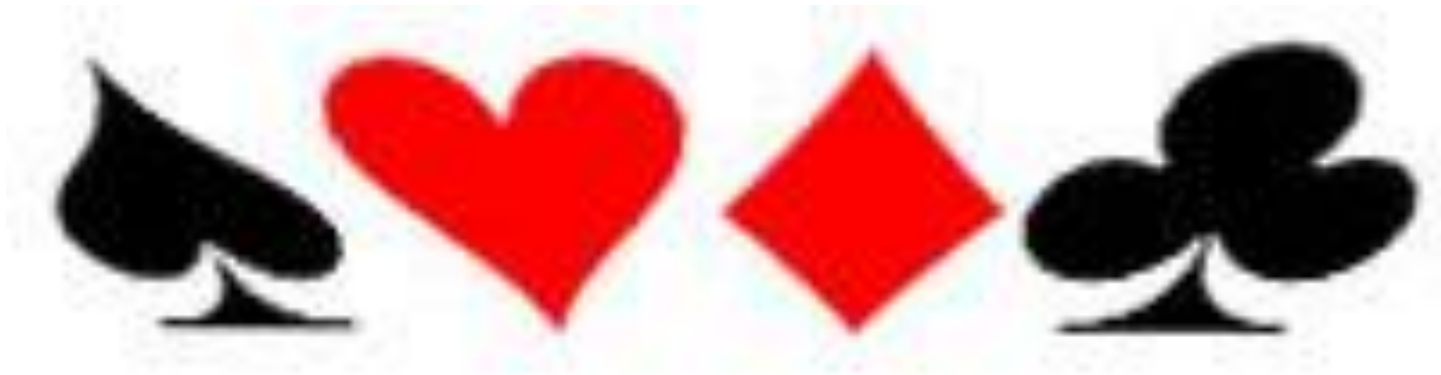


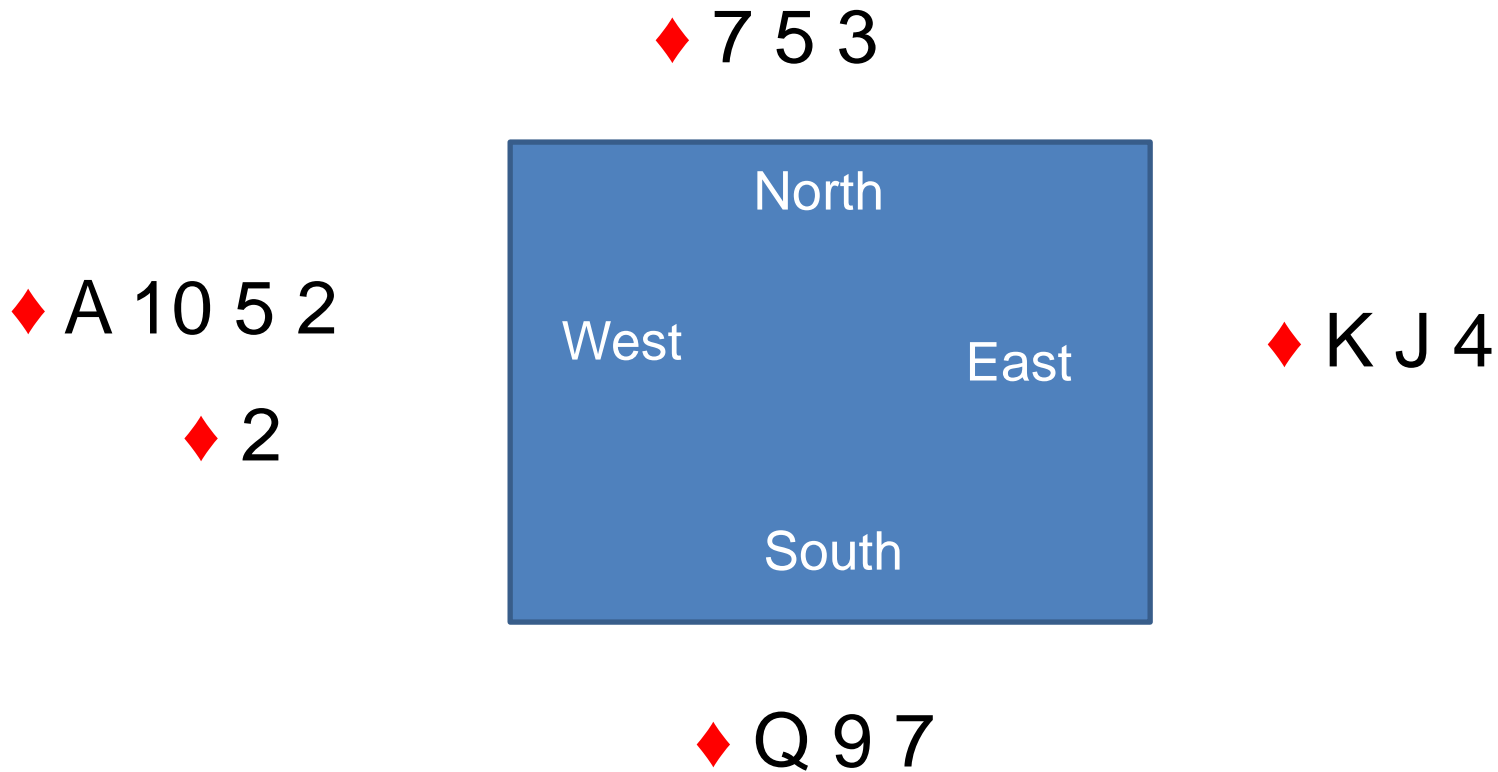
# Playing The Third Hand



# Third Hand High

- You've heard the adage "Third hand high."
- According to bridge teacher, Eddie Kantor, that is correct only about half the time.
- We will look at some times when 3<sup>rd</sup> hand high is not the correct play.
- But first let's look at a common situation.

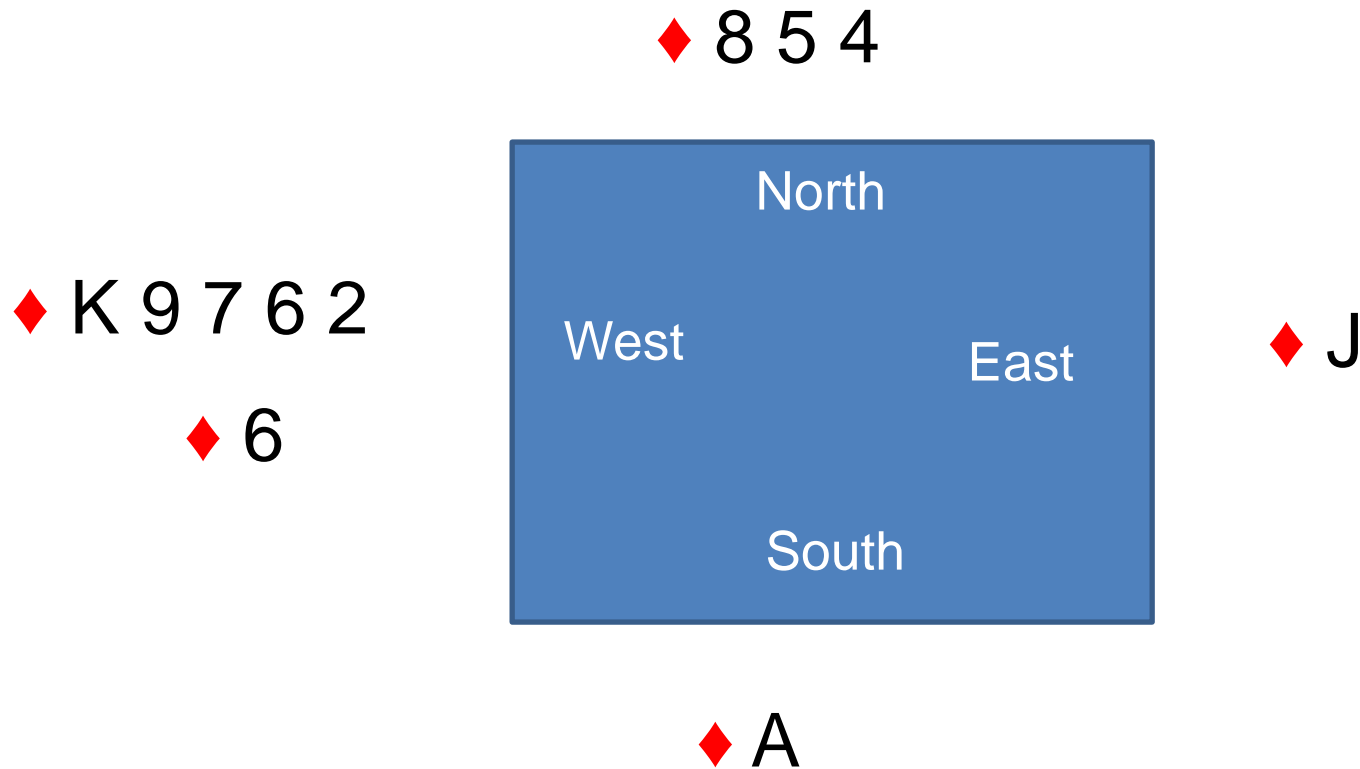
# The Common Position



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand Not So High Situation 1

- When your highest cards are in a sequence and dummy plays a low card, play the lowest card of the sequence.

# Play the Lower of Touching Honors

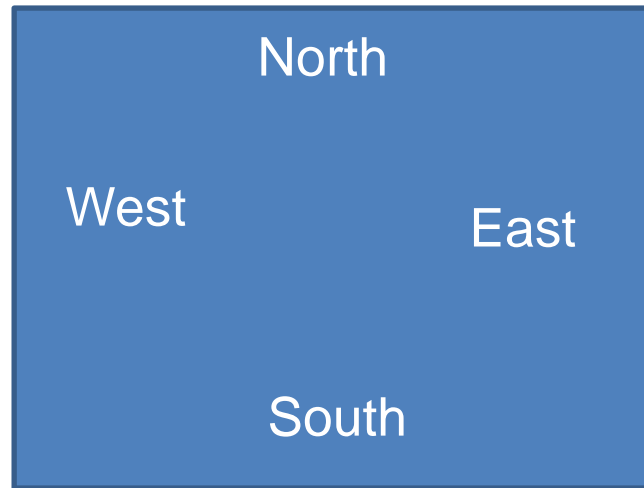


# Play the Lower of Touching Honors

♦ 10 6 5

♦ Q 7 4 3 2

♦ 3



♦ 9

♦ J 9

♦ A

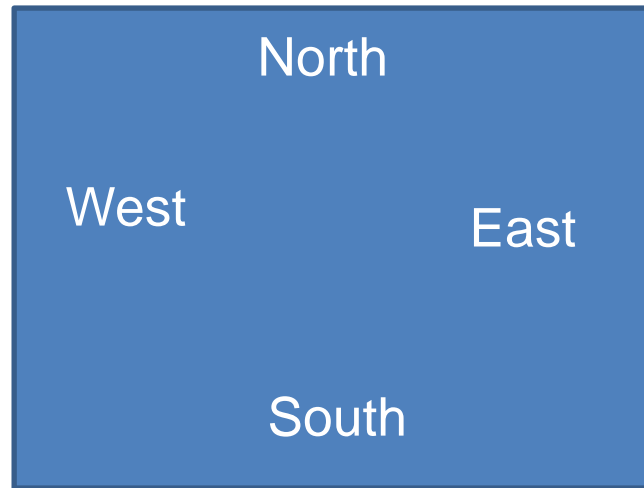
♦ A K 8

# Play the Lower of Touching Honors

♣ 4 3 2

♣ K 9 7 6

♣ 6



♣ J

♣ J 8 5

♣ Q

♣ A Q 10

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand Not So High Situation 2

- Partner leads 4<sup>th</sup> best, dummy has an honor and 1 or two low cards, you have a higher honor:
- Declarer plays one of dummy's low cards. You should insert a 9, 10 or J if you have one, rather than play your higher honor.
- Of course, if you don't have a 9, 10 or J, you must play your honor.

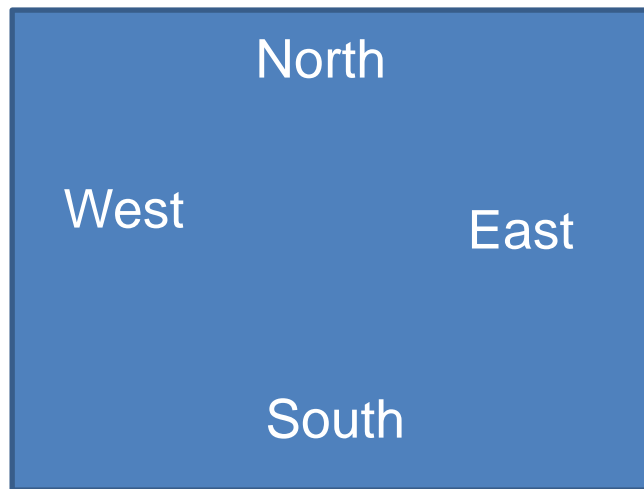


# Insert a 9, 10 or J – Ex 1

♣ K 6 5

♣ Q 10 3 2

♣ 2



♣ A J 7 4

♣ J

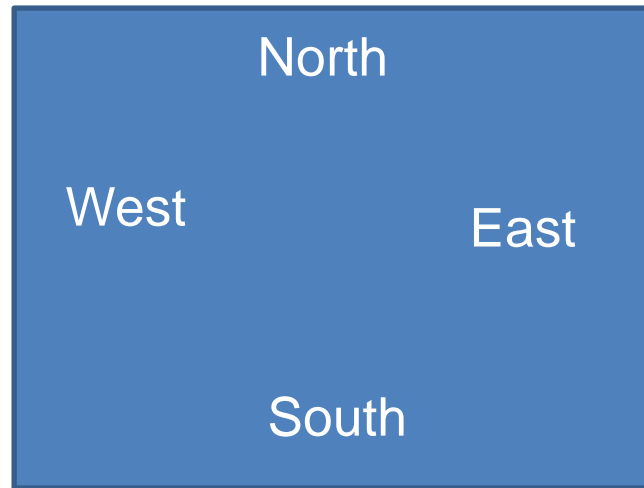
♣ 9 8

# Insert a 9, 10 or J – Ex 2

♣ K 6 5

♣ 10 9 3 2

♣ 2



♣ A J 7 4

♣ J

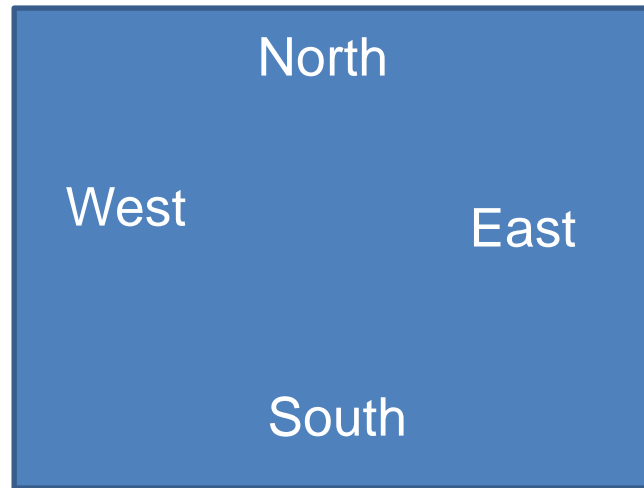
♣ Q 8

# Insert a 9, 10 or J – Ex 3

♣ J 6

♣ K Q 3 2

♣ 2



♣ A 10 4

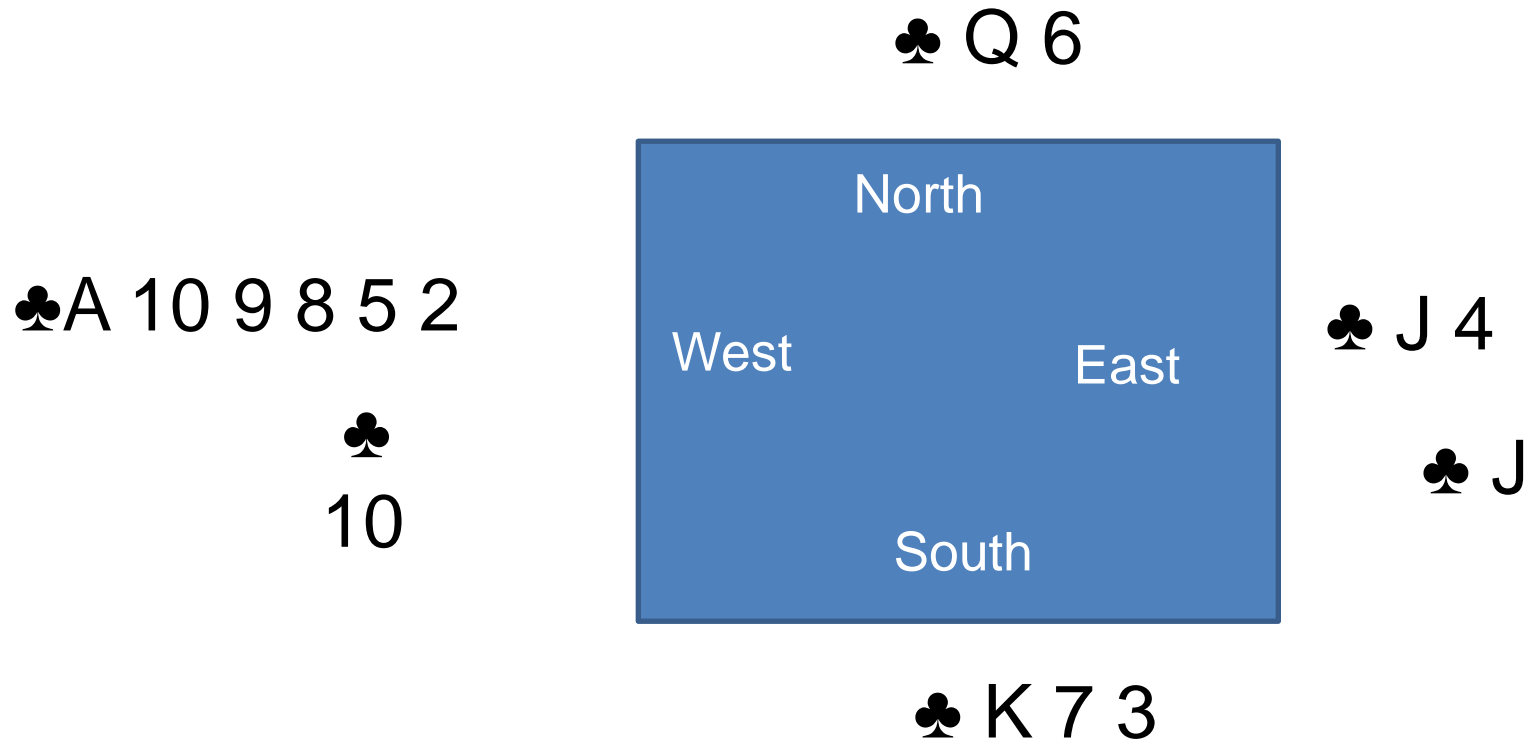
♣ A

♣ 9 8 7 5

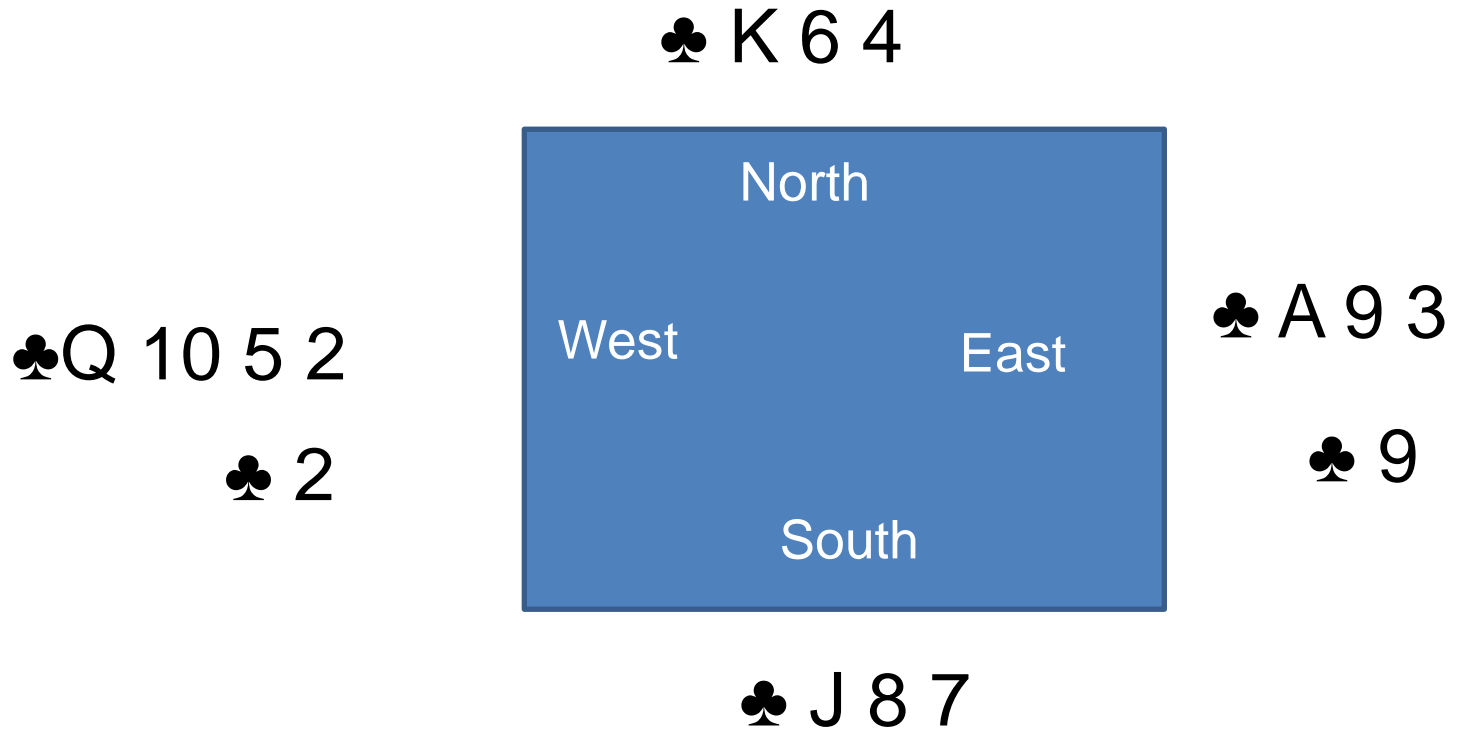
# Unblocking With the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand

- When partner leads an honor card and you have a doubleton honor, you should play it.
- If you don't unblock, you might find yourself in the lead with that honor and not be able to reach partner's good cards.

# Unblocking - Ex 1



# Unblocking - Ex 2



# Unblocking - Ex 3

South West North East  
1 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♠

♠ Q J 9 8 2  
♥ A 9  
♦ J 8 7 2  
♣ A 7

♠ 5 4  
♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 2  
♦ 3  
♣ 8 5 2

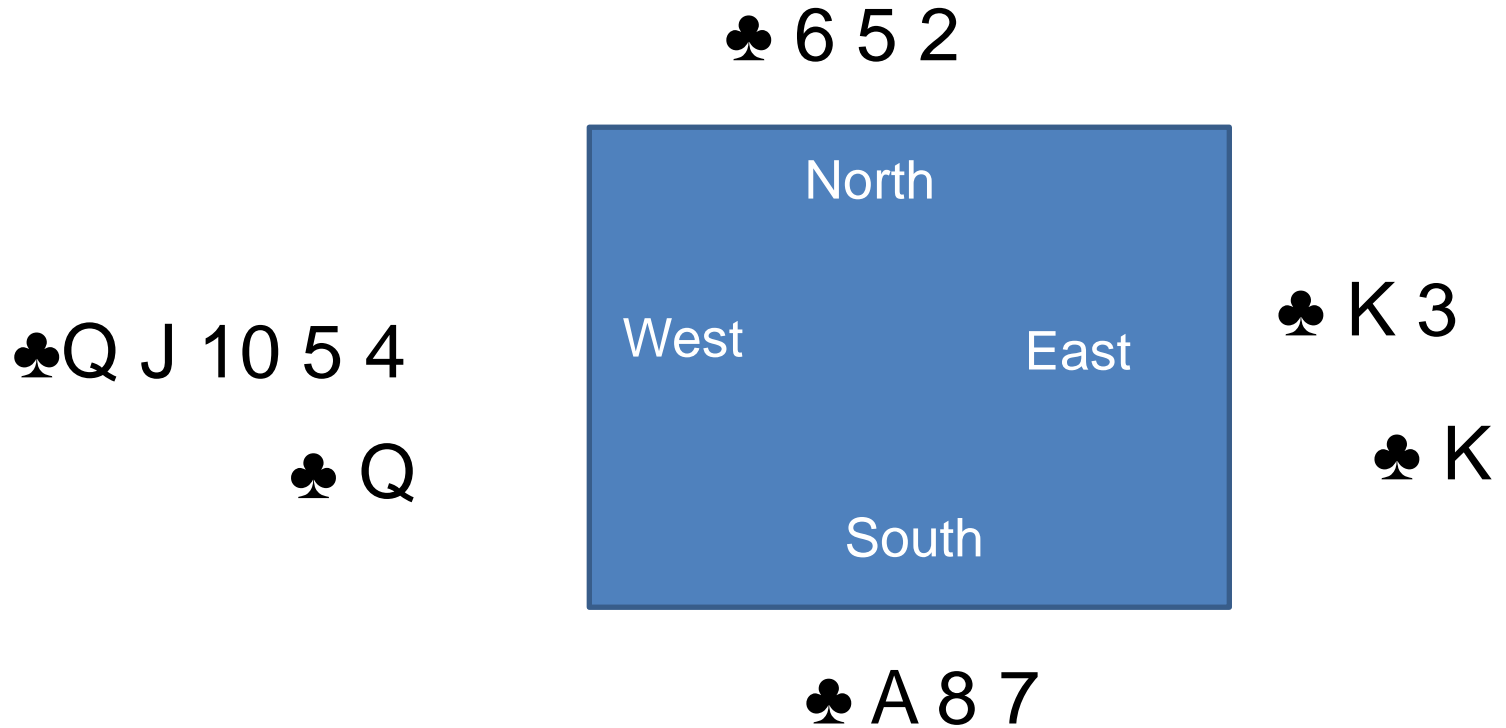


♠ 3  
♥ K 5  
♦ A K 10 9 5 4  
♣ K 10 9 4

♦ 3

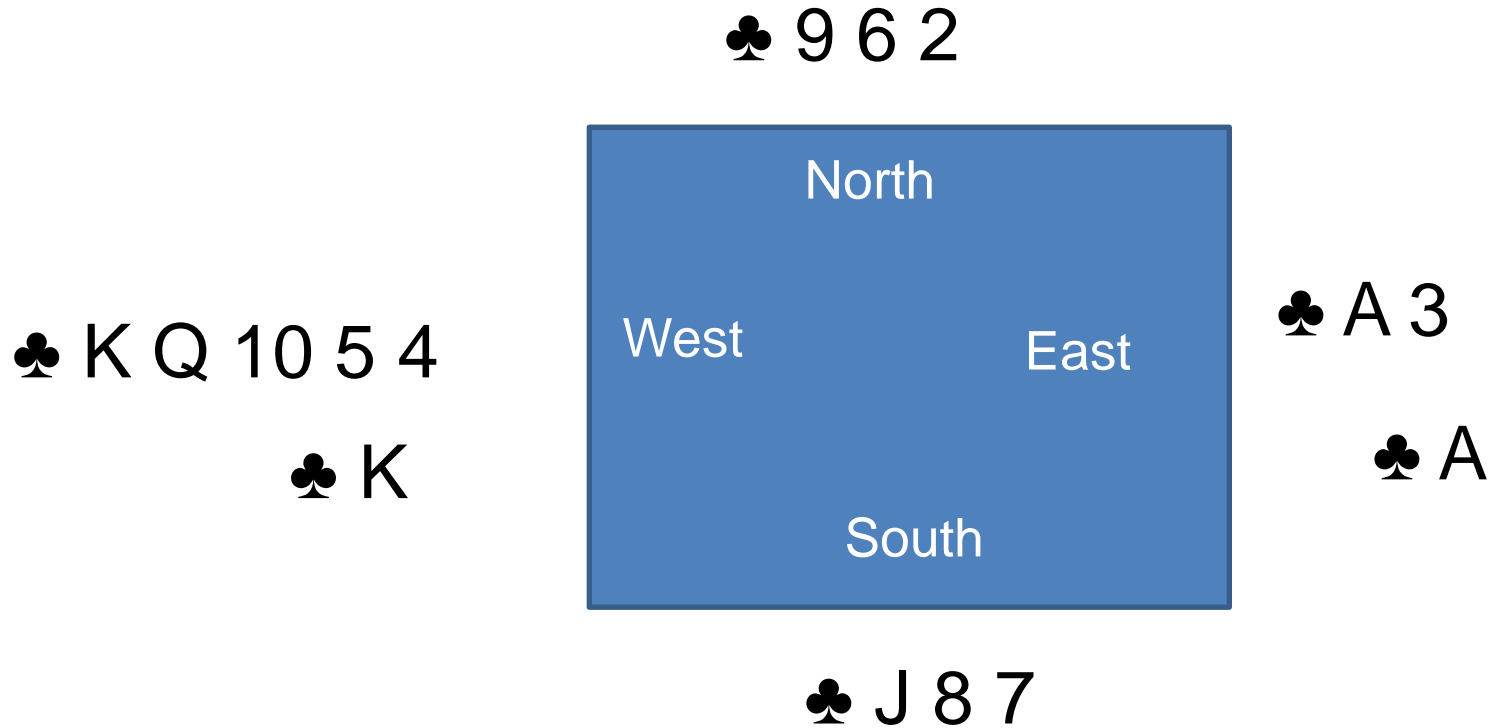
♠ A K 10 7 6  
♥ 4 3  
♦ Q 6  
♣ Q J 6 3

# Overtaking to Unblock - Ex 1





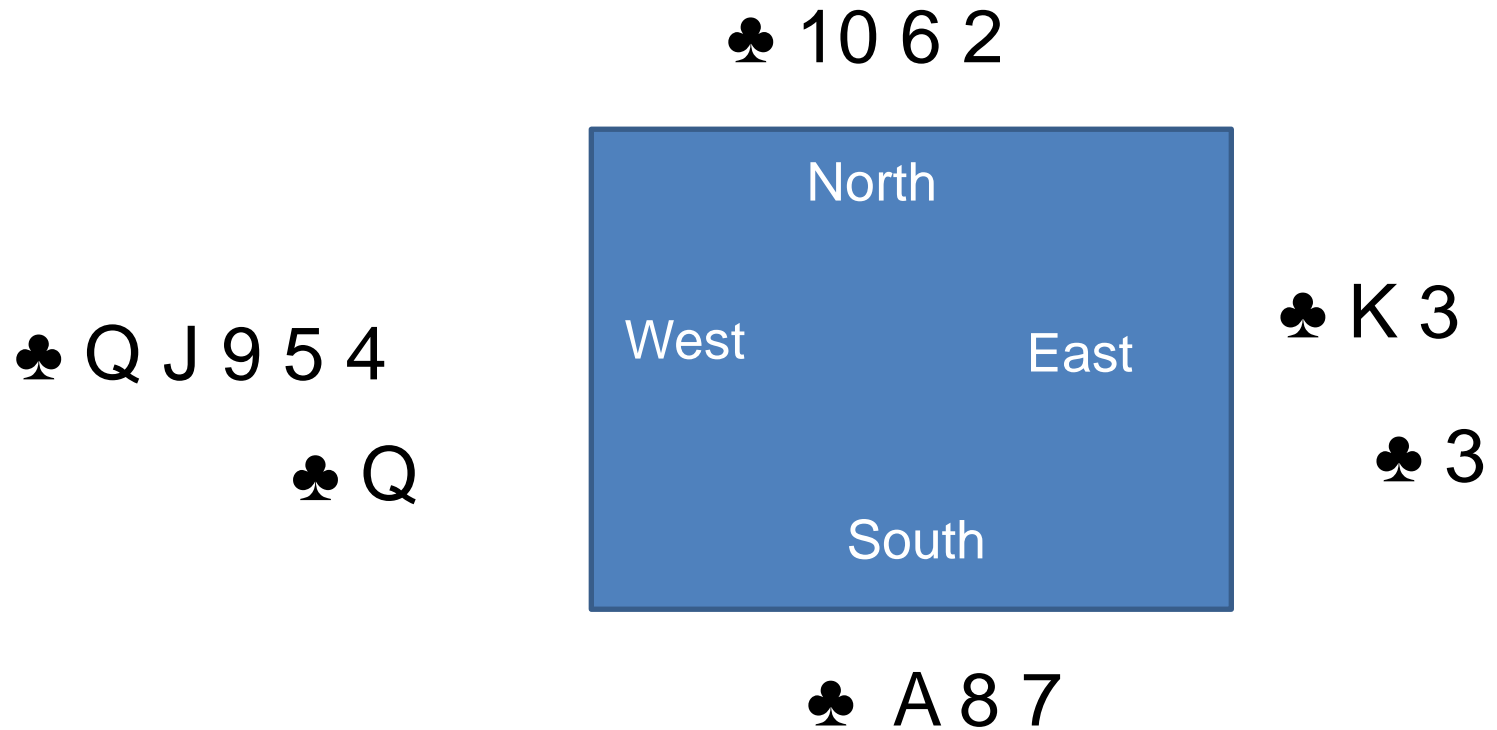
# Overtaking to Unblock - Ex 2



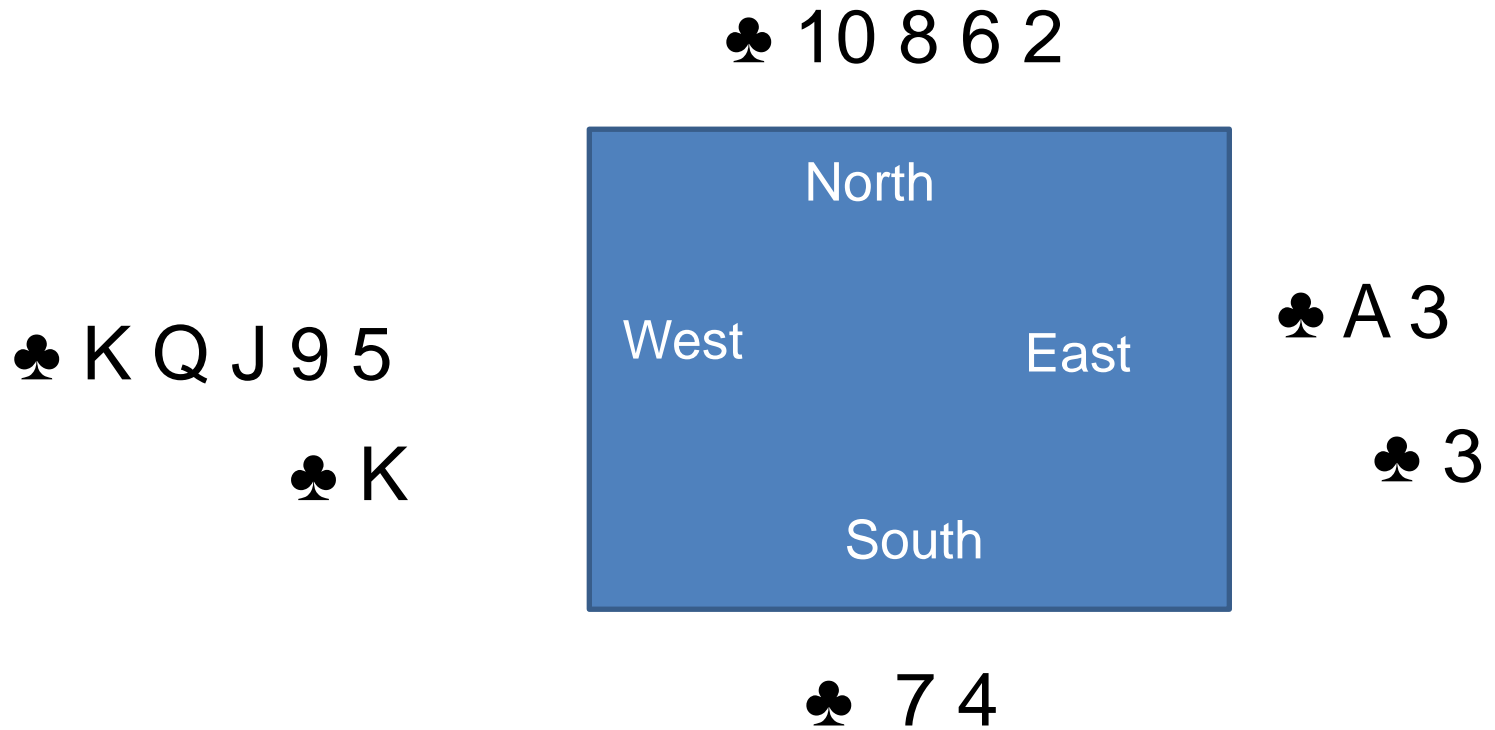
# When Not to Unblock

- When overtaking or unblocking will give declarer a trick, it is best not to do it.

# When Not to Unblock - Ex 1



# When Not to Unblock - Ex 2



# Third Hand Decision: Counting & Thinking

South West North East  
1 ♠ pass 2 ♠ pass  
4 ♠

♠ K 7 5 4

♥ K 7 3

♦ 8 7 4

♣ K 10 2

♠ J 6

♥ 10 9 8 2

♦ Q 10 5

♣ 8 7 6 5



♠ 9 3

♥ A Q 6 4

♦ K 9 3 2

♣ J 9 3

♥  
10

♠ A Q 10 8 2

♥ J 4

♦ A J 6

♣ A Q 4

# Third Hand Decision: Counting & Thinking

South West North East  
 --- 1nt pass 3 nt

♠ 10 8 3

♥ 3

♥ K 10 9 7 2

♦ 9 5 4

♥ K

♣ K 2

♠ A 5 2

♥ A 3

♦ J 6 3

♣ A Q 9 7 5



♠ 6 4

♥ 9 8 5

♦ A K Q 10 7

♣ J 10 3

♠ K Q J 9 7

♥ Q J 6

♦ 8 2

♣ 8 6 4