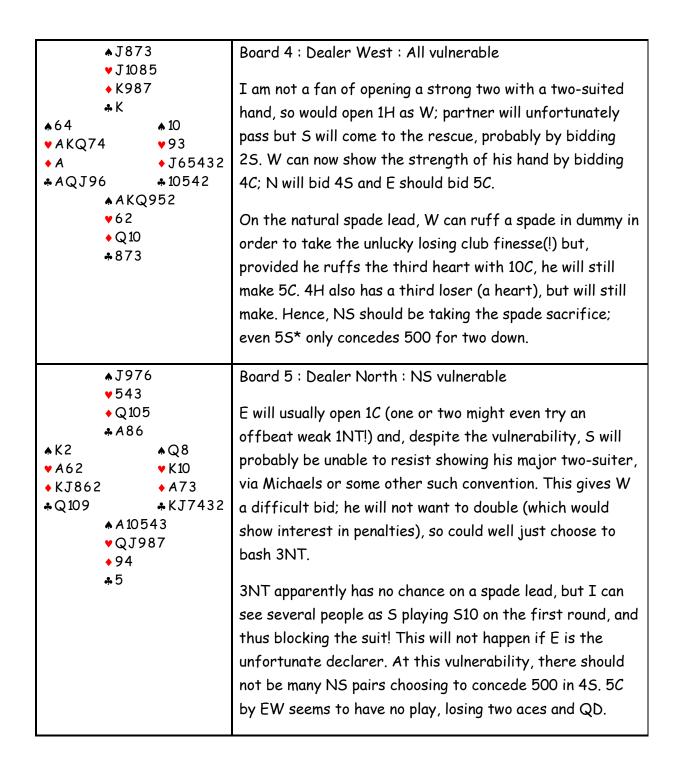
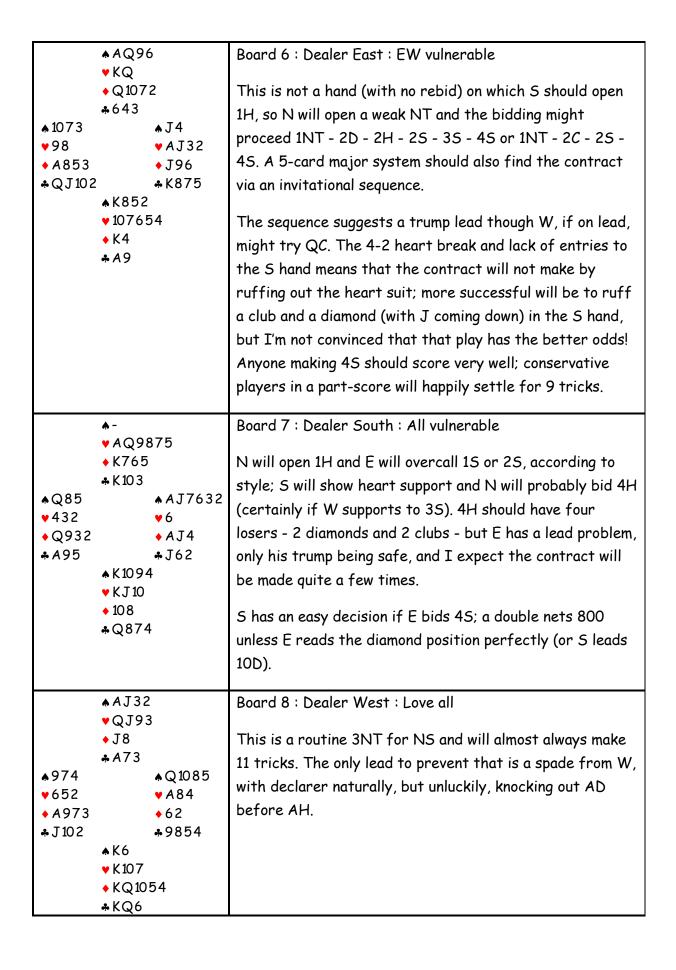
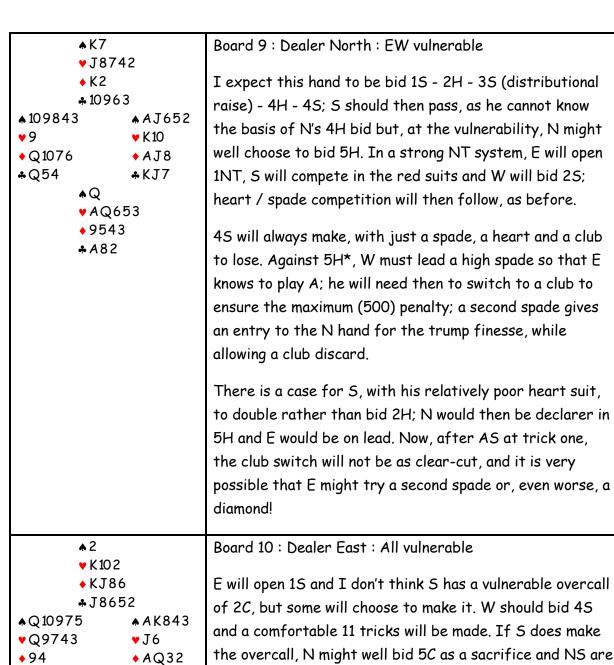
Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all ♠ 1043 **♥**K8752 ♦ A K 5 2 If N passes, S will open a weak 1NT, N will transfer to 2H **.**7 and S will probably play there. If N chooses to open 1H, as 876 **∧**KQJ I would with a safe rebid of 2D and, crucially, all the **V** A 109 **♥**J4 honours in the two suits, the bidding will probably go 1H -◆QJ104 ♦ 976 **♣**J92 ♣Q10653 15 - 2D - 4H. On either a diamond lead by W or a spade **A** A 9 5 2 lead by E, 10 tricks should always be made, as two **♥**Q63 diamonds can be ruffed in the S hand and a spade **♦83** discarded on KC; declarer loses just two hearts and a ***** AK84 spade. If the defence starts with two rounds of trumps, there is only one ruff but also only one trump loser. A good reward for the Norths who choose to open! Board 2 : Dealer Fast : NS vulnerable **♦** KQ1052 **v** 102 **♦**84 This will start with three passes to N, who will open 1S; E *AKQ2 can now overcall 2D and 5 will bid 25. W's is a very flat *AA63* **♦**98 hand on which to bid 3D opposite a partner who passed **♥**J765 ♥ A83 initially, but the vulnerability is favourable and it scarcely ♦ K96 ♦ A Q 1053 **♣**J103 ***987** matters, because N can safely take the push to 35, where **♦**J74 he should always make nine tricks. **♥**KQ94 ♦ J72 *****654 ♠ 10875 Board 3: Dealer South: EW vulnerable ♥AQ1082 Even if N overcalls 1D with 1H, EW should safely reach **♦** 3 **♣**J85 3NT and, assuming a likely correct diamond guess, will **♠**Q4 **∧**KJ9 normally make 11 tricks. **♥**54 **♥**KJ96 ◆ *A* J 1065 ♦ K97 *****AQ76 **.** K92 **A**A632 **♥**73 ♦Q842 **4** 1043







* A

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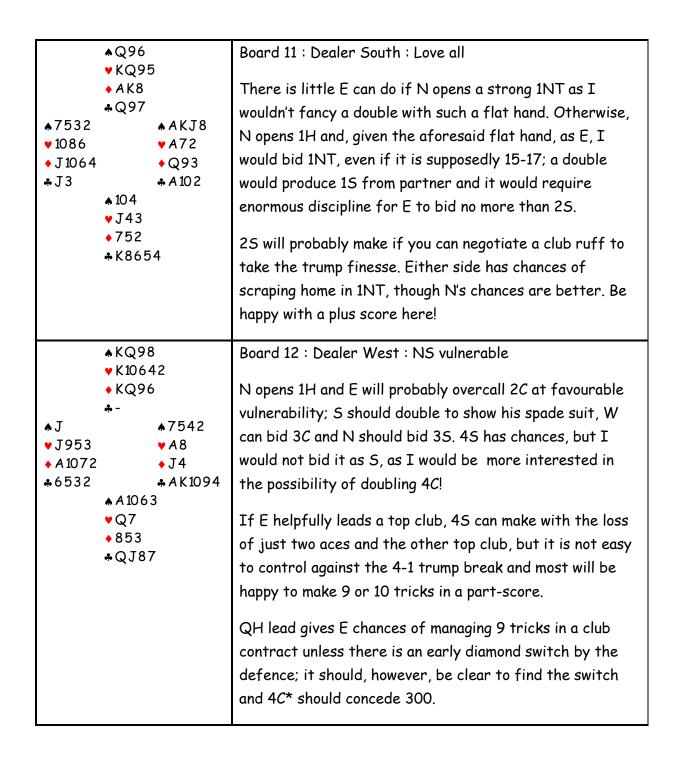
♣J6

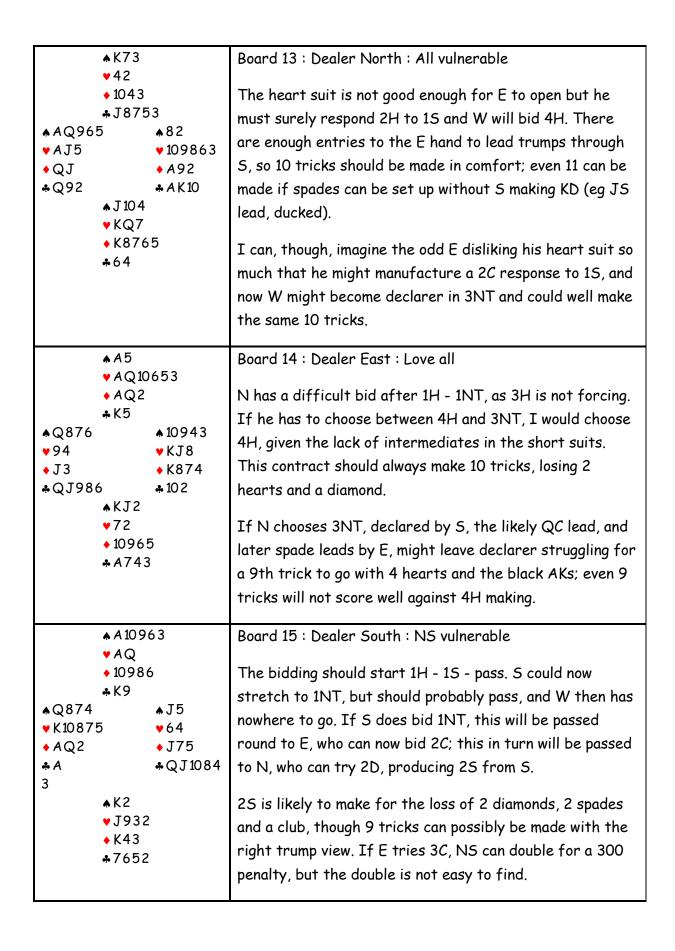
♥ A85

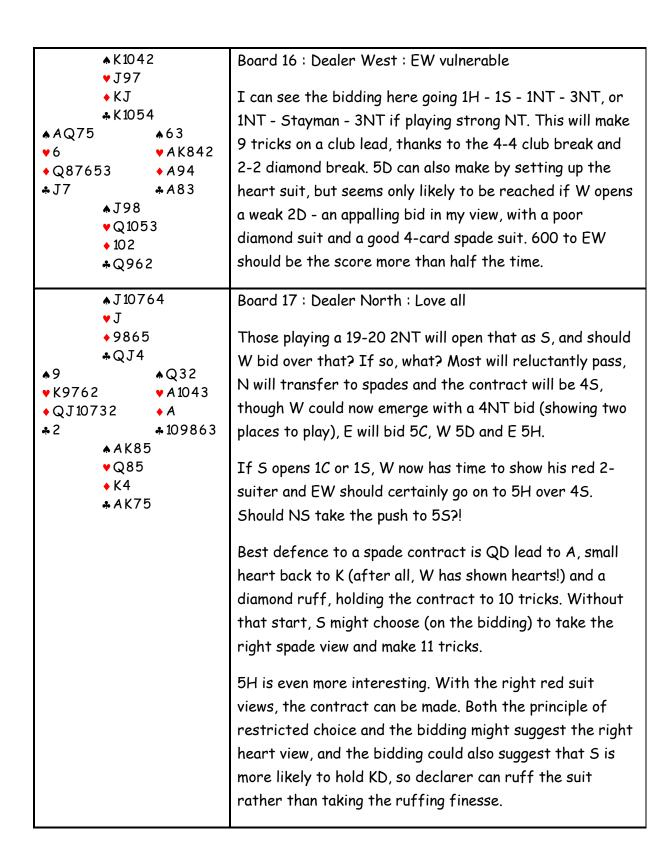
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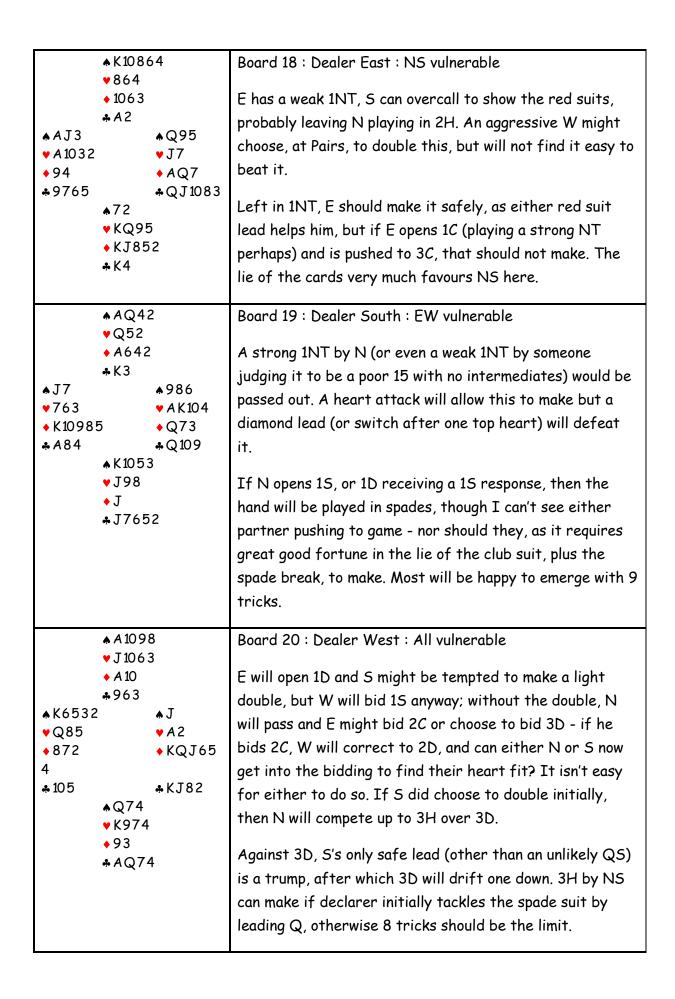
♣KQ1097

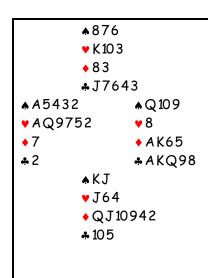
E will open 15 and I don't think 5 has a vulnerable overcall of 2C, but some will choose to make it. W should bid 45 and a comfortable 11 tricks will be made. If 5 does make the overcall, N might well bid 5C as a sacrifice and NS are likely to get away with 500 if doubled because it is very difficult for the defence to come to their heart trick before it disappears on the diamonds; it requires W to lead 9H for an unusual 'surround' play.







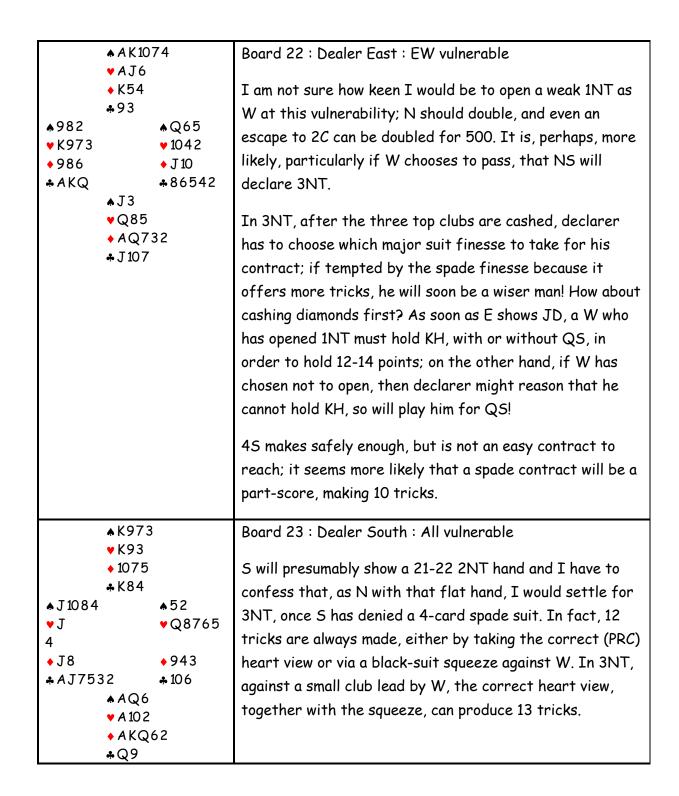


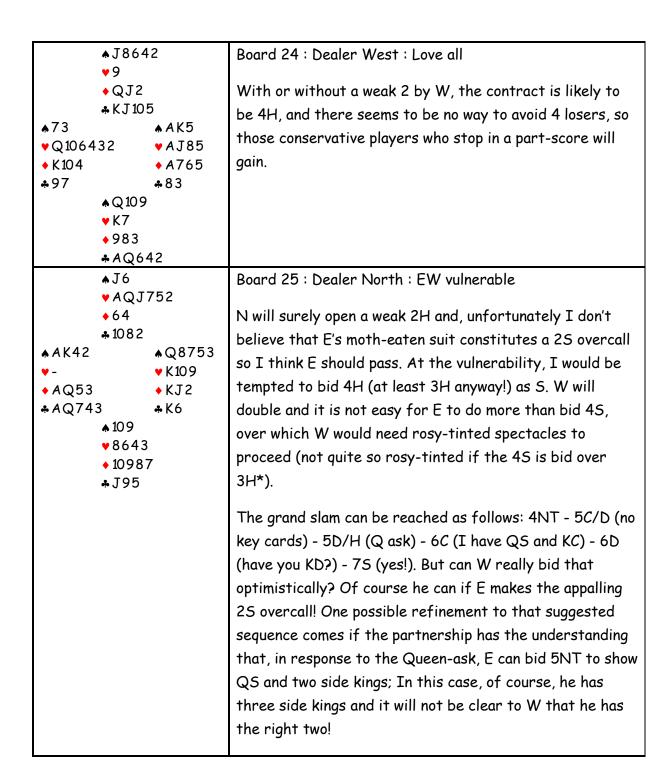


Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable

Even without interference from S, it will be difficult for EW to reach their best contract, which is 45. A sequence such as 1C - 1H - 2NT - 35 - 45 will do it, provided W's 35 is known to show five, which it should if EW are playing a check-back bid of 3C over 2NT, which W could use if holding 4 spades, or if E's 2NT bid specifically denies 4 spades. Ruffing out the heart suit allows 11 tricks to be made for the loss of two trumps.

If there is diamond interference from S (particularly a 2D bid), it is quite possible that E may become declarer in 3NT if W is only able to show his heart suit; a double of a diamond bid might show both suits, but not 6-5! 3NT is by no means easy, particularly if S leads a heart when declarer plays to set up the spades; 10 tricks is possible with some co-operation, but declarer may be happy to make 9. The 3-3 break and favourable spade position allows 10 tricks to be made in 4H.





^2 Board 26: Dealer East: All vulnerable **♥**J1096 This looks like 15 - 1NT - passed out; some Ns might even ♦ K8764 **♣**J63 pass 15, particularly if it is known to be a 5-card suit. 1NT **♦**985 **♦**QJ103 will struggle to make (though a diamond lead would help ♥ A852 **♥**73 reduce the penalty) and 15 has seven automatic losers 10 2 ♦ AQ95 *♣A*Q85 *****942 (plus a possible trump promotion on a diamond lead), so I **A** A K 7 6 4 think that any NS pair emerging with a plus score should ♥KQ4 feel very happy! **♦** J3 **.** K107 AAQ7 Board 27: Dealer South: Love all **♥**QJ82 ♦ A 4 3 N has a 21-22 2NT hand and, as 5 with a flat hand, I * AKQ might be tempted just to bid 3NT rather than search for **♦**96543 **↑**82 the 4-4 heart fit. ♥ A 9 5 4 **y** 3 ♦QJ5 ♦ K1082 As it happens, on the natural diamond lead, 3NT makes *****9862 ***** 1073 only 9 tricks, whereas 4H makes 10 tricks, despite the 4-1 **♦** KJ10 **♥** K1076 break. Without a diamond lead, 3NT also makes 10. ♦ 976 **♣**J54 Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable **♠**96 **♥**Q83 ♦ KJ1096 W has a dubious 1S opening (I wouldn't be proud of a 2S *****932 rebid over a 2H response), but in the event the bidding **♠**QJ1032 **♦** K54 will proceed smoothly: 15 - 2C - 2D - 2H (4th suit) - 3C **v** 2 **♥** K1054 45. In this contract, declarer may have to settle for 10 ♦ AQ84 **♦** 3 **♣**Q105 ***** *A* KJ76 tricks, as it is difficult to ruff a diamond and draw trumps *A*487 without then losing a diamond, unless 5 kindly takes AS on ♥ AJ976 the first round. 11 tricks should score well. **♦**752 ***84** Some Es may attempt 3NT, which will make 10 tricks on a heart lead, but not on a diamond lead and heart switch!