

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 1st October 2020, in the **Galway/CBAI Western Region BBO IMP Pairs**.

Last week we had a healthy entry of 15 tables. I found the analysis particularly demanding and consequently I restricted my analysis to just five hands as follows: 1, 15, 22, 23, 24. But Saints and Sinners abound in the play and defense of these five hands.

As usual, the 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 #23 which is analysed over FIVE pages. This is a fascinating hand where South is dealer with a good seven card heart while partner is holding a solid eight card club suit!

Board #15 is another fascinating contract where declarer got an opportunity to shine...and not all did!

Board #1 was a very difficult hand. The list of makeable contracts belies the actual results at many tables. 4 ♥ proved to be beyond the reach of several declarers, perhaps not surprising given the 4-1 trump break.

As always, note that in most 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.

Preparing the hand analysis each week has been extremely demanding in terms of time and I may have to review my approach to it in future weeks. Not quite sure what that might involve but will keep you posted.

Paul J Scannell
8th October 2020

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

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; N 2N; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

N/S are likely to reach 4♥. The question then becomes...can declarer make the 10 tricks required for the contract!

Saints & Sinners

Ten N/S reached 4♥. At five tables the contract was successful...at five others it failed. At some tables the defense enabled the contract to make. First, the stories of the five tables where it made!

Sinner status to the **North** who was given a hugely beneficial lead of a small club and still failed! North opened 1 NT, South bid 2♣ (Stayman). West Doubled (?), North bid 2♥, South raised to 3♥ and North bid 4♥. East, perhaps guided by partner's Double led ♣ 4, declarer played low and West rose with ♣ Q which declarer beat with ♣ A. So, what's your plan? Declarer can count 1 spade, 3 hearts (maybe 4), 1 diamond, 4 clubs. Only one trick short...and that can be provided via a spade ruff in dummy. I would play a spade to dummy's ♠ K at trick two. BUT, declarer returned a club to dummy's ♣ K (Hopefully no club ruffs for the defense looming on the horizon!) and then ran ♥ 10 into East, who ducked. Declarer continued with a heart to ♥ J, West discarding a club, as East won with ♥ K. At this point East could have beaten the contract by returning a spade to West's ♠ A who could then give partner a club ruff (the reason why I would NOT have played a club at trick two!) and with an unavoidable diamond loser the contract would have failed by a trick! Instead, East returned a third heart and West discarded her last club and thus declarer was given a second bite of the cherry! Winning in hand, perforce with ♥ Q, declarer cleared the trumps and then cashed her two winning clubs. On these last three tricks West erred by discarding three spades thus reducing her last five cards to ♠ A, ♦ KQ92. Declarer now (belatedly!) played a spade to dummy's ♠ K, West winning perforce with ♠ A. West was now endplayed and had to return a diamond and duly placed (virtually!) the ♦ K on the table. All declarer needed to do was DUCK and then win the next two tricks with ♦ AJ. BUT, declarer won the diamond switch with ♦ A and continued with a spade to her ♠ Q and then cashed ♠ 7, East having fatally discarded a second spade on the fourth club! An undeserved success for declarer, who had her destiny in her own hands but eventually scrambled over the line because of defensive errors! **Sinner** status also to **East and West**.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; N 2N; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table South declared 4♥ and received the lead of ♦ 2 (**Sinner** status to **West**..K from KQ9x is a standard lead with this holding. Underleading KQ9 against a suit contract is NOT recommended.). Declarer won with ♦ J and was now ahead of the posse. Declarer led ♥ 10 and finessed into East's ♥ K...ducking might have been better. East continued with ♥ 3 declarer winning in dummy with ♥ J as West discarded ♠ 4. declarer led a spade, East playing ♠ 9, West beating South ♠ Q with ♠ A. West continued with ♠ 8 (♠ J is better and clarifies the position for partner!), declarer winning with ♠ Q in dummy. Declarer now ran ♣ 9 into West who won with ♣ Q and then played ♠ J which declarer ruffed in hand and then played two rounds of trumps and took the last four tricks with ♦ A, ♣ AJ10. The unfortunate opening lead did the damage to the defense. **Saintly** status to **declarer** (**Marion Donlon**) for taking advantage of the helpful lead.

At another table North declared 4♥ and received the lead of ♠ 3, declarer playing low from dummy and West's ♠ J, losing to declarer's ♠ Q. Declarer next led ♣ J and overtook with dummy's ♣ K and continued with ♥ 10 which was ducked by East. Declarer then led a heart to her ♥ J, East again ducking. North next led a spade to dummy's now stiff ♠ K, West winning with ♠ A. West now fell from grace by playing ♣ Q thereby solving declarer's club problem. Declarer now cashed ♥ A and couldn't be stopped from scoring ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **West** for aiding and abetting the opposition!

At another table South declared 4♥ on the lead of ♦ K, East following with ♦ 3 as South played ♦ 4. Surely East would play a higher diamond than ♦ 3 if he wanted to encourage a diamond continuation. West didn't see it that way and made the disastrous continuation of ♦ Q into the jaws of declarer's ♦ AJ!!! Declarer, winning with ♦ J, continued with ♥ 10 into East who won with ♥ K and then switched to ♠ 10. Declarer played low from hand and West rose with ♠ A and continued with a small spade declarer winning in hand with ♠ K. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and cashed ♠ Q discarding ♣ 3 from hand. Declarer now cashed two top clubs, ending in dummy, whereupon she was able to cross ruff the last four tricks with ♥ QJ in dummy and ♥ 98 in hand. **Saintly** status to declarer (Deirdre). **Sinner** status to **West** for the diamond continuation at trick two!

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; N 2N; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table North opened 1 NT, South bid 2 ♣ (Stayman). West Doubled (?), North bid 2 ♥, South jumped to 4 ♥. East, perhaps guided by partner's Double led ♣ 6, declarer played low and West rose with ♣ Q which declarer beat with ♣ A. Declarer continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then ran the ♥ 10 into East who won with ♥ K and then continued with S♠ 3 to dummy's ♠ K, West winning with ♠ A. West now cashed ♦ K and then continued with ♦ 9 to South's ♦ J, declarer discarding ♠ 7 from hand. Declarer now played two rounds of trumps and then cashed ♠ Q and three club winners. If West had played low on the initial club lead it would have subsequently given declarer a problem as to how to draw trumps, ruff a losing spade AND finesse against West's ♣ Qxx.

And now the five tables where the contract failed.

At one table North opened 1 ♣, South bid 1 ♥ and West made an acceptable Takeout Double promising support for the two unbid suits. North then made an extraordinary bid of 4 ♥...bear in mind that South could have held as few as 6hcp! Most players holding the North hand would re-bid 2 ♥ over West's Double. West led ♦ Q (partnership agreement?), East following with ♦ 3 as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer next finessed ♥ 8 which won and continued (carelessly) with ♥ 9 (should have led ♥ 2), rising with ♥ A as West showed out whilst fatally discarding ♣ 2. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ K and continued with a small club and West (**Sinner** status awarded) made the silly play of rising with ♣ Q, declarer winning with ♣ A, handing declarer an easy four club tricks! Declarer tried to cash ♣ 10, East gratefully ruffed with ♥ 5. West continued with ♦ 8 (MISTAKE... ♦ 10 is better) West winning with ♦ 9 (MISTAKE... leave East on lead to play another diamond through declarer's ♦ J5) as declarer played low from hand. Declarer subsequently lost, ♠ A, ♥ K, ♦ K and thus the contract failed by a trick. **Sinner** status to **West**.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; N 2N; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table, after a perfect auction (with no opposition bidding)...1♣-1♥-2♥-3♥-4♥, West led ♦ K declarer winning with ♦ A in hand. Declarer continued with ♥ 10 East winning with ♥ K and then continuing with ♦ 10, which declarer covered with ♦ J and West won with ♦ Q. West now made an unusual and potentially costly switch of ♠ J, which ran to declarer's ♠ K. But perhaps the ♠ J switch convinced declarer that East held ♠ A! Declarer next cashed two trumps but leaving East with ♥ 5 before playing two rounds of club, successfully finessing ♣ 10 on the second round. Declarer next tried to cash ♣ A which East ruffed with ♥ 5. East then led a spade to partner's ♠ A thus producing a one trick defeat.

At one table North declared 4♥ after opening 1NT and responding 2♥ to partner's 2♣ (Stayman) response. East led ♠ 3, dummy playing low, and North beating West's ♠ J with ♠ Q. Declarer now ran ♣ 9 to West's ♣ Q. West cashed ♠ A and continued with a club to declarer's ♣ 10, overtaken by dummy's ♣ K. Declarer now led a heart to her ♥ J, East following with ♥ 3. Declarer next played a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and continued with ♥ 8, getting the bad news as West discarded ♠ 4, declarer winning with ♥ A. Declarer now ruffed her last spade in dummy and then played a club to ♣ A in hand which East ruffed with ♥ 5. East now made the excellent play of cashing ♥ K, stripping a heart each from dummy and declarer. East then continued with ♠ 9, declarer ruffing in hand with her last trump. Declarer could cash the winning ♣ J but then had to concede a trick to West's ♦ Q for a two trick defeat.

At yet another table East led ♣ 6 against North's 4♥ reached after South used Stayman in response to North's opening 1NT. Declarer played low from dummy and beat West's ♣ Q with ♣ A. Declarer continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then finessed ♥ 10 into East who won with ♥ K. East continued with ♦ 8 (**Wrong...should lead ♦ 10**), declarer playing low from dummy as West rose with ♦ K (**Wrong...should play ♦ Q**). West switched to ♣ 2, declarer winning in dummy with ♣ K. Declarer now led ♥ 10 and got the bad news when West discarded ♠ 4. Declarer rose with ♥ A and played a spade to dummy's ♠ K and West's ♠ A. West could have defeated the contract by giving East a club ruff but instead continued with ♦ Q declarer ruffing in hand with ♥ J. Declarer cashed ♥ Q and continued with ♣ 10 which East ruffed for the setting trick. One down!

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; N 2N; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At yet another table East led ♣ 4 against North's 4♥ reached after South used Stayman in response to North's opening 1NT. Declarer played low from dummy and West played ♣ 8 (**Saintly** status to **Michael**) declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. In preparation for scoring a spade ruff in dummy, declarer correctly played a spade to dummy's ♠ K, West winning with ♠ A and continuing with ♣ 7 to declarer's ♣ 9, East's ♣ 6 and declarer deciding to win with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer next finessed ♥ 10 into East who won with ♥ K and exited with ♦ 10, declarer winning in dummy with ♦ A. Declarer now led ♥ 2, West discarding ♠ 4 as declarer won with ♥ Q. Declarer next cashed ♠ Q and ruffed a spade with ♥ 8. Declarer now seems to have limited options....draw East's remaining trumps and hope that ♣ Q falls or finesse ♣ 10 and hope that East started with three clubs. Declarer chose the latter option and East ruffed for the setting trick. Declarer played the hand well (**Saintly** status to **Sean**) and was unfortunate to find the trumps breaking 4-1 and the club suit breaking 4-2 where the hand with the four trumps only had two clubs! In truth declarer played the hand the way I would have and I suspect the way most experienced players would play it. It was a rational line of play which envisaged a route to ten or even eleven tricks which unfortunately fell foul of bad breaks in two vital suits. And it was well defended by E/W, in particular West's reluctance to play ♣ Q at trick one.

What intrigued me thereafter was working out a winning line on the basis of a club lead. The solution is as follows...and it's not easy. When West wins the ♠ A and returns a club, declarer wins in hand with ♣ 10, cashes ♠ Q and ruffs his third spade in dummy. Declarer then must draw all the trumps reducing everyone to three cards. North will hold ♦ 7, ♣ A10 while dummy holds ♦ J5, ♣ K. East's hand is irrelevant and West is the defender now under pressure. West must reduce to three cards from ♦ KQ, ♣ Q2. If West discards a diamond then declarer plays a diamond, playing low from dummy, establishing dummy's ♦ J as a winner as West wins with ♦ K. Dummy's ♣ K wins the next trick and ♦ J takes the last trick. On the other hand, if West discards ♣ 2 then declarer can cash ♣ A in hand, felling West's ♣ Q, and follows with the winning ♣ 10. As I said...not easy!

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 5♣; EW 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; Par -400: EW 5♣

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ 7
♦ J 5 4 2
♣ 10 4 3 2

♠ Q 8 6
♥ Q J 8 6 5 4
♦ 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ K 10 9
♥ A K 9 3 2
♦ A K 6
♣ Q 7

♠ J 7 4
♥ 10
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ A K 9 8 6

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

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

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

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 5♣; NS 4♦; EW 2♥; Par +420: NS 4♠

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 3♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +420: NS 4♥

Board 12
 West Deals
 N-S Vul

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



NS 6N; NS 6♣; NS 5♠; NS 4♥; NS 3♦; Par +1440: NS 6N

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

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

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

E 5♠; W 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2N; EW 1♥; Par -450; E 4♠+1

4 ♠ makes...but will all E/W pairs reach it after South opens 1 ♥ and where North may show support for hearts? The play in 4 ♠ is relatively straightforward. Indeed it probably takes a club lead by North to hold declarer to ten tricks. On a heart lead and likely spade switch West can rise with ♠ A, ruff a heart, return to hand with a spade to ♠ K, cash ♦ Q and continue with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then playing on diamonds will enable declarer to discard the losing heart from hand and with ♣ A still intact declarer has an entry to subsequently discard the two losing clubs from hand. Eleven tricks made should be a common result.

Saints & Sinners

At one table West declared 4 ♠ after South opened 1 ♥. North led ♥ 3 to South's ♥ K. South switched to ♠ 2, declarer winning in hand with ♠ K. Declarer played a small diamond to dummy's ♦ J and then played ♠ 8, South following with ♠ Q as declarer won with ♠ A. Declarer is now set for ELEVEN tricks. Cash ♦ Q, ruff a heart and then play diamonds from the top discarding the losing heart and a club as North eventually ruffs. If North switches to a club declarer can rise with dummy's ♣ A and claim...discarding the remaining club from hand on dummy's fifth diamond. BUT, what declarer actually did was different, fatally so! After winning with ♠ A and cashing ♦ Q, declarer ruffed ♥ 6 with ♠ 9, dummy's last trump. All good so far. Now declarer led dummy's ♦ A and discarded a club (I would have discarded my losing heart). Now declarer prematurely cashed dummy's ♣ A, instead of continuing with diamonds on which she could have discarded her losing heart (or even a second club). Now declarer, with ♦ K7 in dummy, led ♦ 7 and ruffed in hand with ♠ 7, North overruffing with ♠ J. N/S now cashed a club and a heart to defeat the contract by a single trick. Note that instead of leading ♦ 7 declarer could have led ♦ K and discarded her losing heart (or even another clubs) and that would have seen the contract make.

This partnership are very keen and enthusiastic players, relatively new to the game, and they invest much time in trying to improve their game and despite **West** receiving a **Sinner** status for her misplay of this hand I hope that she, and partner, will revisit this board and study the actual play and also how it should have been played. That's where real learning occurs!

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

E 5♠; W 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2N; EW 1♥; Par -450; E 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table West declared 4♠ after South opened 1♥. North led ♥Q and continued with a small heart declarer ruffing in dummy with ♠3. Declarer then played a diamond to ♦Q in hand and ruffed her remaining heart with dummy's ♠8. Declarer now has a clear line to eleven tricks... lead dummy's last spade to ♠A in hand and then cash ♠K. Now play diamonds discarding two clubs from hand then claim as North scores a second trick for the defense with ♠J. BUT, declarer at the table, after securing the second heart ruff led a small club away from dummy. South grabbed his ♣K and North subsequently scored a trick with ♠J. Careless by declarer. **Sinner** status awarded to **West**.

At another table West also reached 4♠ after South opened 1♥. North led a heart to South's ♥K after which South switched to ♠2 declarer winning with ♠A. Declarer ruffed a heart in dummy and returned to hand with ♦Q and ruffed her last heart with dummy's ♠9. Declarer now cashed ♦A and then ruffed a diamond in hand leaving two winning diamonds in dummy. Declarer now had a simple route to eleven tricks... cash ♠K and then play another spade to North's ♠J...and claim! Declarer will of course spurn the club finesse and simply rise with dummy's ♣A and then cash dummy's winning diamonds discarding her two losing clubs. BUT declarer took chose another road and finessed ♣J and N/S also subsequently score a trump leaving declarer with a mere ten tricks! **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table West also became declarer after South opened 1♥. North led ♥3, South winning with ♥K and continuing with a small heart, declarer ruffing in dummy. Declarer next played a trump to her ♠K and then cashed ♠A. She now played ♦Q and a diamond to dummy's ♦A. She then cashed ♦K, discarding her remaining heart from hand, and continued with ♦J discarding a club from hand as North ruffed with ♠J. North now played ♥Q and inexplicably declarer discarded the winning ♦7 from dummy as she ruffed in hand. Declarer now finessed a club into South's ♣K, thus reducing her winners from eleven to ten. **Sinner** status to **West**.

Sinner status to the **E/W pair** that languished in 3♦. A bid of a new suit by a player who has not previously made any bid is **FORCING** for one round. West cannot Pass.

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

E 5♠; W 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2N; EW 1♥; Par -450; E 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table West also declared 4♠ after South opened 1♥. North led ♥Q and smartly switched to ♣2 (**Saintly** status to **Kathleen**). Declarer should have known that South held ♣K (E/W hold a combined 25 hcp. North has already shown 2 hcp leaving only 13 hcp outstanding... and South opened 1♥!). Declarer finessed and was held to ten tricks! Well done to North. However declarer could have risen with ♣A, played a diamond to her ♦Q, ruffed a heart in dummy and returned to hand with ♠A and ruffed her third heart with dummy's last spade. Declarer can then cash two diamonds, discarding a club on the second diamond and then lead a fourth diamond, planning to discard her remaining club from hand. **HOWEVER**, if South ruffs with her now stiff ♠Q that leaves declarer in a bind. If declarer discards her last club then she loses the trick to South's ♠Q and will also lose a trick to North's ♠J. And if she overruffs then she will lose a club and a trump. **BUT** if South carelessly fails to ruff then declarer can discard her losing club and North is forced to ruff with what would have been a winning trump anyway. So, it would have been all eyes on South! Would she have risen to the occasion...sadly we will never know!

At another table West also declared 4♠ after South opened 1♥. North led a heart to South's ♥K. South switched to a trump, declarer winning and then ruffing a losing heart in dummy before cashing a second top heart and then playing on diamond discarding her losing heart and a club from hand as North ruffed the fourth diamond. North switched to a club and declarer rose with ♣A and then led dummy's fifth diamond...and ruffed in hand instead of discarding her losing club! Eleven tricks reduced to ten. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At yet another table West declared 4♠ after South opened 1♥. North led ♥Q and then continued with a small heart declarer ruffing in dummy. Declarer next led ♠9 and ran it to North's ♠J. North continued with another heart, declarer ruffing with dummy's last trump. It was a simple home run from there. Declarer played a diamond to ♦Q, cashed two top trumps drawing the opponents outstanding trumps and then played four rounds of diamonds, discarding the losing clubs from her hand. Eleven tricks to declarer and **Saintly** status to **Kay Scarry**.

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

E 5♠; W 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2N; EW 1♥; Par -450; E 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At one table, West, a BBO Robot playing with a substitute, declared 4♠ after South opened 1♥. South won the opening lead with ♥K and switched to ♠2, declarer winning with ♠A and then ruffing a heart in dummy. The 'digital' declarer then cashed ♦J and played a diamond to ♦Q in hand and then ruffed the third heart with dummy's ♠9. Declarer next cashed ♦A, discarding a club from hand and followed with ♦K...and **Saintly Margaret Forde** ruffed in with her ♠Q. Declarer overruffed with ♠K and continued with ♠10, North winning with ♠J. North now had the opportunity to capitalize on Margaret's good work by switching to a club but alas continued with a heart, declarer ruffing with ♠4 and then cashing ♠7, drawing North's ♠6, before playing a club to dummy and discarding his losing club on dummy's ♦7. Eleven tricks to declarer.

Sinner status to the **E/W pair** that languished in 3♦. A bid of a new suit by a player who has not previously made any bid is **FORCING** for one round. West cannot Pass. And **Additional Sinner** status to **declarer** who failed not only to make ten tricks but also failed to make even nine tricks. Declarer received the lead of ♥A followed by ♥K which declarer ruffed. Declarer then played three rounds of trumps ending in hand. At this point declarer has one line of play that guarantees ten tricks and also offers a 50% chance of scoring eleven tricks. Declarer can play a spade to dummy's ♠A and then finesse ♣J. If North holds ♣K then declarer will score eleven tricks. If the finesse loses he can claim ten tricks! Simple. No fancy squeezes, endplays or any other kind of advanced play. Just a simple finesse. An alternative line is to duck a spade and as long as the suit breaks 3-2 then there are four spades tricks to add to the five diamonds and ♣A and with a possible club finesse for an eleventh trick! But the former line is the better one. It guarantees ten tricks and also leaves open the possibility of an eleventh trick if the club finesse is successful.

So, how did declarer end up with only EIGHT tricks? After drawing trumps, declarer cashed ♣A and continued with a club to South's ♣K. South continued with a heart to North's ♥Q which declarer ruffed with her last trump. Declarer now seemingly forgot about the original club holding between dummy and her own hand... ♣J109 - ♣AQ87 and now, with ♣Q8 in hand and ♣J in dummy, declarer played ♣8 from hand and won the trick with ♣J in dummy...leaving ♣Q stranded in hand! Declarer should have played ♣Q, swallowing ♣J, and then cashed ♣8. Simple!

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

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



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

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

NS 2♠; NS 1N; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +110; NS 2♠

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 4N; EW 5♣; EW 3♥; Par -430: EW 3N+1

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Both Vul

EW 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; EW 2♠; Par +130: NS 4♣; NS 4♦

Board 21
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -600; EW 3N;
EW 5♦

Ordinarily E/W may bid 3 NT. BUT, if South overcalls 1♥ can the contract be made on the lead of ♥ 3? South will win with ♥ A and return a small heart to North winning with ♥ 8 if declarer plays low from the West hand. If declarer plays ♥ 10 then North will win with ♥ Q and return a heart and South will cash three more hearts for a one trick defeat and with North still holding ♣ K that could become a two trick defeat! Note that if declarer plays low from the West hand on the second heart then the suit is blocked when North wins the second heart with ♥ 8. With the heart suit blocked declarer can play a club towards ♣ Q. Also, there is a possible squeeze on South who holds length in hearts and spades. Nine tricks always there for E/W in a NT contract. And eleven tricks always there for E/W in a diamond contract as long as declarer plays safely, i.e. avoid letting South score a club ruff!

Saints & Sinners

South, having overcalled 1♥, led ♥ A against 5♦, felling East's singleton ♥ K and then switched to ♣ 3, declarer ducking and North winning with ♣ K. North naively tried to cash ♥ Q...surely South's overcall is based on a five card suit and why would declarer play ♥ K on South's ♥ A with a doubleton! Very misguided thinking on North's part. With four hearts in dummy and North holding three, declarer has no more! **Sinner** status to **North** for not giving partner a club ruff. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for not realising the danger and rising with ♣ A.

Defending 5♦, South who had overcalled 1♥, led ♣ 3. North winning with ♣ K and switching to a heart despite seeing four hearts in dummy! 5♦ let out! **Sinner** status to **North**.

Absolute Sinner status to the **West** at one table who allowed South play in a contract of 3♥ UNDOUBLED after East opened 1♦. On the list of makeable contracts above E/W can make 1♥ meaning that N/S can make, at most, six tricks in a heart contract. **Sinner** status to ♥ who played ♥ 8 from dummy when West led a heart whilst declarer was holding ♥ AJ942 in hand! Playing low from dummy would have seen declarer score five trumps (and the defense none!) by simply finessing ♥ 8 on the second round! The defense was less than sterling and declarer mostly managed her limited resources to best effect and escaped for two down.

East Deals
E-W Vul

EW 3N; EW 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -600: EW 3N;
EW 5♦

Sinner status to the **East**, declaring 3 ♦ after South overcalled 1 ♥. West's limit raise to 3 ♦ with a hand containing 13 hcp is an underbid...**Sinner** status to **West**. A limit raise of 3 ♦ suggests a hand with 10-12 hcp. South's 1 ♥ overcall has made life difficult for West but she must take stronger action. Bidding NT without one of the top four hearts is not recommended. Perhaps West should bid 2 ♥ (this is a **conventional bid** and is NOT natural) and promises opening values. It may help the partnership to reach a game contract instead of languishing in a part-score. South led ♣ 3 and declarer made a good start by rising with dummy's ♣ A as North signaled with ♣ J (**Saintly** status to **North**). Declarer then played three rounds of trumps, North discarding ♣ 2 on the third round, and four rounds of spades ruffing the fourth round with dummy's last trump as North fatally discarded ♣ 9. All declarer needed to do was lead a club from dummy to establish ♣ Q8 as winners while still holding the last trump in hand. But instead declarer made the pointless play of leading a heart to her singleton ♥ K, South winning with ♥ A and then continuing with a heart to North's ♥ Q forcing declarer to ruff in a hand and now lead a club AWAY from her ♣ Q8 INTO North's ♣ K10. Nine tricks instead of eleven!

Ten EW pairs reached 3 NT with seven Wests and three Easts declaring the contract. At one table declarer emerged with ten tricks while all other declarers scored nine tricks. At one table East opened 1 ♦, South overcalled 1 ♥, West bid 2 NT and East raised to 3 NT. North at this table found the less than helpful lead of ♥ Q...a mistake (low heart is standard) when her right hand opponent has bid NT. Declarer covered with dummy's ♥ K as South won with ♥ A. South continued the mis-defense by cashing ♥ J thus easing declarer's concerns re the heart suit. (A small heart return would have seen a nervous declarer have to decide what card to play from her hand!). But what happened next was worse! Declarer, who must have feared the possibility of losing five heart tricks, was now presented with the potential of TWO heart tricks when North elected to play ♥ 8 on partner's ♥ J thus leaving declarer with ♥ 107 sitting over South's ♥ 942 with North holding ♥ 3!!! South switched to ♣ 3, declarer playing low from hand as North won with ♣ K and continued with ♣ J, dummy's ♣ Q winning as South discarded ♥ 2. Declarer scored ten tricks...3 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs. **Sinner** status to **North & South**.

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -600; EW 3N;
EW 5♦

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table E/W (a sub playing with BBO robot!) had a good auction. Sub opened 1♦, South overcalled 1♥ and Robot bid 2♥ (a limit raise or better in diamonds). Opener bid 2♠ and Robot now bid 3♥ which showed a partial heart stop. East closed the auction with a bid 3NT. South found the unusual lead of ♣ 3 declarer playing low from dummy as North won with ♣ K. North should have considered a small heart return (surely partner's 1♥ overcall is based on a five card suit in which case declarer has a singleton heart!). A small heart return won by South's ♥ A and followed by a small heart through dummy's ♥ 1076 would see declarer sweat somewhat and would have seen N/S score at least three heart tricks. But, North continued with ♣ J and declarer wrapped up nine tricks via 3 spade, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs.

At another table, West bid 3NT over East's 1♦, South refraining from overcalling 1♥. North led ♣ 9 (MISTAKE... ♣ J is the standard lead from this interior sequence). Upon winning the first trick North continued with ♣ 10 and declarer rose with dummy's ♣ Q and duly scored nine tricks.

At another table East opened 1♣, South passed and West bid 1♥ (should bid 1♦), East re-bid 1♠ and West jumped to 3NT. At this table North led ♣ J (**Saintly** status to **Anne**), declarer playing low from dummy while winning with ♣ A in hand. Declarer next cashed ♠ A (Mistake) and then played four rounds of diamonds ending in dummy. Now declarer was forced to play three rounds of spades because she couldn't play a club TOWARDS her ♣ Q86 (premature cashing of ♠ A and also winning last diamond in dummy instead of in hand has led to this position!). At the point that South won the fourth spade N/S had the beating of the contract in their own hands...until North discarded ♥ 3 instead of throwing away ♣ 10. What could have happened is that South could cash ♥ A felling declarer's ♥ K, followed with a heart to North's ♥ Q who would cash ♣ K and then return a heart to South's ♥ J... N/S thus scoring 1 spade, 3 hearts and 1 club! So how could South (and North) know declarer's distribution! Easy...declarer has shown up with 4 spades, 4 diamonds and yet opened 1♣. Declarer must have 4 clubs (or even 5!) on this bidding. South cashed ♥ A felling declarer's ♥ K BUT unfortunately North's earlier heart discard meant that she won the second heart and cashed ♣ K but then had to concede ♣ 10 to declarer's ♣ Q. North's earlier Saintly status now tarnished! *Counting, counting... all the time!*

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -600; EW 3N;
EW 5♦

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table East opened 1♦, South overcalled 1H, West bid 2 NT, East re-bid 3♠ and West settled in 3 NT. South, ignoring partner's overcall, led CJ...**Saintly** status for the lead of ♣ J from the interior sequence...**Sinner** status for not leading partner's suit! Declarer rose with dummy's ♣ Q and rattled off nine tricks.

At another table East opened 1♦, South passed and West bid 1♥ (should bid 1♦), East re-bid 1♠ and West jumped to 3 NT. At this table North led ♣ J (**Saintly** status to **Clare**), declarer playing low from dummy while winning with ♣ A in hand. As happened at a previous table, declarer next cashed ♠ A (Mistake) and then played four rounds of diamonds ending in dummy. Now declarer was forced to play three rounds of spades because she couldn't play a club TOWARDS her ♣ Q86 (premature cashing of ♠ A and also winning last diamond in dummy instead of in hand has led to this position!). When South wins the fourth spade, N/S now have the beating of the contract in their own hands...because North DID discard ♣ 10 instead of ♥ 3 and South now holds ♥ AJ94 while North holds H♥ Q83, ♣ K. And South (**Saintly** status to **Isabel**) DID cash ♥ A, felling declarer's ♥ K and continued with ♥ 9 to declarer's ♥ 10 and North's ♥ Q...and then North must have had a BLANK because she failed to cash her ♣ K and instead returned ♥ 8 to South's ♥ J and unfortunately (for the defense) South had to concede the thirteenth tricks to dummy's ♥ 7. Yuck!

At another table East opened 1♦, West bid 1♥ and East re-bid 1 NT which West raised to 3 NT. South led the ♥ 2, declarer playing ♥ 5 from dummy and North erred by playing ♥ Q instead of ♥ 8. Declarer won with ♥ K and now had a second heart stop. Declarer also had nine tricks!

At another table East opened 1D, West bid 1♥ and East re-bid 1 NT and West made a NON-FORCING bid of 3D♦ which East converted to 3 NT. South led the ♥ 2, declarer winning in hand with HK and scoring nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **West**

At another table North led ♣ J against 3 NT, ducked all round. North continued with ♣ 10 which declare should have covered with dummy's ♣ Q thereby being able to force a second club trick whether C♣ Q was covered or not...check the club suit intermediate cards! **Sinner** status to **West**.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

N/S can make either 4♥ or 5♣. South can open 4♥ which should end the auction. Note that North's hand offers some support for a heart contract...a solid club suit, a doubleton ♥ 97, singleton ♦ K and a doubleton ♠ K10. This is not a hand to open at the one level. It is also, too strong for 2♥ and indeed 3♥, at equal vulnerability, although I might open 3♥ at Vul v Non-Vul. If North elects to bid 5♣ he is setting the bar one trick higher and the only major benefit is to protect his ♠ K10 against a spade lead. NOTE: EW can take 11 tricks against a NT contract!

Saints & Sinners

Not sure whether they should be celebrated or chastised...the N/S pair who reached the dizzy heights of 6NT played by North! Note that on double-dummy defense, E/W can take the first eleven tricks...diamond lead to West's ♦ A. A spade return to East's ♠ A or ♠ Q depending on what declarer plays from the North hand and then ♦ 9 continuation, picking up South's ♦ J84. E/W can subsequently cash a total of 5 diamonds and 6 spades. 6NT is NOT a good contract. **Sinner** status to N/S. Either 6♣ or 6♥ have some chance if the defense don't cash their two aces.

At another table South elected to open 1♥ and North responded 2♣. South then found an extraordinary re-bid of 4♣, which was alerted as Gerber. North responded with a bid of 5♦ (?) over which South bid 5♥ and then North bid 6♣. Only the parties involved can provide a rationale for their respective bids. Appropriately East cashed ♠ A at trick one and then switched to a diamond at trick two thus resulting in a one trick defeat. **Sinner** status to N/S for their bidding.

At another table, South opened 4♥ and North bid 5♣ which became the final contract. E/W cashed their two aces and that was the end of that!

At one table South opened 3♥ and North raised to 4♥. West led ♥ 8 and declarer soon wrapped up thirteen tricks!

At two tables South opened 3♥ and duly declared 4♥, with both declarers making twelve tricks after West cashed ♦ A and did not find the spade switch. The threatening club suit in dummy should have seen both Wests find the spade switch at trick two! **Sinner** status to both **Wests**.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 10
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ K
 ♣ A K Q J 9 8 6 4

♠ J 7 6 5
 ♥ 8 6
 ♦ A Q 10 6 3
 ♣ 5 3

♠ A Q 9 8 3 2
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ 10 2

♠ 4
 ♥ A K Q 10 5 4 2
 ♦ J 8 4 2
 ♣ 7

N
 W E
 S

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table South elected to open 1♥ and then made a jump re-bid of 3♥ over North's 2♣ response. This 3♥ re-bid distorts the South hand which has no playing strength outside of hearts...much better to get the hand off your chest with a single opening bid that reflects the true shape of the hand. Against 6♥ West found the lead of ♠5, declarer playing ♠10 from dummy which lost to East's ♠Q as declarer followed with ♠4. East now had to decide what to do next. Did East consider the various options? Was West's ♠5 a singleton? It can't be a doubleton because declarer played ♠4 and East holds ♠32. Can it be from a three card holding? That answer can only be provided by East in the light of what leads they employ from three card holdings...Top of Nothing (not here), M.U.D (not here because clearly the ♠5 is the lowest spade that West holds). Perhaps it could be from ♠Jx5 in which case East can cash the ♠A at trick two. But East should also ask herself...how often does partner lead from a three card holding headed by the J? An obvious and perhaps more likely explanation is to treat it as a natural 4th best lead from ♠J765, If East comes to that conclusion then a diamond switch should follow at trick two leading to the defeat of the contract. I would love to have been inside the mind of East as they wrestled with these thoughts. Or did they not consider them at all and simply make the reflex play! East attempted to cash ♠A and the slam duly made!

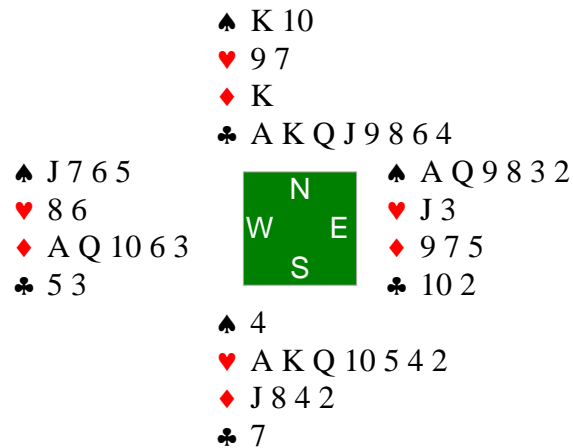
Also, perhaps West should have contemplated leading \spadesuit A rather than a 4th best spade from a suit headed by the \spadesuit J!

Another aspect of the bidding at this table relates to what West might have done when South responded 5 ♦ to North's 4 NT. West should have made a **lead-directing double** in case North became declarer and East was on lead at trick one.

All things considered, **Sinner** status to N/S for their bidding.

At another table South opened 4 ♥, North bid 4 NT, South responded 5 ♦ and North bid 5 ♥. West led ♠ 5 to East's ♠ A and East found the switch to a diamond, E/W thus cashing their two tricks. **Saintly** status to **East (Kevin Moylan)** for finding the diamond switch at trick two.

South Deals
Both Vul



Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table South opened 1 ♥, North bidding 2 ♣ as East made a cheeky bid of 2 ♠. South rebid 3 ♥ and West competed with 3 ♠. North bid 4 ♥ and perhaps West might have contemplated 4 ♠ which would likely suffer a two trick defeat but would still represent a net gain even if Doubled. West led ♠ 5, declarer playing ♠ 10 from dummy, East winning with SQ. East tried to cash ♠ A which declarer ruffed in hand. Declarer now made a thoughtful (trying to cater for either opponent holding ♥ Jxxx) but potentially catastrophic play of leading a small heart to dummy's ♥ 9 and East's ♥ J. If East returned a club at this point South could be in trouble. Declarer could win in dummy and lead another club, discarding a diamond, but then if declarer continues with ♦ K West can win and continue with ♥ 8, smothering dummy's ♥ 7 and depriving declarer of any diamond ruff and leaving declarer with two losing diamonds at the end in addition to the ♥ J and ♦ A. But, declarer's bacon was saved when East continued with a heart and declarer was able to draw trumps and cash dummy's club winners. Phew!!! Declarer's small trump play was thoughtful but if she had given it a little more thought she might have worked out that she could cash ♥ A, discovering whether trumps were 4-0 or not. If trumps are breaking 4-0 then declarer can play a diamond thus either forcing one diamond ruff in dummy or else the opponents cannot play a second trump without conceding their potential trump trick because declarer can win with ♥ 10 and then draw trumps and cash clubs. Declarer made a thoughtful play. Note that declarer's play would have succeeded, and others would have failed, if hearts were 4-0. **Saintly** status to **Mary** for thoughtful play...just think a little deeper the next time!

Another South also opened 4 ♣ (not appropriate on this hand...a trick or two short). North bid 4 ♥ and duly made eleven tricks.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 10
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ K
 ♣ A K Q J 9 8 6 4

♠ J 7 6 5
 ♥ 8 6
 ♦ A Q 10 6 3
 ♣ 5 3

♠ A Q 9 8 3 2
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ 10 2

♠ 4
 ♥ A K Q 10 5 4 2
 ♦ J 8 4 2
 ♣ 7

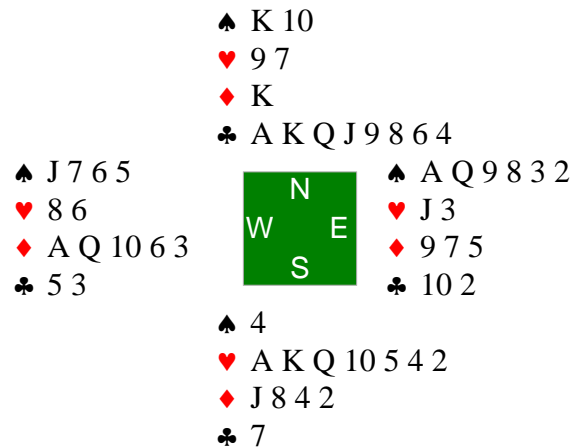
N
 W E
 S

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Now let's return to trick two, declarer winning the club switch with ♣ A. Declarer should cash ♠ K, discarding a diamond from dummy and then play ♦ K, West winning with ♦ A. What can West do? A heart switch sees declarer win in dummy and ruff a diamond in hand. Declarer can next play a second top club discarding a another diamond from dummy and continue with a third top club and either discard a diamond if East does not ruff or ruff with a top heart and then ruff dummy's last diamond with ♥ 9. This line will produce eleven tricks.

At another table South opened 4 ♥ and West led ♣ 5, declarer winning in dummy with ♣ A and then cashing a second top club discarding his losing spade from hand. Declarer continued with a third top club and when East discarded a diamond declarer also discarded a diamond as West ruffed. West next cashed ♦ A and then switched to a spade, dummy's ♠ 10 and East's ♠ Q as declarer ruffed in hand. Declarer now ruffed a diamond and then led ♠ K, ruffing East's ♠ A. Declarer led a third diamond and ruffed with ♥ 9 as East overruffed with ♥ J. Well done to E/W and to declarer who received a rougher ride than that meted out at most other tables. **Saints, all... Enda** for declaring successfully and **Moya & Marie** for giving him a tough time.

South Deals
Both Vul



Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table South opened 3 ♥ and North raised to 4 ♥. West led ♣ 3, declarer winning in dummy with ♣ A and then cashing two top hearts thus isolating herself from dummy's club winners and also depriving herself of ANY diamond ruffs! Declarer next played a diamond to West's ♦ A. The contract can no longer be made except through defensive errors. West can switch to a spade, East's ♠ Q winning. East can play ♠ A which presumably declarer will ruff and declarer will subsequently lose two more diamond tricks for one down. In fact after East wins ♠ Q and then switches to a diamond declarer will eventually lose FOUR diamond tricks as well as ♠ Q! TWO down! BUT, West, upon winning with ♦ A prematurely cashed ♦ Q before switching to a spade, East winning with ♠ Q. East now played ♠ A which declarer ruffed. Declarer, now holding ♦ J8, is still on target to lose another diamond to West ...BUT declarer now cashed four trumps and West, despite knowing that declarer has no spades, faithfully held on to ♠ J whilst fatally discarding two diamonds thus leaving declarer with ♦ J8 whilst West held ♠ J, ♦ 10. Contract made ...by **West** who is herewith awarded **Absolute Sinner** status. **Sinner** status also to **declarer**.

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

There is no game on for either side, not surprising given the 20-20 split in hcp and the bad breaks in the major suits. Many West's will open with a pre-emptive 3♦, not ideal given the four card heart holding. But life isn't perfect! That should end the bidding. In particular, East should Pass. Firstly, East lacks sufficient high-card strength opposite a pre-empt to consider 3NT and secondly it is absolutely essential that partner holds support, ideally at least Hx (honour and a small card) for the pre-empter's suit in order to bid 3NT.

Saints & Sinners

Saintly status to the three **East**s (**Deirdre, William, Marian**) who Passed partner's opening diamond pre-empt, two at the 3 level and one at the 2 level (the West hand is too good for a Weak 2 opening).

Sinner status to the **North** who made a Takeout Double of West's 3♦ opening. You should not make a Takeout Double of one suit whilst holding a void in one of the other three suits! South bid 4H♥ which failed by FIVE tricks! **Sinner** status also to **East** who should have applied a Penalty Double to the final contract.

Sinner status to all East's who bid 3NT over West's pre-emptive 3♦ opening bid. Four Easts declared 3NT one failing by three tricks whilst the other failed by two tricks.

Another East declared 2NT when West opened 2♦. This failed by one trick. East should have Passed the 2♦ opening. **Sinner** status awarded

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Sinner status to the **East** who was defending 5 ♣_x after partner opened 3 ♦, North bid 4 ♣, raised to 5 ♣ by South and Doubled by East who didn't think deeply enough during the play and consequently cost her side a trick! East led ♦ 8 and partner rose with ♦ K (playing ♦ 9 would be better and more informative for East!), declarer winning with ♦ A and the location of ♦ Q now clarified for East! Declarer made a good play of leading ♣ K from hand, East winning with ♣ A. East now switched to ♥ Q declarer winning with dummy's ♥ A whilst discarding ♦ 2 from hand. Declarer continued with ♣ 9 to East's ♣ Q. And at this point East should have spent a little time before making the play to the next trick! East continued with ♠ A and subsequently scored ♣ 8 to defeat the contract by two tricks. So, what should East have done after winning ♣ Q? Count, count and count again! West is known to have started with 1 club, 4 hearts, 7 diamonds and hence only a singleton spade thus placing 4 spades with North. East's spade holding of ♠ A1093 means that East can score 2 spades tricks AS LONG AS SHE DOES NOT PREMATURELY CASH ♠ A. Exit on another heart forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer will now hold 3 trumps while East holds 2 trumps, including a winning ♣ 8. Declarer may cash ♣ J and play on spades in which case East will likely score two spade tricks leading to a three trick defeat and a penalty of +500 to E/W. Yes, if declarer leads ♠ J it may be possible to subsequently take a finesse of ♠ 8 in particular if East wins with ♠ A and continues with ♠ 10. But it will take a good declarer to find the play of leading ♠ J although it is probably marked on the bidding!