

Greetings!

Herewith find analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 6th August 2020, in the **Galway/CBAI Western Region BBO IMP Pairs**.

This week I have analysed 13 of the 24 hands: 2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12,13,16,18,19,20
Hands vary in term of complexity and each reflects specific points of interest and learning that I couldn't let pass without a comment! Some hands are analysed in more detail than others. See in particular Board #12. Also #7 and #18 which have been given extensive treatment.

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

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...late on Thursday night or early on Friday morning. The downloaded content includes 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 **13 hands**, played at **14 tables**, representing a total of **182 contracts** that I reviewed which in turn converts to **2,366 tricks** that are minutely screened, which amounts to a grand total of **9,464 individual card plays** that are dissected! Just for info!

Should you wish to receive a copy of future editions of my analysis directly in your inbox then send an email, with your name, to: paulscan@iol.ie

NOTE: I am planning to take my boat on a coastal trip over the coming weekend and consequently I may not be able to compile an analysis of the hands for Thursday, 13th August.

Paul J Scannell
13th August 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

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

EW 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 3♦; NS 3♣; Par -100: NS 4♣×-1; NS 4♦×-1;
NS 4♥×-1

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 4♠; EW 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +650: NS 5♥

N/S can make at least eleven tricks in hearts but can be held to ten tricks in spades...three rounds of clubs will see East's ♠ J promoted to a winner! Not all pairs will reach the heart game. Note that North and South both have good suits. North's hand becomes very strong if he knows partner has a **good** Weak 2 in hearts! But it is a lucky make...South's heart suit is solid and the doubleton club helps. And North's ♦ A5 are good cards.

So, how can you show whether your Weak 2 opening is good or not? There are several conventions that provide for this of which the **Ogust Responses** are quite popular. In a nutshell, when respond to a Weak 2 opening bid:

- with three card support, and NO interest in bidding game, raise partners Weak 2 opening.
- with four card support raise to game,
- with a strong hand, i.e. 16+hcp you can make an 'enquiry' by bidding 2 NT. Partner must not Pass and can use the following range of responses to describe his Weak 2 opening:

3 ♣ = Minimum points and poor suit
3 ♦ = Minimum points and a good suit
3 ♥ = Maximum points and a poor suit
3 ♠ = Maximum points and a good suit
3 NT = A solid suit, e.g. AKQxxx

So, how did partnerships fare on this hand?

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to the following who bid the heart game:

Brid O'Doherty who raised partner's 2♥ overcall after East opened a weak 2♦. Perhaps West should have contemplated sacrificing in 5♦ given the favourable vulnerability.

Patricia Eames who made an enquiry bid of 2 NT in response to which South bid 3♠ which seems to show Max Points, i.e. circa 9 hcp

And finally a lengthier sequence from **Sean & Enda**. Enda opened the South hand with a **Multi 2D** which shows either a Weak 2 in a Major OR a strong Balanced hand 23-24 hcp. 2 NT from Sean was an enquiry and Enda's 3♣ response showed a Strong Weak 2M (upper range of points). Sean's 3♦ asked which major suit Enda held and 3♠ showed hearts (3♥ would have shown spades...this way the stronger hand declares the contract!).

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 4♠; EW 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +650: NS 5♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Partial Saintly status is awarded to **Siobhan O'Sullivan** who failed raise to game after partner overcalled East's Weak 2♦ with 2♥ and could have been left languishing in 2♠ until West, who originally passed her partner's opening 2♦, subsequently came to Siobhan's aid by raising to 3♦ over which Siobhan belatedly raised partner to 4♥

Five other N/S pairs contracted a part-score in hearts. **Sinner** status to the **Norths** who failed to appreciate the strength of their hand opposite South's opening 2♥ and didn't even make an 'Enquiry', **Sinner** status to those N/S pairs who don't have a convention to use opposite an opening Weak 2 to enquire re strength of the opening bid.

Sinner status to the South who passed and then bid 2♥ over North's opening 1♠, and then Passed after North re-bid 2♠, and Passed again after North bid her spades for a third time (promising at least SIX, more likely 7!). **Sinner** status to North for the 3♠ bid! North might also have considered Doubling West's cheeky (and dangerous) 3♣ bid. Did North hear her partner's 2♥ bid...suggesting at least 9 hcp?

Absolute Sinner status to the North who declared 2NT after East had bid 2♦ and South, having previously Passed) bid 2♥. Declarer received a heart lead and should have cashed 12 tricks but failed to realise that ♥ 642 were winners and duly ended up with a paltry nine tricks!....*Counting, counting...all the time!*


Sinner status to any South who failed to support North's spades, clearly a 5+ card suit. Three card support and doubletons in both minor suits...not to forget South's super heart suit!

Eleven point hands are not always the same...some are worth much more than eleven points...other a lot less. Can you tell the difference?

a) ♠ AKQ87, ♥ 107, ♦ A5, ♣ 10742 b) ♠ KJ532, ♥ 107, ♦ QJ, ♣ KJ42

Both of these hands offer hugely different appeal opposite a Weak 2♥ from partner. Hand a) features a very good spade suit, two trumps, and a doubleton ♦ Ax... Hand b) has a lack-lustre spade suit, wasted values in diamonds unless partner has ♦ Ax(x) and a club suit with holes in it!

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; NS 1♥; Par -650: EW 4♠+1

Eleven tricks available to E/W in a spade contract. Only nine in 3 NT

Saints & Sinners.

Absolute Sinner status to the East who bid 1 NT in response to West's T/O Dbl of South's 1♥!!! You cannot bid NT WITHOUT a heart stopper (or two) and should bid 2♣ instead. or even 1♠. A NT opposite partner's Takeout Double must promise at least 1 stopper in the opponents suit!

Absolute Sinner status to the East who bid 2♣ in response to partner's T/Out Double of South's 1♥ and then passed when West bid 2 NT. 2 NT in this situation (or even 1 NT if East bids 1♠ instead of 2♣) promises a VERY STRONG hand, i.e. 19-21 hcp. With a strong hand (15-18) West would have overcalled 1 NT at first opportunity.

Sinner status to the East at another table who responded 1♠ to partner's T/Out Double of South's opening 1♥ and then bid 3♠ over South's rebid of 2♥. Again, this bid of 3♠ reflects a VERY STRONG HAND. Remember that East's 1♠ may have been made on a hand with NO points!

Eight E/W pairs reached 4♠ with six making eleven tricks and two scoring ten tricks, the latter two suffering a diamond ruff by the South hand with a trump still to be lost to North's ♠ J. Note that leading ♠ 10 (or ♠ 9) can only gain where South holds ♠ QJx and where North holds ♠ 8x.

Lastly, where West bids NT, at 1 or 2 level, you should have an agreement as to whether Stayman and Transfers are still active and if there are any exceptions.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

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

An innocuous little hand where part-scores are the limit. E/W can make 2♦ and West can make 2♥ with East restricted to 1♥ (heart lead from South EVENTUALLY sees a trump promotion of South's ♠ 9... North should switch to a diamond at trick 2. N/S can make 1♣, 1♠ or 1NT.

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status to the♥ who opened 1♥ and subsequently made a JUMP rebid in diamonds and duly suffered a well-deserved 1400 penalty that handed his N/S opponents a much appreciated 16 IMPs! And of course East should have converted the final contract to 5♥, the suit which West opened, and therefore the one in which he was longest! The West hand counts to 18 on the Rule of 20 scale and is NOT worth a one level opening.

Another N/S pair seemed to suffer from a system misunderstanding when North Doubled West's opening 2♦ (presumably a Weak 2♦). The bidding review shows that South bid 2♥ which he alerted as 'artificial - weak'. North must have had a different understanding because he raised to 4♥ which went FIVE light!. **Sinner** status to N/S who need to clarify their bidding system!

Sinner status to the North, declaring 2NT after West opened 2♥ and where East led ♥ J and West rose with ♥ K won with HA ...and duly went one light after positioning himself to win NINE tricks! [**Sinner** status to West for rising with ♥ K presumably thinking that East's lead was from ♥ AJ10(x). Surely North, with a doubleton ♥ Qx, would have doubled rather than bid 2NT?] After winning opening lead with ♥ A, declarer played ♦ Q which West ducked. Declarer now played ♠ A followed by ♠ J, East winning with ♠ K as West discarded ♥ 7. Undeterred by West's heart discard East continued with her remaining heart, declarer winning in dummy with ♥ 9. Declarer now led ♠ 9 and West committed a major error by discarding her ♣ 8 (**Sinner** status awarded), the only route to West's three club tricks!!! East won with ♠ 10 and found the continuation of ♦ 10, declarer playing low from dummy. West could have risen with ♦ A and switched to her singleton club and the defense would have taken FIVE tricks on the trot in addition to the earlier ♠ K to defeat the contract by two tricks! But unfortunately West had discarded her club on the previous trick and duly ducked the diamond to North's ♦ K whereupon North cashed ♠ Q8 and was on the verge of victory via 3 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds. Alas North, with ♥ Q10 (both winners) and ♣ K5 opted to exit on ♣ 5 and East took the last four tricks! **Sinner** status to North and West. Loss of concentration by North.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

4♠ by W makes but 4♠ by E can be beaten on the lead of ♦ K!. If East overcalls 1♠ then West should raise to 4♠ although I would consider other options like 4♥ (Splinter or Cuebid if North had opened 1♥). A 5-5 fit deserves to be played at the four level.

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to **John & Liam** for bidding the Vul v Non-Vul sacrifice...always difficult to judge these. In this case it pushed their opponents into the unmakeable 5♠. An old saying that might have applied...*'the five level is for the opponents'*! E/W would have been wise to heed it!

Sinner status to the South who let out the overtrick when declarer led a diamond from hand and played the ♦ J when South played low! With twelve diamonds visible BEFORE South plays, this is not the time to play low!

Sinner status to the North, defending 4♠ on partner's lead of ♥ Q, who won with ♥ A and then, perhaps without thinking too much, underled her ♣ A...declarer rose with ♣ K in hand and duly discarded the second club in dummy on ♥ K. North should have been aware that declarer held ♥ K and with the heart void in dummy there was an option to discard a club ... North should have cashed ♣ A just in case declarer held ♣ K...

Sinner status to the North who opened 2♥ (Weak 2). The North hand is way too strong for a Weak 2 opening. Open 1♥ and then bid clubs if the opportunity presents itself. **Sinner** status also to the **West** at the same table who simply raised partners 2♠ overcall to 3♠. At a minimum West should bid 4♠.

Sinner status to the other West who simply raised her partner's 1♠ overcall to 2♠ after South bid 2♥. West then Passed North's re-bid of 3♥. West should have raised to 4♠ at first opportunity unless making a stronger bid!

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 5♦; NS 2♥; Par +200; EW 5♠×-1

Could be an interesting tussle between both side on this board. E/W can make 4 ♠ whereas N/S can make 5 ♦.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the West who played ♥ Q (denying the ♥ J) on partner's lead where he should have played ♥ 10!!!

Absolute Sinner status to the **East** player who declared 4 ♠ on the lead of ♦ A followed by a switch to ♣ K which declarer won in dummy with ♣ A. I have no idea what thoughts went through declarer's head but they were certainly far from sound! All declarer needed to do was cash two top spades, drawing the opponents trumps and then force out ♣ Q for a simple ten tricks. Declarer at this table led ♥ Q losing to North's ♥ K. North continued with a club to South's ♣ Q and South then gave North a club ruff. North continued with a heart which declarer ruffed before playing another diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer next led a heart from dummy and ruffed in hand with ♠ 7 which South gratefully overruffed with ♠ J by which time declarer had converted ten tricks into eight!

Sinner status to the **West** whose partner opened a Multi 2 ♦ which was Doubled by South, and where West Passed holding 4 ♠5♥ and where partner is holding either a six card major and a weak hand OR a strong hand. To make matters worse East, unaware of the massive 6-4 spade fit duly led her 4th best spade and watched as dummy won with the doubleton ♠ QJ, declarer holding the singleton ♠ 5!!! **Sinner** status to N/S who should have reached 5 ♦, with North being particularly aware of his spade vulnerability given his own heart holding thereby confirming that East has a six card spade suit!

Sinners status to the THREE Wests who remained silent after their partner opened 2 ♠ (weak). **Saintly** status to **Helen Cunningham** who raised to 4 ♠ over South's Double of partner's opening 2 ♠. North subsequently bid 5 ♥ which Helen should have Doubled.

Sinner status to all Souths who made a Takeout Double of 2 ♠ with only a doubleton heart. An overcall of 3 ♦ would been more appropriate. **Additional Sinner** status to those N/S pairs that subsequently declared a heart contract.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 5♦; NS 2♥; Par +200: EW 5♠×-1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to **Kevin Moylan** and **Kay Scarry** for doubling the heart contract reached by their opponents. BUT, their Saintly status is **badly tarnished** by their failure to support their partner's opening 2♠.

Sinner status to any West who failed to give immediate support to East's opening 2♠

Sinner status to the East who Passed as dealer allowing N/S a soft ride to 5♦

Sinner status to the West who led ♣ 10 against South's 5♦. North could have been dealt a singleton ♣ K or even a singleton small club with South holding ♣ K.

Sinner status to the South whose partner made a Takeout Double of East's opening 2♠ and where South, with 15 hcp simply bid 3♦, a bid he could have made with a Yarborough!!! **Sinner** status to the West at the same table who Passed partner's opening 2♠ and then only raised to 3♠ at the second opportunity!

Saintly status to **Maragret Fletcher** who overcalled East's opening 2♠ with 3♦. **Saintly** status also to **Robert Delargy** for giving partner's opening bid an immediate raise to 4♠. And **Saintly** status to **Pam O'Donovan** for jumping to 5♦.

Saintly status to **Maura Connolly** who overcalled East's opening 2♠ with 3♦ rather than making an inappropriate Takeout Double. And **Saintly** status also to **Siobhan** who raised directly to 5♦. **Saintly** status at the same table to West, **Marie Killilea**, one of the few Wests to make a direct raise of partner's opening 2♠.

Sinner status to the several Easts, defending 5♦, who won the spade lead with ♠ A, thereby DENYING ♠ K. **NOTE: It makes me very depressed to see this misplay repeatedly reported in this columns despite my constant exhortation to all players who are 3rd or 4th to play, to win a trick (or follow suit) with THE LOWEST OF TOUCHING HONOURS. Guilty parties will be Named and Shamed as of next week**

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

4♥ by N/S CAN make. But the 4-1 trump break may prove to be too big a hurdle for some declarers. Note that 4♥ by N/S could see declarer lose 1 diamond, 2 clubs, and a heart UNLESS declarer can pick up East's heart holding for no loser...♥ K, followed by lead of ♥ 10 and cover with ♥ A if East plays ♥ Q and then get back to dummy to lead ♥ 7 to pickup East's ♥ 84. Not all declarers will find this play. Note that declarer might be aided in the play if West has shown a Weak 2♠.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the West who led ♠ Q..... and gifted declarer a trick with ♠ J

Eight N/S pairs played the hand in a heart contract of which seven reached game. Of those in the heart game, four failed and three succeeded with one actually scoring eleven tricks!

Sinner status to the N/S pair who contracted 5♣ when they should have played in 3NT. South guilty for not bidding 3NT over East's 3♠ raise of West's 2♠ (WJO - Weak Jump Overcall). North's Negative Double of West's 2♠ should show 8+ hcp and South should simply bite the bullet and bid 3NT. Alternatively, North's Negative / Takeout Double of West 2♠ usually implies a holding of at least 4 hearts and this could have been another option for South.

Absolute Sinner status to the North who in the absence of an overcall by West simply raised partner's 1♥ opening to 2♥...a gross underbid and the major reason for missing the heart game.
Sinner status to **West** for leading ♣ Q thereby eliminating his side's second club trick!

Sinner status to the South who raised partner's 1♥ response to 3♥...the South hand is not worth a jump raise which should reflect hand with at least 16 hcp.

Sinner status to any West who played ♠ Q after partner led ♠ 4. This lead is clearly either a singleton in which case North holds ♠ K108 or else East has led from a three card holding in w which case it looks like Norths has a singleton ♠ K...otherwise he would have played ♠ A from dummy! In each case West should play ♠ 9.

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the South who declared 3 NT on a spade lead and upon winning in dummy proceeded to play on hearts and despite West's spade overcall this declarer led a heart to her ♥ A and a heart back to the ♥ K in dummy and could never recover because a) East now had a guaranteed heart trick and b) declarer had used up her only guaranteed entry to dummy's club suit. Playing on a four card suit in which you already have two top tricks and most likely can only develop one extra trick is very shortsighted when you have a 5-3 club suit with 3 of the top five honours and good chances of at least three tricks with an outside chance of making four tricks would seem a much more positive approach. Also, note that if E/W open the heart suit you have excellent chances of scoring three if not four heart tricks! Wondering why you might make three or four heart? Play for split honors...If West leads a small heart play low from North hand and beat East's honour with ♥ A and then finesse ♥ 10 on second round. Although it doesn't quite apply to this hand you will note that the honours are split!

At another table South declared 3 NT on a spade lead and also played two rounds of hearts (**Sinner** status awarded) before switching to ♣ J, losing to West's ♣ Q who continued with a second spade to declarer's ♠ J. Declarer now continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ K and East's ♦ A. East played a third spade which South won perforce. South continued with ♣ K and **East** fell from grace and incurred **Sinner** status for winning with ♣ A when ducking would have deprived declarer access to dummy's winning clubs! East then compounded matters by cashing ♥ J thus establishing the ♥ 9 as declarer's ninth trick. **Additional Sinner** status to East. If East ducks the second club, wins the third and exits on a diamond declarer will subsequently have to concede TWO hearts to East's ♥ J8 because declarer had already discarded dummy's ♥ 107. The defense would take 2 clubs, 1 diamond and 2 hearts for one down. Instead declarer scraped home with nine tricks via 3 spades, 3 hearts, 1 clubs, and 2 diamonds. Note also the declarer could have legitimately made nine tricks by not discarding dummy's ♥ 7 which opposite declarer's ♥ 95 would represent a trick once ♥ J forced out, thus giving declarer 3 spades, 3 hearts 2 diamonds, 1 club.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to **Frank Reynolds**, defending 3 ♠ by West, who made life easy for partner by continuing with ♥ 10 after winning first heart trick with ♥ K as West followed with ♥ Q. At another table **North** earned **Sinner** status for continuing with H6 which might have proved challenging for South if declarer had played low from dummy. Fortunately for South declarer played ♥ J from dummy and South was no longer faced with a decision... Sympathy for declarer at Frank's table who made a thoughtful play, I hope, of leading ♠ Q from hand which would not matter if opponents' trumps broke 2-2 and would also work if either defender held a singleton ♠ J. Unfortunately declare was unlucky on this occasion because spades did break 3-1 but the singleton was ♠ K and not ♠ J. A small spade lead would have worked, dropping ♠ K from North and then leaving declarer in a position to access dummy via ♦ A to lead second spade towards her hand thus capturing South's ♠ AJ. **Saintly** status to **Mary O'Flynn** for a thoughtful play. Ultimately the contract failed by three tricks. Note the relative weakness of the West hand...three Queens and nothing else apart from a week spade suit! 3 ♠ should have been Doubled.

Saintly status to **Sheila Smyth**, defending 3 ♠ by West, who won the opening heart lead with ♥ A, declarer following with ♥ Q. If Sheila continued with a heart declarer would be able to discard TWO diamonds from hand, the first on the heart return which presumably North would win with ♥ K and then a second one on the now established ♥ J! Sheila switched to the ♦ Q thus ensuring that declarer did not enjoy two diamond discards from her hand. Declarer duly finished two down. N/S should have applied a Penalty Double to the final contract

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ Q 9 6 5 3 2	♠ K	♠ 10 8 4								
♥ Q	♥ K 10 7 6	♥ J 8 4 2								
♦ 9 8 7 3	♦ K 5 2	♦ A 10 6								
♣ Q 7	♣ J 10 8 6 4	♣ A 9 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 style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> </tr> </table>			W	N	E		S			
W	N	E								
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<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A J 7</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A J 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A 9 5 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A 9 5 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ Q J 4</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ Q J 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ K 5 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ K 5 3</td> </tr> </table>			♠ A J 7	♠ A J 7	♥ A 9 5 3	♥ A 9 5 3	♦ Q J 4	♦ Q J 4	♣ K 5 3	♣ K 5 3
♠ A J 7	♠ A J 7									
♥ A 9 5 3	♥ A 9 5 3									
♦ Q J 4	♦ Q J 4									
♣ K 5 3	♣ K 5 3									

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the N/S pair who contracted 5♣x when they should have played in 3NT. South guilty for not bidding 3NT over East's 3♠ raise of West's 2♠ (WJO - Weak Jump Overcall). North's negative Double of West's 2♠ should show 8+ hcp and South should simply bite the bullet and bid 3NT. Alternatively, North's Negative / Takeout Double of West 2♠ usually implies a holding of at least 4 hearts and this could have been another option for South. 5Cx-2 cost - 11.92 IMPs...expensive!

Absolute Sinner status to the North who in the absence of an overcall by West simply raised partner's 1♥ opening to 2♥...a gross underbid and the major reason for missing the heart game.

Sinner status to the West, albeit only defending 2♥, for leading ♣Q thereby eliminating his side's second club trick!

Board 8


West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 6♦; EW 5♥; EW 3♣; Par -990; EW 6N

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

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


EW 3N; EW 3♠; EW 4♦; EW 3♣; Par -600: EW 3N

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 3♥; S 4♦; EW 2♠; N 3♦; NS 3♣; Par +500; EW 4♠×-2

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

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

E/W can make ten tricks in a NT contract whilst also making 4 ♥ and 4 ♠, both on 4-3 trump fits.

Saints & Sinners

Absolute sinner status to the West, declaring 3 NT on the lead of ♥ Q, who failed to make nine tricks via 4, spades, 3 hearts, 2 clubs and 1 diamond. The simple line is to win the heart lead with ♥ A (or ♥ K) and then play a heart towards dummy's ♥ 109 for a third heart trick. Yes, declarer did do that... but not before she had cashed four spades and played a couple of rounds of clubs setting up several winners for the defense. And the *piece de resistance* was when declarer found herself in dummy having to lead a diamond AWAY from the ♦ K92!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT A DECLARER CAN DO BEFORE PLAYING A CARD FROM DUMMY IS TO PLAN THE PLAY OF THE HAND...NOT JUST THE FIRST COUPLE OF TRICKS...

Sinner status to the South at one table who could have put declarer back in dummy with the fourth club so that declarer would have to lead a diamond away from dummy's ♦ K92 or else play a heart establishing North's ♥ Q while North still held ♦ A. South played a diamond thus removing North's ♦ A before the long heart was established and also setting up dummy's ♦ K as a winner. Eleven tricks to declarer.

Sinner status to the **North** at another table who played ♥ 8 from ♥ J8 with singleton ♥ 10 visible in dummy and where ♥ 9 was played from dummy on first round of suit. Eleven tricks to declarer.

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400: EW 3N

3 NT...be careful of communications between the two hands. There are two routes to nine tricks...1) declarer can finesse ♦ 9 on third round of the suit having previously finessed the ♦ J into North's ♦ Q thus giving declarer 4 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds, OR 2) Play diamonds by cashing ♦ K, access dummy via ♠ Q or ♥ K and lead a diamond towards ♦ J8, playing ♦ J if South follows low...and then finesse ♦ 9. YES, the hearts can produce the ninth trick BUT in the process N/S can take three clubs and two hearts! And if the West hand is on the table then North should find the defense...

Saints & Sinners

Saints & Sinners abound...but sadly it's mostly Sinners! At twelve tables 3 NT was played, six times by West (all making) and six times by East where only two declarers were successful.

At one table East declared 3 NT on the lead of the ♠ 9, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer led a heart to his ♥ K, noting South's ♥ Q. Declarer then made the most unusual play of leading a club to dummy's singleton ♣ K, beaten by North's ♣ A. Declarer was literally tempting fate with all kinds of layouts that could have seen him lose four club tricks! North now played the ♥ J, handing the initiative back to declarer. All declarer needed to do was win with dummy's ♥ A and continue with ♥ 9, establishing ♥ 8 as a winner. That would give declarer 4 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, enough for the contract as long as N/S could not take 3 more club tricks! And as the cards lie that was not possible. All over...Victory to declarer...No way, Jose! Declarer ducked North's ♥ J and North didn't wait for another opportunity and promptly switched to ♣ 10, ducked all round. North continued with ♣ 9, giving declarer a second chance. If declarer covered ♣ 9 with ♣ J it would have promoted his ♣ 8 as a winner. But no...declarer ducked! And now his goose was really cooked! North switched to a diamond which declarer won in dummy with ♦ J and momentarily a smile may have creased his face as he realised that he had nine winners...♠ J, ♥ K, ♦ J...plus 3 more spades, ♥ A, and ♦ AK...a total of nine tricks. But slowly the smile faded from his face as he suddenly realised that he couldn't access his winners!!! There were blockages in spades and diamonds all going back to the impulsive play of ♠ J at trick one. This was the position with six tricks to be played: Dummy held ♠ AK3, ♥ A9, ♦ K while declarer held ♠ Q, ♦ A96, ♣ J8. Yes the six tricks are there but at this stage declarer cannot unravel them. Try it...

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400; EW 3N

Saints & Sinners

At the second table where 3 NT was contracted, South led ♠ 7, declarer winning in hand with ♠ Q. Declarer then cashed ♥ K and continued with ♥ 7 rising with dummy's ♥ A when South showed out. Declarer then cashed three more spades and played a diamond to his ♦ A before continuing with a club to dummy's ♣ K and North's ♣ A. North cashed ♥ J10 after which North continued with ♣ 10, covered by declarer's ♣ J and South winning with ♣ Q. South cashed the ♠ 9 and also the ♣ 5 when declarer discarded ♣ 8 from hand whilst preserving ♦ 9 despite the fact that dummy had ♦ K!!! Two light.

At a another table South led ♠ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♠ Q. Declarer then cashed ♦ A and continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ J and North's ♦ Q. North now handed declarer a possible lifeline by switching to ♥ J. If declarer rises with ♥ K, felling South's ♥ Q, then declarer simply needs to continue with ♥ 7 to create AT LEAST three heart winners. Yes, North can still defeat the contract by switching to clubs, N/S cashing three tricks in the suit to go with the ♦ Q and ♥ 10. But, declarer did not seize the moment and played low from hand winning with ♥ A in dummy. Declarer could still untangle things by playing a heart to her ♥ K, return to dummy with a spade and then lead ♥ 9 establishing ♥ 8 as a winner. But by now declarer has shown up with so many high cards that North can probably place South with ♣ Q and N/S should easily cash three club tricks... BUT, declarer won with ♥ A, cashed ♦ K in case suit broke 3-3 which would establish declarer's ♦ 9 as a winner. Alas that did not transpire and so declarer played a heart to her ♥ K and then exited with ♦ 9 to North's ♦ 10. North cashed ♣ A felling dummy's ♣ K and then committed the sin of continuing with ♣ 9 (denying ♣ 10)...**Sinner** status awarded to North. Declarer covered with ♣ J and South won with ♣ Q. South, perhaps on the assumption that declarer held ♣ 10, continued with a spade instead of a club which would have seen North cash two more tricks...♣ 10 and ♥ 10. That would have been down two...instead of the actual result of down one.

At some tables where West declared 3 NT, North made the natural but fatal (for the defense) lead of a small diamond handing declarer their ninth trick. No Sinners...just an unlucky lead.

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400; EW 3N

Saints & Sinners

At another table East declared 3 NT on the lead of ♦ 5. This was hugely beneficial to declarer. Declarer starts with 4 spades, 2 hearts, and 2 diamonds. Only one more trick is needed for the contract! And South (unintentionally) has just delivered it...declarer plays ♦ 8 from dummy, covered by North's ♦ 10 and declarer wins with ♦ A. All that declarer needed to do is return a diamond and finesse ♦ J (or play ♦ K and continue with ♦ J) to establish the ♦ 9 in her hand as the ninth trick. But **Sinner** status is awarded because declarer did return a diamond to dummy's ♦ J, losing to North's ♦ Q, who then cashed ♣ A, felling dummy's ♣ K and continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ K, leaving declarer's ♦ 9 as a winner. BUT declarer did not appreciate that the ♦ 9 was a winner, ultimately discarding it on North's ♣ 10 at trick thirteen, and duly ended one down.

At another table, East declared 3 NT. Winning with ♠ Q in hand declarer cashed ♥ K and then continued with ♥ 7 and when South showed out declarer made what should have been a fatal mistake of overtaking with dummy's ♥ 9, North winning with ♥ 10. North now cashed ♣ A, felling dummy's ♣ K and continued with ♣ 10, covered by declarer's ♣ J, South winning with ♣ Q. South now returned ♣ 5 to North's ♣ 9, thereby establishing declarer's ♣ 86 as winners. North switched to a diamond and declarer now had nine tricks. South could have switched to a diamond after winning ♣ Q instead of setting up declarer's club suit!

Two E/W pairs ended up in 4 ♥...one going one down, the other failing by three tricks! At one table West misrepresented her hand by opening 2 NT with only 19 hcp, including a singleton ♣ K. 1 ♥ is the natural opening bid with this hand. But worse was to come when West bid 4 ♥ over East's raise to 3 NT. West had no reason to make this bid and duly finished 3 down. **Double sinner** status to **West**.

Another E/W pair also reached 4 ♥ but only failed by one trick. **Sinner** status for not reaching 3 NT. West should bid 3 NT over East's 3 ♥. East can always convert to 4 ♥ if holding 3 hearts!

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400: EW 3N

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table it was like a Ping-Pong match between West (declarer) and North (defender). .
'Here, take this one...No, you take it! Against West's 3 NT, North led ♥ 5 despite West having opened 1 ♥! Declarer played low from dummy and also ducked in hand when South produced ♥ Q. South switched to a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer now cashed ♥ K, getting the bad news when South discarded a diamond. Declarer now cashed three more spades with North discarding a diamond and ♣ 109. [With North and South both having discarded a diamond I would be tempted to cash ♦ K and duck a diamond and then play a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and expect ♦ 9 to be a winner]. Anyway, after cashing his fourth spade declarer led ♦ 8, North following with ♦ 10 and declarer winning with ♦ A as South followed with ♦ 5. Declarer now led ♦ 9 from dummy and finessed ♦ J losing to North's ♦ Q. North had a simple exit of ♦ 7 to declarer's now stiff ♦ K but instead decided to hand a trick to declarer by leading ♥ J (from ♥ J106) into declarer's ♥ A98. [All declarer needs to do is win with ♥ A and return ♥ 9 thus establishing ♥ 8 as a winner.] But declarer said...*'No thanks. A very generous offer but I must refuse your generosity...*and declarer duly ducked the ♥ J! But North was so overcome by declarer's generosity that he insisted on offering a second gift and now led ♥ 10 (from ♥ 106) into declarer's ♥ A9. Declarer might have looked at one gift horse in the mouth but he gratefully accepted the second one! 3 NT made! **Sinner** status to declarer and North.

The most horrific sequence took place at a table where West declared 3 NT on the lead of ♦ 3 which declarer won in hand with ♦ 8...and declarer could now count nine tricks...4 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds. But the horror show had only started. Declarer cashed ♦ K and played a third diamond to dummy's ♦ A, getting the bad news as South discarded a small spade. Declarer continued by cashing ♥ K and led a heart to her ♥ A as South discarded another small spade. All declarer needed to do was simply cash her four spade winners to make 3 NT. But declarer continued her horror show by playing a spade to dummy's ♠ Q and then played a club to her singleton ♣ K, North winning with ♣ A. North was holding four winners in her hand (♥ J106, ♦ 10 and also had ♣ 109 with partner holding ♣ Q754 over dummy's ♣ J863. N/S could now cash all six remaining tricks to defeat 3 NT by THREE tricks!!! Alas, North cashed ♦ 10 and ♥ J, (**but failed to cash ♥ 106**), before playing ♣ 10, South beating dummy's ♣ J with ♣ Q. But unfortunately South had discarded all her clubs and could not play a club back to North's ♣ 9...and her two winning hearts. 3 NT made when it DESERVED to fail. **Multiple Sinner** status to declarer. **Sinner** status to **North and South**.

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400; EW 3N

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table, East declared 3 NT on the lead of ♠ 6, declarer winning in dummy with ♠ J. Declarer next led a heart from dummy and played ♥ 7 from hand losing to South's ♥ Q. South now found the play of ♣ 4 to dummy's ♣ K and North's ♣ A. North now committed a **Venial Sin** by switching to ♥ J...why a sin? Because if North had counted the hearts in her hand and those on the table and also include the first round of the suit North would have realised that there was a singleton ♥ K either with declarer or with South. North could play the ♥ 5 and the ♥ K would fall. Instead North played a wasteful ♥ 10. **Sinner** status awarded to **North**. Declarer won with ♥ K, cashed ♠ Q and then finessed ♦ J into North's ♦ Q. N/S now had three tricks in the bag.. ♥ Q, ♣ A, ♦ Q and could have garnered two more from the club suit EXCEPT that North had discarded ♣ 9 on a spade. North played ♣ 10, declarer covering with ♣ J and South winning with ♣ Q. South returned ♣ 7 into declarer's ♣ 863. 3 NT made. Sinner status to N/S.

Sinner status to the **North** who discarded hearts on declarer's spades despite the fact that West had opened 1 ♥ (5 card). North's discards resulted in declarer cashing ♥ 94 and squeezing North in the process with North guarding ♣ A and ♦ Q107. Declarer emerged with an unbelievable 12 tricks! **Saintly** status to **Peggy Fay** for making 3 NT+3.

Board 13

North Deals
Both Vul

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

N 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1N; S 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +110; N 3♦

East can afford to open 1C and then re-bid 1S over partner;"s 1 level response in either red suit..or raise to game if West bids 1S. BUT.if East opens 1S then he should rebid 2S over West's 2♦ or 2H response. Bidding 3C shows a non-minimum hand. Note that there are NO makeable game contracts!

Saints & Sinners

Exalted Saintly Status to Sheila Smyth & Marie Hackett who defeated 3 NT by West. Marie led D6 and Sheila correctly followed with DQ which won the trick. Sheila continued with d9 and when it won she unblocked the suit by continuing with DK. Declarer struggled and with no reliable source of tricks duly finished three down

At another table West also declared 3 NT on the lead of D6 but here South erred (Sinner status awarded) by playing DK (denying the DQ), which declarer won with DA. Declarer continued with two top hearts ending in hand as South discarded a small spade. Declarer next led S9 as North discarded C7, winning with dummy's SA. Declarer continued with a club to South's CJ (CQ is better), declarer's CK on which North followed with C5!!! Declarer now exited on a club to North's bare CA, South following with CQ and with dummy's C1098 now established as winners with SK available as an entry to access them! N/S could still cash four diamonds tricks but North, presumably conscious of the fact that declarer held DQ exited on HJ, declarer winning with HQ and then cashing SK and three club winners to emerge with ten tricks ..3 NT+1 instead of 3 NT -1 or even -2...all because South played DK instead of DQ at trick one! **Absolute Sinner** status to **South**


At another table South opened 1S after East Passed, West made a Takeout Double and north found a bid of 2H on her 6hcp. East now made an underbid of 3C and South (Sinner status awarded) made a free bid of 3S. If South is going to make a re-bid then she should bid 3D, show a second suit and give partner a choice. As it turns out she would have landed on her feet with North's DJ8762. 3S was Passed out and declarer scored a mere five tricks. East should have applied a Penalty Double to the final contract. Sinner status also to North who should have Passed initially or maybe even bid 1 NT..

Stayman60 also failed to rebid 2D and ended up in 2S-3

Appalling defense from Snobhill and marypat111 Should defeat 2H by one trick instead of letting it make. declarer was able to discard two losing diamonds on dummy's clubs accessed by North

Board 13

North Deals
Both Vul

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

N 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1N; S 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +110: N 3♦

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Absolute sinner status to another South who re-bid 2♠ after partner bid 1NT over West's Takeout Double and East made an underbid of 2♣. South should have bid 2♦. It's always better to give partner a choice of suits! Declarer ended three down in 2♠ and should have felt very lucky that East didn't apply a Penalty Double.

Another West declared 3NT on the lead of ♦6 with South winning the trick with ♦Q and then finding the switch of ♣Q. This could have been disastrous (for the defense) if declarer held ♣AK(x) with North holding ♦AJ76x. Declarer would cash 6 clubs, 2 spades, and 3 hearts making 3NT+2 instead of 3NT-1. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Sinner status to another South, defending 3NT by West, won the opening lead with ♦Q and then switched to ♥2 instead of pursuing the diamond attack. South subsequently gained the lead with ♠J and STILL refrained from continuing with a diamond and switched to ♣Q, covered by declarer's ♣K and North winning with ♣A. North, having previously discarded a diamond, now played ♦J, on which South, holding ♦K109 played the ♦9!!! The contract ultimately failed by 2 tricks, no thanks to N/S. **Sinner** status awarded.

At another table N/S did not find the best defense and declarer not only made his 2♥ contract but added two overtricks instead of being several light! North led ♦6 and declarer won in hand with ♦A and then ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♥5. Declarer now played ♠A which North ruffed with ♥6. North could have dealt a devastating blow to declarer by continuing with ♥7 but instead devastated the defense by cashing ♣A (converting declarer's losing ♣K into a winner) ..BUT worse was to follow when North continued with ♣7 sacrificing South's ♣QJ as a second club trick for the defense and in the process establishing dummy's ♣1096 as winners!!! **Sinner** status to North and also to South for playing ♦K instead of D♦Q at trick one!. Declarer now played a heart to dummy's ♥K and then played ♣109 discarding his remaining diamond losers as North was forced to ruff with ♥9, North now continued with ♦J which declarer ruffed. Declarer drew North's remaining trumps and cashed ♠K for ten tricks. The list of makeable contracts above does not even include 1♥ by West!

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 9 2	♠ —	♠ A K 10 8 5
♥ A Q 8 4 3	♥ J 10 9 7 6	♥ K 5
♦ A 5 4 3	♦ J 8 7 6 2	♦ —
♣ K 3	♣ A 7 5	♣ 10 9 8 6 4 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ Q J 7 6 4 3	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K Q 10 9	
	♣ Q J	

N 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1N; S 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +110: N 3♦

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table West overcalled South's opening 1 ♠ with 2 ♥ which was Passed out. North led ♦ 6, South correctly following with ♦ Q as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer then ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♥ 5 and next played ♠ A which North ruffed with ♥ 6. North made a good continuation of ♥ 7, declarer winning with dummy's ♥ K. Declarer continued with a club to South's ♣ J, declarer's ♣ K and North's ♣ A. North continued with a club to South's ♣ Q, establishing dummy's ♣ 986 as winners. South now led a spade which North ruffed. North could now have continued with diamonds, N/S cashing two tricks in the suit, and if South wins the second one then he could have played another spade which would have promoted another trump trick for North leading to a two trick defeat. BUT, North (who surely was counting...and should have realised that a) South had no more hearts and b) neither South nor declarer had any more clubs) now played his third club which declarer won in dummy with ♣ 9 whilst discarding one of his two diamond losers. Declarer then played ♠ K, discarding his last losing diamond as North ruffed with ♥ 10. Belatedly North played a diamond but it was too late, the two tricks had simply vanished! **Absolute Sinner** status to N/S with North bearing the primary responsibility for a poor defense that allowed declarer to make contract where she should have failed by two tricks!

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

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

W 4♣; W 2N; NS 2♠; E 3♣; E 1N; W 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -130: W 4♣

Board 15
South Deals
N-S Vul

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

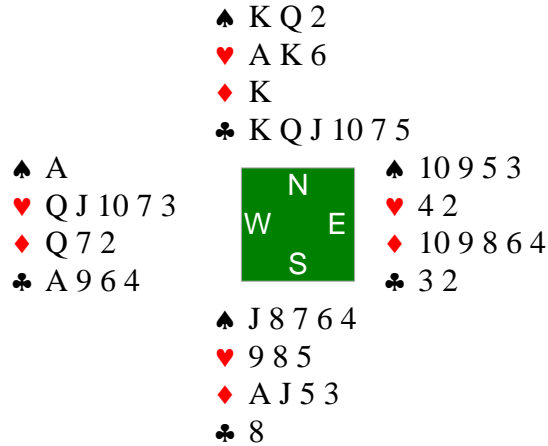
W N E
S

♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ A Q
♣ 10 8 5

EW 1N; E 2♦; EW 1♠; N 1♥; W 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -90: EW 1N;
E 2♦

Board 16

West Deals
E-W Vul



NS 5♠; NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 1♦; Par +450; NS 4♠+1

N/S can make eleven tricks in a spade contract and nine tricks in 3 NT.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the **East**, with ♥ 42 and ♣ 32, who passed 2♣x after West opened 1♥ and re-bid 2♣. Holding an equal length in partner's two suits always revert to the first which should be at least as long and is invariably longer than the second one. West, with a minimum opening and a Pass from partner would have been better advised to Pass at second opportunity

Sinner status to the East player, defending 4♠, who won the fourth spade BEFORE declarer had established her club winners and where a return of East's second heart would subsequently see West win ♣ A and be able to cash a heart winner for one down...Alas, East switched to a club and thus set up declarer's suit whilst still holding heart and diamond entries to enjoy the now established winning clubs. Quite what East's club switch was intended to achieve still eludes me!

A spade contract was declared at eight tables, all but one reaching game. At seven tables 4♠ was made, in one case with an overtrick. In all cases the defense assisted declarer in what was otherwise a very shaky contract, by cashing ♣ A, or playing a club, and thus helping declarer establish his club suit as winners which would then act as extra trumps to counteract East's ♠ 10953 holding.

In fact, if declarer does not play on clubs at trick two (presuming a heart lead at trick one) then declarer can easily fail in 4♠ by losing 2 spades, 1 heart, and ♣ A. Playing on clubs allows declarer to discard (from the South hand) the third heart.

Exalted Saintly status to **Bridie Redahan**, who defeated 4♠ by South on the lead of ♥ Q. Declarer won with ♥ A and continued with ♠ K. **Bridie** made no mistake, winning with ♠ A and continuing with ♥ J. Subsequently gaining the lead with ♣ A Bridie cashed her ♥ 10 for one down! The only West to defeat 4♠.

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

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

NS 5♠; NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 1♦; Par +450: NS 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Partial Saintly status to **Anne Killilea** who cashed ♦ K at trick two before continuing with ♠ K West winning with ♠ A. If West had continued with ♥ J then the contract would have been defeated but West switched to a small club (with ♣ KQJ1075 clearly visible in dummy!) declarer winning with ♣ K and then continuing with ♠ Q, noting the trump distribution and then switching back to clubs, discarding the third heart from her hand. West won with ♣ A and continued with a heart but it was too late... the bird had flown! **Sinner** status to **West** for not continuing with ♥ J after winning ♠ A and also for switching to a small club!!!

Sinner status to all declarers in 4 ♠ who received a heart lead and did not play on clubs to setup a discard of the third heart from the South hand!

Board 17
North Deals
None Vul

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

EW 3♠; S 3♥; N 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 1N; EW 1♣; Par -100: S 4♥×-1

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; Par -450: EW 4♠+1

E/W can make 3 NT and 5 ♠ but some will fail to reach game. This hand will pose challenges to declarers in 4 ♠ who will pursue different lines of play, some successfully, others not! And those in 3 NT will also pursue different play plans. A spade lead from South, perhaps unlikely, would be very advantageous to declarer. On a heart lead declarer can insert ♥ 9 from dummy, drawing ♥ 10 from North, declarer winning with ♥ K and in a position to finesse ♥ J on second round. This produces three tricks. A diamond lead guarantees three diamond tricks. And declarer can always make three spade tricks. In a NT contract the problem is to make nine tricks without losing too many club tricks!

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the E/W pairs that played in 2 ♠ despite a combined holding of 25 hcp. In all cases it seems the West simply raised East's re-bid of 1 ♠ to 2 ♠ despite the 10 hcp, 4 card trump support, and holding two Aces. Worth a raise to 3 ♠ which East will raise to game.

Sinner status to the East player who rebid 1 NT over partner's 1 ♥ response to East's 1 ♣ opening. Rebidding 1 ♠ would better describe the hand, indicating at least 9 cards in the black suits! West could also have bid 2 ♠ over East's 1 NT, showing 4 spades and forcing to at least 2 NT. This would have got the pair to 4 ♠ rather than 3 NT. **Additional Sinner** status to the East who received the lead of ♦ 2 (**Sinner** status to South who should have lead ♦ 5 from a holding of ♦ 6542) and won in hand with ♦ K and then placed the ♣ Q on the table. I'm not sure what declarer was trying to achieve but I can see little merit in playing a suit combination of ♣ 2 opposite ♣ Q10874. Even dropping a singleton ♣ J will not offer much hope. Declarer had options to develop the extra trick(s) needed to make 3 NT in three suits that offered better chances than the club suit! The contract failed by one trick as N/S won five of the first six tricks!

Sinner status to the **South**, defending 3 NT, who led ♣ J from ♣ J6 despite East having opened 1 ♣. **Exalted Sinner** status to North, who correctly ducked the opening lead which was taken by East's ♣ Q but who then won the second club with ♣ A (denying the ♣ K!). Worse still, North next cashed the ♣ K, South showing out and now North proceeded to give declarer a FREE FINESSE (something declarer couldn't do herself because dummy had no more clubs!) when she continued with ♣ 5 from a holding C♣ 95 through declarer's holding of ♣ 108. Declarer gratefully accepted this free gift and duly scored ten tricks! Concentration and focus are vital; at all stages of play but in particular when defending.

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; Par -450: EW 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the East who declared 4♠ on the lead of ♦ 5 and straight away led a club from hand. If declarer was hoping to ruff clubs in dummy then she should have won the first trick with dummy's ♦ A, preserving the ♦ K as a quick entry to hand to ruff another club. Also, when embarked on this plan declarer needs to avoid taking a spade finesse in case it loses and the opponents play a second trump! At this table North won the first club and switched to a trump,...and declarer duly took the bait and played low from hand, lost to South's ♠ Q who returned a trump and declarer duly ended one down although declarer could still have made it when dummy held ♠ J6, ♥ AJ9, ♦ A while declarer had ♠ AK, ♥ 5, ♣ Q107 with South holding ♠ 8, ♥ Q42, ♦ 6, ♣ J. Declarer could have played a spade to hand drawing the opponents last trump, finessed ♥ J, cashed ♥ A and ruffed dummy's fourth heart with ♠ K in hand leaving dummy high with ♠ J, ♦ A. ALTERNATIVELY declarer could pursue the line she actually chose with one major difference...Cash ♥ A, ruff a heart in hand with ♠ K, ruff a club with ♠ 6. Declarer did this... BUT she then led dummy's last heart, ruffing in hand with ♠ A, South following with ♥ Q. Now, when declarer led a club from hand South was able to discard her losing diamond and duly ruffed dummy's ♦ A with ♠ 8 at trick thirteen. If declarer had cashed the ♦ A BEFORE ruffing the last heart she would have made her contract!

Saintly status to sub **mbakhouma (magda)** from Egypt), declaring 4♠, who received the lead of ♣ J from South after partner had Doubled West's Stayman bid. North won with ♣ K and found the good trump switch at trick 2. Magda made no mistake, rising with ♠ K and playing three rounds of diamonds ruffing the third one in hand. Declarer then played two top hearts ending in dummy and led dummy's last diamond (leading a third heart might have been better), North ruffing in with ♠ 7, declarer overruffing with ♠ A. Declarer now ruffed a club in dummy, South following with ♣ 6. and then ruffed a heart with ♠ 4. At this point declarer held ♣ Q108, dummy held ♠ J10, ♥ J and South held ♠ Q8, ♥ Q. **Magda** led a club from hand and South made a mistake (costing a trick) by ruffing in with ♠ Q on which declarer threw dummy's losing heart. South should have discarded ♥ Q, declarer would ruff with ♠ 10 and South would duly claim last two tricks with ♠ Q8. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; Par -450; EW 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

One East opened 1 NT and partner Passed. I think I saw a message to the table after the hand was played where East apologised to partner indicating that she had intended to open 1♣. A genuine mistake.

At another table where East declared 4♠, South won the first round of spades and could have made life difficult for declarer by continuing with a second trump thus cutting down declarer's ruffing power in both hands. One good line of play is to NOT take a trump finesse, nor even to play a round of trumps, but rather to ruff red suit losers in the East hand and clubs in the West hand. So, if N/S can play two rounds of trumps that significantly restricts declarer's ruffing potential. Yes, hearts can be played for three tricks and declarer can establish a third diamond trick through the lucky position of ♦ QJ7 in the North hand. But let declarer figure that out for himself.

At another table, defending 4♠, **Retsea (Kathleen)** earned **Sinner** status for winning the club lead with ♣ A (denying ♣ K!) but earned a little redemption by finding the trump switch at trick 2, declarer rising with ♠ K. Declarer then ruffed a club in dummy and next led S♠ J, finessing into South's SQ. **South** earns **Sinner** status for not continuing with a third spade which would have removed the last trump from dummy and left declarer with a single trump in hand! Yes, declarer can still get home by playing three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third round with her last trump and then playing ♥ K followed by a finesse of ♥ J to end in dummy with a winning ♦ 9 for her tenth trick. Declarer would certainly be taking some chances and could even find an alternative and un-successful line!

At another table declarer, in 4♠, found herself on lead with ♠ 4, ♣ Q10 opposite ♠ J, ♥ 9, ♦ 9. Declarer could ruff a club and then play whichever red suit South discarded on the club and thus win two of the last three tricks for a t♠ Q!!! South cashed ♥ Q and conceded the last trick to dummy's ♦ 9. Eleven tricks within reach for declarer but ultimately reduced to ten...

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; Par -450; EW 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to **Pat Ward** and **Carmel Musitano** for their measured bidding sequence 1♣ - 1♥; 1♠ - 3♠; 4♠ - Pass. And **Carmel** made no mistake in the play, cashing two top spades early on and then cross-ruffing.

Sinner status to all Norths who rose with ♣ A rather than ♣ K on the opening lead by South!!!

Saintly status to **Sheila Smyth** who won with ♠ Q when declarer finessed and then continued with a second trump. **Double Sinner** status to **North** who a) won first club with ♣ A instead of ♣ K and b) discarded a club on the third round of spades and thus enabled declarer to set up two club winners!

Double Sinner status to North at another table who a) won first club with ♣ A instead of ♣ K and b) returned ♣ 5 at trick two, which declarer won with ♣ 10.

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Despite holding only 23 hcp N/S can actually make 3 NT...but declarer needs to be careful if West lead a small heart...if declarer ducks then East can win and now a spade switch creates five tricks for the defense. Note also that South can make 3 NT+1 whereas on a spade lead from East North can only make 3 NT.

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status to the **South** who failed to take nine tricks in 3 NT on the lead of ♠ K. If declarer ducks the opening lead West cannot continue the suit without conceding a second spade to South's ♠ J. As it was, declarer won the opening led and played clubs West winning the third round with ♣ A and continuing with ♥ 7. Declarer was now home. Rise with ♥ K, cash ♦ K and play a second diamond to ♦ A and cash the remaining clubs scoring 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 5 clubs. Simple..yes, but alas declarer played ♥ 10 and East won with ♥ J and continued with a spade through declarer's ♠ J9 so that E/W scored 2 spades, 2 hearts 1 club...

Absolute Sinner status to the North who bid 1 ♠ over West's 1 ♥ overcall of South's 1 ♣ opening and who then raised to the spade game after partner bid 2 ♠ and West, without any support from partner, bid a very silly 3 ♥ which North should have doubled. It goes at least 2 light which at unfavourable vulnerability would cost E/W -500. At this table South, West and North all made two positive bids before N/S settled in 4 ♠ to which West applied a Penalty Double. When the dust had settled declarer had scored a mere six tricks and suffered a -800 penalty against a +400 if they had bid and made 3 NT.

Absolute Sinner status to the West who made an inappropriate Takeout Double of South's 1 ♣ opening bid. North bid 1 ♥ and East now made a free bid of 2 ♦ on her 1 hcp! South re-bid 3 ♣ and West made an appalling bid of 3 ♠ on a four card suit and whilst also holding 5 cards in North's suit! 3 ♠ suffered a FOUR trick defeat and would have resulted in -1100 if North had applied a Penalty Double. **Sinner** status to **North** for not applying a double to the final contract given that he had an opening bid opposite partner's 1 ♣ opening!

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

S 4N; N 3N; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +430: S 3N+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the **two Norths** who made an inappropriate Takeout Double (Pass is correct with the North hand) of West's opening bid of 1♥. **Saintly** status to **Marie Hackett** who passed in similar circumstances. **Sinner** status to the **two Souths** who Passed as dealer.

Sinner status to the **North** who made a jump re-bid of 3♥ over South's 2♣ rebid and suffered a three trick defeat whereas 3♣ could have produced at least nine tricks. And of course, 3NT could have made.

Sinner status to the South, declaring 3♣ after West made a takeout Double of South's (**Sinner** status to **West**) 1♣ and where East, who originally Passed, then bid 2♦ over South's 2♣ re-bid. Declarer received the lead of ♦ 2, won in dummy with ♦ K. Declarer then played on clubs West winning the second round with ♣ A. West now switched to the ♠ K and declarer made the excellent play of ducking in dummy. But declarer fell from grace when West continued with a small spade and instead of letting it round to her ♠ J (what did West have when she switched to ♠ K?) rose with dummy's ♠ A and tried to get to hand on a diamond which West ruffed with ♣ 5, cashed ♠ Q and then scored the setting trick with ♥ A. Declarer might have deemed herself unlucky that West could ruff the second diamond given her initial Takeout Double of South's 1♣ but South had her destiny in her own hands when West switched to spades!

Sinner status to the **two Wests** who made life easy for the respective Souths declaring a club contract by winning the first club trick with ♣ A thereby making it easy for declarer to access the South hand to draw trumps. **Saintly** status to **Peggy Fay** who ducked the first club trick and subsequently scored the setting trick with ♣ 5 when declarer tried to get to hand with a second diamond.

Sinner status to the **West**, defending 3NT by North on the lead of ♥ J who subsequently cashed ♥ AQ, East showing out on the ♥ Q and then gave declarer a FREE FINESSE by continuing with ♥ 9 from ♥ 95 through North's ♥ 108.

Board 20

West Deals
Both Vul

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

W 5N; W 5♠; EW 5♥; E 4♠; E 2N; NS 2♣; Par -660: W 4N+1

What a difference 'right-siding' a contract makes, i.e. playing it from the 'right' side of the table depending on the lead of a particular card or suit! Here West can make 5 NT whereas East can be held to 2 NT. Against a NT contract by East, South could lead a club (it must be CQ or C10) in which case N/S can take five club tricks. Played by West on the other hand, N/S cannot take five club tricks. But most partnerships are likely to reach a heart contract where eleven tricks can be made by either player.

Saints & Sinners

An unbelievable auction at one table: 1♦ - 1♥; 1NT - 2♥; 4♥ - Pass

The first three bids are fine but East's 2♥ is a weak bid which West should have passed. East should either bid 2♠ (forcing to 2NT) or 4♥ or used 'Checkback' or any other convention that allows her to show her 4 card spade suit and identify whether West has 3 hearts (more useful when East has only 5 hearts). How West could dredge up a bid of 4♥ over East's 'weak' 2♥ rebid is mind-boggling! West has show his 12-14 hcp with his 1NT rebid. East might be bidding 2♥ on a six card suit and 5/6 points! East made up for his poor bidding with some good play and a very lacklustre defense which included North winning opening lead with ♣ A instead of ♣ J when West played low. Dozy North!

Sinner status to the East, declaring 4♥, who let eleven tricks slip to ten by forgetting to draw North's third trump before playing the third round of spades which after two rounds was cleared for four tricks. Also, **Saintly** status to **South (Sheila Smyth)** for the good lead of ♦ 3, well reasoned after East used Stayman followed by a direct jump to 4♥ suggesting a holding of both majors. **Sinner** status to **North** for playing ♦ K on opening lead, thereby denying possession of ♦ Q!!! **Sinner** status to **declarer** who forgot to draw North's third trump which resulted in declarer suffering a third round spade ruff. North then cashed ♦ Q and scored a third trick with ♣ A, the only table where less than eleven tricks were scored in the heart game. Sleepy declarer!

Saintly status to **Miriam Mullan** who was the only other **South** to find a diamond lead. A diamond lead by North is easier to find with a holding of ♦ KQ105. **Sinner** status to the **North** at another table who kicked off with ♣ A instead of ♦ K thus handing declarer twelve tricks. And **Sinner** status to the other North who played ♣ A instead of ♣ J on partners lead of ♣ 5, again handing twelve trick to declarer.

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

S 2N; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; N 1N; EW 1♠; Par -110; EW 3♣; EW 3♦

Board 22
East Deals
E-W Vul

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

Diagram: A green square with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'W' on the left, and 'E' on the right.

NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +120: NS 1N+1

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul


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

W N E
S

♠ A 10 9 5
♥ A Q 9 4
♦ Q 2
♣ Q 6 2

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

Board 24
West Deals
None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -400; EW 3N