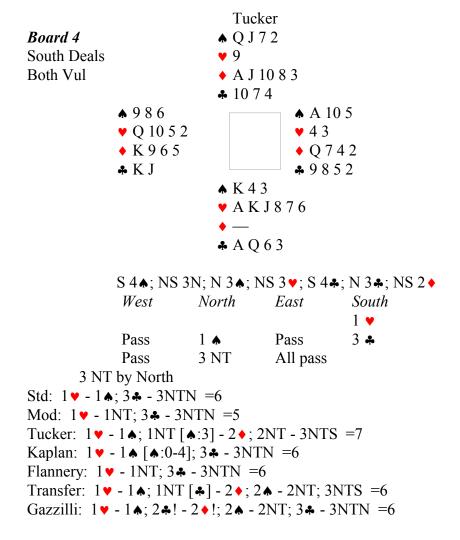


Game is a much better bet when South declares. Any auction where North responds 1NT turns out poorly.

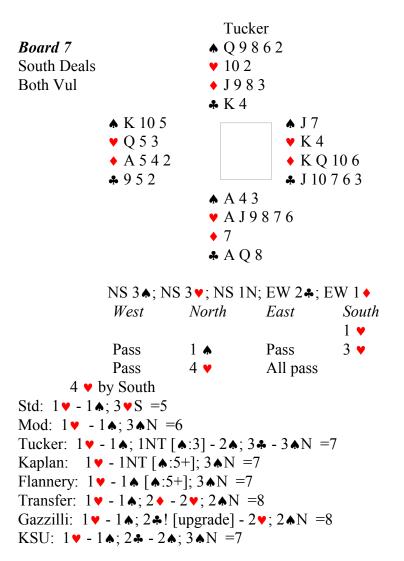
Only the Tucker auction confirms a spade fit. Fortunately, it also means South declares NT - better on all fronts. So long as N-S are playing some sort of Wolff over a jump 2NT rebid, no system should lose a 5-3 spade fit. Without it, all but Tucker pairs would play 2NT when North is weaker, with five spades.



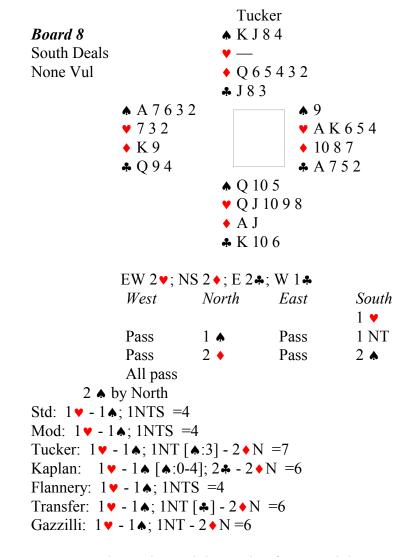
For natural bidders, this is the "nightmare hand": six of mine and three of yours. The Std auction at least mentions spades, while the Mod, Kaplan, and Flannery auctions do not.

The Tucker auction finds the spade fit and heart shortness, settling into 3NT. This should also be reached if responder tries to sign off in 2. This normal contract is not easy.

The Transfer auction shown works, but does not show the sixth heart. If South instead chooses a 2 ◆ transfer showing a good hand with 6+ hearts, he must then pick one of the two black suits to show.



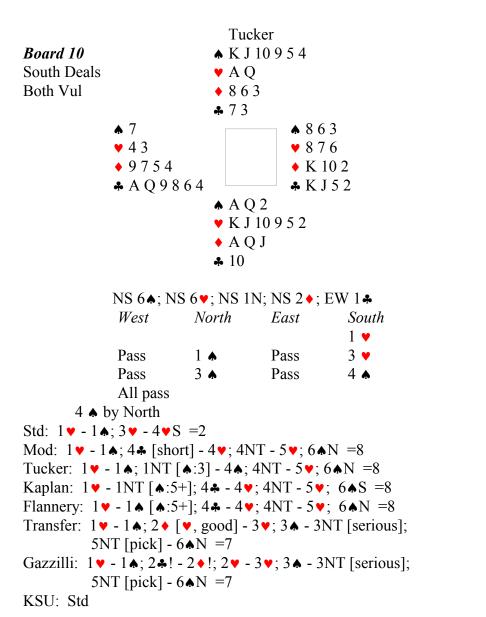
A "nightmare hand": six of mine and three of yours. Everybody gets to invite in spades, except the Std bidder. The Mod auction is less secure, because North could have a good four card suit.



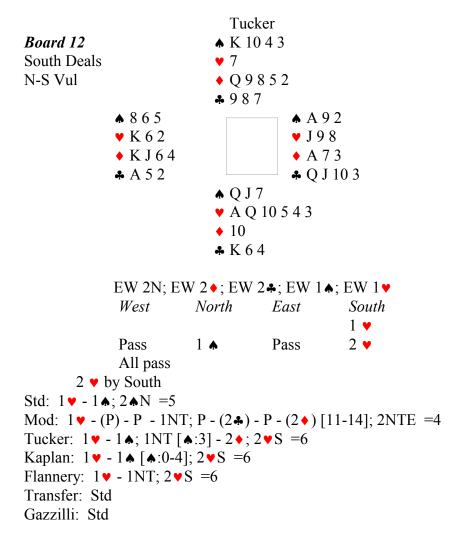
Revised: only Kaplan and the Tucker framework have responser's 2 natural. In the standard framework, a new minor would be forcing, so these systems languish in 1NT.

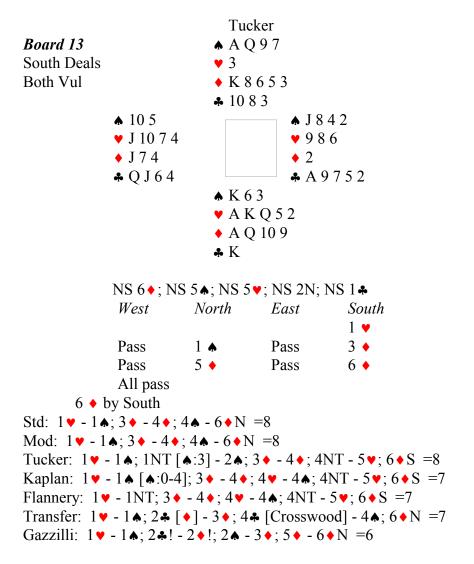
The Kaplan and Flannery auctions have no chance at a 4-3 spade fit, perhaps a decent spot on some other hand. Flip side, West has no clue about the spades, and may back in!

The Mod South knows North's spades are decent, possibly useful.



For Std bidding, a nightmare come true. The other systems have little trouble bidding the great slam. The Kaplan auction right-sides the diamonds, but it does not matter with 12-13 top tricks. The Transfer and Gazzilli auctions could be off an unlikely two aces.

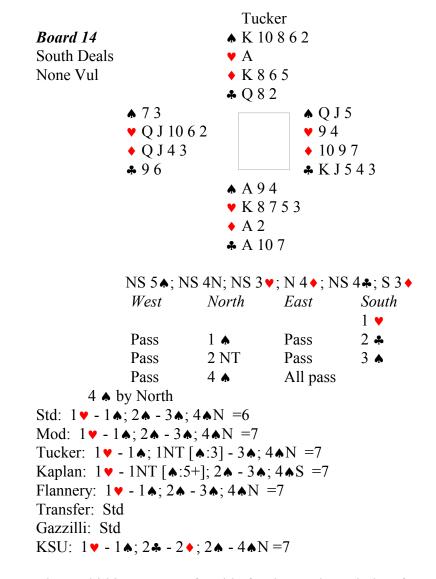




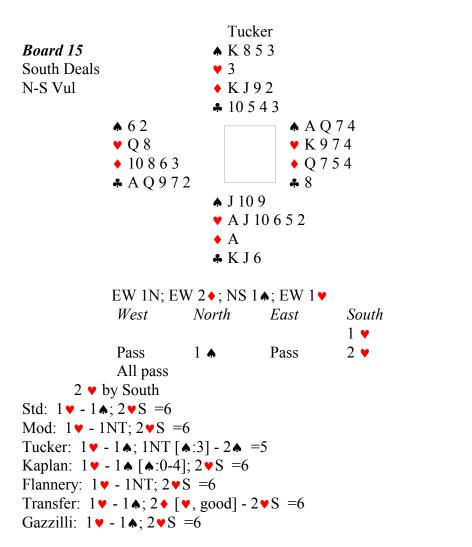
4♠ on the Std/Mod auction offers a place to play. This enables North to leap to slam, assuming 3=5=4=1.

The Tucker North shows four good spades with 2♠ followed by 4♠, so South can drive to slam. Kaplan and Flannery have space for a couple of key cue bids, so they should also reach slam.

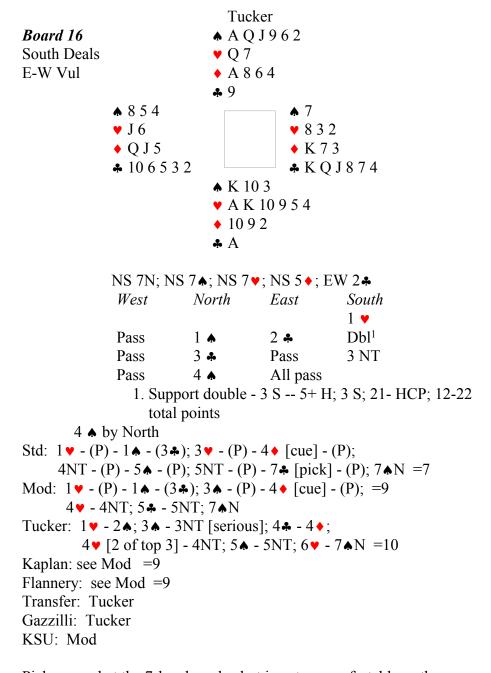
The Transfer auction depends on North upgrading to a 3 ◆ "raise". The standard auction is better than both this and Gazzilli



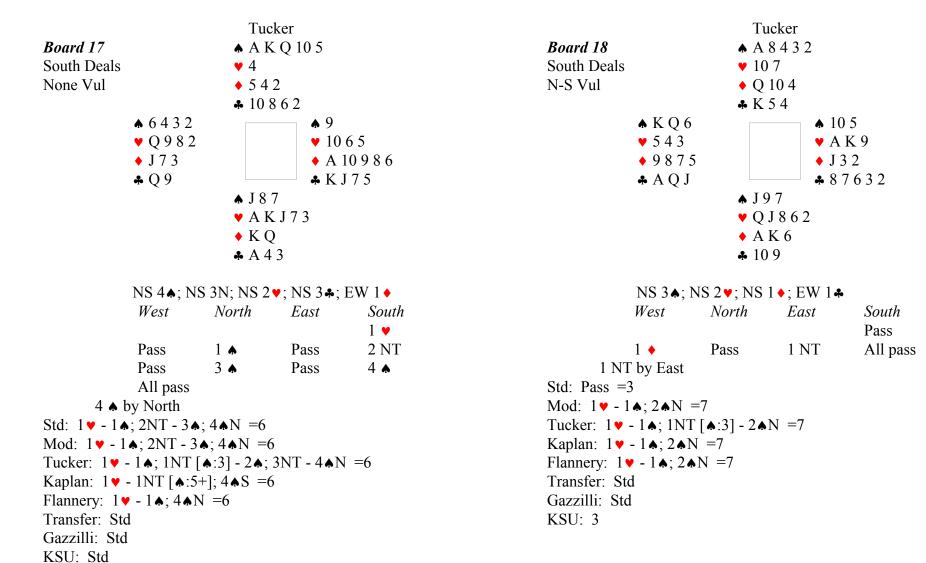
The 2 bid is more comfortable for the Mod South than for Std, and a super-max for Kaplan and Flannery. Tucker does just fine, too.

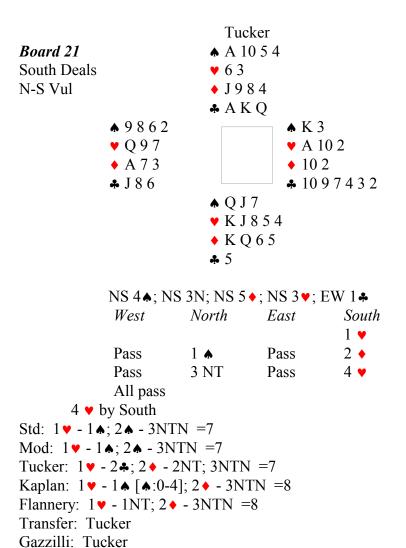


North's hand has the worst shape for Tucker, but there appears to be little difference in the value of one major over the other.

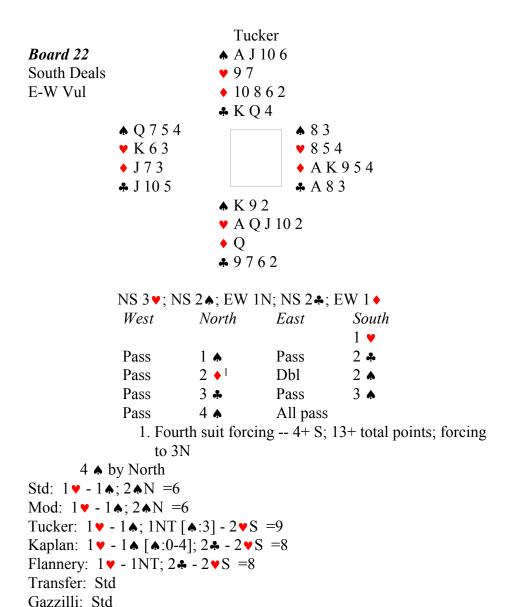


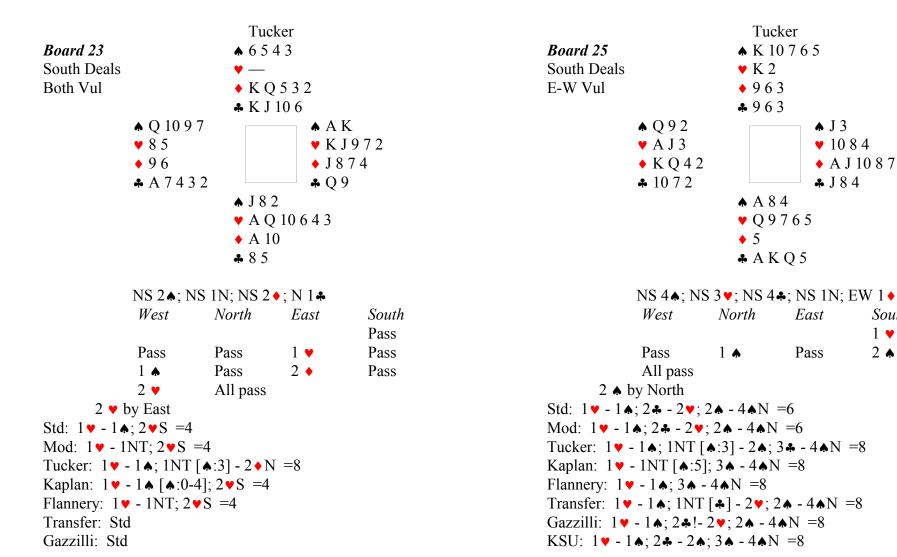
Pick a grand at the 7-level works, but is not as comfortable as the auctions where South can raise spades at the 3-level. The Tucker auction is too rich for vulnerable opponents, permitting an excellent unimpeded action. The overcall may have helped the other auctions.





The Tucker, Kaplan and Flannery auctions work slightly better, because North knows about South's diamonds. However, Tucker achieves this by bidding the strong club fragment.





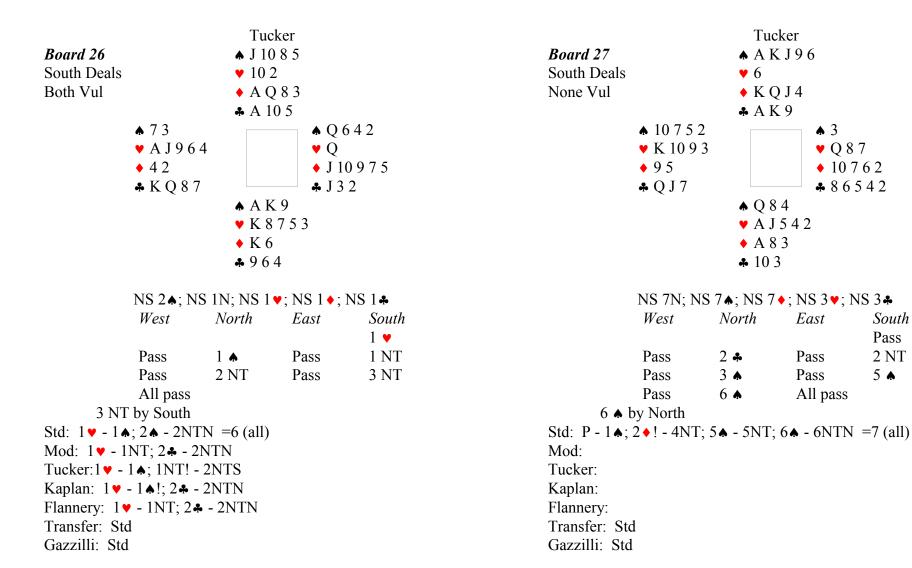
An impressive victory for Tucker! North's 2♦ says: four bad spades, 0-1 hearts, and 5+ diamonds - an easy pass for South.

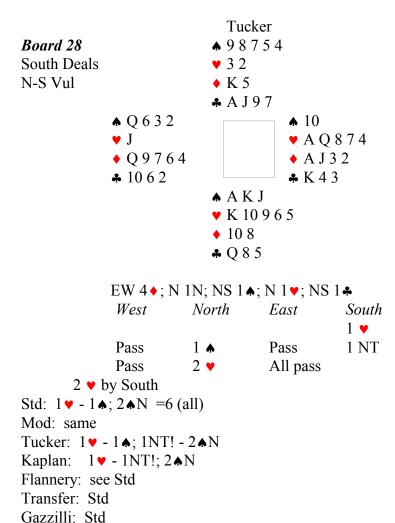
The Std and Mod auctions work fine this time, but give North a singleton heart, and this hand would probably be played in clubs. The other auctions are clearly superior, because they cannot lose the 5-3 spade fit.

South

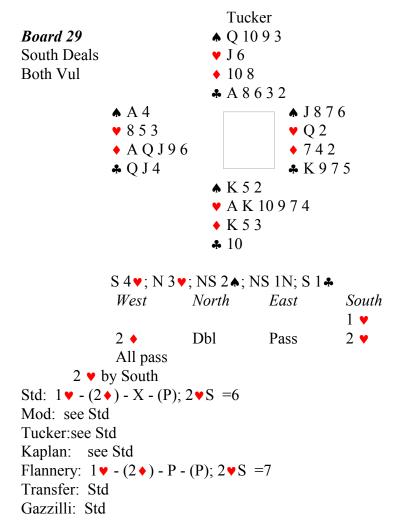
1 🔻

2

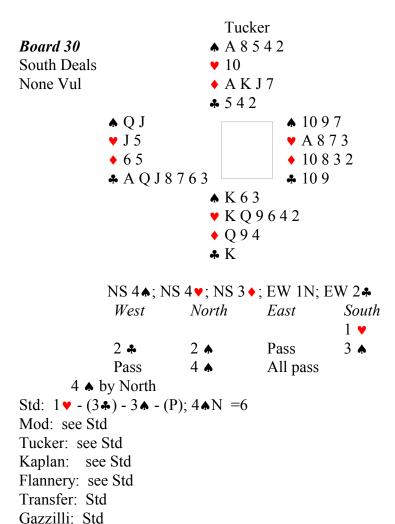




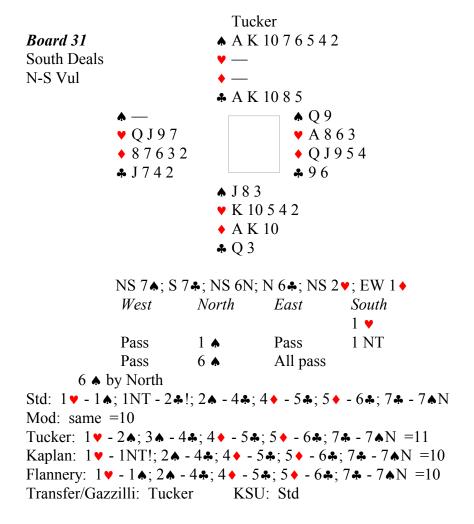
KSU: Std



The Flannery North knows South is unlikely to hold four spades, and can afford to stay out of the auction. South has an automatic reopening 2 bid, but he might not have.



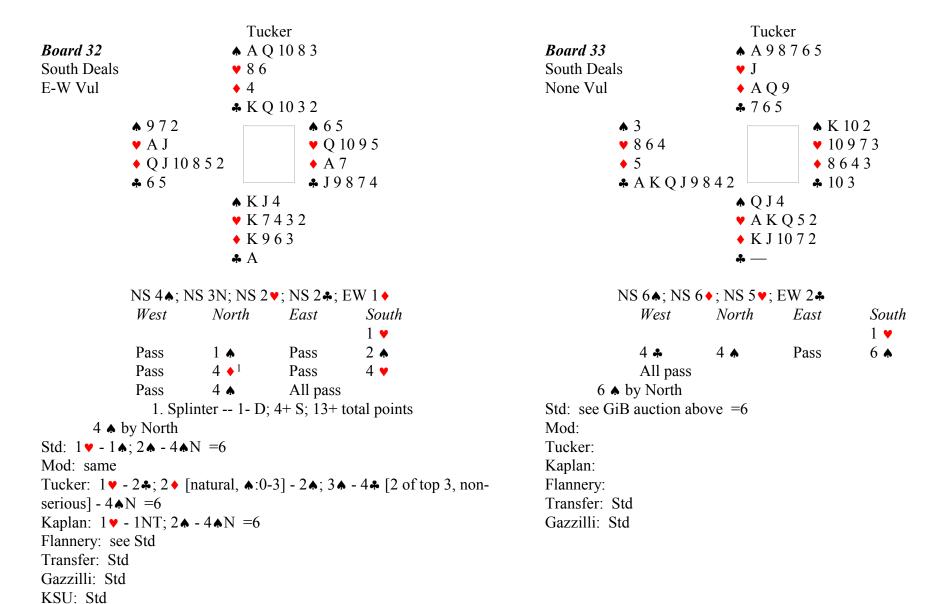
The Flannery North could make a negative double that could promise *five* spades, since South is unlikely to have four. However, see deal 40, where that agreement would be a substantial disadvantage.

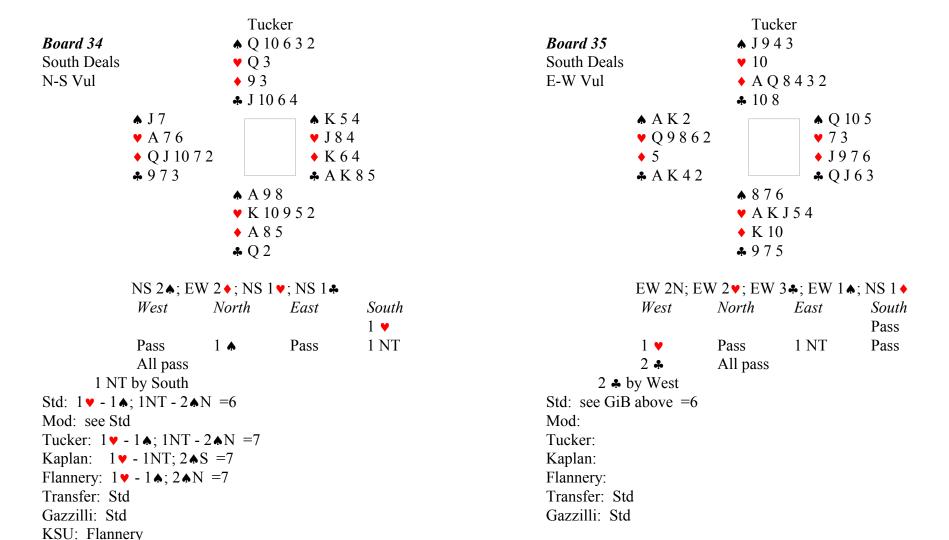


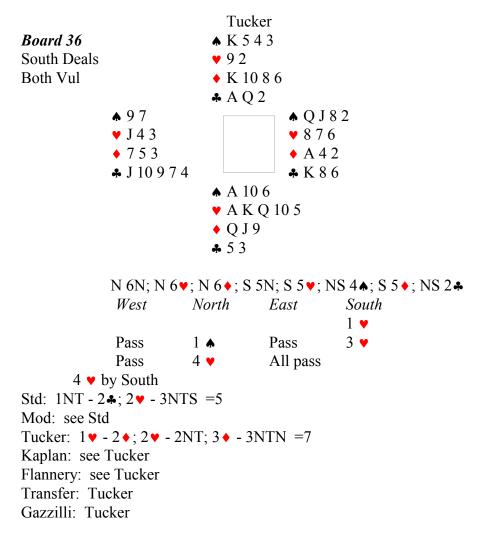
When North cue bids boldly past 4NT, South should assume a void, especially when playing Serious 3NT. It will definitely be hearts, if North could have jumped to 5 ◆ to ask for key cards with a void there. When South cues 5 ◆, North counts 12 top tricks and should probably bid a grand slam unless South produces a late heart cue.

Non-serious 3NT happens to be easier on the Tucker auction, but North can still bid clubs 3 times to get the point across, instead of: 1 ∨ - 2 ♠; 3 ♠ - 3NT!; 4 ♦ - 5 ♣; 5 ♦ - 6 ♣; 7 ♣ - 7 ♠N =10

The other Norths need to jump to 4 ♣ to set the right tone, and they do not have Serious 3NT available. However, if they play a strong jump shift indicating immediate slam potential, the Tucker auction ensues.

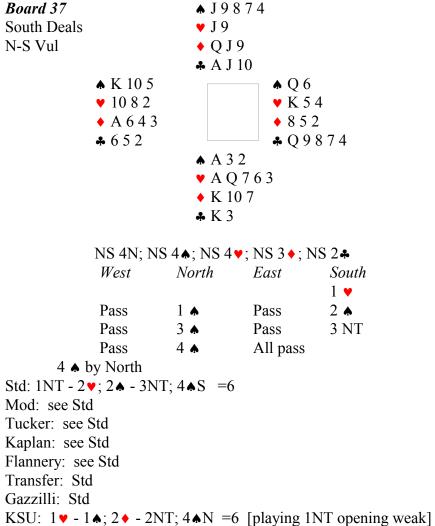






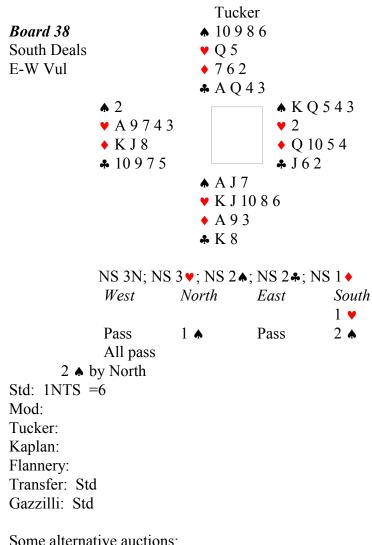
16-point hands with five hearts can be a problem in the bidding. If the hand also contains three spades, 1NT is a more attractive start, since a transfer into spades will result in a 5-3 fit (not 5-2 with 5-3 hearts). With nothing else to tip the scales, the Std and Mod Souths will likely open 1NT, which happens to wrong-side this contract. The other Souths have a system advantage to opening 1, which will certainly discover a 5-3 spade fit, if one exists.

Alternative Std/Mod auctions: (1) the Tucker auction, (2) $1 \vee -1 \wedge 2 \wedge -3$ NTN, where $2 \wedge 2 \wedge 2 = 2 \wedge 2 + 2 \wedge 2 = 2 \wedge 2 =$ (3) $1 \vee - 1 \wedge ; 2 \wedge - 3 \vee ; 3 \wedge - 3$ NTN, which works out well this time.



Tucker

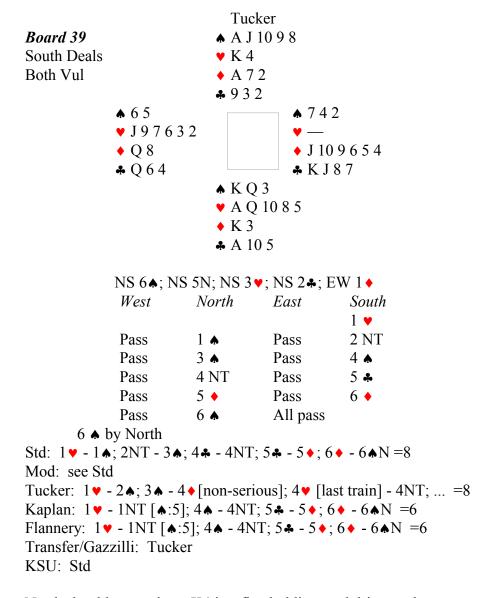
This time, the 16-point hand holds both three spades and stoppers to protect, so 1NT is a standout.



Std: $1 \checkmark - 1 \land ; 2 \land - 2 \checkmark ; 2 \land N = 4$

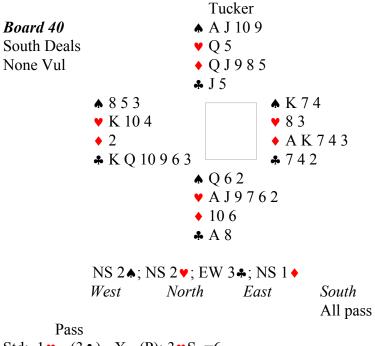
Tucker: $1 \vee -1 \wedge ; 1NT [\wedge :3] - 2 \vee S [bad spades] = 6$

Transfer: $1 \vee -1 \wedge ; 2 \wedge -2 \vee ; 2 \wedge N = 4$ Gazzilli: $1 \vee - 1 \wedge : 2 \wedge ! - 2 \wedge ! : 2 \wedge N = 4$



North should recognize ♥K4 is a fine holding, and drive to slam opposite a strong 2NT rebid containing a club control.

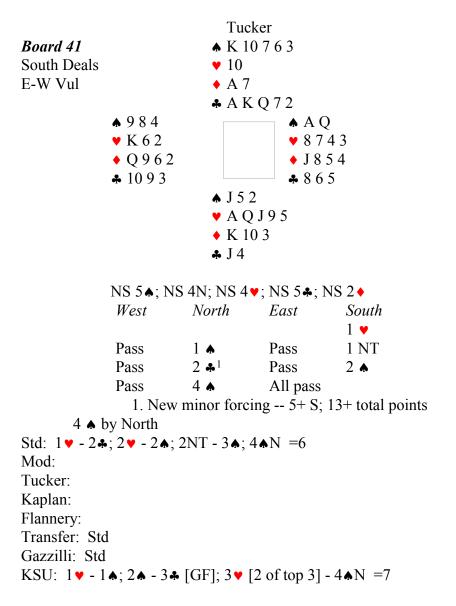
On the Kaplan and Flannery auctions, South is in a pickle. A jump to 4♠ seems in order, but North does not find out about the club control. If South instead chooses 2NT, how does the partnership set trumps and proceed? Presumably North's 3 over 2NT would show six - or could it be only 5 with slam interest? 3♦ might work. Likely undiscussed.



Std:
$$1 \lor - (3 \lor) - X - (P); 3 \lor S = 6$$

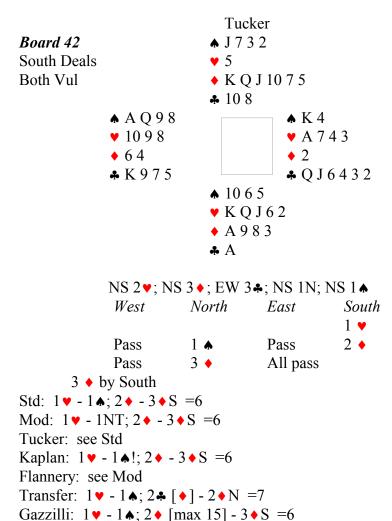
Mod: see Std Tucker: see Std Kaplan: see Std Flannery: see Std Transfer: Std Gazzilli: Std

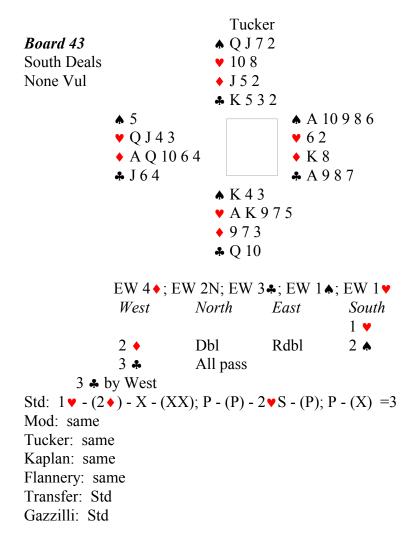
If a negative double shows five spades, the Flannery North has no good call. Maybe this is not such a good idea. I'm assuming this agreement is *not* in effect. See deal 30.



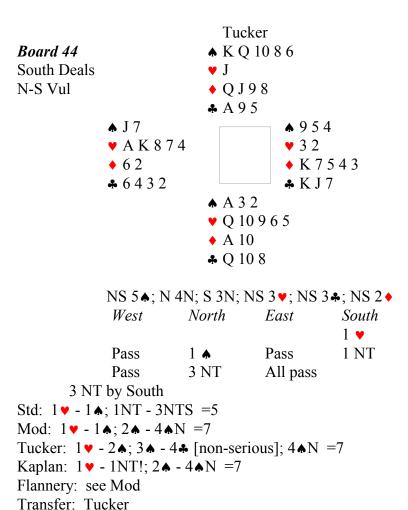
On this type of North hand, I find it much more efficient to start a game forcing sequence with 2. Auctions after a 5+ unlimited 1. response get murky. This is also true with Tucker, where a 2. response is not as efficient.

South keeps his foot firmly on the brake, and the auction stops at a safe level.



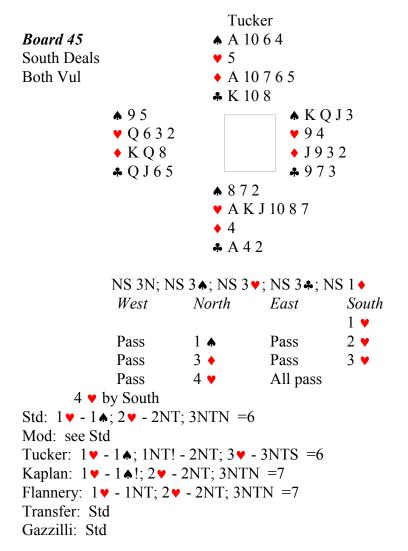


With length in hearts and the space-consuming suit below hearts, West makes a light 2♦ overcall.



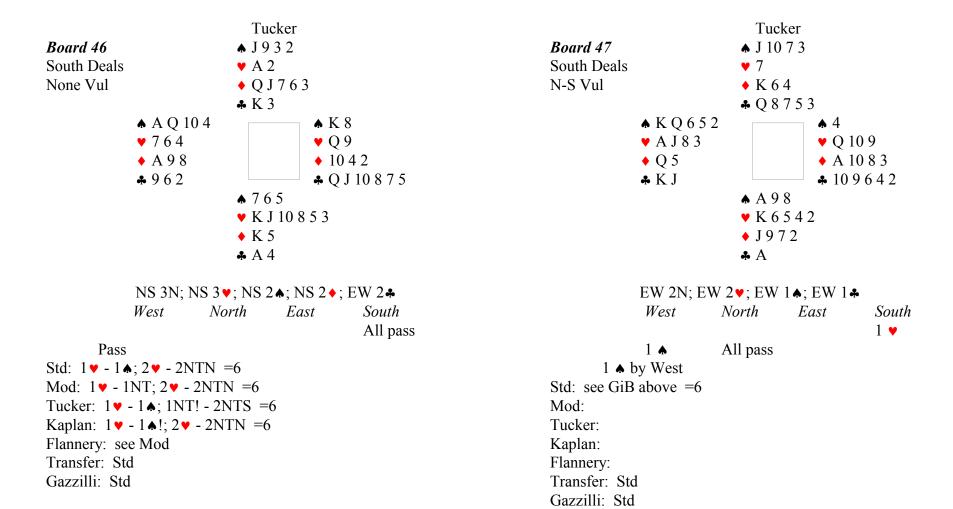
Gazzilli: Tucker

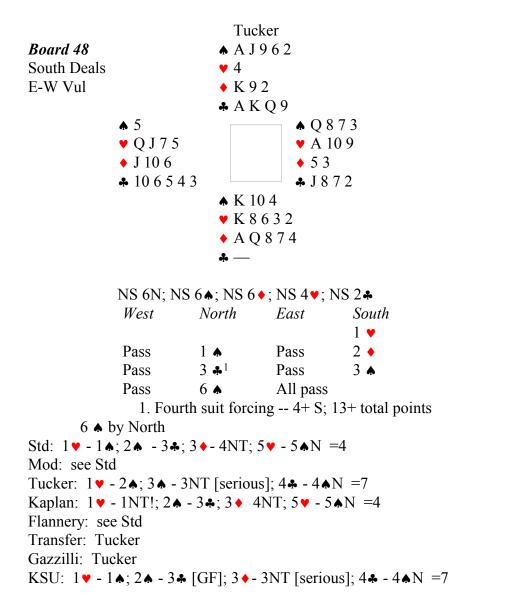
KSU: Mod



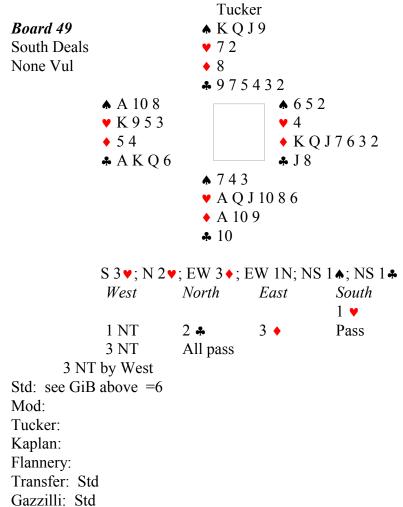
The Tucker auction explores both major suits before settling into 3NT - on another day, from the wrong side. Kaplan and Flannery explore both majors as well (spades by implication), and declare NT by North, whose stoppers might be positional.

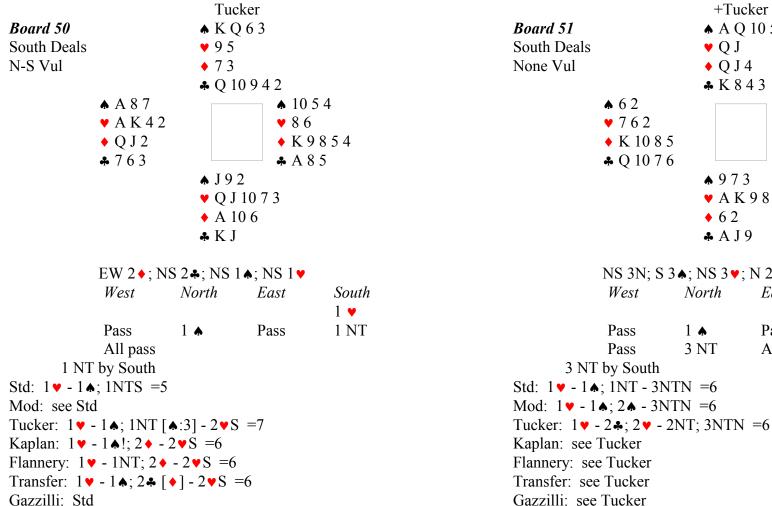
The Std and Mod auctions could have concealed an 8-card spade fit. South's spades are too weak to take a chance on 3 • over 2NT.





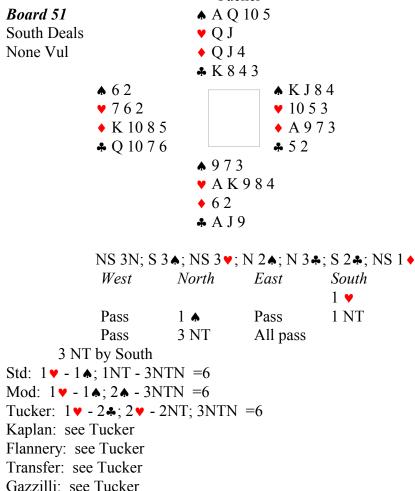
The Tucker auction, with Serious 3NT active, is the only one that stops at the four-level. South's 4♣ cue bid must be shortness, so North decides against a thin slam. (While slam can only be made with an unlikely double trump finesse, plus a diamond split and the ♥A onside.)

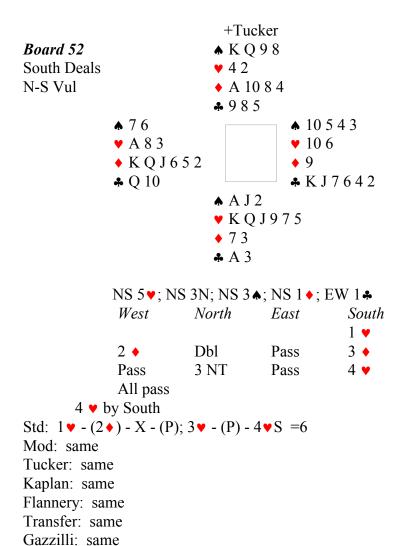


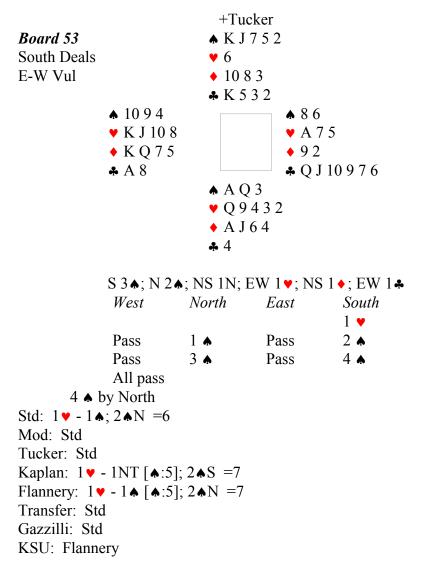


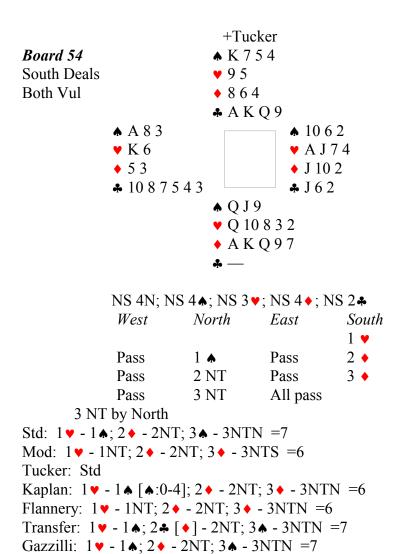
After the Std auction, do you play 2. weak? Probably not. So the natural 1NT rebid is not that valuable. North might choose 2♥, but would you?

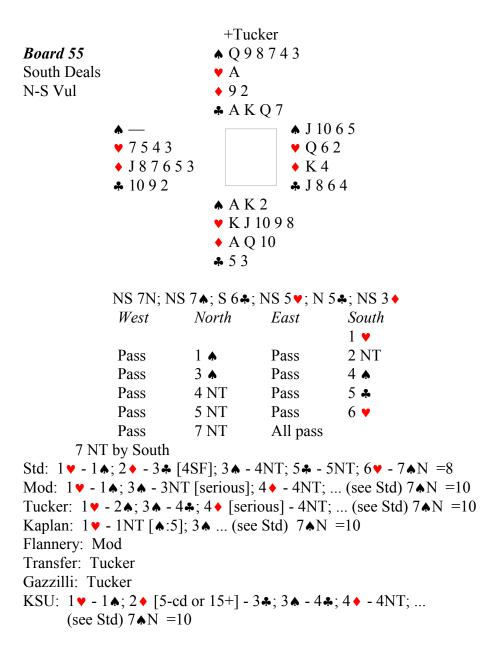
The Tucker auction discloses the spade fit, a safe place to hide if North has a stiff heart. Kaplan and Flannery cannot find such a 7-card fit.



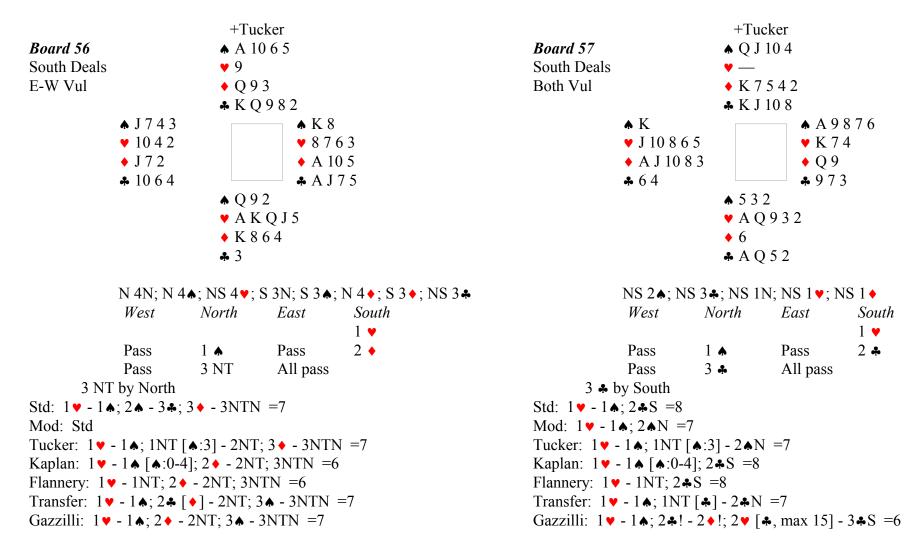








The Std North does not have a solid way to set trumps, determine slam strength, and then bid it. South will have some extras for the delayed raise, but that could be more distribution.



The Kaplan and Flannery Norths do not know the location of South's shortness - could be touchy, if spades.

