

Greetings!

Herewith find analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 3rd September 2020, in the **Galway/CBAI Western Region BBO IMP Pairs**.

This week I have analysed 18 of the 24 hands: 1,2,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,22,23,24
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 #24. I have sub-titled this the Miracle Hand in memory of Munster's 'Miracle Match' at Thomond Park against Gloucester in the 2002/03 Heineken Cup season when Munster needed to win with 4 tries and a margin of 27 points in order to stay in the competition! Ronan O'Gara kicked the conversion in the final minute of the game that gave Munster what they needed. Well, on Board #24 David Walsh performed a miracle! Worth a read! There are several other hands that are also interesting and which feature opportunities for declarer and the defense,.. some taken ...some missed!

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 **18 hands**, played at **9 tables**, representing a total of **162 contracts** that I reviewed which in turn converts to **2,106 tricks** that are minutely screened, which amounts to a grand total of **8,424 individual card plays** that are dissected! Just for info!

Apologies for the delay.This week's analysis took a lot of time in terms of checking and re-checking my analysis.

Thanks to Rory Timlin for his observations and comments re some of the hands.

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

Paul J Scannell

10th September 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

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

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

4♥ by East...Did it make or was it defeated at your table? Nine, ten or eleven tricks? It's all on the lead and continuation. If South leads ♣ A and continues with ♣ 10 then N/S can cash the first three tricks and South will also come to a heart. Note by the way that if ♥ Q and ♥ J were swapped then North can still defeat the contract by continuing with a fourth club, promoting South's ♥ Jxx. On a non-club lead my inclination (playing IMPs) would be to cash ♥ AK followed by ♠ A and then ♦ Q and a diamond to dummy, cash ♠ K discarding a club and then play ♦ K and discard another club. IMPs is such a simple game.

Saints & Sinners

4H by East was reached at all nine tables. The contract failed at just two tables where **South (Pat Ward and Michele Heaslip)** both found the lead of ♣ A and continued with a club to North who played two more rounds to defeat the contract.

Sinner status to the declarer who received a diamond lead, won by ♦ Q, cashed ♠ A, continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then played ♦ K discarding a club from hand and then failed to play ♠ K to discard another club. Declarer made 10 tricks.

Saintly status to **Ann Roche** and **Robert Delargy**, who received a spade lead and then proceeded to cash ♥ AK before playing two rounds of diamond ending in dummy, cashing ♠ K discarding a club from hand, before continuing with ♦ K to discard another club. Properly played. **Marion Donlon** played the hand in a similar fashion, also on the lead of a spade, with the slight difference that she cashed dummy's third diamond before cashing ♠ K. **Patricia Eames** played the hand on the lead of ♦ 9 (unusual lead...small from three cards headed by an honour is the normal lead from this holding). **Saintly** status to **Marion** and **Patricia**.

Sinner status to the **North** who failed to defeat 4♥ on lead of ♣ A and continuation. South cashed ♣ A, continued with a club to north's ♣ Q who then failed to cash ♣ K and instead returned a small club, South ruffing with ♥ 4. Declarer duly cashed hearts from the top and the defense's fourth trick vanished into thin air!

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 1♠; Par +630: NS 3N+1

N/S can make 4 ♥..but will they be able to bid it? N/S can also make 4 NT. E/W can make SEVEN tricks in spades...but should not make any more. Will some N/S pairs crash diamond honours? The defense should be able to cash 1 spade, 3 diamonds, 3 clubs.

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to **Sean & Enda** who reached 4 ♥ and made it. East opened 1 ♠, passed to North who made a Takeout Double. East Passed and South bid 2 ♠, North bid 3 ♥ and South raised to 4 ♥. East led ♠ A and switched to ♦ 6, declarer winning in hand. Declarer continued with ♥ Q, East following with ♥ J perforce, West winning with ♥ A and continuing with a diamond to declarer's ♦ Q. Declarer then cashed ♥ K exposing the 4-1 trump break. Declarer next cashed ♥ 10, finessed ♣ J, cashed ♦ K, discarding a spade from hand and then played on clubs eventually conceding a trump to West. Ten tricks made. Note that declarer could confidently finesse ♣ J...Why? Because West has already shown up with ♥ A and ♦ J..therefore East must have ♣ Q for his one level opening! At no other table was the heart fit found.

At two other tables N/S played in a club contract with one declarer making 2 ♣ and the other failing by two tricks in 3 ♣.

At six other tables a spade contract was declared by East with one declarer failing by 3 tricks in 3 ♠...**Sinner** status to N/S for not applying a Penalty Double to this contract! **Double Sinner** status to the **East** who opened a Weak 2 ♠, passed to North who made a Takeout Double over which South bid 2 NT which was Passed back to East who decided to bid again and should have been severely punished for her highly indisciplined bid!!

At the remaining five tables East declared 2 ♠,

At two tables East opened 2 ♠ (weak) and the respective N/S pairs duly collected their 7 tricks... 1 spade, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs. **Saintly** status to **Pat & Carmel, Norma & Sheila** for an error free defense!

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 1♠; Par +630: NS 3N+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table in the three card ending, East having opened 2♠ (weak), South erred by cashing ♣ A (from ♣ AJx) thus establishing declarer's ♣ Q as a winner. Contract only one down. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At one table the contract was Doubled. The defense was less than sterling! South started with ♣ A (a small club would have been better). South continued with a small club to North's ♣ K who continued with a third club to declarer's ♣ Q. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then finessed a spade to South's ♠ K. South continued with ♦ 5 to North's ♦ A. North attempted to cash ♥ K which declarer ruffed before drawing two rounds of trumps. Declarer then led a diamond towards dummy....and South fell from grace...She rose with ♦ K felling partner's ♦ Q and suddenly declarer had no more losers! South should have evaluated the evidence. East had passed as dealer and yet had already shown up with ♠ AQJ, ♥ J, ♣ Q...if she also held ♦ Q she would surely have opened with her six card spade suit and 12 hcp! Also, if North had ♦ Ax surely she would have continued after winning with ♦ A. The crashing of the two top diamonds was replicated at another table where the N/S cards were held by two international players which just goes to show that even the best players make mistakes with the only difference being that they make them less frequently! **Sinner** status to the **South** at both tables!

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

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

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

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +140: NS 3♠

E/W can make 3 ♥...but some may make ten tricks! N/S can make 3 ♠ (but not 4 ♠), 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ but not eleven tricks...although some may. Defeating 4 ♥ is not obvious. In fact it takes a trump lead by South and trump continuation by North so that eventually N/S will cash their three aces and a second diamond. Defeating 4 ♠ by South is easier. A diamond lead followed by a switch to a heart after winning ♠ Q and a diamond continuation from East should promote a second trump trick for West. And should North buy the contract in 5 ♦ then a spade or club lead followed by a switch to any heart other than ♥ A will see West gain the lead and give East a black suit ruff. Also, a diamond lead followed by a diamond continuation by East should also spell defeat for declarer. BUT, all these defenses are quite intricate and don't be surprised if several unmakeable contracts actually make at the table!

Saints & Sinners

Sinners abound!

4 ♥ bid and made at three table (twice Doubled, once with an overtrick!). 4 ♥ was defeated at another table.

At one table East declared 4 ♥x. When South led ♠ A and continued with ♠ K declarer could not be prevented from scoring eleven tricks, by discarding her losing club on dummy's ♠ Q having first played two round of trumps, ending in dummy, South discarding a significant ♦ 3 on the second heart. After cashing ♠ Q declarer led a diamond which North won with ♦ A. North continued with ♦ Q which declarer won with ♦ K as South discarded ♣ 4. Declarer ruffed a diamond with dummy's last trump. Declarer then ruffed a spade as North discarded ♦ 10. Declarer now played all her trumps and eventually scored the last trick with ♦ 7 as North discarded her diamonds and retained ♣ K. North is guilty of losing track of the fact that East has the last diamond (South had already discarded a club when declarer ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy...leaving declarer holding the ♦ 7). North should have discarded her club honours and retained her master diamond. **Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +140: NS 3♠

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table North declared 5♦x after East had bid hearts. East led her singleton ♠8. Declarer won in dummy and led ♥9...and West fell from grace when she failed to rise with ♥K and give her partner a spade ruff. To make matters worse East had a blank when she followed low on the heart and dummy's ♥9 won the trick! Declarer next played a club to ♣K in hand and then ruffed her second heart with ♦3. Declarer then led ♦9 and made no mistake and rose with ♦A and continued with ♦J and eventually emerged with twelve tricks and a score of +950 which generated 14.38 IMPs for N/S.

Sometimes opportunities are presented and vanish in a flash if not taken! After the hand was played West immediately recognised her error...but it was too late. The moment had come and gone...in a flash!

At another table North declared 4♦ on the lead of ♠8, declarer winning in dummy with ♠A and then finessing ♦9 into East's ♦K. East could have held declarer to ten tricks (4♦ cannot be defeated) by switching to a heart (other than ♥A) for West to gain the lead and give partner a spade ruff. Declarer would be able to discard her losing heart on dummy's ♠K, BUT, after winning ♦K, East cashed ♥A before switching to her other singleton ...♣8. Declarer won in hand with ♣Q and could have cashed trumps and other black suit winners eventually conceding a second heart but scoring ten tricks nonetheless and making her contract. BUT, declarer ruffed her second heart with dummy's remaining trump and now declarer had to play a black suit which East could ruff. Declarer played a club to her ♣K and East did ruff and then exited on a heart and declarer is still home by simply ruffing and cashing trumps and her black suit winners but declarer inexplicably discarded (a distracted mis-click) dummy's ♠A on the ♦A and duly lost a trick to West's ♠Q to finish one down! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for loss of concentration!

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +140: NS 3♠

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table 4♦ was again the final contract against which East led ♣ 8 declarer winning in dummy with ♣ A. Declarer then led ♦ 9 and finessed into East who made a fine play by ducking (**Saintly** status to **Ann Roche**). Declarer repeated the finesse and Ann won with ♦ K before cashing ♥ A and continuing with ♥ Q...and West fell from grace by not rising with ♥ K and giving her partner a club ruff to defeat the unbeatable contract! East continued with ♥ J and declarer ruffed and simply needed to draw East's remaining two small trumps and then cash his black suit winners. BUT, declarer had a lapse in concentration and tried to cash ♣ K which East gratefully ruffed with her ♦ 7 and thus floored the contract. **Sinner** status to **declarer** and **West**. Concentration is vital!

At another table David Walsh declared 4♠ and received a heart lead and continuation, ruffing the second round in hand and now having less trumps than West! David continued with ♠ 10 from hand, West following low as East contributed ♠ 8. David continued with ♦ 9 from hand and finessed into East who for some inexplicable reason, and knowing that there was only one outstanding diamond, ducked! David continued with ♦ 3 which West ruffed with ♠ 4. West switched to ♣ 3, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer continued with ♦ A, discarding ♣ 7 from hand as West discarded ♥ K. David then played ♦ Q, East covering with ♦ K which David ruffed with ♠ 10 as West discarded ♣ 5. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♦ Q and returned a club to ♣ A in hand. David then led ♣ 9 and West could have saved a trick by ruffing in with ♠ Q but, perhaps unaware of the situation, ruffed low with ♠ 5, which was overruffed by dummy's ♠ J. David then took the last two tricks with ♠ AK. Eleven tricks made. **Sinner** status to

East who had an opportunity to beat the contract. East should have won the first diamond and either continued with a diamond forcing South to ruff again, reducing declarer's trump holding to ♠ AK10 whilst West would hold ♠ Q6542. If South fails to ruff the diamond return then West scores a soft trump with ♠ Q still to score. Alternatively, East could continue with another heart which will also cause declarer to lose trump control. **Saintly** status to **David** for bringing home a hopeless contract.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

E/W can make 4 ♠ or 4 ♥. Can you show two five card majors via a single bid when the opponents have opened the bidding with 1 ♣ or 1 ♦ or can you show two major suits over an opponents opening 1 NT? Making 4 ♥...bring in the heart suit for one loser...Access dummy via ♣ A and lead a heart towards hand. Win with ♥ K (or ♥ Q) and continue with a small heart felling South's now singleton ♥ A. Missing the ♥ J108 there is no other realistic line. In 4 ♠ declarer will also need to play the hearts for one loser. Note that playing South for ♠ K10x by leading ♠ J from dummy and subsequently leading ♠ 9 for a finesse against South's ♠ 10x is not an available option because of lack of entries to dummy. If spades break 3-2 then the loss of one spade should suffice to see the contract home. The sole guaranteed entry to dummy should be used to lead a heart towards hand.

Saints & Sinners

Six E/W pairs played in a heart contract. two at the 4 level. 3 E/W pairs played a spade contract. **Saintly** status to **Mary Muldoon** who played card-perfect in 4 ♥ on the lead of a small club. Winning in dummy with ♣ A, Mary played a small heart to her ♥ Q and when it son she continued with ♥ 2 from hand felling South's ♥ A. Mary subsequently lost just a spade and a diamond...making +420 and netting her side 6.38 IMPs.

At one table West declared 4 ♥x after N/S competed in clubs. North led a club which declarer won in with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer now erred by leading ♠ J and subsequently played on spades as South ruffed the third round with ♥ 10 and declarer duly lost two more trumps to South's ♥ A and North's ♥ J. In total declarer lost 1 spade, 3 hearts, 1 diamond and finished two down...-500 instead of +790. **Sinner** status to **West**.

Saintly status to **Margaret Forde** who declared 3 ♥ making ten tricks when she won the club lead in dummy and played a heart to her ♥ Q and then re-entered dummy with ♠ J and led a second heart, felling South's now singleton ♥ A.

At two other tables West played in a heart part-score and both declarers scored nine tricks when they played trumps from hand thus losing two heart tricks.

Board 5North Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table West declared 3♥ having also shown her spades and received the lead of ♦ A and a continuation of ♦ 8 covered by dummy's ♦ J and South's ♦ Q which declarer ruffed. Now declarer has another potential source of tricks...dummy's diamonds! But declarer played a club to dummy's ♣ A and proceeded to lead ♠ J and suddenly the only potential entry to dummy (♠ J) was gone. North won and continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ 10 covered by South's ♦ K which declarer ruffed with ♥ 3. Declarer continued by playing ♠ A followed by ♠ Q which South ruffed with ♥ 10. South now played ♣ K which declarer ruffed with ♥ 5. Declarer now led ♥ Q which South won perforce with ♥ A. South next played ♦ 4 which declarer ruffed with ♥ 6 and North overruffed with ♥ 8. North continued with ♣ 9, dummy's ♣ Q winning. Declarer now held ♠ 4, ♥ K while dummy held ♥ 9, ♦ 9. North held ♥ J, ♣ J. All declarer needed to do was play a heart to her ♥ K and then cash the winning spade. But I suspect that declarer had lost count of spades and hearts and proceed to concede a trick unnecessarily when she continued with ♦ 9 ruffing in her hand with ♥ K and thus promoting North's ♥ J to take the last trick, a deserved two down for a poorly planned and executed declarer play. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table West declared 2♠ on the lead of a small club. Winning in dummy, declarer played a spade to her ♠ Q, North winning with ♠ K. North made the good continuation of ♣ J (**Saintly** status to **Norma O'Connell**) South beating dummy's ♣ Q with ♣ K, ruffed by declarer. Declarer now played a spade to dummy's ♠ J and then found the good play of a heart to South's ♥ 10 declarer winning with ♥ Q. At this point declarer is en-route to ten tricks. Simply cash ♠ A and then continue with a small heart...and claim. BUT alas, declarer played a diamond South winning with ♦ Q. Now South fell from grace by cashing ♥ A (establishing declarer's suit) before continuing with a club which declarer ruffed with ♠ 4. Now declarer had a second bite of the cheery which she duly refused. All she needed to do was cash ♠ A, drawing North's last trump, and then cash all her heart winners. But declarer must have lost count of the number of spades and hearts already played and simply continued with heart allowing North to ruff with ♠ 10. South could have given declarer a rougher ride by playing on clubs after winning ♦ Q, and maybe even defeat the contract depending on how declarer subsequently played the hand.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table South opened 1 ♣ and **May O'Sullivan** overcalled 2 ♦ showing at least 5/5 in the Major Suits. North bid 2 NT which could have been beaten by at least one trick on a heart lead from East. This was passed to West who bid 3 ♥, surely showing a six card suit...with a strong 5/5 distribution West could have bid 3 ♦ asking partner to pick a major. North passed and East converted to 3 ♠ which North Doubled. South found the unfortunate lead (for the defense) of ♥ A before continuing with ♦ K followed by a club to dummy's ♣ 10, North's ♣ J and declarer's ♣ Q. Declarer, **Ann Roche**, continued with ♠ J and finessed into North's ♠ K. North, hopeful that partner had a singleton ♥ A (cashed at trick one) continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ Q. Declarer simply cashed two top trumps and then reeled off all dummy's hearts and so scored ten tricks, racking up a score of +630 and +10.12 IMPs for E/W. **Saintly** status to **May & Ann**.

This is another example of the **Power of Shape** and illustrates the importance of holding good trumps when Doubling the opponents, or good holdings in at least one of the two suits when the opponent shows a two-suited hand!

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +420; NS 4♥

N/S should **not** make 3 NT...only eight tricks available BUT can make 4♥! South will start proceedings with a Double, either Penalty if East opens 1 NT or Takeout over any other opening bid by East.

Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 1♦ and South subsequently declared 3 NT after initially making a Takeout Double and subsequently bidding hearts, supported by North. South not unreasonably felt that nine trick in NT might be easier to score than ten in hearts! West led a diamond and when hearts failed to break declarer had nowhere to go and finished one down! Note that East/West needed to avoid playing clubs at any stage otherwise declarer would score three club tricks and make his contract. **Saintly** status to E/W, **Margaret Forde & Marion Donlon**.

At one table East opened 1 NT, doubled by South followed by 2♠ by North over which South bid 3 NT. West found the devastating (for the defense!) lead of ♥7. Declarer beat East's ♥10 with ♥A and then cashed ♥Q exposing West's singleton and with declarer's ♥K96 hovering ominously over East's vulnerable holding of ♥J3. BUT, declarer needed to get to dummy to be able to take the heart finesse. Declarer led ♣J from hand which was ducked all round and then followed with ♣Q which East was forced to win, thereby establishing ♣K as an entry to dummy. East now switched to ♦Q, declarer winning in hand with ♦A. Declarer played ♠K, ducked all round and then played a club to dummy's ♣K and then led dummy's heart and finessed ♥9. Declarer next cashed two more hearts to make 3 NT+1. **Saintly** status to declarer...**Enda Glynn**.

At another table East opened 1♦ and South grossly misrepresented his hand by overcalling 4♥. The play presented no problem and declarer duly scored ten tricks.

At another table West perhaps misc-clicked by bidding 2♠ (instead of 2♣?) over South's Double of East's opening bid of 1♣. Subsequently East declared 2NTx and this no-hope contract ended 3 down for a score of +800 and +10.43 IMPs to N/S.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +420; NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At yet another table East opened 1 NT and this South also misrepresented his hand by overcalling 4♥. The play presented no problem and declarer duly lost three tricks but made his contract.

At one table East opened 1 NT, South Doubled, West bid 2♣, North bid 2♠ and South bid 3 NT. West, ignoring North's bid, led ♠ 3 and East won with ♠ A, felling South's ♠ K. East now found the disastrous switch (for the defense) of ♥ J declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer could have cashed ♥ A (or ♥ K) exposing East's now tenuous holding of ♥ 1032 thus enabling declarer to take the marked finesse of ♥ 9 as long as declarer could get to dummy! BUT, declarer continued not with a top heart but rather a club to dummy's ♣ K, East winning with ♣ A. East now continued with ♠ 10, dummy winning with ♠ Q. Declarer now led a heart and when East followed with ♥ 2 declarer ignored the play of ♥ 9 from hand (what heart holding did East have when making the earlier switch of ♥ J?) and instead rose with ♥ K. Declarer continued with ♥ A and a fourth heart to East's ♥ J. East continued with a spade to partner's ♠ J as declarer discarded ♣ 9 from hand. Declarer won the last five tricks with ♥ 6, ♦ AK, ♣ QJ. Interesting to note that at this table E/W scored NO diamond trick! **Sinner** status to E/W for not broaching the diamond suit earlier and putting the contract under pressure!

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

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

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

E/W can make 3♥. It may seem that declarer has 5 losers...1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 2 clubs...BUT declarer can establish a club trick for a discard of a loser in either spades or diamonds!

Saints & Sinners

Not much to report on his hand except at one table where East earns **Sinner** status for her bidding and North is awarded **Sinner** status for his poor defense which really deserved to have cost his side more than it actually did!

West opened 1 NT (12-14 hcp) and East made a gross overbid of 3♥ forcing the partnership to 3 NT or 4♥ despite holding only 10 hcp. If, East decides that she wants to make a move over partner's 1 NT then she can bid 2♦ (transfer) and over West's likely 2♥ response East can bid 2 NT. At least this will enable the partnership to contract 2 NT or 3♥ and not force the partnership to 3 NT or 4♥. So, **Sinner** status to **East**.

South got the defense off to a good start by leading ♠ 2, declarer playing ♠ 10 from dummy and beating North's ♠ Q with ♠ K. Declarer now played a diamond to dummy's ♦ J, hoping to gain access to dummy in order to lead hearts. North won with ♦ Q and then played a club to South's ♣ K but thereby starting the process of establishing dummy's clubs for discard of losers from hand. South won with ♣ K and continued with a club to North's ♣ A, dummy's ♣ QJ now established as winners. North continued with a third club as declarer discarded her losing spade, Declarer now led ♥ J which North covered with ♥ Q...and that was that for the defense. The contract failed by one trick. If North had continued with a spade after winning ♦ Q the contract would have failed by two tricks! South's lead of ♠ 2 promises an honour and a four card suit thus placing declarer with three spades. North can also account for ♠ AKQ10 and hence it is clear that South holds ♠ J. North's return of ♠ 9 after winning with ♦ Q establishes South's ♠ J as a winner before it can be discarded on a club as actually happened at the table. **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table West opened 1 NT, East transferred in hearts. North led ♣ A against 2H by West and continued with ♦ 10 and declarer had no problem in making ten tricks.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

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

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

1♥ can be made by West but not by East (a diamond lead secures seven tricks for the defense)! 1NT+1 or 2♣ or 2♦ can be made by N/S. It is not easy to defeat 2♥ by West. Here are two solutions:... a) North leads three rounds of clubs and when declarer plays a trump to dummy and returns a trump to hand, South can rise with ♥ Q, continue with a diamond enabling North to cash 2 diamonds in addition to 2 clubs, and 2 hearts.... OR... b) North wins the second heart and gives South a club ruff with ♥ Q. South continues with a diamond to North's ♦ A, declarer having discarded a diamond on the fourth club.

Saints & Sinners

2H made at three tables and was defeated by one trick at another table where it could have been defeated by two tricks!

At one table North opened 1♣, East overcalled 1♠ (on her four card suit!), South Passed and West made a FORCING bid of 2♥, which was Passed out. North led ♣ K, South showing his odd number, and then switched to ♠ 5, declare winning in hand with ♠ A. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A and returned a heart to North's ♥ 10. North continued with ♠ 2, declarer winning in hand with ♠ Q. Declarer could now have made the contract by continuing with a third heart, crashing the defenders two honours AND North would find himself end-played and having to concede either a diamond to declarer's ♦ K or a club to declarer's ♣ Q! BUT, declarer erred by playing a third spade and now it was North's turn to make a mistake...North could have ruffed with ♥ K and partner would have subsequently scored ♥ Q giving the defense 3 hearts, 1 diamond and 3 clubs OR 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, i.e. a two trick defeat. BUT North discarded a diamond and now declarer played a fourth spade discarding ♣ 10 from hand. Declarer continued with a club from dummy to her now singleton ♣ Q, North winning with ♣ A. North continued with ♣ J and now declarer had a second bite of the cherry which she refused...she could ruff and play a trump drawing the defenders two trumps and end-playing North again which would have forced North to lead a diamond into declarer's ♦ K2... BUT declarer discarded a diamond on the ♣ J and now North cashed ♥ K, crashing partner's ♥ Q and then cashed ♦ A. **Sinner** status to **declarer and North**

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ 10 8 2 | ♠ Q 9 4 3 | ♠ A J 7 | | | | | | |
| ♥ 9 2 | ♥ K 5 4 3 | ♥ A 10 8 7 6 | | | | | | |
| ♦ A K 2 | ♦ J | ♦ Q 10 5 4 | | | | | | |
| ♣ K Q J 6 3 | ♣ A 10 9 7 | ♣ 4 | | | | | | |
| <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; text-align: center; 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 | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ K 6 5 | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ Q J | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 9 8 7 6 3 | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ 8 5 2 | | | | | | | |

EW 3N; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -600; EW 3N

E/W can make 3 NT. Only eight tricks can be made in a heart contract.

Saints & Sinners

At one table East declared 3 NT on the lead of ♠ 5, North playing ♠ 9 which East won with ♠ J. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ K which North won with ♣ A. North returned a spade which declarer won with ♠ A. Declarer now played a diamond to dummy's ♦ A, North following with ♦ J, and then continued with ♣ Q and ♣ J to both of which North and South followed. Declarer continued by cashing ♦ K and then playing a diamond to ♦ Q in hand and then cashing ♥ A and continuing with a heart...and North took all the remaining tricks to beat the contract by one trick!!! And declarer was left with the winning ♦ 10 in his hand!!! Loss of concentration. HOWEVER, at the point that declarer cashed ♣ J he could still make 3 NT even if he had forgotten that the ♦ 10 was a winner if he had simply continued with a fourth club thus establishing dummy's fifth club as a winner and with the ♦ K as an entry! **Sinner** status to **East**..

Absolute sinner status to the East who opened 1 ♥ and after partner bid 2 ♣ our East bid 2 ♥ instead of 2 ♦. Partner raised to 4 ♥ on her doubleton ♥ QJ in the face of East's six card heart suit! East's declarer play was equally sinful eventually finishing FIVE down! Unbelievably the defense scored FIVE trump tricks. South led a diamond declarer winning in hand with ♦ Q. Declarer now played a club to dummy's ♣ K and North's ♣ A. North continued with a small spade, declarer rising with ♠ A and played a second diamond to dummy's ♦ A, North ruffing with ♥ 3. North continued with a spade to South's ♠ K. South then played another diamond, North ruffing with ♥ 4 before cashing ♠ Q. At this point North holds ♥ K5 while South holds ♥ QJ and declarer has ♥ A10876 with ♥ 92 in dummy. North switched to ♥ 5 and unbelievably N/S scored THREE more trump tricks. Declarer followed with ♥ 6 as South won with ♥ J. South played a fourth diamond which North ruffed with ♥ K. North then played her last spade, declarer ruffing with ♥ 10 as South overruffed with ♥ Q. **STOP** At the point that North switched to ♥ 5 declarer should have risen with ♥ A and played a second heart thus restricting N/S to one more trump trick instead of THREE. **Saintly** status to **Anne & Frank** for a sterling defense.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -600: EW 3N


Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table West declared 2 NT on the lead of ♣ 7, declarer winning with ♣ J. Declarer continued with ♣ Q, North winning with ♣ A and switching to a spade, South winning with ♠ K. South continued with a third club, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer can continue with a fourth club to North's ♣ 10, win any return and cash ♦ K and dummy's fifth club before finessing ♠ J and cashing ♥ A, and two more diamonds. Declarer should make 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs. Instead, declarer cashed her winners and ended up with eight tricks!

Saintly status to **May O'Sullivan** who declared 3 NT on the lead of ♠ 3, South winning the trick with ♠ K. South now made a silly switch to a diamond despite seeing ♦ Q1054 in dummy. This switch can never be right and South would have been better to continue with a spade even though it is straight into dummy's ♠ AJ. Anyway, May beat North's ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q and now played a club to ♣ J in her hand, North ducking. May continued with ♣ Q, North winning with ♣ A. North then erred by continuing with ♣ 10, declarer winning with ♣ K as she discarded another heart from dummy. Declarer played her fourth club North winning with ♣ 9. North belatedly found the heart switch, declarer rising with ♥ A and continuing with a diamond to ♦ K in her hand, cashing the fifth club and then cashing ♦ A. Declarer could have finessed ♠ J but played safe and rose with dummy's ♠ A and cashed the ♦ 10 for nine tricks!

Saintly status to **lonzer (Mary)** who made ten tricks via 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs. She was the only declarer to make ten tricks. Well done.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

NS 4♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 2♦; Par +300: EW 4N×-2;
 EW 5♣×-2

4♥ can be made by N/S...BUT, drawing trumps and ducking a spade is not good enough on repeated club leads. Declarer will need to ruff 2 diamonds in dummy to score ten tricks via 5 trumps, 2 spades, 3 diamonds (including 2 ruffs). If West switches to a trump then declarer can duck a spade. The defense can't do both...force in clubs and play on trumps!

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status to the **East** player defending 5♥x by South who discarded the ♠ 2 on the first round of trumps despite declarer having shown out of clubs at trick one! This seemingly innocent discard was the difference between contract making (+1000 to N/S) as opposed to the contract failing by one trick (+200 to E/W)...a swing of 1200!!!

At another table South became declarer in 4♠ after North bid 1 NT (showing 5+ spades) over South's 1♥ opening bid. North should have converted to 4♥ but instead bid 4♠. West led ♣ K in response to East's overcall, declarer ruffing in hand with ♠ 3. Declarer played a heart from his hand as West ducked, East ruffing dummy's ♥ K with ♠ 2. East continued with a club forcing declarer to ruff with ♠ 6. Declarer now continued with ♦ Q, East winning with ♦ A. East switched to ♠ 9, declarer winning with ♠ A perforce. Declarer continued with ♦ K and then ruffed a diamond in dummy with ♠ 7. Declarer drew the opposing trumps with ♠ K and then continued with a heart to West's ♥ A. West played ♣ J, overtaken by East with ♣ A and declarer claimed the last three tricks but finished one light! **Saintly** status to declarer, **Enda Glynn** who did his best. Should North have bid 4♥ instead of 4♠? North does know that there are two major suit fits of at least 5-3 distribution. BUT North knows that the spade fit is 5-3 at best whereas the heart fit could be 6-3. In that light perhaps North should bid 4♥.

Quadruple Sinner status to the **South**, declaring 4♥ on the lead of ♠ Q won in hand with ♠ A found himself on lead at trick 12 with ♠ K10 in dummy and declarer holding ♠ 63 and where West is known to hold a winning ♥ 9 and one other card. East holds ♠ J, ♣ Q So declarer, with NINE TRICKS already in the bag leads ♠ 6 and West follows with ♠ 4.... and declarer plays ♠ 10 losing to East's ♠ J and West wins the last trick with ♥ 9. Total lack of focus and concentration by declarer.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

NS 4♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 2♦; Par +300: EW 4N×-2;
 EW 5♣×-2

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the **South**, declaring 4♥, who failed to ruff her fourth diamond in dummy and drew trumps instead and duly lost a diamond unnecessarily as well as a spade and ♦ A and ♥ A.

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 1N; NS 2♣; Par +100; EW 3♠×-1

Note that E/W can make 2♠ but not 3♠!!! If West leads a diamond after drawing trumps then North needs to insert ♦ J otherwise ♦ 10 can be finessed into South leaving declarer with 3 diamond tricks! But N/S should always manage to cash their 3 clubs to go with the ♥ A and ♦ Q.

Saints & Sinners

West opened a Weak 2♠, North overcalled 4♥ and all passed. East cashed ♦ AK as partner played ♦ 23 and North followed with ♦ 9J. East now ignored his partner's opening bid, his partner's diamond signal (denying a doubleton) and proceeded to play a third diamond, dummy's ♦ Q winning as declarer discarded the losing spade from his hand. 4♥ made. **Absolute Sinner** status to **East**.

At another table West also opened 2♠, North bid 4♥ and East led ♦ A and then switched to ♠ 5, West winning with ♠ A (instead of ♠ Q!). West then tried to cash a second top spade and declarer ruffed, cashed two top trumps and could have made the contract by playing four rounds of clubs discarding his losing diamond. But instead declarer exited with ♦ J, East gratefully accepting this unexpected gift and then cashing ♥ Q to beat the contract by a trick! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for not taking the chance that was presented to him and to **East** for not having cashed the second top diamond BEFORE switching to the spade.

An unusual sequence occurred at another table where West opened 1♥ (Yes, ONE HEART). North, who should have Passed, actually Doubled. East re-doubled and South, with 9 hcp and two four card suits should have bid but actually Passed. West now bid 1♠ and North bid 2♥ which was Passed back to West who bid 2♠ thus showing 6 hearts and 5 or more spades!!! But 2♠ was passed out. North led ♥ A, South playing ♥ J, and continued with ♥ 3. Declarer failed to grab the moment by rising with dummy's ♥ Q and instead had to ruff in hand. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps leaving South with ♠ J and then led a diamond and North (**Ann Killilea**) made a good play of rising with ♦ J, declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer now led dummy's remaining spade, winning in hand with ♠ Q. Declarer then played another diamond winning with dummy's ♦ K. Declarer next played a third diamond, South rising with ♦ Q and the opponents duly cashed their three club winners. but declarer made the eight tricks for her contract.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

S 6N; NS 6♠; N 5N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 1♦; Par +1440: S 6N

Yeah...N/S can make 6 ♠ or even 6 NT...as long as declarer drops the singleton ♠ K!!!

Saints & Sinners

This hand was played in a spade contract at all tables with just two N/.S pairs bidding the Small Slam.

At one table South bid 4 NT over North's 3 ♠ and then bid 6 ♠ after North responded 5 ♦. East led the ♦ A and declarer duly finessed the ♠ Q into West's ♠ K and the contract failed. My sympathies lie with declarer. Holding ten cards in a suit and missing the King the odds favour the finesse.

At the other table where North declared 6 ♠, East also led ♦ A. Declarer won the diamond continuation in dummy and cashed ♣ A and ruffed a club, East following with ♣ J on the second round of the suit. Declarer then led ♠ Q and, playing against the odds, rose with dummy's ♠ A, felling West's singleton ♠ K.

At another table declarer made all thirteen tricks when East led ♣ J, covered by dummy's ♣ Q and West's ♣ K and ruffed in hand. Declarer subsequently rose with dummy's ♠ A dropping West's singleton ♠ K and then cashed dummy's winning clubs while discarding losing diamonds from hand.

Sinner status to the **North** who received the lead lead of ♣ J, finessed ♠ Q and received a heart return and still made only ten tricks! Declarer obviously had a blank...After West scored ♠ K she returned a heart, declarer winning in dummy with ♥ Q. Declarer then cashed ♠ A10 and followed with dummy's winning clubs on which declarer discarded the three losing diamonds from her hand. When she played ♣ 5, West covered with ♣ 8 and inexplicably declarer discarded ♥ J instead of ruffing and claiming. Worse followed when West continued with a diamond and North discarded ♥ A, East winning the trick with ♦ A. Declarer duly scored ten tricks!

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

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

6♥ is NOT on ...despite the 6-5 fit and good range of controls in the side suits. Just no way of avoiding the club and spade losers...UNLESS North is declarer and East leads ♠ K (or ♠ Q)! Unfortunately East is dealer and South will open 1♥...

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the **East**, defending 6♥, who at trick twelve discarded the ♠ K to retain the ♣ K thus letting out the impossible contract. And this despite the fact that partner had led ♣ Q at trick one!

At another table East, having opened 1♠, led a diamond against North's 6♥ and the defense subsequently scored a trick in each black suit. N/S unlucky that there are two inescapable losers, one in each black suit! A club or spade less in EITHER hand would have seen the slam home.

Sinner status to the **East**, who having opened 1♠, subsequently found himself defending 4♥ by South on the lead of ♠ 5 from partner, covered dummy's ♠ 10 with his ♠ Q losing to declarer's ♠ A. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps and eventually played a spade to dummy's ♠ 8 and East's ♠ 9. East now fell from grace by playing ♠ K knowing that declarer could ruff and use dummy's promoted ♠ J for a discard from hand. East should have switched to ♣ 10. **Sinner** status to **East**.

Sinner status to the **East** at another table, also defending 4♥ by South, who took her eye off the ball when West led a spade in response to East's opening 1♠ bid. Declarer played low from dummy and East carelessly played ♠ Q instead of ♠ 7!!! declarer subsequently conceded a spade to East's ♠ K but then discarded her losing club on dummy's ♠ J. Careless play by East.

At the third table where declarer made twelve tricks, East, having opened 1♠ found herself on lead against 4♥ and made the natural but unfortunate lead of ♠ K, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ A and subsequently establishing ♠ J in hand for a discard of dummy's losing club! No Saints or Sinners here... just an unfortunate lead on which declarer could capitalize!

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

NS can make 1 NT but E/W can make 2 ♠...but can they get into the bidding?

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to **North** at two tables, declaring 1 NT, who received the lead of ♦ 3 and failed to make seven tricks. Declarer can count 4 clubs and three aces. The opening lead suggests a suit of NOT more than 5 cards. So, at most declarer can lose 4 diamonds and a club BEFORE declarer can cash seven tricks. Problems may arise when declarer starts ducking when the defenders switch suits and then revert to the original suit!

At one table North received the lead of ♦ 3 to West's ♦ K and North's ♦ A. Declarer then played on clubs, East winning the third round with ♣ A. West cashed ♦ Q and continued with a diamond to West's ♦ 9. West then switched to ♠ 4 and again declarer did not duck but rose with ♠ A. All was fine to this point and declarer was on target to make his contract, the number one rule in IMPs bridge. Declarer simply needed to play a club, overtaking with ♣ J in dummy, and cash the fifth club and then score the seventh trick with ♥ A. BUT, declarer became distracted by possible options in the heart suit and instead of playing on clubs declarer lead ♥ Q and let it run when East played low. The heart play, in isolation is reasonably sound...a second trick can be developed if East holds either ♥ K, or ♥ J, or both! This represents a 75% chance of success. BUT, declarer had forgotten that E/W had two winning diamonds and perhaps several spades to cash and at this point E/W had already scored 3 tricks. Declarer finessed the ♥ Q which lost to West's ♥ K. West continued with ♠ Q which East overtook, perforce, with ♠ K. East then cashed his two winning diamonds and suddenly declarer was one down! Declarer had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory! **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table North, declaring 1 NT, also received a diamond lead which declarer ducked. This was followed by a spade switch, which declarer also ducked. Declarer ducked a second spade won by East's ♠ K. Now East switched to a small heart and when declarer played low from dummy West won with ♥ K. West next played ♦ 4 and again declarer ducked, East winning with ♦ Q and clearing the suit with a diamond continuation, declarer winning with ♦ A. East won the first club and cashed two diamonds to beat the contract by two tricks! **Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Saintly status to **Norma O'Connell** who declared 1 NT as South and duly made no mistake in the play and landed the contract safely, with an overtrick.

Saintly status to the **Pat Ward** who declared 1 NT as South and duly made no mistake and landed the contract safely.

Sinner status to the **East** player who overcalled North's opening 1 ♣ with 1 ♦ and played low when partner led ♦ 4 against South's 1 NT, thus giving a soft trick to declarer with ♦ 10. Declarer made 1 NT+1.

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

EW 5♦; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; Par -600: EW 5♦

E/W can make 5♦ but only 4♣...repeated heart leads destroy 5♣ as the diamond suit becomes isolated!

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; EW 3♣; EW 1♦; Par -420; EW 4♠

4 ♠ by E/W can make but 3 NT can be defeated if North ducks the first spade.

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the **West**, declaring 4 ♠ who failed to take the simple line in hearts by finessing ♥ J and duly failed by two tricks.

Sinner status to the **declarer** in 4 ♠ at another table who received a club lead to South's ♣ 10. South continued with ♣ J and declarer could have made the contract by discarding a diamond from hand but instead ruffed with ♠ 10 thus creating two trump losers. Declarer eventually lost control of the hand and ended two down. If I was sitting in the South seat I would have switched to a trump after winning the first trick with ♣ 10.

Sinner status to the **West**, declaring 4 ♠ who ruffed the third diamond with S10 thus creating a second trumps loser and eventually failing by one trick.

Saintly status to **Margaret Forde** who received a club lead to South's ♣ 10. South then erred by continuing with ♣ A which declarer ruffed with a small trump. Margaret then found the winning line of playing a spade to dummy's ♠ J, North following low. When the ♠ J won Margaret cashed ♣ K discarding a losing diamond from her hand as North ruffed...North continued with ♦ J declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer played a heart to ♥ K, drew North's two remaining trumps and then finessed ♥ J for ten tricks! .

Sinner status to the **two Norths** who won the first spade with ♠ Q when North finessed ♠ J thereby setting up five spade tricks for declarer with ♥ K as an entry. Note the effect of ducking the ♠ J...declarer can no longer make more than THREE spade tricks!

Saintly status to **Sean Glynn** and **Nancy (fingers2)** defending 3 NT who ducked the first spade thus conceding three spade tricks but not FIVE! The contract failed at both tables by one trick.

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 5N; NS 5♦; NS 5♣; W 1♠; Par +1100: W 6♠×-5

N/S are likely to reach 3 NT or 4♥ depending on what East does as dealer! If East opens 3♠ then North should make the practical bid of 3 NT.

Saints & Sinners

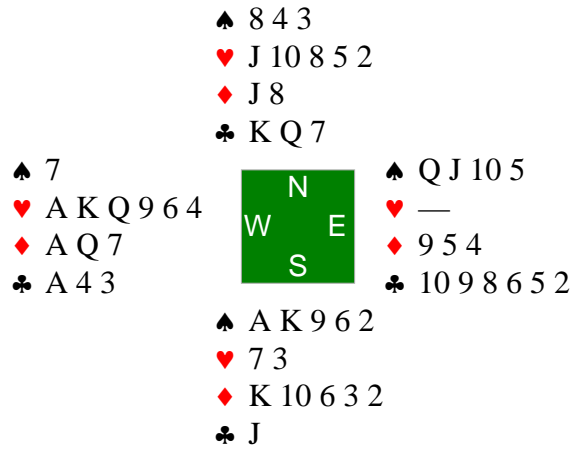
Sinner status to the N/S pair who let East play in 3♠x. Declarer made seven tricks, a good save against a vulnerable game for N/S.

Board 19
South Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 2♥; EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; Par -100; NS 2♠×-1

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul



EW 4♣; EW 1N; E 1♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -130; EW 1♣+3

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +300; EW 4♦×-2

Board 22
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Another hand where right-siding the contract makes a difference. North can make 4♥ but South can run into 2 club ruffs and lose four tricks! Difficult to see how North can become declarer in a heart contract! And N/S can make 4♣ despite the 5-0 trump break but only 3♦ which also suffers a 5-0 trump break. 3NT by North is likely to be the most popular contract with declarer making anything from 9 to 11 tricks! Note how the E/W spade suit is blocked. What a difference it would make if East held ♠ AJ652 rather than ♠ A8652!

Saints & Sinners

Every South opened either a weak 2♥ or a variation, e.g Multi 2D, bar one, and in all cases except one, North contracted 3NT. The one exception saw South struggle in 4♥ when North elected to raise partner to the heart game rather than bid 3NT. 4♥ failed by 3 tricks! **Sinner** status to N/S

And in the one instance where South initially Passed, North opened 1♦, East overcalled 1♠ and South belatedly got into the action with a Negative (or Sputnik) Double. North made the gross underbid of 2♣ which was Passed out. Apart from South's initial Pass, North should have made a FORCING rebid of 3♣ which might have helped her side recover from the damage caused by South's initial Pass. **Sinner** status to **North** and **South**

Sinner status to the **two Wests** who played ♠ J instead of ♠ 9 on partner's opening lead of a small spade. Careless and the mistake gifted declarer an extra trick!

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ A Q J 8 | ♠ — | ♠ 9 5 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 9 8 6 | ♥ Q 10 3 | ♥ K J 7 5 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A K 7 6 2 | ♦ Q J 10 5 | ♦ 9 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 2 | ♣ A J 9 7 4 3 | ♣ Q 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 10 7 6 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 4 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K 10 8 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

N/S can make 5♣ but only 1♠. How many N/S pairs will reach a club contract? Note that E/W can make 3♥. There could be a ding-dong battle given that the hcp are evenly split!

Saints & Sinners

Not one N/S pair reached 5♣. Indeed at the four tables where N/S played the hand only one pair played in a club contract duly making eleven tricks. Three pairs played in 2♠ or higher and all made exactly seven tricks!

At one table South opened 1♠, watched as West bid 2♦ and saw his partner make a free bid of 3♣....and South committed the ultimate sin of bidding 3♠. Declarer duly suffered a two trick defeat, losing -200 instead of scoring +150 or even +600. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table E/W played in 3♥ making twelve tricks! South led ♠ 6 and when declarer played ♠ J from dummy North elected to discard a club instead of ruffing with ♥ 3. If North had ruffed then North could have returned a club to South's ♣ K or even cashed ♣ A. When South wins with ♥ A (or ♣ K) she can give North a second spade ruff thus holding declarer to nine tricks! BUT, declarer continued with ♥ 6 and North erred again by playing ♥ 10, as declarer finessed ♥ J into South's ♥ A. South could still have given her partner a spade ruff but instead switched to ♦ 4, declarer winning in dummy with ♦ A. Declarer now led ♥ 9 and North committed another error by covering with ♥ Q declarer winning in hand with ♥ K as South showed out. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ 9 and then cashed ♦ K and ruffed a diamond in hand. Now declarer led ♠ 9 (it would have been better if he had UNBLOCKED it at trick one) and South committed an error by covering with ♠ 10, declarer winning in dummy with ♠ Q and leaving dummy's remaining ♠ A8 sitting over South's ♠ K7 with declarer holding ♠ 5! Declarer now ruffed another diamond as North followed with her last diamond thus establishing ♦ 7 as a winner. Declarer now administered the '*coup de grace*' by leading ♠ 5 and finessing dummy's ♠ 8. Declarer then cashed ♠ A and ♦ 7 on which she discarded her two losing clubs! Twelve tricks made. **Sinner** status to **North & South**. **Saintly** status to **Robert Delargy** for a well played hand albeit against a less than stellar defense. **Venial Sin** committed by declarer at trick one when he should have unblocked ♠ 9 from his hand. If South fails to cover ♠ 9 with ♠ 10 then declarer's communications with dummy are impeded!

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ A Q J 8 | ♠ — | ♠ 9 5 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 9 8 6 | ♥ Q 10 3 | ♥ K J 7 5 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A K 7 6 2 | ♦ Q J 10 5 | ♦ 9 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 2 | ♣ A J 9 7 4 3 | ♣ Q 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 10 7 6 3 2 | ♠ K 10 7 6 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A | ♥ A | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 4 3 | ♦ 4 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K 10 8 5 | ♣ K 10 8 5 | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table East declared 4♥ after South opened 1♠. South led ♣ 5 to North's ♣ A who continued with a club to South's ♣ K, declarer ruffing in dummy with ♥ 6. Declarer led ♥ 9 and when North followed with ♥ 3 declarer played low from hand as South won, perforce, with ♥ A. South now made a strange continuation when she next led ♠ K and declarer made an even stranger play when she followed with ♠ 8 from dummy! In fact declarer could have made the contract by covering with ♠ A, North ruffing with ♥ 10. Now it matters not what North does.... a trump return can be won in hand and declarer has no more losers! A diamond return can be won in dummy and declarer then draws North's ♥ Q and claims. A club return can be ruffed in hand and North's trump drawn and again declarer scores all the remaining tricks! After declarer's extraordinary duck of ♠ K, South continued with another spade which North ruffed with ♥ 10 and so the contract failed by one trick! Bizarre play by declarer. **Sinner** status awarded to **declarer** who got her play off to a fine start by ducking ♥ 9 into South. Should have made 4♥.

Sinner status to any **West** who made a Takeout Double of South's 1♠ (or 2♠) opening. West should either Pass or overcall 2♦.

Saintly status to **Brid O'Doherty** who made eleven tricks in her contract of 4♥ on the lead of ♣ K, followed by a switch to ♥ A and then ♦ 4. Declarer subsequently finessed against North's ♥ Q10 and South's ♠ K10.

Absolute Sinner status to the **North**, defending 3♦ after South opened 2♠, and where declarer ruffed the second club, cashed ♦ AK promoting North's ♦ QJ as winners and then played a heart to dummy's ♥ K losing to South's ♥ A. South returned a club which declarer ruffed leaving her with a single trump while North still held ♦ QJ. Declarer now led a heart towards dummy and North rose with ♥ Q. North could have cashed one diamond and then continued with FOUR winning clubs before cashing her remaining diamond honour and finally conceding the last trick to dummy's ♥ J. The result would have been 3♦-4. BUT, North did not cash a top diamond and instead continued with a club which declarer gratefully ruffed with ♦ 7. Declarer then led a heart towards dummy eventually scoring ♥ J. Contract 3 down instead of 4 down!

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ A Q J 8 | ♠ — | ♠ 9 5 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 9 8 6 | ♥ Q 10 3 | ♥ K J 7 5 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A K 7 6 2 | ♦ Q J 10 5 | ♦ 9 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 2 | ♣ A J 9 7 4 3 | ♣ Q 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 10 7 6 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ A | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 4 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ K 10 8 5 | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Saints & Sinnes (continued)

Sinner status to the West, declaring 2♦x after South opened 1♠ and made a re-opening Takeout Double after North Passed at first opportunity. North led ♥3 and declarer had an opportunity for greatness by playing low from dummy but failed to grasp it when she played ♥K, South winning performe with ♥A. South continued with ♠7, what looks like a clear suit preference signal, declarer playing ♠Q as North ruffed with ♦5. N/S were on target for a slaughter if North continued with ♥Q and a small heart ruffed by South who could then give partner another spade ruff. In fact N/S could do better if South ruffed North's ♥Q and gave partner another spade ruff. North then continuing with another heart which South would ruff, leaving South to play a third spade giving North a third ruff. Cashing ♣A would have seen N/S score a total of seven tricks leading to a two trick defeat. BUT what actually happened was that after ruffing the spade North continued with ♦Q, declarer winning in hand with ♦A and then exiting on ♦2 (cashing ♦K might have been better) North winning with ♦10. N/S could still score another diamond trick if North could lead a small club to South's ♣K who could then play another spade for North to ruff with his now stiff ♦J. BUT North continued with ♣A and a club to South's ♣K which declarer ruffed, drew North's last trump and then played a heart to dummy's ♥J and continued with a finesse of ♠Q, eventually losing to South's ♠8. The final result was one down where various other results could have been on the cards, in particular given the opening lead! **Sinner** status to **all...** except dummy!

Board 24

West Deals
None Vul

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

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

West, but NOT East, can make 3 NT...a heart lead by South would see North cash six trick! N/S can make nine tricks in hearts but NOT ten. Could be an interesting bidding battle!

Saints & Sinners

Super Exalted Saintly status is conferred on **David Walsh** for his play of this hand. Munster rugby fans will remember the '**Miracle Match**' when Munster needed to beat Gloucester at Thomond Park by 4 tries AND with a 27 point winning margin to progress to the next stage of the 2002/2003 Heineken Cup! In the dying minutes of the game, Ronan O'Gara kicked a conversion that gave his side the 27 point margin that sealed the win! A miracle!

I don't know if David ever played rugby but his effort on this hand would have brought bridge playing Munster fans to their feet.

David opened 1♥, East overcalled 2♣, South bid 2♥ and David closed the auction with a bid of 4♥. The list of makeable contracts shows that declarer can make 3♥...actually making the nine tricks is not that obvious and is unlikely to happen at the table. [Ruff ♦ A in hand, cash ♥ A, lead ♠ J, and subsequently play ♠ K felling East's ♠ 10. The ♠ 9 then provides an entry to dummy for the heart finesse. If West ducks first or second spade then continue with spades and West will eventually have to play a trumps or concede a ruff and discard. If East switches to a small diamond rise with dummy's ♦ K and finesse heart, draw trumps and play spaded for two losers. All roads led to home!]

At the table East cashed two top clubs and then had the misfortune to play the only card of the remaining eleven cards in her hand to begin a sequence of plays by the defense that enabled declarer to make TEN tricks! Which card did East table at trick three and how did West contribute to the misdefense that enabled declare to make ten tricks?

See next page for details of how **The Miracle** unfolded ...and what the defenders could have done to defeat the contract.

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul

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

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



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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table declarer also reached the dizzy heights of 5♥. East led two top clubs and then switched to ♠ 10, West rising with ♠ A and returning ♠ 5. Declarer rejected the option of letting the spade run to dummy's ♠ 9 and then taking the marked heart finesse to emerge with ten tricks but instead rose with ♠ K, cashed two top hearts and duly lost a spade to West's ♠ Q.

Card-reading is a vital aspect of good declarer play. When your left hand opponent switches to the ♠ 10 of a suit and where dummy holds ♠ 987 and you hold ♠ KJ642, the location of the ♠ AQ are clearly signposted! Yet, David Walsh was the only declarer to reach this obvious conclusion and duly reaped the rewards for his good card-reading. Food for thought for all declarers, going forward...

At four tables East declared 5♣. At two of these tables, the contract was Doubled. At three of these tables the defense duly scored their four tricks...1 spade, 1 heart, 2 diamonds. BUT, at the fourth table South had a blank when declarer finessed a diamond into South with North having shown out on the first round. South won with ♦ Q and simply needed to return a small diamond and sit and wait to score a second trick with her ♦ K. BUT, alas, South exited with ♦ K and South's second diamond trick evaporated! Clear thinking is needed at all times! **Sinner** status to **South**