

Greetings!

Herewith find analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 16th July 2020, in the **Galway/CABAI Western Region BBO IMP Pairs**.

This week I have analysed FIFTEEN of the 21 hands.... 1,2,3,4,6,10,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21
This was more than I intended to review but some were so interesting that I couldn't let them pass without a comment!

Please note that in some cases the **Saints & Sinners** comments extend over several pages.

There are particularly detailed reviews/analysis of Boards 1,10,14,15,16,17. Lots of **Saint** and **Sinner** statuses awarded! And some good points re declarer play and defense are highlighted.

And for the benefit of those who don't already know, 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 **15 hands**, played at **13 tables**, representing a total of **195 contracts** that I reviewed which in turn converts to **2,535 tricks** that are minutely screened, which amounts to a grand total of **10,140 individual card plays** that are dissected!

Apologies for the delay in producing this week's analysis.

Paul J Scannell

22nd July 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

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

NS 5N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 1♣; Par +460

South has a BIG hand and will probably reach 3 NT. Some Easts may open 1♥ which could influence West's opening lead. Otherwise West will likely lead a club.

If East has opened the bidding then it should make the play a little easier for declarer who will be able to pin most missing key cards with East, e.g. ♠ K, ♥ Q,

To start declarer can count 1 spade, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and perhaps either a club or an extra heart based on the opening lead.

If West leads a club you should note carefully the card led and also the card that West plays on the second round of clubs which will likely indicate a 5 card or longer club suit. In this case West becomes the Danger Hand...If West gains the lead he will be able to cash several club winners to defeat the contract...

In the case of a club lead to East's ♣ A and a continuation by East of ♣ J note that West will likely play ♣ 3 indicating 5+ clubs. In order to make this contract declarer must ASSUME that West does NOT hold ♠ K. The club lead gives declarer 1 spade, 2 heart, 3 diamond, 1 club. TWO more tricks are needed. The heart finesse will provide one. And we can engineer a second spade even if East hold ♠ KJxx.. So, win ♣ K, Cash ♠ A and then run ♠ 10 if West plays low. Eventually ♠ 9 would become a winner. In fact, if West does not cover ♠ 10 then ♠ Q and ♠ 9 will both become winners.

Note that it is crucial to do this BEFORE playing diamonds and using the only guaranteed entry to dummy, ♦ Q, to access ♠ 9 and also to take the heart finesse if needed.

Also, this is a safe line of play which allows for the possibility of West holding ♠ J. On the other hand, leading ♠ Q from dummy is dangerous...yes, we trap East's ♠ K BUT we promote West's ♠ J BEFORE we can enjoy a second spade trick!

Saints & Sinners - SEE NEXT PAGE

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 1♣; Par +460

Saints & Sinner

Sinner status to the South who played in 3 NT on the lead of ♣ 6 and ended minus four. Declarer won the second club trick with ♣ K and then played a diamond to dummy's ♦ Q and then led ♠ Q. No way home after that.

Sinner status to the declarer in 3 NT on the lead of ♣ 7 who won the second trick with ♣ K and then cashed six more top tricks to meekly go two down!

Sinner status also to the South who opened 2 ♣ and then re-bid 2 ♥ which partner, not unnaturally, raised to 4 ♥. This went quietly two light. If your bidding methods don't allow you to open 2 NT then you should rebid NT. Re-bidding a suit suggests at least a five card holding or longer.

Sinner status to the South, declaring 3 NT on the lead of ♣ 6 subsequently gained entry to dummy via ♦ Q and then led ♥ J, covered by East with ♥ Q. Declarer can now count to eight tricks and only needs one more for his contract. Unfortunately after re-entering dummy he led a small spade and finessed the ♠ 10 into West who promptly cashed several club winners to see the contract fail by two tricks.

Sinner status to the East who failed to cover ♦ 10 after partner had played ♦ 9 on first round of the suit. Declarer COULD have run the ♦ 10 which would have scored! East with ♦ J83 should have covered.

Almost Saintly status to one South, declaring 3 NT on lead of ♣ 6 who was on lead at trick nine having won 1 club, 3 diamonds, 3 hearts and with the spade suit untouched was in sight of snatching victory in the knowledge that he knew that West held 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 2 unknown cards, and if he had been carefully watching West's clubs, could have worked out that West held a doubleton spade. If East held ♠ Kx then declarer could have put East on lead with a heart (or a diamond) and then waited for East to open the spade suit which declarer could run to the ♠ Q in dummy. 3 NT made...Sadly (for declarer) he cashed ♠ A and conceded the remaining tricks, INCLUDING ♠ K, to East for a one trick defeat.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 1♣; Par +460

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the South, declaring 3 NT after East opened 1 ♥, who failed to cover West's opening lead of ♥ 8 with ♥ J (or ♥ 10) and who also failed to play on spades first which would have led to nine tricks!

Sinner status to the East who did not cover either the ♥ J or ♥ 10, thereby giving declarer FOUR heart tricks where three is the maximum to which declarer is entitled and thus letting declarer score nine tricks for her contract.

Sinner status to the East player, defending 4 ♠ by North, who failed to cover ♥ 10 on third round of the suit ♥j winning first round and ♥ A winning the second round. Declarer then ran the ♥ 10 and scored four heart tricks. **Sinful** play by East. **Saintly** status to **Kevin Moylan** for steering the ship home through dangerous waters!

Saintly status (with a **venial sin** thrown in for good measure) is awarded to **Peggy Fay** who declared 3 NT after East opened 1 ♥. On the lead of ♥ 8, declarer covered with ♥ J, East ducking (no problem as long as ♥ 10 is covered on next play of the suit). Declarer then played a spade to her S ♠ A and ran the ♠ 10 when West failed to cover, East winning with ♠ K. East returned a heart, hoping that declarer had started with three and not four. Alas, **Peggy** let it run round to her ♥ 10 in dummy thus securing four heart tricks. She then played three top diamonds ending in hand. She now led ♠ 5 and when West produced ♠ 8 she committed a venial sin by rising with ♠ Q instead of playing ♠ 9. If she had covered with ♠ 9 she could have scored ten tricks...but instead she settled for nine tricks.

Saintly status to **Margaret Treacy** who claimed ten tricks in 3 NT after East found the fatal (for the defense) switch of ♠ 2 from ♠ K2 thus setting up FOUR spades for declarer when West unwisely contributed ♠ J.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 6♣; NS 5N; NS 4♥; NS 3♠; N 2♦; S 1♦; Par +1370

Whereas N/S can make 6♣ they CANNOT make 6NT. If East opens the bidding then expect N/S to reach no further than 3NT.

The route to twelve tricks in 6♣ is tricky and involves SQUEEZING East in diamonds and spades for the twelfth trick. Declarer will finesse ♦ Q, cash ♦ A and ruff a diamond in the North hand. This leaves East as the only defender who can 'guard' against South's fourth diamond. BUT, East is also holding the ♠ QJ95 which are 'threatened' by North's ♠ A102 opposite South's ♠ K76.

In the endplay North will hold ♠ A102 and South will hold ♠ K7, ♦ 7. East will have to reduce to three cards... and cannot hold ♠ QJ9 as well as ♦ K and hence is SQUEEZED enabling declarer to score the last three tricks no matter what card East discards on trick ten!

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status and Sinner status to the N/S pair who managed to reach 6♣ albeit not through an entirely convincing bidding sequence. East did open 1♦ over which South made a Takeout Double. West Passed and North made an entirely underwhelming bid of 2♣ which is NOT forcing (South could Pass). South emerged with a bid of 2NT which shows a VERY STRONG hand (remember an immediate overcall of 1NT shows 15-18 hcp). A rebid of 1NT after a Takeout Double usually shows 19-21 hcp. So, all considered, South should have Passed North's 2♣. The problem started with North's 2♣. Holding such a powerhouse opposite South's Takeout Double North must make an initial **Game Forcing** bid which is to Cue-Bid the opponents suit., 2♦ in this case. This is NOT a natural bid and simply says...'Partner I know that you have an opening bid and I also have one too...so I'm cue-bidding the opponents suit to alert you to the fact that we should bid a game which we can now explore with our subsequent bids. BUT, DO NOT STOP below Game'.

North subsequently declared 6♣ but did not find the winning line and duly finished one down.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 6♣; NS 5N; NS 4♥; NS 3♠; N 2♦; S 1♦; Par +1370

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status and **Sinner status** to the N/S pair who managed to reach 6 NT, again with North making an underwhelming and NON-FORCING bid of 2 ♣ opposite partner's initial Takeout Double of East's 1 ♦. Black mark also for not making at least eleven tricks. 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, 4 clubs. Declarer prematurely rose with ♦ A when East switched to ♦ J after winning ♣ A. A quick 'count' will show that East MUST have ♦ K based on their opening bid of ♦ D.

Sinner status to the N/S who ended up in 2 NT, again with North making an underwhelming and NON-FORCING bid of 2 ♣ in response to partner's Takeout Double of East's 1 ♦.

Saintly status to the East who opened 1 ♦ and then managed to bid 1 ♠ over North's 1 ♥ response to partner's Takeout Double. This was an effective shape showing bid by East at FAVOURABLE vulnerability.

Part Saint and Part Sinner...the Norths who made a jump bid (3 ♣) in response to partner's Takeout Double of East's 1 ♦ opening. However, a jump response simply suggests a hand with 10-12 hcp and is NON-FORCING. Here, North holds 16hcp. Kudos for not bidding 2 ♣.

Sinner status to the North who responded 1 ♥ to partner's Takeout Double and then bid 3 ♣ showing a hand with 5+ hearts and four+ clubs. **Sinner status** to partner South who re-bid 1 NT (showing 19-21 hcp despite holding an absolute minimum 12hcp!!!) over North's NON-FORCING bid of 1 ♥. South should have Passed 1 ♥.

FULL Saintly status to the South who PASSED East's opening 1 ♦ and then bid 3 NT over North's Takeout Double. The South hand is not suitable for a Takeout Double of East's 1 ♦ opening. Your only four card suit is the one bid by your right-hand opponent. PASS is the best bid. Let's see what partner can do...

Sinner status to **all South's** who made a Takeout Double of 1 ♦ by East with the South hand.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♣; Par -500; NS 4♠×-3;
NS 5♦×-3

West will open 2♥ (weak) or a Multi 2♦ which includes a Weak 2 option. North will make a Takeout Double to get the other three suits into play. If East Passes *then South may be forced to bid a three card suit, perhaps 2♠*. Note from the makeable contract list above that 4♥ by E/W can be made whereas N/S can make 2♦...but not 3♦ or higher.

Incidentally making 4♥ is not straightforward. Declarer seems to have four losers...1 spade, 2 diamonds and 1 club. H'mm...try the backward finesse in clubs. Lead ♣ J and let it run if North does not cover. if North does cover ♣ J with ♣ Q then win with ♣ A in East hand and then finesse ♣ 9.

Expect a range of contracts played by both sides.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to any South who Passed partner's Takeout Double of 2♥ by West. South's heart holding, and general lack of strength, does not allow for converting North's Takeout Double to a Penalty Double as confirmed by three heart contracts by West, all doubled, and all making!

Sinner status to the four **Souths** who bid 2NT in response to North's Takeout Double of West's 2♥. 2NT in this situation should show at least 9hcp. Here the only practical bid by South is 3♦

Double Sinner status to the North and South at one table. South made an imaginative bid of 2♠ in response to North's Takeout Double of West's 2♥. **Sinner** status to North who raised to 4♠, presumably on the assumption that South had some values! North should have realised that if South had values in the range of 10+ hcp that he would have made a jump response. In that light North should have proceeded cautiously and considered a raise to 3♠. Remember that South has made a forced bid and may have a Yarborough, i.e. a hand with no card higher than a '9'. North's ♣ Q763 look particularly vulnerable.

Sinner status to the North who allowed E/W to play in 2♥. North should make a Takeout Double of 2♥, bid by East in response to West's Multi 2♦ opening which North did Double. A Double of 2♥ by North would also be for Takeout.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♣; Par -500; NS 4♠×-3;
 NS 5♦×-3

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the West whose partner found a switch to ♥ A, followed by ♥ 10 which West overtook with ♥ J and ended up conceding an unnecessary trick to South's ♥ Q. The contract failed by just two tricks instead of at least four if West had not overtaken the ♥ 10

Sinner status to the Easts at TWO other tables, defending 3 NT by South, who unnecessarily overtook partner's winning ♣ J with her ♣ A and thus gifted declarer a trick with ♣ 10. West had already smothered dummy's ♣ Q with ♣ K before continuing with ♣ J. Clearly West knew that East held ♣ A and would have continued with a small club if he (West) had started with an original holding of ♣ KJxx.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 4♠; E 3♥; W 2♥; E 3♦; W 2♦; EW 1♣; Par +500; E 5♦×-2;
E 5♥×-2

N/S can make 4 ♠. Can they manage to bid it will be the question? West can make 3 ♥ whereas East can make 2 ♥. If West is declarer then South can score two diamond ruffs, 1 spade and 2 clubs (if patient and doesn't panic!). If East is declarer then North can only give South one diamond ruff!

What is important on this board is evaluating South's hand. If South was dealer then 1 ♠ would be the recommended opening...not a weak 2 ♠. Using the **Rule of 20** (see last week's analysis) the South hand qualifies for a 1 ♠ opening... The hand is TOO good for an opening Weak 2 ♠. Note two good black suits with good intermediate cards, and a void in diamonds. Note also the positive attributes of the North hand opposite an overcall of 1 ♠ by South. Good four card trump support, two doubletons, and a five card side suit headed by the king (downgrade the hand if East opens 1 ♦).

4 ♠ makes because the club honours are split. Declarer should draw two rounds of trumps finishing in the North hand and then lead a club towards South's ♣ AJ104, finessing when East plays low. Declarer will then repeat the finesse after regaining the lead. Note that declarer could also ruff two clubs in the North hand as well as one heart. But a trump lead and continuation by East at first opportunity might scuttle that plan.

Saints & Sinners

Double Sinner status to the N/S pair who allowed their opponents to play in 4 ♥. One for not bidding 4 ♠ and the other for not defeating 4 ♥. If North has listened to the bidding he should have every good reason for leading a diamond...*counting, counting...all the time!* East opened 1 ♦, subsequently supported by West. And North is holding five cards in the suit...how many can South have? **Saintly Status** awarded to the E/W pair (**William & Michele**) who bid the heart game in the knowledge of the double fit in hearts and diamonds.

Saintly status to **Fiona & Brendan** who bid to 4 ♠ before the opponents had a chance to bid hearts. Top marks to **Fiona** who duly drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and then took a club finesse. She then ruffed the third heart in dummy and took a second, successful, club finesse, and ruffed the fourth club in dummy. Well played.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 4♠; E 3♥; W 2♥; E 3♦; W 2♦; EW 1♣; Par +500: E 5♦×-2;
E 5♥×-2

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to **Robert & Noelle** who bid to 4 ♠ and made eleven tricks when East erroneously rose with ♦ A after Robert played low from dummy on West's small diamond lead. Perhaps more a case of a dozy East rather than a **Sinful** one!

Sinner status to the E/W pair who ended up in 2 NT after East opened 1 NT and South overcalled 2 ♠. Perhaps West's 2 NT was a case of **Lebensohl** and East forgot the system? 2 NT down 2 was not a good result for E/W

Sinner status to the West who bid all the way to 5 ♦ which failed by 3 tricks. **East** also guilty for not supporting partner's hearts.

Sinner status to the two Souths who ended up with only nine tricks in a spade part-score contract. Note that if declarer draws trump then he is left with only two trumps to ruff the heart and club losers in the North hand. For that reason declarer should take the double finesse in clubs so as to limit the number of clubs that will need to be ruffed in dummy from two to one. Apart from which, the double finesse in clubs offers a 75% chance of success to produce two tricks from the ♣ AJ10 holding in the South hand.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -140

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 5♥; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 1♠; Par -650

E/W should reach 4♥ and can score eleven tricks. N/S might save in 4♠ and thus reduce the deficit on the hand even if doubled.


Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the East who failed in 4♥ after receiving a hugely beneficial club switch from South who had kicked off with two top spades. Declarer should have cashed two top hearts, ending in dummy with ♥Q. Declarer should then unblock ♣K before playing two more hearts and then continue with clubs from the top conceding a trick to South's ♣10. With a trump still in hand declarer can win any return and access her hand with her last trump before cashing the ♣5 for her tenth trick!

Unfortunately declarer failed to unblock the ♣K and was short-trumped before her fifth club was established and duly finished a trick short.

Saintly status to the two N/S pairs (**Margaret & Carmel** and **Liam & John**) who sacrificed in 4♠ (note the favourable vulnerability!) each making eight tricks and conceding -100 and -300 respectively, the latter pair being Doubled. **Sinner** status to the E/W pair who failed to Double 4♠.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 2♠; N 3♣; S 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +620

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

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

N 4♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; EW 2♥; S 3♦; EW 1♣; Par +130

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 2♠; EW 1N; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -110

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

	♠ A Q 3										
	♥ —										
	♦ K J 9 8 5										
	♣ A 10 9 7 5										
♠ 10 8 6 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 8 5 4 3		♥ A Q 10 9 2									
♦ 2		♦ 7 6 4 3									
♣ Q J		♣ K 8 2									
	♠ K J 9 5										
	♥ J 7 6										
	♦ A Q 10										
	♣ 6 4 3										

W 4♥; NS 5♣; E 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; Par +200; W 5♥×-1

The only game that can be made is 4♥ by E/W who hold a combined 15hcp. N/S with a combined 25hcp can only make one game contract...5♣. It is most likely that N/S will contract either 4♠ on the 4-3 fit or 5♦ on the 5-3 fit. The reason that neither 5♦ or 4♠ can make is because of the poor breaks in the respective trump suits. 4♠ is perhaps particularly unlucky because the hand with the three card spade holding has the heart void and the initial likely lead of a heart can therefore be ruffed in the hand with the short trump holding. If outstanding spades break 4-2 then declarer can draw trumps, cash five diamonds, and the ♣ A for eleven tricks. But, the spade suit break 5-1 and when declarer draws trumps then West will eventually gain the lead and E/W can cash two heart tricks and will also score at least one club.

The play in 5♣ needs careful attention. On a heart lead declarer ruffs and plays ♣ A and another club. East cannot rise with ♣ K otherwise the defence loses their natural second club trick. West will win with ♣ Q and can give partner a diamond ruff if East led a diamond at trick one...but then that's it for the defense. Alternatively West can continue with a second heart, declare ruffing in hand. This now leaves declarer with a singleton club while East holds ♣ K. Declarer simply plays on diamonds and then spades letting East win his ♣ K whenever he chooses!

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status awarded to any E/W pair that allowed 4♠ or 5♦ to make. In one case West lost track of the heart suit and failed to realise that after partner cashed ♥ A and continued with ♥ Q as declarer followed with ♥ J, that the ♥ Q could be overtaken and two more hearts cashed to defeat the contract by two tricks. Instead partner was left on lead with ♥ J and now had to play a club. Declarer duly cashed remaining diamond winners to scramble home.

Absolute Sinner status to the West, defending 4♠, who lead a diamond, saw declarer draw three rounds of trumps without ruffing any hearts in dummy, and then played a second diamond which West ruffed. West still had ♠ 10 and declarer the ♠ K. If West continued with a heart declarer would eventually be forced to ruff. West could then ruff the diamond continuation and cash any remaining hearts. This would see the defense score two trumps and four hearts thus defeating the contract by three tricks. But West, after ruffing the diamond played his ♠ 10 to declarer's ♠ K who then rattled off their remaining diamond winners and escaped for a mere one down! **Sinner** status to the North who opened 1♣ instead of 1♦.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

W 4♥; NS 5♣; E 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; Par +200; W 5♥×-1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Another East, defending 5♦, led a spade instead of a heart which forces declarer at trick one! Declarer won in hand, drew three rounds of trumps and then played a second round of spades which East ruffed...and then switched to a club! Declarer with two trumps in hand was able to win and continued with another club from hand. And at this point East played without thinking by rising with ♣ K, felling partner's ♣ Q thereby establishing declarer's second suit. Rising with the ♣ K was WRONG. East is marked with ♣ Q, having earlier played ♣ J which declarer won with ♣ A. Why would declarer win with ♣ A if they had ♣ Q?

At another table East (**Sinner status awarded**) also rose with ♣ K, crashing partner's remaining club honour and then played a heart which declarer ruffed with their last trump and duly played his remaining club winners scoring twelve tricks.

Saintly for 3♣+2 ...**Sinner** status to **South** for not converting to 3♦.

Saintly status awarded to the two E/W pairs who defeated 2♠. **Helen Cunningham & Mary Chamberlain** and **Rhona Bolger & Margaret Forde**, both of whom extracted the maximum number of tricks for the defense.

Sinner status to the E/W partnership, defending 3♠ after West overcalled 1♥, raised to 2♥ by East. west led a heart, declarer ruffing in dummy and then drawing two more rounds of trumps before playing a diamond to hand and drawing ONE more round of trumps on which West discarded hearts reducing her holding to ♥ AQ. Declarer the played ♦ Q (mistake..diamonds are now blocked. Should have played ♦ A!), ruffed by West who could have torpedoed the contract by continuing hearts, East winning with ♥ A and then playing ♥ Q which West could overtake with ♥ K and continue hearts, forcing declarer to ruff with her last trump whilst West still holds ♠ 10. But West switched to ♣ Q, declarer winning in dummy with ♣ A and then leading ♣ 10, East rising with ♣ K whilst simultaneously crashing her partner's ♣ J. A heart continuation at this stage still defeats the contract but East erred by playing a diamond, West ruffing and belatedly playing a heart which declarer ruffed and then cashed clubs and diamonds to score a highly improbable nine tricks!

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 10 8 6 4 2	♠ A Q 3	♠ 7
♥ K 8 5 4 3	♥ —	♥ A Q 10 9 2
♦ 2	♦ K J 9 8 5	♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ Q J	♣ A 10 9 7 5	♣ K 8 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; vertical-align: middle;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K J 9 5	
	♥ J 7 6	
	♦ A Q 10	
	♣ 6 4 3	

W 4♥; NS 5♣; E 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; Par +200: W 5♥×-1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to both **Peggy Fay** and **Kay Scarry** who found the only route to eight tricks in spades after a heart lead. They ruffed a second heart in dummy with ♠ Q.

Sinner status to the West who allowed declarer score a second diamond instead of ruffing with her master trump and then enabling E/W to cash FIVE heart tricks. Declarer emerged with nine tricks instead of eight!

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

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

N 3♥; S 2♥; N 3♣; NS 1N; NS 2♦; S 2♣; E 1♠; Par +140

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 6♦; EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 3♠; EW 4♣; Par -920

Although E/W can apparently make 6♦ it is unfortunate that only eleven tricks are available in 6♥.

To make 6♦ South must lead ♣ A otherwise declarer's club loser will be discarded on dummy's third spade. But once ♣ A is cashed declarer can then ruff out North's ♣ K or discard a losing heart if North does not cover ♣ Q. Declarer's second losing heart can be discard on dummy's third spade., declarer finessing twice in spades.

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to **Margaret & Rhona** who bid a small slam but unfortunately reached 6♥ instead of 6♦ and duly failed by two tricks (should have restricted the loss to one trick). If West held ♥ Q instead of ♣ Q then the heart slam would have made...Tough.

Absolute Sinner status to the West who totally misplayed 4♥ and duly ended up failing by one trick. Declarer received the lead of a club to South's ♣ A. South then switched to a deceptive ♠ 10, declarer rising with ♠ A. The hand is now relatively easy to play. Cash two top hearts and then play diamonds from the top. Once hearts break no worse than 3-2 then declarer will score at least ten tricks, losing at most 1 trump, 1 club. 1 spade. Q.E.D. Remember...this competition is an IMPs tournament...overtricks are of minor benefit whereas going down in a game or slam is very costly. So, declarer only needed to score his ten tricks. Scoring eleven was only of minor benefit. In a nutshell, declarer had difficulty in seeing the clarity of the play as a simple **dummy-reversal** and instead played on clubs discarding winning diamonds from dummy and also trying to discard his ♠ QJ on dummy's diamonds! Declarer duly suffered THREE ruffs with the defenders scoring tricks with ♥ 2, ♥ 10 and ♥ Q. Cashing two top hearts would have eliminated two of those losers. Note also that there is no need to play a third round of trumps. Nor to duck a trump which could be fatal.

Dummy-reversal is where declarer plays as if his hand is dummy and dummy is declarer's hand. It can be difficult for some players to recognise when such opportunities present themselves. This is a good example.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

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

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

EW 6♣; EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; Par -920

6 NT will be the likely contract and you will note that it is not included in the list of makeable contracts above! But twelve tricks will be credited to E/W at some tables...and a lot less than twelves at other tables! What beats 6 NT is a spade lead...now declarer cannot get back to the East hand (probably declarer) as long as South retains the ♣ A until the second round.

Declarer cannot make 6 NT without scoring four tricks from the heart suit. Also, the clubs must produce three or four tricks. The hand is a nightmare for declarer as far as communications are concerned. The only guaranteed entry to the West hand is in diamonds. Yes, ♣ J also provides an entry but then the ♣ KQ may be the only way back to the East hand.

It is also an illustration in defensive tactics, in particular the **'hold-up'** play whereby South can deny declarer access to the East hand by ducking the first club, in particular if a spade was led at trick one! Expect a range of very diverse results!

If West is declarer then a heart or diamond lead can see the contract come home. Declarer wins and plays two top hearts and then leads a clubs towards ♣ J...

- 1) If South plays low dummy's ♣ J wins and declarer will cash two more hearts, discarding two spades from dummy. Declarer then leads ♣ 9 and lets it run if North does not cover, subsequently accessing the East hand via a top spade. If North covers then the East hand is high (all winners).
- 2) If South rises with ♣ A he can defeat the contract by leading a spade thus killing declarer's access to dummy after ♥ QJ have been cashed

If West is declarer and North leads a club then South can beat the contract by rising with CA and playing a spade. Again, this kills access to dummy for top spades and clubs.

If West or East declares the contract then a small spade lead will again sever communications between the two hands and the contract should fail as the defense should be able to core a diamond or two..and maybe even a long heart!

Also, a diamond lead by South followed by rising with ♣ A and continuing with a small spade will also defeat the contract!

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

EW 6♣; EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; Par -920

Saints & Sinners

Difficult to fault E/W for reaching 6 NT so **no Sinner** status awarded to pairs that bid the small slam. However several **Sinners** in respect of the play! Eight E/W partnerships bid 6 NT...at four tables the contract was successful and at the others it failed. Note that I did not use the phrase 'declarer made the contract...'

And this is a difficult hand for N/S to defend. Much hangs on knowing the shape of the hidden hands (declarer's and partner's) and hence whether or not a 'hold-up' play is required in respect of ♣ A.

So, **Sinner** status to any South who lead a spade and where declarer subsequently scored twelve tricks!

Sinner status to the South who rose with ♣ A on partner's small club lead and switched to ♦ 8!!! Declarer was now able to unblock the hearts, return to hand with ♣ J, cash ♥ QJ discarding two spades from dummy and then play a spade to dummy which was now **High** (all winners). The club lead in itself was not fatal. South can rise with ♣ A and switch to a spade. That kills the contract.

At another tables North led a small heart against 6 NT, declarer winning perforce and cashing second top heart and then leading a club towards her hand. South rose with ♣ A and failed to find the fatal (for declarer) spade switch and instead played a small diamond. Declarer got home.

Another South let declarer home in 6 NT by leading ♣ A and continuing with a small club.

At the fourth table where 6 NT succeeded South found the lead of a small spade declarer beating partner's ♠ 10 with ♠ Q. Declare now played a club towards ♣ J9, South following low. and dummy's ♣ j winning. Declarer continued with a second club South winning perforce. South now fell from grace by continuing with a low spade into declarer's ♠ AK94, declarer winning with ♠ 9. [South should have known that declare had the ♠ 9...partner played ♠ 10 at trick one thus denying the ♠ 9!] Declarer could know count 4 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. 6 NT made.

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ 8	♠ 10 5	♠ A K Q 9 4
♥ Q J 5 2	♥ 8 7 6 4 3	♥ A K
♦ A K 9 7 6 2	♦ Q 10	♦ 5
♣ J 9	♣ 10 7 6 5	♣ K Q 8 3 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J 7 6 3 2	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ J 8 4 3	
	♣ A 4	

EW 6♣; EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; Par -920

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Margaret Forde made a good fist of playing 6 NT on a diamond lead winning with dummy's DA, Margaret continued with a heart to her hand, cashed second top heart and then play a club towards dummy's ♣ J9, South playing low and declarer winning with ♣ J. Margaret then cashed ♥ QJ, discarding spades from hand. Leaving ♦ K stranded in dummy she continued with ♣ 9.... and the crucial point was reached... If North did not cover with ♣ 10 then Margaret could have made the contract by following low from her hand, forcing South to win with ♣ A. Margaret's hand would then be high. ♠ AKQ, ♣ KQ8...all winners. Unfortunately Margaret played ♣ Q on dummy's ♣ 9 and duly lost a second club to North's ♣ 10. Good effort. **Saintly** status awarded.

Pat Ward also gave 6 NT a good lash, winning North's heart lead in dummy, perforce and then cashing dummy's second top heart before playing a club to his ♣ J, South following low. Pat won with ♣ J and continued with ♣ 9 and would have made the contract if he followed low from dummy but, like Margaret, he rose with ♣ Q which South beat with ♣ A. Pat won the diamond switch and cashed his red suit winners while mistakenly discarding clubs from dummy instead of spades. He would have made the contract if clubs broke 3-3 but needed ♠ J10 to fall in three rounds to promote dummy's ♠ 9. One down and **Partial Saintly** status awarded.

At another table North led a small heart against 6 NT, declarer winning with dummy's ♥ A and then making a mistake by not cashing the second top heart before paying on clubs, South following low. Declarer won with ♣ J and played a second club rising with dummy's ♣ Q when North followed low. South won perforce with ♣ A and then found the punishing switch (for declarer) of a small diamond. With hearts blocked (♥ K still in dummy and ♥ QJ5 in hand) declarer had no way of scoring more than one more heart trick and the contract duly failed by two tricks.

At the fourth table declarer, after a heart lead by South, never got off the mark and the contract failed by three tricks.

A misfit of a hand that is difficult for declarer and equally difficult for the defense!

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 2♥; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; N 1♠; Par -110

There could be a range of different contracts and results on the **Travelling Score Sheet** for this board! E/W can make 2♥ but no more. N/S can make 2♦ or 2♣ but no more!

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to **Carmel Morahan** who made no mistake in wrapping up nine tricks in 3♦x. Unfortunately for the defense, East chose to lead ♣K and rashly rose with ♠A on first lead of the suit from declarer's hand. Declarer was subsequently able to discard the remaining two small clubs from her hand on dummy's top spades! A more Passive rather than Active defense by East might have given a better reward for her Double.

Saintly status to **Clare Burke** who adopted a passive defense to 2♦ and saw her score 1 spade, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club. Unfortunately for her the opponents were only playing a contract of 2♦ which duly made.

Sinner status to the East player who raised partner's 2♥ rescue in response to her Penalty Double of South's opening 1NT. East raised West's weak 2♥ to 4♥ which duly failed by two tricks.

Sinner status to the West, declaring 2♥ who failed to use her trumps to access the West hand in order to lead towards dummy's ♣K2 and duly failed by one trick when she had to lead FROM the ♣K2!

Two Souths played in 1NTx ...with very different results! When South opens 1NT (12-14) and East makes a Penalty Double there are different roads that West can take. Some will choose to take defensive action by bidding rather than standing East's Penalty Double which might have been made on a hand with circa 16 hcp leaving N/S holding 23 hcp! Normally partner of the Penalty Double will Pass with circa 5+ hcp. Here it doesn't seem right to Pass with a single Jack to our name. I think I would bid 2♣ or 2♥ and take my chances. 2♥ hits the jackpot...2♣ does not.

If defending 1NT I would lead ♥10 rather than a small spade. The ♥10 will at least confirm possession of ♥9 and may be of some solace to partner. So what happened to both contracts? See next page!

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

<p>♠ 10 6 5 3 ♥ 10 9 8 4 ♦ 3 ♣ J 8 5 4</p>		<p>♠ 8 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ A 10 9 8 2 ♣ A 10 7 6</p> <p>♠ A 9 7 ♥ A Q 6 5 3 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ K 2</p> <p>♠ K Q J 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ Q 9 3</p>
---	--	---

EW 2♥; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; N 1♠; Par -110

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Two Souths played in 1NTx ...with very different results! At one table West led ♥ 10, declarer playing low from dummy as East followed with ♥ 3, declarer winning in hand with ♥ K. Declarer led ♦ J and ran it to East's ♦ K, perhaps giving declarer a glimmer of hope that the ♦ Q was with West! East continued with three rounds of hearts, West winning the third round with ♥ 9 while declarer discarded a spade and a diamond. Was East's third heart (H6) a *Suit-Preference* signal for West to shift to a spade rather than a club? I would have requested a club NOT a spade. ♠ A will always take a trick. East needs help to score her ♣ K! West, dutifully (or otherwise), continued with ♠ 3. East winning with ♠ A declarer following with SQ. East then cashed ♥ 5 before continuing with ♠ 9. Declarer now cashed her remaining top spade discarding the last small club from dummy. Declarer now led a diamond and surrendered when West showed out by winning with dummy's ♦ A before cashing ♣ A and settling for two down! Winning with ♦ A and continuing with a diamond would have seen declarer score an extra trick and get out for one down with East ruing that partner hadn't switched to a club instead of a spade!

At another table the play and defense was different. At this table, with similar bidding, West led ♠ 3, East playing ♠ 9 and declarer winning with ♠ J. Declarer, as at the other table, continued with ♦ J which East won with ♦ K. But now events diverged very differently. East cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 7 declarer winning with ♠ K, carefully camouflaging the possession of ♠ Q!

Declarer now continued with another diamond, playing ♦ 8 when West showed out. East won with ♦ Q and now found the heart switch...but too late! Declarer let it run to dummy's ♥ J when it might have been prudent to rise with ♥ K. Declarer cashed three diamonds discarding a club on the last diamond. East discarded two hearts and was now under pressure.

Declarer could have exited on a heart after cashing dummy's last diamond knowing that East held both ♥ A and ♥ Q and East would have been forced to lead a club at trick 12 giving declarer the chance to score an overtrick! Declarer declined the option and simply cashed ♣ A for his seventh trick and a score of +180

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 4♦; E 1♥; Par -650

4♠ is a nice contract and can produce eleven tricks...if you can bid it! Nine tricks are available in 3NT due to the lucky position of ♥K. The play is interesting with opportunities for tricks in spades, diamonds, and clubs. But clearly the best line is to establish spades if diamonds are not led at trick one OR to establish diamonds if a spade is not led at trick one. Note that spades and diamonds each offer one entry to dummy as long as the suit is not led at trick one and where the defense withhold the A on the first round of the play of the suit! Declarer should be able to establish 5 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, 1 club OR 1 spade, 4 diamonds, 2 hearts, 2 clubs

Saints & Sinners

Double Sinner status to the West, declaring 4♠, who failed to draw all of the opponents trumps and subsequently lost a diamond ruff to South. The same declarer also took a totally unnecessary club finesse at trick one losing to South's ♣K.

Absolute Sinner status to the South who ducked spades twice (once too often!) and ducked diamonds once (perfect) and was thus set to defeat 3NT but then undid the good work by playing a diamond to give declarer access to the two diamond tricks that were otherwise inaccessible! **Sinner** status also awarded to West for not establishing spades first with a diamond entry in hand to access the winning spades.

Sinner status to the other West, declaring 3NT who failed to make the contract by establishing spade winners with a diamond entry to dummy still available to gain access to the spade winners.

Sinner status to the East, declaring 3NT on a heart lead, who failed to make the contract by establishing spade winners with a diamond entry to dummy still available to gain access to the spade winners. declare won the heart lead and then played SQ and inexplicably switched to a diamond so as to lead CQ from dummy! The contract ultimately failed by one trick! On the heart lead declarer could have made nine tricks by playing spades and then using the diamond honours in dummy to access the winning spades thus scoring 5 spade, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, 1 club.

Sinner status to the East, declaring 3NT on a heart lead, who won in hand and played a diamond to dummy (using up the only guaranteed entry to established spade winners BEFORE the spades were established!) and then led a spade towards her hand!!! Contract failed by two tricks.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 4♦; E 1♥; Par -650

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the South, defending 3 NT on a small diamond lead from North, who won the first diamond and then continued with a second diamond, declarer winning in hand with DK. Declare now made a mistake by playing a spade to dummy's SQ followed by a second spade. If South wins the second spade declarer is now cutoff from her three diamond winners. Naughty declarer! South can now find the killing switch of CK (ensuring declare cannot gain access to dummy's winning diamonds and spades!) and will eventually see the defense score 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and at least 1 club. Sadly (for the defense) South ducked the second spade and gave declarer the chance to overtake with SK or SJ and thus a second chance to cash the three stranded diamond winners. **Sinner** status awarded to declarer for not overtaking the second spade when South ducked. South earned a **second Sinner** status by playing a diamond after winning CK when declarer led a small club from dummy. This gave declarer access to the three stranded diamond winners and nine tricks. Contract made!

Saintly status to **May O'Sullivan** who declared 3 NT from the East seat on the lead of a heart. **May** made no mistake, winning the opening lead and playing three rounds of spades, thereby establishing five spade tricks with access to dummy via a diamond honour still intact!

Sinner status to the South, defending 3 NT where partner led a small diamond at trick one. South won with ♦ A and continued with a second diamond. Declare cashed her remaining diamond winners before playing a spade to dummy's ♠ Q. South unwisely won this trick and duly handed declarer ELEVEN tricks when declarer won the heart switch in dummy and played her second spade overtaking in hand with ♠ K and cashing four more winners. Ducking the first spade would have denied declarer access to four spade winners and would probably have restricted declarer to nine tricks!

Sinner status to the South defending 3 NT who made the very injudicious lead of ♣ 6 (from a holding of ♣ K6) into a hand that responded 2♣ to West's opening 1♠! South compounded a less than stellar defense by winning her two Aces (spades and diamonds) on the first round of each suit and thus facilitated declarer's successful quest for an easy eleven tricks.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A Q 8 7 5 3	♠ J 2	♠ K 10 9
♥ Q 2	♥ K 7 4 3	♥ 10 9 8
♦ Q 5	♦ K 9	♦ J 10 8 6 2
♣ 9 3 2	♣ A J 8 6 4	♣ Q 5
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 6 4	
	♥ A J 6 5	
	♦ A 7 4 3	
	♣ K 10 7	

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

E/W can take two spade tricks against a heart contract by N/S...BUT, if they don't take them early on they might never score them! This is a board that will see a wide range of results...everything from nine tricks to thirteen. Note that in addition to the two spade losers declarer COULD also lose a trump and a club! Success or otherwise will come down to the play of the trump suit and clubs. If West innocently discards a small club it should give declarer food for thought as to the location of the ♣ Q!

Saints and Sinners

Sinner status to the **West** who discarded a club on the third round of hearts...fortunately for him declarer did not read the situation correctly and finessed into East anyway to go one down.

Sinner status to the **East** player who rose with ♣ Q when declarer pulled a small club from dummy, thus solving declarer's problem re the club suit. Unfortunately declarer had not already drawn all the trumps and subsequently lost an unnecessary club ruff to East, thus returning the trick. **Sinner** status also awarded to **South** for not taking advantage of East's 'gift'!

Saintly status to **Mary Chamberlain** who, as East, played ♥ 10 on the second play of the suit from dummy, thus creating the impression that she held ♥ Q108. Declarer duly finessed into West's then singleton ♥ Q. A thoughtful play by East.

Absolute Sinner status to the East who gave declarer a '**Ruff and Discard**' when the defense started with THREE rounds of spades. **Sinner** status also awarded to the South declarer who failed to grab the opportunity by discarding a club from the South hand whilst ruffing in dummy and thus providing declarer with the chance of establishing clubs by playing three rounds and ruffing the third round in hand and not having to worry about 'guessing' the location of the ♣ Q. Instead, declarer discarded a useless diamond from hand and still left herself the problem of locating the ♣ Q. Fortunately for declarer, **West** (**Sinner** status awarded) fell from grace when she returned a club after winning ♥ Q.

Two Wests solved declarer's club problem by leading ♣ 9 at trick one, despite North having opened the bidding with 1 ♣! **Sinner** status awarded to both.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A Q 8 7 5 3	♠ J 2	♠ K 10 9
♥ Q 2	♥ K 7 4 3	♥ 10 9 8
♦ Q 5	♦ K 9	♦ J 10 8 6 2
♣ 9 3 2	♣ A J 8 6 4	♣ Q 5
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 6 4	
	♥ A J 6 5	
	♦ A 7 4 3	
	♣ K 10 7	

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

Saints and Sinners (continued)

You can't argue with success and so it's **Saintly** status awarded to **Peggy Fay** who took an anti-percentage line by playing two top hearts thereby felling West's ♥ Q and then finessed ♣ 10 and so avoided a club loser as well. This gave **Peggy** eleven tricks.

Saintly status to **Angela Noone** who received the lead of ♣ 9 (**Sinner** status awarded to **West**) and also dropped West's doubleton ♥ Q2. Injudicious discarding by East saw declarer score her thirteenth trick with ♦ 7! **Sinner** status awarded to **East**.

Sinner status to the **West** who led ♣ 3, again despite North having opened 1♣. Declarer followed up with an anti-percentage play of cashing two top hearts and again an errant East also discarded several diamonds so that South's ♦ 7 scored the last trick thus giving declare all thirteen tricks! **Sinner** status also awarded to East.

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 5♦; NS 2♣; Par -460

E/W can make 5♥ and 5NT but most pairs will settle in 4♥. Eleven tricks should be a standard result.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the E/W pair who failed to bid the heart game. East opened 1♥, South made a Takeout Double and West, with a full-blooded 11hcp only bid 2♥. Perhaps East might have made a **Trial Bid** of 3♦ but she cannot be blamed for throwing in the towel and Passing her partner's weak raise.

Sinner status also to the East, declarer in 4♥ who forgot to draw all North's hearts and subsequently suffered an unnecessary diamond ruff. Perhaps just a **Venial Sin!**

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

EW 3♥; NS 4♣; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; Par +130

West is likely to declare a heart contract, perhaps at the three or four level. 3♥ should make but 4♥ should not...but may escape if N/S are not at their best! To beat 4♥ North must lead a spade, any one will do but ♠ J is likely. South must win the ♠ A on first or second round of the suit and find the SWITCH to ♣ Q which will ensure that the defense scores 1 spade, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. Note that declarer can evade one of his 2 club losers if North leads ♦ A and a second diamond. Declarer can then play a heart to his ♥ A, drawing both defenders trumps. A trump back to dummy followed by the winning diamond on which declarer discards one of his two losing clubs lets the contract make.

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status to the West, declaring 4♥ who played a small heart from hand instead of ♥ A thus losing an unnecessary trick to South's singleton ♥ K and giving South the chance to switch to ♣ Q and score two club tricks in addition to a spade and a diamond for a two trick defeat. BUT the South (also awarded **Sinner** status) continued with a spade and subsequently N/S could only score two more tricks...

Sinner status to any South who persisted with the spade suit, particularly where North originally led ♠ J, thereby DENYING ♠ Q.

Sinner status to all N/S pairs who failed to beat 4♥

Saintly status to **Fiona Place** for bringing home 4♠ after East failed to find the killing defense. West started with ♥ A and switched to ♦ 8, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer led ♠ 8 (♠ J or ♠ 10 would be better and avoid a subsequent blockage in the trump suit). East won with ♠ Q and continued with ♦ 7 to East's ♦ Q. The defense with three tricks already in hand could have defeated the contract by continuing with a third diamond forcing South to ruff with ♠ 7 or ♠ 9 or else West would ruff with ♠ 6. This would then see East score the setting trick with ♠ K as East would now hold ♠ K53 as opposed to South's ♠ A9. BUT instead, East played the ♣ 10 setting up South's suit in one fatal switch. South covered with ♣ J and West played ♣ K., declarer winning in dummy with ♣ A. Declarer now led ♠ J which East ducked as she did when declarer continued with ♠ 10. But now declarer played a club to her hand and cashed S♠ A on which East's ♠ K fell. Declarer then cashed her remaining club winners. Contract made. **Sinner** status to East.

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

NS 2♠; NS 2♦; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +110

'A *misfit...drop it, early!*' ...good advice I received many years ago from my father. In this case sensible bidding by N/S might be 1♠ - 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠ - PASS. South should LISTEN to North's bidding, in particular if N/S are playing 5 card Spades/Majors. North's initial response of 1NT **DENIES 3+ spades**. North's subsequent preference of 2♠ over South's 2♥ is PREFERENCE with at most 2 spades! If South insists on bidding again he should bid 3♥ confirming 5/5 in the majors.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to all N/S pairs (with South bearing most of the responsibility) who reached 4♠. Similarly to the two N/S pairs who reached 3NT and 2NT respectively.

Sinner status awarded to the North who responded 2♣ to partner's opening bid of 1♠. 2c promises 9+hcp!!! Once South opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥ North know that this is a misfit hand. DROP IT...early!

Sinner status to the South who opened 1♥ instead of 1♠.

Sinner status to the South who opened 1♠ and then re-bid 2♠ over East's protective 1NT (North having Passed). South should have re-bid 2♥ giving North a choice of contracts.


Additional Sinner status to the same South, declaring 2♠, who received a club lead and failed to negotiate hearts ruffs with North's two trumps. Win ♣ A and ruff a club in hand and then ruff a heart in dummy, ruff another club in hand and then ruff another heart in dummy. Instead, declarer won the club lead and played on trumps, subsequently losing two unnecessary heart tricks. In total declarer should make 4 spades in hand, ♥ A and two heart ruffs, 1 diamond, 1 club.

Sinner status to any South who re-bid 3♥ over partner's 1NT response to 1♠. 2♥ is sufficient.

Sinner status to the East/West partnership, defending 4♠ after South also bid hearts, where West led ♦ 5 from ♦ 105 and where East rose with ♦ A and then continued with ♦ J instead of switching to ♠ A and another spade. Declarer got out for one down instead of being three down!

Sinner status to any North who responded 2♣ instead of 1NT. Some sympathy for the North who raised partner's opening 1♠ to 2♠ which opener then raised to 4♠.

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

W 6♥; W 5♠; E 5♥; E 4♠; EW 5♦; NS 3♣; Par -980

Should see some competitive bidding on this board. WEST, but NOT East, can make 6♥. ♦ A and diamond continuation from South sees it fail if East is declarer. But not many Wests will be at the helm in a heart contract! N/S can make nine tricks in clubs ...BUT note the vulnerability! If N/S overbid it could be costly!

At favourable vulnerability West might opt to overcall 4♥ rather than 3♥ given the good suit and outside Ace and the void in clubs. It will take little in West's hand to make the heart game.

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status awarded to the E/W partnership that allowed N/S to play in 5♣ UNDOUBLED. With East bidding hearts where does West think that N/S will score tricks given the powerhouse in spades and diamonds that West is holding? West should Double 5♣ LOUDLY!

Absolute Sinner status to the North player who a) opened the hand with 3♣..way too strong for a pre-empt, and b) Doubled 5♥ with no defensive values in side suits and with ♥ KJ sitting UNDER the heart bidder. The defense did well to score two tricks!

Sinner status to the E/W pairs that failed to reach game. West's hand is strong in spades and diamonds and also features a doubleton heart.