

Greetings!

Herewith find analysis of hands played last Thursday, 18th June 2020, in the **Galway/CABAI Western Region BBO IMP Pairs**.

This week I have analysed eleven of the 21 hands. Each hand is analysed in the subsequent pages in this document. Note that in some cases the **Saints & Sinners** comments extend over two pages.

And a few words by way of explanation as to how this analysis is undertaken...

First, the results are downloaded from BBO...this cannot be done until Friday morning. The results include the contracts and results for each board. Remember that each set of hands is played simultaneously at all tables. The results also include access to a MOV file for each hand played (at all tables) which enables me to re-play, trick by trick (an exact re-creation) of how the hand was played. In that way I can observe the actions that constitute the rationale by which I award '**Saint & Sinner**' status.

Some statistics...This review contains the analysis of **11 hands**, played at **13 tables**, representing a total of **143 contracts** that I reviewed which in turn converts to **1,859 tricks** that are minutely screened, which amounts to a grand total of **7,436 individual card plays** that are dissected!

Needless to say this takes time...and then I have to write up the analysis. And then I have to review and edit the document...it's so easy to make a mistake, typo or otherwise.

So, that's an insight into the mechanics of the process involved in the preparation of the analysis that is reflected in this document.

thanks to those that replied with feedback and comments

Paul J Scannell

22nd June 2020

P.S. Are you aware that you can review your own results, and access MOV files which re-create the actual play of every contract played at your table...or indeed any table!

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 8		♠ 7 4 2
♥ J 10 5 2		♥ 9 3
♦ J 10 8		♦ A 3
♣ 10 9 2		♣ A 8 7 6 4 3
	♠ N	♠ Q 10 3
	W E	♥ A Q 6
	S	♦ K Q 9 5 2
		♣ K Q
		♠ J 9 6 5
		♥ K 8 7 4
		♦ 7 6 4
		♣ J 5

EW 4N; EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; EW 1♣; Par -430; EW 3N+1

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ J 8 7 6 ♥ J 10 7 3 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 8 5 4	♠ 9 5 3 2 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ K J 10 7 ♣ J 9	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 10 7 2
♠ A K 10 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ A Q 6 3			

NS 3N; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; NS 1♣; Par +600; NS 3N

NT is the best spot for N/S duly reached at nine tables. One pair overbid to 6 NT, were duly doubled, and suffered a loss of -500 and -10.83 IMPs.

One **Sinful** South, declarer in 3 NT, took her eye of the ball when she let West's opening lead of ♦ 9 win the first trick! Contract failed by one trick! The defense worked well, in particular East (**Siobhan O'Sullivan**) who ducked partner's ♥ J switch at trick two and also waited until the third round of the suit before winning ♦ A thus depriving declarer of access to dummy to finesse in clubs and hearts. Costly mistake in not covering West's opening lead with ♦ J (or 10) at trick one.

Two **Sinful** North declarers, at the helm in a hopeless 4 ♠, could have got out for one down but misplayed the hand and allowed E/W to score several ruffs and the contract, at both tables, duly went FOUR light for a costly -400 and a loss of -9.17 IMPs. Both declarers received ♥ A lead followed by a second heart. Playing two top trumps immediately will significantly reduce the damage. Both failed to do so and in one case E/W scored FIVE ruffs! The other suffered FOUR ruffs.

Another careless and hence **Sinful** South received the same lead of ♥ A and a heart continuation and correctly played two top spades and then led a diamond towards dummy's ♦ KJ107 and unwisely played the ♦ K instead of ♦ J or ♦ 10. This in itself was not fatal. But what she did when declarer won and continued with a diamond for West to ruff was fatal when declarer failed to UNBLOCK the ♦ Q from her hand. She now had ♦ Q in hand opposite ♦ J10 in dummy and no way to get to dummy without losing an unnecessary trick to East's ♣ K. The 3 ♠ contract failed by one trick! Very careless.

At another table, a **Sinful** East opened 1 ♦, South Doubled and West bid 1 ♥. North Passed and East erred by re-bidding her five card diamond suit instead of bidding 2 ♣ which would have shown nine cards and given partner a choice of contracts. Naturally partner passed 2 ♦ and declarer duly went FIVE down, i.e. declarer scored only THREE tricks.. Yes, 2 ♣ would also have failed...but not by five tricks!

One **Sinful** West was very obliging in discarding two spades thus enabling declarer to make three spade tricks and duly score +660 when making 3 NT+2.


Sinner status to all Easts who won the first or second round of diamonds thus providing declarer with an extra access to dummy

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ A 10 9 7 5 3	
	♥ 9 8 4	
	♦ Q J 2	
	♣ 10	
♠ 8 6 2		♠ Q 4
♥ Q 10 7 5		♥ K 6 3
♦ 4		♦ K 9 8 5 3
♣ A K 9 7 2		♣ Q 6 5
	♠ K J	
	♥ A J 2	
	♦ A 10 7 6	
	♣ J 8 4 3	

NS 4♠; NS 2N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; E 1♥; Par +420: NS 4♠

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ A 6 4 2		♠ Q J 10 8
♥ 8 6 2		♥ A 9 5
♦ K 9		♦ A Q 8 2
♣ Q J 7 4		♣ 8 5
		
		♠ 5 3
		♥ Q J 7 3
		♦ J 5 4 3
		♣ A K 9
		♠ K 9 7
		♥ K 10 4
		♦ 10 7 6
		♣ 10 6 3 2

NS 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +90; NS 1N

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ A K 9 7 6	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 7 5 3 2	
	♣ 9 7 6	
♠ J 5 2		♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ K Q 8 7 4 3	W N E	♥ J 10
♦ J 9 6	S	♦ A Q 4
♣ 10		♣ K Q 8 2
	♠ 3	
	♥ A 9 6 5	
	♦ K 10 8	
	♣ A J 5 4 3	

E 2♥; NS 3♣; E 1N; NS 1♠; W 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +100: E 3♥×-1

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ A 8 7	
	♥ 10 9 8 2	
	♦ K	
	♣ J 8 7 6 2	
♠ K 9		♠ Q 10 6 3
♥ A K 7 6 3		♥ Q J 4
♦ 8 7 6		♦ A 5 3
♣ Q 10 5		♣ 9 4 3
	♠ J 5 4 2	
	♥ 5	
	♦ Q J 10 9 4 2	
	♣ A K	

S 2♠; NS 2♦; N 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +110; S 1♠+1

South should open 1♦ and West should overcall 1♥...Double is not advised when holding only a doubleton spade. Remember that in general, a **Takeout Double** promises SUPPORT for the unbid suits. Competitive bidding will see either West secure a heart contract or South a diamond contract.

If South become declarer in a diamond contract there is only one lead to hold declarer to eight tricks...and it wasn't made at any table...will return to this later.

So why did so many declarers fail to make NINE tricks?

The issue revolves around the play of the spade suit. After drawing trumps declarer leads a small spade from dummy and ducks in hand. West will win with ♠ 9 and may play ♥ A. Declarer will ruff and lead another spade, West will follow with ♠ K perforce, and declarer will win with ♠ A and return a spade. East is caught. If he ducks then South's ♠ J will score and if he rises with ♠ Q then dummy's ♠ J is promoted as a winner with a club honour as entry.

What most declarers actually did was play a spade to ♠ A and then another spade which West won with ♠ K. East is now holding ♠ Q10 and when South leads a third spade West will win two spade tricks. Note that the line of ducking the first spade still allows for declarer's ♠ J to become a winner if suit breaks 3-3

And, what is the only defense to hold,declarer to eight tricks....West must lead ♠ K. The defense can now negotiate 1 spade plus a spade ruff AND East will still win another spade trick because declarer cannot discard his fourth losing spade. Simple...Not quite, When East wins with ♦ A he must cash ♠ Q and then play ♠ 10 to smother South's ♠ J...If South doesn't cover the ♠ 10 will win. If South does cover then East's ♠ 6 becomes a winner!

'The money is in the defense'...as long as you pay attention!

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ J 8 4	♠ K	♠ Q 9 7 6 2									
♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2	♥ 10 3	♥ 5									
♦ 10	♦ Q 9 8 6 5	♦ A J 4 2									
♣ A 5	♣ Q 10 9 4 3	♣ K 7 6									
<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A 10 5 3										
	♥ A 9 6										
	♦ K 7 3										
	♣ J 8 2										

EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par -140: EW 2♥+1;
EW 2♠+1

Another interesting little hand with an opportunity for North to use a special bidding gadget (Convention) when partner opens 1 NT and West overcalls 2♥. The gadget is called **Lebensohl** and can be used in a variety of situations, subject to partnership agreement. However it is commonly used when the partner of the 1 NT opener has a long suit (5+ cards) and wants to play at the three level. The problem is that if North bids 3 anything over West's 2♥ then this is FORCING and opener must bid again. So, **Lebensohl** gets us over this problem and enables you to play at the 3 level (opponents permitting). This is how it works in its simplest form...and note that there are several additional elements to this convention! When partner opens 1 NT and RHO bids 2♥ or 2♠, North can make a conventional bid of 2 NT (**Lebensohl**). If LHO passes then opener MUST bid 3♣. North will then pass or convert to his long suit which is NON-FORCING. Simple...Well, that's the start of it. There are other elements to it which allow North to show various other kinds of hands but let's leave it like that for the moment.

In this example, North can bid 2 NT (Lebensohl) over West's 2♥ overcall and South will bid 3♣ which North can pass or convert to 3♦. Note that the North hand has TWO five card suits and 7hcp. That is good playing strength opposite a 1 NT opening bid. The only problem for North is the possibility of selecting the wrong five card suit to bid. There's no way of showing both suits at that level! So, guess right!

Saintly status for bidding and play to **Enda Glynn**. Using **Lebensohl**, **Sean Glynn** steered his partner to 3♣. The opening lead was ♥K. Upon winning with ♥A, declarer played a spade to dummy's ♠K and then led ♣9 and let it run to West ♣A. West cashed ♥Q and then switched to ♦10. At this point East could have defeated the contract by rising with ♦A and giving partner a ruff for the setting trick. ...but that didn't happen. However declarer still had to be careful. Declarer played ♦Q from dummy (**key play**) and East won with ♦A and then returned a spade. Declarer was subsequently able to finesse against East's ♦Jx to make the contract. If declarer had played low from dummy when West switched to ♦10 then East would also play low leaving East with ♦AJx sitting over dummy's ♦Q98x. No mistake from our Grand Master. Well played.

Continued on next page...

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ J 8 4	♠ K	♠ Q 9 7 6 2
♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2	♥ 10 3	♥ 5
♦ 10	♦ Q 9 8 6 5	♦ A J 4 2
♣ A 5	♣ Q 10 9 4 3	♣ K 7 6
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A 10 5 3	
	♥ A 9 6	
	♦ K 7 3	
	♣ J 8 2	

EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par -140: EW 2♥+1;
 EW 2♠+1

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Note that an initial diamond lead and continuation sees the contract fail by one trick when West ruffs the second diamond and then switches to ♥ K thus setting up five tricks for the defense. And of course East could still have defeated the contract when West switched to ♦ 10...

At another table E/W reached 4♠ and duly went two off. And one N/S pair reached 4♦ after South opened 1♦ and West overcalled 3♥. This contract went three light!

But at the remaining ten tables West played a heart contract...at the 2, 3 or 4 level with a variety of results. As the list of makeable contracts shows, nine tricks should be the limit. However the defenders need to be on the ball or else declarer may pull a rabbit out of the hat! Various declarers actually scored 8, 9, 10 or 11 tricks! Saints and Sinners abound!

Saintly status is awarded to **Fiona Place** who pulled a rabbit out of the hat when South went asleep. As declarer in 4♥, Fiona received the lead of ♠ K which held the trick. North then switched to ♣ Q which declarer won in dummy with ♣ K and played ♥ 5...and South followed low and suddenly the contract could no longer be defeated. Declarer won with ♥ J and continued with ♥ K and now North had no trump left to ruff the third spade...**Sinner** status to South.

Major **Sinner** status to those Souths who rose with ♠ A when declarer led a spade from dummy, felling partner's ♠ K and thus gifted declarer eleven tricks!

One declarer in 3♥ seems to have accidentally pulled a small heart from hand thus conceding two heart ricks to N/S. **Careless** status awarded.

Sinner status to the declarer who received a diamond lead and proceeded to play on spades BEFORE drawing trumps. Fortunately for him the defenders failed to find the defense to hold declarer to nine tricks!

Sinner status to the South who ducked the first heart trick after partner led ♠ K.Ten tricks to declarer.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

	♠ Q J 8 7 2	
	♥ 7	
	♦ K 9 8	
	♣ J 10 6 4	
♠ 6 5		♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ 10 8 5 4 2		♥ Q
♦ Q 6 5 3		♦ A 10 2
♣ A 5		♣ Q 9 7 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ A K J 9 6 3	
	♦ J 7 4	
	♣ K 8 3	

EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; Par -90: EW 1N; EW 2♦

Expect a competitive auction with few contracts making!

Indiscipline from several Easts, in particular those playing five card spade openings, who having opened 1♠ elected to re-bid 2♠ after South overcalled 2♥. If East wants to bid again the correct bid is DOUBLE...This is for takeout (a double at the first opportunity!) and shows a heart shortage and support for the two unbid suits. Partner heard your 1♠ opening and with a suitable hand would have bid 2♠ over South's 2♥. If you didn't hear partner bid 2♠ the message is clear!

An interesting point re the play of the diamond suit if South becomes declarer... given that East opened the bidding, If South has to play the diamond suit it is probably best to finesse against West for EITHER the ♦ Q or the ♦ 10 rather than play a diamond to the ♦ K. If West holds either of these cards then declarer can secure one diamond trick. The danger with playing a diamond to North's ♦ K is that West might hold ♦ Q10x and now declarer will lose three diamond tricks. Remember, all you need is that West hold EITHER the ♦ Q or ♦ 10.

Sinner status to the North, defending 2♠, who ruffed partner's winning ♦ 7 with a valuable ♠ 8 ...careless. Watch the smaller cards.

Sinner status to the South who ruffed the second spade with ♥ J

Saintly status to **Helen Cunningham** who ran ♦ J into East...but **Sinner** status for playing another diamond when ♦ J won the first trick. She was ahead of the posse having won the ♦ J.

Sinner status to the two Wests who left respective partners in a 4-2 club fit instead of reverting to the 5-2 spade fit!

QUIZ QUESTION?

Given the N/S diamond holding above, what are the TWO E/W layouts that would enable N/S to legitimately make two tricks assuming ample entries to play from either hand?

Answer at end of this document.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ Q 8 4 2	♠ K 9 6	♠ A 7
♥ 8 5	♥ A J 6 4	♥ 10 3 2
♦ A 8 7 5 4	♦ J 10 6 3	♦ Q 9 2
♣ K J	♣ A 6	♣ Q 5 4 3 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J 10 5 3	
	♥ K Q 9 7	
	♦ K	
	♣ 10 9 8 7	

NS 3♥; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 1♣; Par +140: NS 1♥+2

At most tables, depending on systems in use (NT strength), N/S will reach 1 NT played by N or 2♥ played by South.

Against 1 NT, East will likely lead a small club (denoting a suit headed by an honour). West will play club ♣ K and North, noting dummy's original holding will realise that he has two stoppers! Upon winning opening lead with ♣ A (it could be dangerous to duck if East has lead from a suit headed by two honours in which case letting West win first trick and return a club will see North's second stopper vanish! North can count 4 hearts, 1 club, and should pursue the spade suit. Remember that the defense cannot continue clubs without conceding a second club to South's holding. Declarer should use his heart suit to gain access to dummy to finesse ♠ 9 and then use another heart to access dummy to repeat the finesse. In short, declarer should make 2 spades, 4 hearts, 1 club and either a second club or a diamond.

The opportunities for the defense to concede an extra trick lie in the possibility of E/W colliding two club honours in one trick!. In particular, East will be the primary culprit and may blindly cash ♣ Q upon winning trick with ♠ A. East should refrain from doing that for the very simple reason that if declarer started with ♣ AJ he would likely have continued the suit at trick two. Also, East should observe dummy's club holding and realise that declarer will always be entitled to a second club irrespective of who holds the 'unseen' ♣ J. East would be wise to return a SMALL club if continuing the suit after winning ♣ A.

The defense should score 1 spade, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. thus holding declare to eight tricks.

Any defense that concedes nine tricks is **Sinful**. As is any declarer who fails to make 8 tricks!

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 5	♠ 9 7 6 2	♠ A K Q 8 4
♥ J 5 4	♥ 8 7 3 2	♥ 10 9
♦ Q 6 3 2	♦ J 9 8 5	♦ A K 4
♣ Q 6 4 2	♣ 10	♣ A 8 5

♠ J 3
♥ A K Q 6
♦ 10 7
♣ K J 9 7 3

EW 3♠; EW 2N; E 3♦; W 2♦; E 2♣; NS 1♥; W 1♣; Par -140:
EW 2♠+1

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

♠ Q 8 7 5 3	♠ J 6 2	♠ A 10
♥ 7 5 3	♥ 9	♥ K 10 8 6 4 2
♦ 7	♦ A K Q 10 9	♦ J 8 3 2
♣ 10 6 5 2	♣ J 8 4 3	♣ Q
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K 9 4	
	♥ A Q J	
	♦ 6 5 4	
	♣ A K 9 7	

NS 5N; NS 5♦; NS 5♣; NS 3♠; NS 2♥; Par +660: NS 3N+2

3 NT by N/S was the contract at all tables bar one.

Sinner status to the South, declaring 3 NT who cashed two top clubs, noting East's ♣ Q falling on first round and then failed to finesse dummy's ♣ 8 when West played the ♣ 6!!!

Sinner status to the FOUR Souths, declaring 3 NT who led ♣ J on the first round of the suit thus promoting West's ♣ 10 to a winner.

Sinner status to the South, declaring 3 NT who led ♣ 3 which drew East's ♣ Q, and then failed to cash the second top club from her hand and expose the finesse against West ♣ 106 for four club tricks. Instead, declarer won the first trick in hand and then played a club to dummy's ♣ J thus promoting West's ♣ 10 to winner status!!! The unprompted play of a Q in this layout usually signals a shortage!

Saintly status to the declarers (**Sean Glynn, Michael O'Connor**) who tested the clubs before playing three rounds of diamonds and thus identified that they had four clubs tricks and could safely establish North's fifth diamond without fear of the defense being able to defeat the contract.

Sinner status to the dozing East who let dummy's ♦ 9 win the second diamond trick!

Mega **Sinner** Status to the N/S pair who languished in 3 ♣ after North opened 1 ♦, East overcalled 2 ♥ and South bid 3 ♣...which was passed out!

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q 10 8 7 5	♠ —	♠ J 3
♥ A	♥ J 8 3	♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ Q J	♦ K 9 8 6 4	♦ A 5 3 2
♣ Q 9 7 3	♣ J 10 6 5 2	♣ A 8 4
	♠ A 9 6 4 2	
	♥ K Q 7 6 5	
	♦ 10 7	
	♣ K	

EW 5♠; EW 2N; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -450: EW 4♠+1

An awkward but interesting hand. South will open 1♠, West will PASS and the subsequent bids will vary at different tables from this point in the auction. Some Norths will bid 1NT and East will Pass and South will bid 2♥ which may be passed out, At other tables North may Pass at first opportunity and some Easts may make a light Takeout Double (West will start salivating!) . South may bid 2♥ at which point North will breathe a sigh of relief!.

I expect that many Wests will bid what they believe to be a natural (to play) 2♠. But in reality 2♠ is a Game Force as evidenced by what happened to **Kevin Moylan** who was playing with a **BBO Robot** and where the final contract was 4♦x-2 by the Robot. [**Word of warning**. If you decide to play with a BBO Robot be sure to check the system that the Robot will insist on playing!]

Needless to say the final contracts reached at all table reflect the colours of the rainbow in terms of denomination and declarer! Several West's made a spade contract whereas several Souths failed in a spade contract

Two highly experienced players sitting E/W, although not a regular partnership, had the following auction: South opened 1♠, West Passed, North Passed, East made a light Takeout Double, South showed his second suit with 2♥...and West bid 2NT. Perhaps there was confusion about this bid on East's part and he duly bought the auction with a bid of 3♦ which went 3 light. Note that 2NT can make because a spade towards East's ♠J3 reveals the break and declarer can subsequently finesse against South's ♠9.

Saintly status to **Kay Scarry** who brought home 3NT after making an unorthodox 1NT overcall of South's opening bid of 1♠. Partner raised to 3NT and North, unaware of his partner's second five card suit, led a club ducked to South's ♣K. South could have ensured defeat of the contract by switching to a low heart whereupon N/S could subsequently score four heart tricks in addition to ♣K and ♠A. Fortunately for declarer, and unfortunately for the defense, South switched to ♥K and now dummy's ♥10942 meant that N/S could no longer take four heart tricks...nor even three! Kay won the heart switch perforce with her singleton ♥A and led a spade to dummy's ♠J3, the spade layout being revealed in the process. A subsequent finesse against South's ♠9 ensured that declarer emerged with nine tricks!.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 4 2	♠ 10 7 6 5	♠ J 3
♥ 8 5	♥ K 7 4 2	♥ A Q J 10 9 6
♦ K 8 7 4	♦ Q 2	♦ A J 10
♣ Q 9 5 4	♣ 10 8 2	♣ A J
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A K 9 8	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 9 6 5 3	
	♣ K 7 6 3	

E 4♥; EW 3N; W 3♥; E 4♦; W 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; Par -420; E 4♥

One E/W pair reached 3 NT making nine tricks. All other E/W partnerships reached a heart contract, three not bidding the game.

Absolute **Sinner** status to the East who received the led of a top spade followed by a diamond switch who subsequently went one off. Declarer could have played a second spades establishing dummy's SQ for the discard of declarer's losing ♣ J. Instead declarer took a roundabout route and perhaps got fixated on the possibility of a successful trump finesse and ended up one down. Remember this competition is IMPs not Matchpoints. Take the line that will best see you make your contract.

Most declarers took the right view in diamonds...no **Saintly** awards. There is no legitimate line for the defenders to defeat 4♥.

Board 18
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ QJ		♠ K 9	
♥ 10 8 3		♥ K J 5 2	
♦ Q 9 8 6 2		♦ A K 3	
♣ A K 9		♣ J 10 8 2	
	W		E
	S		
		♠ A 10 8 7 5 4 2	
		♥ 9 6	
		♦ 7	
		♣ Q 7 4	
		♠ 6 3	
		♥ A Q 7 4	
		♦ J 10 5 4	
		♣ 6 5 3	

EW 4♠; NS 2♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -420: EW 4♠

Board 19
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 8 3		♠ 10 5		
♥ K 9 6 2		♥ Q 10 5		
♦ 2		♦ A K J 10 8		
♣ 10 9 8 3 2		♣ A Q J		
	W	N	E	
		S		
		♠ Q 9 7 4		♠ K J 6 2
		♥ A 7		♥ J 8 4 3
		♦ Q 7 5 4		♦ 9 6 3
		♣ K 7 5		♣ 6 4

NS 4N; NS 3♠; NS 4♦; NS 2♣; Par +430; NS 3N+1

Board 20West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 6	♠ A K 5	♠ J 4 2
♥ J	♥ K 4 2	♥ A Q 10 8 5 3
♦ K 10 7 4	♦ Q J 9 3 2	♦ A
♣ J 8 7 6 4 3	♣ A 5	♣ K 9 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ Q 9 8 7 3	
	♥ 9 7 6	
	♦ 8 6 5	
	♣ Q 10	

EW 4♣; EW 2♥; N 1N; NS 1♠; Par -130; EW 2♣+2

At most tables E/W are likely to buy the hand in a heart contract, probably at the 2 level. Note that E/W can make ten tricks in clubs but that denomination will be difficult to bid! On the other hand, eight tricks can be made in hearts.

At first sight it looks like declarer has 3 spade losers, 1 heart loser and 2 club losers...and indeed that is what happened at several tables...but shouldn't!

One of the most important things a declarer must always do before playing a card from dummy is to assess winners and losers. In this case, from declarer's perspective, it does look like he may have six inescapable losers, as outlined above.

However look what happens. If N/S play three rounds of spades declarer can ruff third round in dummy, come to hand with ♦ A, and then play trumps. Declarer will eventually win 1 spade ruff in dummy, 5 hearts, ♦ A and a club.

If N/S cash two rounds of spades and switch to a small heart then declarer can win in dummy and lead a club towards his ♣ K and will end up making 5 hearts, 1 diamond, 2 clubs.

Those declarers who could see no further than playing trumps, instead of spades, at first opportunity will indeed lose 3 spades, 1 heart and 2 clubs. Sometimes the magical layout of the defenders hands cannot be seen...but it doesn't mean that you cannot imagine it!

Note also, that if North switches to ♥ K after two top spades then declarer will lose 3 spades and 2 clubs but will score 6 hearts, 1 diamond, and a club.

Sinner status to the East who having overcalled North's 1 NT with 2♥ failed to Pass partner's 3♣ bid while holding ♣ K92 and instead re-bid his hearts and went one down when partner could have made ten tricks in clubs! We should always listen to partner's bids and not be fixated with our own hand! **Sinner** status also to the South who found the lead of ♣ Q instead of a diamond, thus surrendering the defense's 2nd club trick!

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 6	♠ A K 5	♠ J 4 2
♥ J	♥ K 4 2	♥ A Q 10 8 5 3
♦ K 10 7 4	♦ Q J 9 3 2	♦ A
♣ J 8 7 6 4 3	♣ A 5	♣ K 9 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ Q 9 8 7 3	
	♥ 9 7 6	
	♦ 8 6 5	
	♣ Q 10	

EW 4♣; EW 2♥; N 1N; NS 1♠; Par -130: EW 2♣+2

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Sinner status to the North players who cashed ♣ A thus surrendering N/S's 2nd club trick, thus in one case, letting declarer make 9 tricks instead of 7.

Sinner status to the South who led ♣ 10 from ♣ Q10 instead of a spade.

Sinner status to any declarer who was given access to dummy via ♥ J and failed to play a club towards ♣ K92.

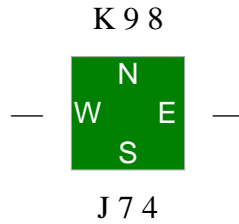
Mega sinner status to the East who got a hugely helpful defense that cashed two top spades and then switched to ♣ A and another club, declarer winning with ♣ K...and ♣ 9 in hand now also a winner. Declarer now had a very easy route to nine tricks. He has lost only three so far. So, ruff ♠ J in dummy, return to hand with a diamond to ♦ A and then play hearts from the top. Declarer will emerge with nine tricks. Instead, our declarer found a way to go down! He cashed ♦ A (no reason to do that), ruffed ♠ J and then cashed ♦ K discarding the winning ♣ 9 from hand. Now his goose was cooked. He has two ways to get off the table ...play a club or a diamond. Neither defender has a club left so leading a club will bring about a possible overruff which is what happened. But leading a diamond is no better...both defenders follow as declarer ruffs in hand and then plays ♥ A and ♥ Q which North will win with ♥ K at which point North will play a fourth diamond and South's now singleton ♥ 9 will score a trick via a trump promotion...declarer will have to ruff with ♥ 10 (promoting South's ♥ 9) or ruff with ♥ 8 in which case South will overruff with ♥ 9. A calamitous result for declarer from such a position of strength!

Saintly status to the Easts (**Marion Donlon, Brendan King, David Walsh, and The Robot that partnered Brendan Moylan**) who played a spade at first opportunity thus forcing the defense to concede access to dummy or surrender their trump trick!

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A		♠ 9 6
♥ Q J 10 4		♥ K 9 7 6 3
♦ 10 8 5 2		♦ 3
♣ Q J 6 2		♣ A 9 8 7 3
	♠ N	♠ K 10 8 7 3
	W E	♥ A 8 2
	S	♦ A J 9 7
		♣ 4
		♠ Q J 5 4 2
		♥ 5
		♦ K Q 6 4
		♣ K 10 5

EW 3♦; EW 1N; E 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par -110: EW 1♦+2



QUIZ QUESTION?

Given the N/S diamond holding above, what are the TWO E/W layouts that would enable N/S to legitimately make two tricks assuming ample entries to play from either hand?

There are two possibilities...both VERY slim, but chances nonetheless...

1) Lead a small diamond from the South hand and when West plays \spadesuit Q cover with \spadesuit K and after East wins with \spadesuit A then subsequently finesse against East's \spadesuit 106532. So, we play West for a singleton \spadesuit Q and East for a holding of \spadesuit A106532

1) Lead a \spadesuit J and when West plays low let it run pinning East's singleton \spadesuit 10. Now lead a second diamond towards dummy's \spadesuit K9 for the second trick. In this instance we play West for a holding of \spadesuit AQ6532 and East to hold a singleton \spadesuit 10

Note that in both cases there is absolutely nothing that the defense can do and both lines will work. All that declarer needs to know is which line to take!!!