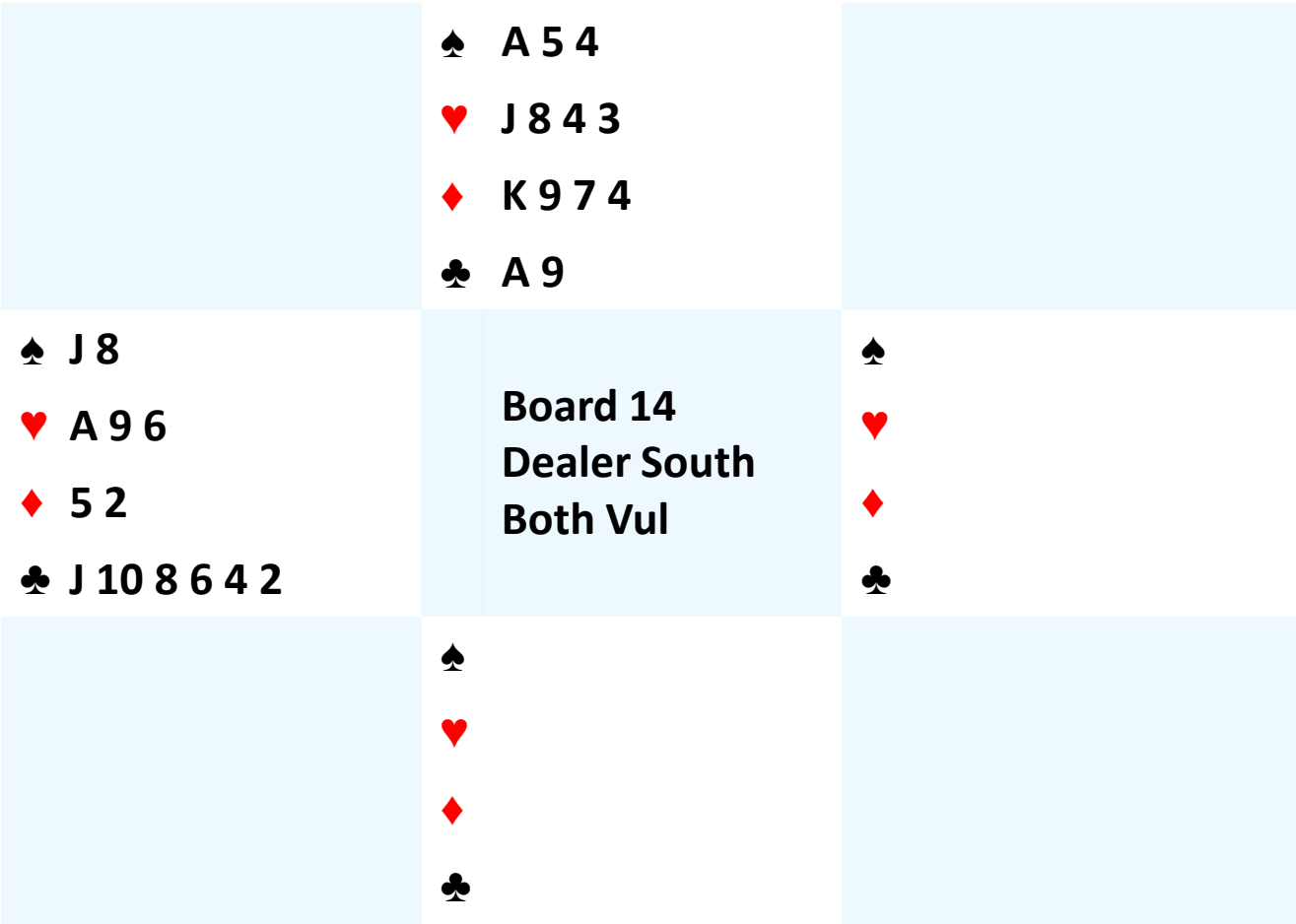
\* = Majors



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

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

South plays in 6♦  
West leads A♥



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

South plays in 6♦  
 West leads A♥

	♠ 10 9 6 3 ♥ K J 9 ♦ A K J ♣ J 7 2	
♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ Q 8 6 5 2 ♦ 7 ♣ K 9 4	<b>Board 15</b> <b>Dealer South</b> <b>Both Vul</b>	♠ 8 4 ♥ A ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2 ♣ Q 10 6 5
	♠ A K 4 ♥ 10 7 4 3 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ A 8 3	

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

South plays in 3NT  
 West leads 5♥. East wins with the Ace and leads the 5♣