

TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 7th January 2021, in the **Tribes Bridge Club BBO IMPs Pairs**.

Another very interesting set of hands, including a couple of hugely challenging declarer and defensive plays which many players failed to master.

I analysed the following hands this week: Board# 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 22, 23

I have also provided brief comments on the following hands: Board# 1, 4, 18

And there were several other hands that I just didn't have the time to analyse.

Board #10 was an interesting 6 ♥ hand which offered challenges for declarer and the defense. declarer has a couple of different lines of play. Which one to chose? And one defender was faced with an excruciating decision to make re a discard at trick 12! Throw the right card and the slam fails...otherwise it makes! And two defenders found the only lead to give declarer a comfortable run home in the heart slam.

Board#11 saw opportunities for both sides in the bidding. Some got it right and many didn't!

Board#14 gave South an opportunity to show a little extra opposite partner's Takeout Double. A mere handful rose to the occasion!

Board#16 saw what should have been a simple 3 NT turn into a nightmare for a couple of declarers!

Board#17 a bidding challenge for some and a defensive problem for others. Some emerged with credit while others did not!

Board#22 sees declarer playing a fairly common suit combination with choices as to how to tackle it. Again, there were winners and losers....and a bit of learning for those not familiar with the recommended play and an explanation as to why it should be the preferred option.

Board#23 saw eleven of 22 pairs reach 3 NT. Only FIVE were successful

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell
14th January 2021

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

NS 6N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 4♦; Par +990: NS 6N=

Going down in 3 NT, 4 ♠, 5 ♣! All roads led to game being made, even the 5-1 spade break cannot break 4 ♠ by North...as long as it is played with care! And despite the 4-2 club break declarer should still be able to bring home 5 ♣. And 3 NT can actually result in declarer making 12 tricks.

Saints & Sinners

NO TIME FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS but **Sinner** status to **any declarer** who failed in 3 NT.

4 ♠ is also makeable but is more awkward to bring home. 3 NT is an easier contract to negotiate.

5 ♣ is also makeable but requires very specific timing re the sequence of plays that enable it to succeed. Declarer must draw two rounds of trumps (finessing against East's ♣ K) and must also finesse (twice) against West's ♥ K but the second heart finesse should only be taken after the two (or three) rounds of trumps are cashed. Declarer can then take the second heart finesse and discard a losing spade or diamond from hand. Declarer will end up losing 1 trump to West and either a spade or diamond. But that's it! Eleven tricks to declarer.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

NS 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 1N; NS 1♦; EW 1♣;

Par +100; EW 2N×-1; EW 3♥×-1

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 3N; E 5♦; W 4♦; E 4♣; NS 2♥; W 3♣;
Par -620: EW 4♠=

Yes, 4 ♠ can make! One play is to finesse ♣ 8 and then finesse ♣ J. This means declarer loses only 1 club trick and dummy's established clubs become 'extra trumps' to be used against North.

NO TIME FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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



EW 6♥; EW 6♣; EW 2♠; EW 1N; Par -1430: EW 6♥=

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

E 5N; E 5♥; W 4N; W 4♥; EW 5♣; EW 3♦; NS 1♠;
Par -460: E 3N+2

Yes, declarer can make eleven tricks in hearts...South can be squeezed in the black suits. At the end situation East holds ♠ Q7, ♣ A. West holds ♠ A, ♣ J10. And poor South has to reduce to three cards while trying to hold ♠ K2, ♣ Q8!!! Impossible for South. **David Walsh** actually scored 12 tricks despite a valiant defense by **Carmel Burke**.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 3♠; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; Par -1400: NS 7♦×-5

If East opens the bidding with 1♥ then surely wild horses would not stop West from bidding 6♥. Excellent four card trump support, a five card spade suit headed by ♠AQJ, a singleton diamond, and ♣Axx. And certainly when East shows one ace and, if playing Roman Keycard Blackwood, the trump Queen. Making twelve tricks is not that obvious but there are a couple of options. A successful finesse in spades or clubs coupled with a diamond ruff in dummy will secure twelve tricks. But in which black suit should declarer take the finesse? Note that if the finesse fails then the defense will cash a diamond to defeat the contract. A better line is to combine chances...if the spade suit can be established for a discard then the decision re a finesse can be avoided. And if not then declarer can fall back on the club finesse. A good player is likely to try and establish the spade suit, failing which declarer will then resort to the club finesse. So, on a diamond lead and continuation, declarer ruffs the second round in dummy and cashes ♠A. Declarer then ruffs a spade in hand. Declarer returns to dummy with a trump and leads a third spade on which North discards a diamond thus confirming that declarer cannot establish a long spade for a club discard. But declarer is not finished his work. Declarer should now play off all his trumps in case South started with ♣Qxx. We then arrive at a point where declarer holds ♥A, ♣KJ2 and dummy holds ♠J, ♣A86. At this point declare plays HA and if South does not discard ♠K then South is known to hold ♠K and two other cards. But by this stage, South will already have discarded two clubs. If North also discards a club then South can cash clubs from the top and the ♣J will score the last trick! Also, declarer can always take the simple club finesse!

Saints & Sinners

6♥ was only bid at six of the twenty tables in play! At two of these tables South led a club thus handing declarer the vital twelfth trick. At neither table did North bid diamonds.

At another table South led a diamond, North having bid diamonds. North won and switched to a trump. Declarer mistakenly led a second trump to hand instead of cashing ♠A and ruffing a spade in hand. South fatally discarded a spade on the second trump, despite being able to see five spade in dummy! Declarer now played on spades and subsequently ruffed three spades in hand thereby dropping South's ♠K on the fourth round and thereby establishing dummy's ♠Q for a club discard and so declarer made the contract without having to take a finesse! **Saintly** status to declarer, **Monica Power**. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 3♠; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; Par -1400: NS 7♦×-5

Saints & Sinners

At another table South also led a diamond, North having bid diamonds. North won and switched to a trump and South fatally discarded a spade despite being able to see five spades in dummy! Declarer cashed ♠ A and ruffed a spade in hand, eventually establishing dummy's fifth spade for a club discard. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Norma O'Connell**. And **Sinner** status to **South**.

At one table South led a diamond, North having bid the suit. North correctly won the trick with ♦ K and then switched to a trump, South discarding a diamond as declarer won in dummy. Declarer next played a heart to her ♥ A and then played a spade to dummy's ♠ A. Next declarer made a highly unusual play which should have led to the defeat of the contract when she played a club to her ♣ K, rejecting the finesse of ♣ J! In two consecutive tricks declarer had spurned the two available finesses! Declarer duly cashed ♣ A and then ruffed a diamond in dummy and a couple of spades in hand and played out all her trumps. The contract should now fail...BUT, at trick twelve, North, holding ♦ A, ♣ Q was faced with a discard on declarer's last trump....and unfortunately for the defense North discarded ♣ Q leaving declarer to score the last, and vital trick, with ♣ J. This is a very common situation, where a defender is forced to discard one of two cards on the twelfth trick and where discarding the wrong one cedes a trick to declarer! In some instances the defender feels that it's a case of guessing but that should never be the case. Why so? Firstly, because if the defenders are playing Count Signals then it should be a simple case of knowing partner's shape and therefor deducing declarer's distribution and that should solve the problem. South should have been able to show count in both clubs and diamonds. But sometimes there are other clues that should help the defender to arrive at the right decision. In this case, North knows that declarer's last card is either a diamond or a club and the only problem is knowing which one. If North has not been able to determine from partner's count signals then North should simply look to the obvious clue...if declarer holds a diamond why didn't she ruff it in dummy...there was more than enough trumps in dummy to ruff a second diamond. The reason is clearly obvious...declarer doesn't have another diamond in which case declarer's last card is a club. North should discard ♦ A. **Sinner** status to **North**...and **Sinner** status to **East** for poor declarer play.

Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

NS 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1N; Par +130: NS 4♣=

Unless an aggressive West opens the bidding North will enter the fray with 1♣ or 1NT. East should bid hearts, either with a simple overcall or a WJO (Weak Jump Overcall). South may compete, certainly if North has opened 1♣. Otherwise South can make a Takeout Double (Negative Double) perhaps promising 4 spades, as well as support for the other two suits. The bidding may become competitive and as is noted above N/S can make 4♣ whereas E/W can make 2♥ although some declarers will make nine tricks if N/S do not negotiate a spade ruff!

Saints & Sinners

At five tables North opened 1NT and was allowed to play there when East Passed. **Sinner** status to the **East**s at these five tables who failed to bid 2♥.

At two of these tables declarer was handed eight tricks when East led ♥4 to West's ♥A. West now erred by continuing with ♥9 instead of ♥Q. This would have blocked the suit if North held ♥Jxxx. West should have played ♥Q at trick two and continued with ♥9 to East's ♥10 who would then cash three more tricks to hold declarer to 1NT. BUT, after ♥9 won the second trick, West switched to ♦Q, declarer rising with ♦A and cashing 2 top spades and 5 clubs. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At the second table West (a BBO robot) made the highly unorthodox lead of the singleton ♣Q. Declarer took her eight top tricks for a score of +120.

At the other three tables where North declared 1NT East led a heart and E/W took the first six tricks albeit that one West erred by winning ♥A and continuing with ♥9. **Sinner** status awarded to **West** at this table. Justice was not served when North held ♥Jxx and thus East was able to overtake West's ♥Q on the third round and cash the other three hearts.

At one table North opened 1♣, East overcalled 2♥ (Weak), South bid 4♣, West bid 4♥ and North plunged into 5♣ despite the fact that partner's first bid was Pass! This contract failed by one trick whereas 4♥ would have failed by at least one trick! **Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 11

South Deals
None Vul

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

NS 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1N; Par +130: NS 4♣=

Saints & Sinners

At another table North declared 4♣ after opening 1♣ and where East bid 2♥ a WJO (Weak Jump Overcall). South bid 3♣ and West competed with 3♥. North closed the bidding with 4♣. East made the unorthodox and potentially costly lead of ♥K, e.g. North holds ♥Qxx. At trick two East switched to ♠Q, declarer winning in hand with ♠A. Declarer next ruffed a heart in dummy and then led a trump to ♣K in hand and ruffed his last heart in dummy. Declarer then cashed ♠K and continued with ♠7 and West erred by covering with ♠10 as declarer ruffed and East followed with ♠J thus promoting dummy's ♠9 as a winner for a discard of a losing diamond. An impossible eleven tricks and **Saintly** status to declarer, **Kevin Moylan**, for enticing West to make the fatal error. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At two tables E/W reached 4♥, both declarers scoring eight tricks. At one of these tables West opened 1NT and East bid 4♥. Unfortunately there were five inescapable losers! At the other table North opened 1NT (12-14) and East bid 2♦ (a single-suited major). South Passed and West bid 2NT, an enquiry asking East to describe his hand. North Passed and East bid 3♥, alerted as a heart suit at the lower range. West now bid 3♠ and East bid 4♥. The unusual development of the bidding after 2NT centred on a misunderstanding of the partnership's system. West thought that 3♥ was a weak hand with spades (3♦ would have shown a weak hand with hearts) so West bid 3♠ to play there and East then, perhaps perplexed by West's 3♠ bid, converted to 4♥! So, if two internationals can have a bidding misunderstanding then there's hope for everyone else! Having spoken with one of the two players I can confirm that they hadn't fully discussed the sequences after West's 2NT but they have now reached an agreement re the various responses to the 2NT enquiry. No Saints or Sinners here but a message to all partnerships re the importance of having clear agreements re any 'gadgets' that you include in your bidding system.

At another table North opened 1♣ and East bid 1♥ (2♥, weak, would be more descriptive). South bid 1♠ and West raised partner to 3♥. South subsequently bid 4♣ and East bid one for the road. 4♥ failed by one trick when South led a diamond to partner's ♦A. North cashed ♠A and continued with a spade to South's ♠K. South cashed ♣A...and failed to give North a spade ruff. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 11

South Deals
None Vul

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

NS 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1N; Par +130: NS 4♣=

Saints & Sinners

At SIX tables E/W scored NINE tricks in a heart contract when N/S failed to negotiate a spade ruff for North. At one table North won the diamond lead, cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 8 to South's ♠ K and South woodenly continued with a diamond despite viewing ♦ KQ7 in dummy! **Sinner** status to the **South**.

At a couple of other tables N/S tried to cash two clubs and declarer ruffed the second round and drew trumps and North's spade ruff went out the window! The defense is not clear cut...if North has one less club and an extra spade then cashing two top clubs is the right move. As a regular partner of mine is apt to say...*'It's not easy!'*.

At one table North passed and East opened a Weak 2 ♥ which became the final contract. South led a spade and North did get a spade ruff but declarer emerged with eight tricks. **Sinner** status to **North** for not opening the bidding.

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 3♣; Par +600: NS 3N=

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

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



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

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

West will open 1♠ and North will make a Takeout Double. Some East's will raise to 2♠, some will pass and the odd one will bid 3♠. Over 1♠, South, having already Passed, could bid 3♥ to show values. North will raise to 4♥. If South simply bids 2♥ over West's 1♠ then North will Pass given South's lack of a jump bid. Making ten tricks should not prove difficult as declarer loses just three tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond. Note that N/S can score seven tricks defending a spade contract!

Now, answer this: You hold ♠ 432, ♥ 6543, ♦ 432, ♣ 432. Your left hand opponent opens 1♠ and your partner makes a Takeout Double. Your right hand opponent Passes. What do you bid? Clearly you must bid 2♥. So, if you will bid 2♥ with this hand how can you also bid 2H with the hand shown above? There is no comparison between the two hands. As a general rule of thumb...if partner makes a Takeout Double and you are forced to bid then differentiate between a weak hand and one with values, i.e. 9+ hcp, by making a JUMP bid with the latter. The hand above is actually worth more than 9 hcp by virtue of the five card heart suit (North's Takeout Double shows heart support) and the minor suits will play well opposite whatever holdings partner has in both suits (support is shown for both by virtue of North's Takeout Double of 1♠).

Note also that North should not get carried away by South's jump bid of 3♥ because of the fact that South has previously Passed thereby limiting his hand to 9-11 hcp. But clearly in this case North should raise South's 3♥ to 4♥.

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1NT, North Doubled and all Passed. The defense was devastating. North played three rounds of clubs, South winning the third round with ♣ Q. South switched to ♥ 3, North winning with ♥ J. North cashed her winning club on which South and declarer discarded a small spade as dummy discarded a diamond. North continued with ♥ A and another heart to declarer's ♥ K. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with a spade to North's ♠ K. North next played a diamond, South winning with ♦ A and then cashing two more hearts to leave declarer FOUR down and N/S +800. If E/W were playing Extended Helvic they could reach 2♠. Perhaps West should bid 2♠ anyway. In fact 2♠x sees E/W score six tricks. **Saintly** status to **Michael & Marlene O'Connor**.

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

Only five N/S partnerships reached 4♥. At two tables the respective Souths bid 3♥ over North's Takeout Double of West's 1♠ and where East Passed. North raised to 4♥. **Saintly** status to **Susan Cranley** and **Deirdre O'Halloran**. At one of these tables West failed to cover ♥Q and declarer emerged with an improbable eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table West opened 1♠, North made a Takeout Double and East made a pre-emptive raise to 3S. South was not intimidated by the two international opponents and bid 4♥. **Saintly** status to **Marian Walsh** although defending 3♠x could have reaped +800 for N/S!

At yet another table West opened 1♠ and North made a Takeout Double. East raised to 2♠ and South, the redoubtable **Marion Donlon**, jumped to 4♥ where 3♥ might be more appropriate.

At one table North elected to overcall 1NT, not ideal given that North has only a single spade stopper but a reasonable option nonetheless. East passed and South bid 2♦, presumably a Transfer to hearts. West passed and North made a jump acceptance of 3♥ which is wrong. North has already shown his strength by virtue of his 1NT overcall and his hand is actually at the lower limit of the range shown. Secondly, South has not promised any values by virtue of the transfer and could actually have a Yarborough, i.e. a hand with no card higher than a '9'. North should simply accept the transfer by bidding 2♥ and then leave the next move to South who in this case would probably bid 3NT showing 9-11 hcp and only five hearts. North should then convert to 4♥. Needless to say, South did raise North's 3♥ acceptance to 4♥. **Saintly** status to N/S, **Kevin & Mary Moylan**.

At NINE tables South simply bid 2♥ in response to North's Takeout Double of West's opening bid of 1♠. **Sinner** status to **all**...

At one table North overcalled 1NT and South simply bid 2♥ (natural) despite North showing the equivalent of a strong NT. South should have bid 3♥, forcing North to bid 3NT or 4♥. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♠, North overcalled 1NT, East Passed and South bid 2♦ (presumably a transfer to hearts). West stuck her neck out and made a silly bid of 2♠ which could have been Doubled and would have suffered a loss of -300 on a hand where most N/S pairs were only scoring +170. West said it all with her opening bid of 1♠ and with nothing extra to show should have subsequently Passed leaving it up to partner to take any further action. North, clearly believing partner's 2♦ to be natural raised to 3♦. East came to life, no doubt prompted by the extra values that partner had shown, with a bid of 3♠ which could have suffered a penalty of -500. South Passed and North now bid 3NT. Although the contract did fail by two tricks it could have been made! West led ♠4 (wrong...the standard lead from this holding, four small cards, is the second highest card, i.e. ♠7). West played S♠ and declarer won with ♠K. West next cashed 4 club tricks on which West made the fatal discard of ♥4. Declarer could now have led a diamond to dummy's ♦A and then finessed ♥J, cashed ♥A (felling West's ♥K) and then cashed three more heart tricks to emerge with ELEVEN tricks via 1 spade, 5 hearts, 1 diamond, 4 clubs. If West retains ♥K104 then declarer cannot make the contract. Declarer can play a diamond to dummy's ♦A and finesse ♥J to give declarer eight tricks...but that's it! **Double Sinner** status to **West**... 1) for bidding 2♠, and 2) for discarding ♥4.

At another table North overcalled 1NT, East Passed and South transferred with 2♦, West passed and North bid 2♥. East now bid 2♠ and South inexplicably Passed despite holding 9 hcp opposite a Strong NT. Note that South has already shown FIVE hearts with the 2♦ transfer. North has NOT promised more than 2 hearts with his 2♥ acceptance and so South should not bid 3♥. South should have bid 2NT or even Double. North now bid 3♥ and South Passed when he should have raised to 4♥. **Sinner** status to **South**.

A curious sequence occurred at one table where West opened 1♠, North made a Takeout Double, and East Re-Doubled. Unless the partnership has a specific agreement, this bid suggests that E/W hold the balance of high-card strength and will be happy to inflict a penalty double on any contract bid by N/S! This is not reflected by East's actual hand! South made a FREE BID of 2♥, West re-bid 2♠ and North bid 3♥. South Passed but should have pushed on to 4♥. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

3 NT should be reached by most N/S partnerships and declarer should have little difficulty in amassing at least ten tricks, if played by South, via 3 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs. If North declares 3 NT then nine tricks should be the limit if East leads a heart. BUT, as always there will be a couple of tables where a twist or two will result in a different outcome!

Saints & Sinners

3 NT was reached at 19 of the 20 tables in play with the other pair playing in 2 NT+2. Thirteen declarers scored ten tricks while two scored just nine tricks. Two others scored eleven tricks. But we will focus on the two tables where declarer emerged with less than nine tricks.

At one table South opened 1 ♣ (why open a three card club suit when you can open a four card diamond suit?). North incorrectly bid 1 NT (this denies any other biddable suit and shows 4+ clubs and 8-10 hcp). North should have responded 1 ♠ leaving South to re-bid NT and ensuring that the lead would be INTO the strong hand rather than through it! South raised to 3 NT. East led ♥ 3 and dummy appeared. North's mis-bid has now put the contract under pressure because of the piercing heart lead through dummy's ♥ AQ8. Declarer needs to focus and plan a safe route home or give himself the best chance of making the contract. Clearly declarer will hope to score 3 spades, 3 (or maybe 4) diamonds and 3 tricks from clubs and hearts. BUT the question is how to do it safely. Taking an immediate heart finesse is placing all your apples in one basket. If it loses, then the floodgates will open. Better to duck the opening lead, West winning with ♥ J. Now West cannot return a heart without conceding a trick to dummy's ♥ Q. So West must switch. If West switches to a club declarer can win and play diamonds SAFELY by finessing ♦ J into West. Even if it loses West still cannot play another heart. If West now switches to a spade, East can win and continue with a heart through dummy's ♥ AQ thus establishing a second heart trick for West. but now declarer will still score nine tricks losing just 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 club.

BUT, at the table, declarer finessed ♥ Q, losing to West's ♥ K. West now erred by continuing with ♥ 9 instead of ♥ J, thus BLOCKING the heart suit. Declarer won with ♥ A and then made the unbelievable play of a third heart thus unblocking the suit for the defense while East still held ♠ A as an entry. Declarer duly lost 4 hearts and two black aces and finished two down. **Sinner** status to declarer and **Sinner** status also to **West** for blocking the heart suit.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

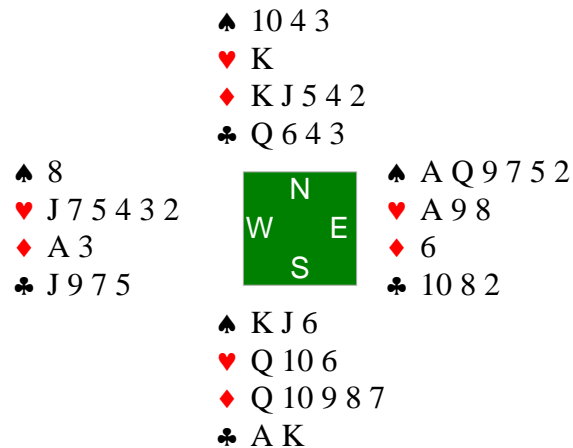
	♠ K 10 8 6	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ A 6 4 3	
	♣ J 10 7	
♠ 7 4 2		♠ A 9 3
♥ K J 9		♥ 10 7 5 3 2
♦ 10 9 7		♦ Q 5
♣ A 9 5 3		♣ 8 6 2
	♠ Q J 5	
	♥ A Q 8	
	♦ K J 8 2	
	♣ K Q 4	

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

Saints & Sinners

At the other table South opened 1♦ and North responded 1♠, South rebid 2NT and North raised to 3NT. A sound bidding sequence by both players. West led ♣ 3 declarer winning in hand with ♣ Q. Declarer next led ♠ Q which East won with ♠ A. [NOTE.. Perhaps East should have ducked in case declarer did not have ♠ J and thus give declarer a 'losing' option on the play of a second spade towards dummy's ♠ K108! Declarer might play West to hold ♠ A and perhaps rise with dummy's ♠ K losing to East's ♠ A and promoting West's ♠ J to winner status!] East returned a club, West rising with ♣ A and continuing with ♣ 5 (♣ 9, a Suit-Preference signal for a heart should East gain the lead, would be better). Declarer won the third club in hand and cashed three more spades on which East discarded ♥ 2 and West ♦ 9 as declarer discarded ♦ 2 (declarer could have discarded ♥ 8). Declarer next led ♦ 3 and should have finessed ♦ J when East followed with ♦ 5. Why So? Because this guarantees at least three diamond tricks. 'Oh!', I hear you say. Why is that, you wonder? Okay this is where clear thinking comes into play. N/S hold eight diamonds. West has discarded ♦ 9. So, only 4 diamonds are now unaccounted for...but East has produced one of those four and so if South finesses ♦ J and it loses to ♦ Q then the suit is breaking 3-2 or if West started with 4 she now has only three left and declarer will then score three more diamond tricks. Also, finessing ♦ J protects declarer's ♥ AQ. BUT, declarer rose with ♦ K as West followed with ♦ 7. Declarer now led ♦ J and West produced ♦ 10, leaving only one diamond outstanding! Clearly this has to be with East...with ♦ Q1097 West would have covered ♦ J! So, declarer could have risen with ♦ K dropping East's ♦ Q. BUT, because declarer had discarded ♦ 2 the suit would now be blocked and declarer would only score ♦ 8 in hand leaving dummy's fourth diamond isolated! For whatever reason, declarer ran the ♦ J to East who won with ♦ Q. East now switched to ♥ 7 and this was the crucial point in the hand. Declarer has already amassed 3 spades, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs, i.e. 6 tricks. Declarer has ♥ A in hand and 2 winning diamonds in dummy. Also, declarer has lost 1 spade, 1 diamond, 1 club and knows that West holds the thirteenth club (otherwise East would have cashed it!). Declarer has two options. Finesse ♥ Q and HOPE that East has ♥ K in which case declarer will make ten tricks, OR, rise with ♥ A and cash two winning diamonds for a **guaranteed** nine tricks. Declarer finessed ♥ Q which lost to ♥ K and West then cashed ♣ 9, the setting trick. Instead of registering +430, declarer scored -50. **Absolute Sinner** status to declarer, in particular where the format is IMPs and taking a finesse which could jeopardise the contract is the equivalent of a Mortal Sin in bridge!

North Deals
None Vul



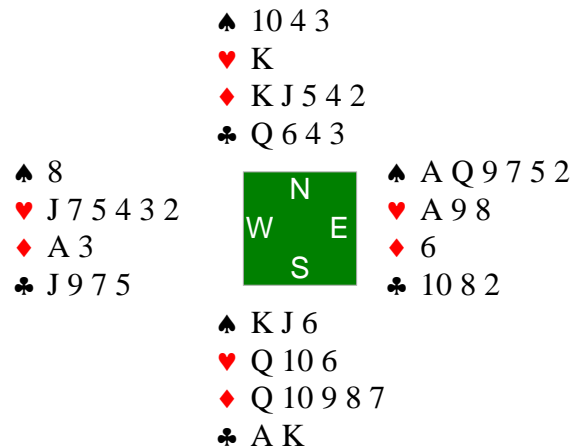
EW 3♥; NS 3♦; Par -100: NS 4♦×-1

Note that N/S cannot make ANY NT contract, not even 1 NT. And despite the 5-5 fit N/S can only make nine tricks in a diamond contract. Some Easts will open 2 ♠ although others will open 1 ♠. South can bid NT either 1 NT or 2 NT depending on East's opening bid. North will raise to 3 NT. The issue is the defense... if West leads ♠ 8 then the spotlight turns on East and the success or failure of the contract depends on what East does. If East rises with ♠ A and declarer follows with ♠ 6 then the defense is clearcut. Why so? Because when declarer follows with ♠ 6 it is now clear that that West has no more spades and that declarer holds ♠ KJ. East should change direction and the singleton ♥ K is a clear indicator as to what East should do next. Cash ♥ A and continue with ♥ 9, thus establishing four heart winners for West who still holds the crucial ♦ A. This should see the contract fail by three tricks. BUT, if East ducks at trick one or wins ♠ A and woodenly continues with a second spade then declarer will romp home with ten tricks via 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs. Expect a variety of results on this board.

Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 2 ♠ (Weak) and South made a takeout double (2 NT is better...a T/O Double suggests 4+ hearts). North bid 3 ♦ and South closed the auction with 3 NT. West elected to lead ♥ 4 and pretty soon declarer found herself in trouble. East won the lead with ♥ A and returned ♥ 8 (should have returned ♥ 9). Declarer rose with ♥ Q where finessing ♥ 10 might have been better. Declarer cashed ♣ AK and then played on diamonds, West winning the second round as East discarded ♠ 2. West now cashed four hearts and declarer needed to plan carefully the discards from hand and from dummy. Declarer should work through the four tricks deciding precisely which specific cards to discard from each hand. In this case declarer can afford to discard 2 spades, 1 diamond and 1 club from dummy whilst following with 1 heart and then discarding 1 spade and 2 diamonds from hand. The defense will subsequently score ♠ A and declarer will claim the last two tricks with ♠ K and a diamond. BUT, declarer did not think through the discards and in fact lost ALL the remaining tricks. Declarer bared the ♠ K and after West cashed her last heart she switched to her singleton ♠ 8 and East rose with ♠ A felling declarer's ♠ K. East then cashed ♠ O9 for a FIVE trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

North Deals
None Vul



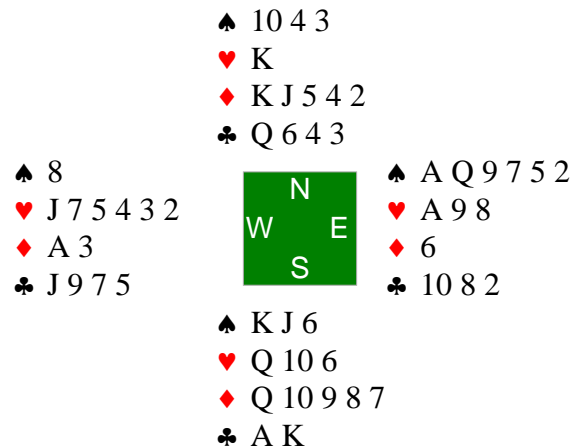
Saints & Sinners

At three tables East opened 2 ♠ (Weak) and each South overcalled 2 NT which North raised to 3 NT. West led a heart and East rose with ♥ A and returned a heart, declarer finessing ♥ 10 as West won with ♥ J. Two Wests continued with a high heart, a clear Suit-Preference signal suggesting a diamond (rather than a club) entry. The other West returned ♥ 2 at trick three suggesting a club entry rather than a diamond entry! All three declarers won with ♥ Q and played on diamonds, West rising with ♦ A and cashing three hearts. All three declarers made no mistake with discards and duly emerged with six tricks. **Saintly** status to the three **Souths, Marion, Enda, Michael** for carefully negotiating the delicate discard situation.

At another table East opened 1 ♠, South overcalled 1 NT and West drummed up a bid of 2 ♥ where Pass might have been more prudent. North bid 3 ♦ and East, who actually had a super hand opposite her partner's 2 ♥ bid, actually bid 3 ♠ (**Sinner** status) instead of bidding the clearly pointed 3 ♥. In fact 4 ♥ only fails by one trick. West raised to 4 ♠ and so E/W played in a 6-1 fit rather than their 6-3 fit! N/S were negligent in not applying a Penalty Double. The contract failed by FOUR tricks (declarer erred by rising with ♥ J when South switched to ♥ 6 after cashing ♣ AK) and N/S scored a mere +200 instead of +800. **Sinner** status to N/S for failing to Double the final contract and **Sinner** status to E/W for playing in a 6-1 fit instead of their 6-3 fit!

At another table East opened 1 ♠ and South simply bid 2 ♦ (1 NT is MUCH better). At this table West also drummed up a bid of 2 ♥, North bid 3 ♦ and East, ignoring partner's 2 ♥ (showing AT LEAST five hearts) bid 3 ♠ instead of 3 ♥. This contract failed by two tricks but declarer should have got out for one down when South won the second heart instead of holding off and winning the third round of hearts thus depriving declarer of a club discard on dummy's fourth heart! With the clubs blocked, N/S cannot cash their three club tricks. Unfortunately declarer failed to appreciate the heart position and the club blockage and discarded vital hearts from dummy instead of throwing away the useless clubs. **Sinner** status to **East** for poor bidding and failing to take advantage of South's premature play of ♥ Q. **Sinner** status also to **South** for rising with ♥ Q on the second round of the suit. North's play of ♥ K on declarer's ♥ A clearly indicates a singleton in which case declarer holds three hearts! *Counting, counting...all the time!*

North Deals
None Vul



Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 1 ♠ and South bid 2 ♦ (overcalling 1 NT is much better and more descriptive of the shape and strength of the South hand). West dredged up a bid of 2 ♥, North bid 3 ♦, and East, who had clearly listened to her partner's bidding unlike several other Easts, bid 3 ♥. South closed the bidding with 4 ♦. West led S ♠ 8 and East rose with ♠ A and clearly failed to appreciate the spade layout when South followed with the tell-tale ♠ 6. East played a diamond to her partner's ♦ A and West who must have been screaming (internally of course) for a spade return, continued with a small club hoping that partner might win and wake up and return a spade for West to ruff with her little ♦ 3. But declarer won the club return in hand and drew West's puny ♦ 3, which could have wreaked devastating effect on a spade return at trick two! But the bird had now flown and declarer duly escaped with the requisite ten tricks! NOW, let's go back to trick one...what is the lead of ♠ 8? Can it be a doubleton?...No! Why not? Because declarer played ♠ 6 at trick one in which case East can account for all cards lower than ♠ 8! Could it be a three card holding? Possible, i.e. ♠ KJ8...BUT unlikely as surely West would have supported partner's 1 ♠ opening instead of bidding 2 ♥ with a six card suit headed by ♥ J and a mere 6hcp! East should have won ♠ A and returned a spade at trick two which West could ruff with the mighty ♦ 3! [Note: At several tables where South played a diamond contract, the spade return at trick two caused several declarers to go astray as they rose with ♠ K which West ruffed and thus left East with a cashable ♠ Q. More anon.]

At another table East also opened 1S, South made a Takeout Double instead of overcalling 1 NT. West bid 2 ♥ and, unbelievably, North with 9hcp and a five card diamond suit Passed! East made the silly bid of 2 ♠ instead of showing support for West's 5+ heart suit. South and West Passed and North finally came to life with a bid of 3 ♦ which became the final contract. East led ♥ A and switched to a club at trick two. When West failed to rise with ♦ A and switch to ♠ 8, hoping for a spade return which could be ruffed with ♦ 3, declarer emerged with ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **East** for not supporting partner's hearts and to **West** for not rising with ♦ A and switching to ♠ 8. **Sinner** status to **South** for not overcalling 1 NT at first opportunity and to **North** for not bidding diamonds freely over West's 2 ♥ bid. **Sinners all!**

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4 3
♥ K
♦ K J 5 4 2
♣ Q 6 4 3

♠ 8
♥ J 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 7 5

♠ A Q 9 7 5 2
♥ A 9 8
♦ 6
♣ 10 8 2

♠ K J 6
♥ Q 10 6
♦ Q 10 9 8 7
♣ A K

W N E S

Saints & Sinners

And then there were the six tables where N/S successfully declared 3 NT all declarer emerging with exactly ten tricks. At five of these tables East opened ♠S (Weak). At the other table East Passed and then made a free bid of 3 ♠ after South opened 1 ♦ and North responded 3 ♦! East should have been subjected to a Penalty Double and suffered a loss of -800! Either open the East hand 1 ♠ or even 2 ♠ but it's suicidal to Pass and then barge in with 3 ♠!

At the other two tables, the ♠ 8 was also led and at these two tables both Easts made a thoughtful, but ultimately costly play by not rising with ♠ A. This would have proved right if partner had an original spade holding of ♠ 86 thus placing a doubleton ♠ KJ with declarer. Thus when West subsequently gains the lead a second spade will see East score five tricks! Unfortunately West had only one spade. But kudos to **Bernie Small**, **Catherine Fleming**, for a thoughtful play.

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

NS 6♠; NS 5N; NS 5♥; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par +1430: NS 6♠=

6♠ is the contract to reach. Not 6NT or 5♦!

Saints & Sinners

No analysis necessary other than to say **Absolute Sinner** status to the **North** that insisted in playing in 6NT, ending two down. East led a club to West's CA and the club continuation was won by declarer. **ELEVEN tricks are now guaranteed by simply playing SK and continuing with another spade until the defense take the SA. Dummy's hearts provide an entry for the remaining spade winners.** BUT, declarer played on hearts after winning the second club and then finessed ♦J, losing to East's ♦Q who subsequently scored SA for a two trick defeat. A total lack of planning and a failure to appreciate dummy's trick-taking resources.

Absolute Sinner status also to the **three N/S pairs** that contracted 5♦ instead of a spade contract. Two declarers failed by two tricks, the other by a single trick.

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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



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

Both Vul

♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A K 3 2
♣ 10 4

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

Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 6N; EW 6♥; EW 5♦; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; Par -990: EW 6N=

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

4 ♠ can make. If N/S reach 3 NT the defense can cash five heart tricks! In fact N/S can only make seven tricks in 1 NT.

Most N/S partnerships will reach 4 ♠. With two definite heart losers the success or otherwise of the contract depends on avoiding two spades losers. One line is to play a small spade towards dummy and then decide whether to play ♠ Q or ♠ 9. Guessing right will result in one spade loser rather than two. But, in essence, it is a pure guess! However, if declarer appreciates that if spades break 3-2 and East holds EITHER ♠ K or ♠ J then declarer can restrict losers to one trick by leading spades FROM dummy and finessing against East, twice if necessary. This play offers a 75% chance of success, i.e. that East holds the ♠ K or ♠ J or ♠ K AND ♠ J. Declarer can use ♣ A and ♦ A, ♦ 10, or ♦ 9 as entries to take, and if necessary, repeat the spade finesse.

Experienced players are likely to take the finesse option while less experienced players will likely ignore the finesse option and lead towards ♠ Q96, maybe cashing ♠ A on the first round, and simply hope to guess correctly whether to play ♠ Q or ♠ 9.

Saints & Sinners

At four tables West led ♣ Q against a spade contract. All four declarers won the lead in hand and played a spade to dummy's ♠ Q and East's ♠ K. There was no recovery and the four declarers subsequently lost two hearts and a second trump and emerged with nine tricks.

At another table, West led ♥ K at trick one and continued with a heart to East's ♥ A. East now played ♥ J and South ruffed with ♠ 8 which was overruffed by West's ♠ J. West exited on ♣ J which declarer won in dummy. Declarer can still make ten tricks by finessing against East's ♠ K...BUT, declarer led ♠ Q from dummy and rose with ♠ A from hand, in effect playing West for a doubleton ♠ KJ! Not a success! **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table West led ♥ K, East overtaking with ♥ A and continuing with ♥ Q and then played ♥ 4 which declarer ruffed with ♠ 2, sending a boy on a man's errand! West gratefully overruffed with ♠ 3. Declarer subsequently lost another trump trick and deservedly ended up with just nine tricks! **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table South opened 1 ♠ and North responded with 2 NT (presumably the partnership play 4 card majors). South re-bid 3 ♦, surely guaranteeing 5 spades, and North ignored the warning signs and persevered with 3 NT. A small heart lead sees the defense cash the first five tricks. East led ♥ J (I would lead ♥ Q from ♥ AQJxx). West rose with ♥ K and returned a heart to East who cashed ♥ AQ before switching to ♣ 4. Declarer now has eight tricks...1 spade, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs and simply needs to create a second spade trick to make the contract. Playing spades to best advantage (see introduction) will do just that. Declarer can win club switch in hand and lead ♠ Q, letting it run if East plays low. If East covers then declarer wins with ♠ A and continues with a spade to ♠ 9. And if ♠ Q loses to West's ♠ K then declarer wins any return and repeats the finesse. BUT, declarer won the club switch with dummy's ♣ K and then cashed four diamonds, discarding a club from hand as West discarded ♠ 3. Declarer then ensured defeat by playing a club to ♣ A thus establishing club winners for the defense. Declarer next cashed ♥ 10 and West threw declarer a lifeline when she fatally discarded ♠ 7 thus reducing her spade holding to a singleton ♠ J!!! (**Absolute sinner** status awarded to **West**). Declarer now holds ♠ Q96 while dummy holds ♠ A108. East holds ♠ K5, ♥ 5...and West holds ♠ J, ♣ Q6. Declarer can now score the remaining THREE tricks by leading ♠ Q and letting it run if East plays low. This pins West's now singleton ♠ J and a second spade sees East's ♠ K fall under dummy's ♠ A with ♠ 10 winning the third trick. If East covers ♠ Q then declarer wins with ♠ A, as East's ♠ J falls and again declarer scores the next two tricks with ♠ 109. That is why West's discard of the the second spade was potentially so fatal. If West holds ♠ J7, ♣ Q then declarer can only score one spade trick before losing the last two tricks to the defense. BUT, declarer did not see this line of play and instead played a spade to dummy's ♠ A and then conceded the last two tricks to East's ♠ K and ♥ 5.

Double sinner status to **North** for contracting 3 NT rather than 4 ♠ and also for misplaying the hand and not securing a second spade trick when it was safe to do so.

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

Two declarers made eleven tricks in 4 ♠! At one table **Carmel Burke** received the lead of ♣ 5 which she won in hand with ♣ 10. Declarer next cashed ♣ K and then played a small spade and correctly guessed to play ♠ 9 from dummy which drew East's ♠ K. East could have held declarer to ten tricks by playing two rounds of hearts but played a third club upon which declarer discarded a losing heart. Declarer subsequently drew trumps but could not avoid losing one heart trick. Perhaps declarer should have played a diamond to dummy after cashing ♣ K and thus ensuring the discard of a losing heart before playing trumps. That would also leave declarer to play spades FROM dummy and as long as clubs were no worse than 5-3 that would virtually ensure that declarer could not lose more than two spades and one heart. If declarer had misguessed the spade play then the defense could have cashed two hearts and would also score another trump trick.

Saintly status to **Kathleen Ivers** who declared 4 ♠ on the lead of ♣ J. Declarer rose with dummy's ♣ A and then led ♠ Q which East correctly covered with ♠ K. Declarer subsequently lost a trump trick and two heart tricks.

Saintly status to **Enda Glynn** who declared 2 ♠ on the lead of ♣ Q. Declarer rose with dummy's ♣ A and then led ♠ Q which East correctly covered with ♠ K. Declarer subsequently lost a trump trick and two hearts tricks.

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table South declared 4♠ on the lead of ♣ 6, declarer winning in hand with ♣ 10. This declarer seemed to be oblivious to the potential four losers (2 trumps and 2 hearts) and simply played a trump to dummy's ♠ Q which lost to East's ♠ K. The defense can now defeat the contract by cashing two top hearts and declarer would then have paid for her careless play by not cashing ♣ K at trick two and then playing a diamond to dummy to cash ♣ A for a heart discard. BUT, East returned a club, which declarer won in hand with ♣ K. Declarer next cashed ♠ A and then played a diamond to dummy and cashed ♣ A, discarding a losing heart from hand. **Sinner** status to **South**. And East's continuation of a club? This could have been right if West originally held ♣ KJ65 and South held ♣ Q102 and only three diamonds whereas playing on hearts might see declarer establish ♥ 10 for the discard of a losing club!

At one table West led ♣ Q, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ A and then playing a spade to her ♠ A followed by a spade towards dummy's ♠ Q9...and declarer 'guessed' correctly to play ♠ 9.

At another table West led ♣ Q, declarer winning in hand with ♣ K and then playing a club to dummy's ♣ A. Declarer next led ♠ Q, East covering with ♠ K as declarer won with ♠ A. Declarer continued with a small spade towards dummy's ♠ 96. West ducked, in case partner held ♠ 10, as dummy's ♠ 9 won the trick. **Saintly** status to **Bernie O'Callaghan**, although perhaps it might have been better to win the first trick with dummy's ♣ A.

Saintly status also to **Susan Cranley** who won the club lead in hand with ♣ K and then played a diamond to dummy and led ♠ Q covered by East with ♠ K as declarer won with ♠ A. Declarer led ♠ 2 and West ducked, as dummy's ♠ 9 won the trick. Declarer continued with a spade to West's ♠ J. West now gave declarer an opportunity for an eleventh trick when he continued with ♣ 5 which declarer could have won in hand with ♣ 10 (West should have continued with ♣ J, pinning South's ♣ 10.) BUT, declarer had made a small but vital error when leading ♦ 6 at trick 2....declarer won with dummy's ♦ A instead of ♦ 10 or ♦ 9. Now declarer had no means of accessing dummy to cash the winning ♣ A whilst discarding a losing heart from hand! **Saintly** status slightly tarnished!

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table, West, defending 3♠ after North erred by bidding 2♥ (guaranteeing a five card suit!), found the unorthodox lead of ♥2. East won with ♥A and not surprisingly continued with ♥Q, crashing partner's ♥K and leaving North's ♥109 as a potential trick subject to ruffing out East's ♥J! West continued with ♣6 and declarer won in hand with ♣10. Declarer next led ♦6 and won with dummy's ♦A before continuing with a spade to her ♠8, West winning with ♠J. West continued with a small diamond, declarer winning in hand, PERFORCE, with ♦J. Declarer next played ♣K and (keyplay) overtook with dummy's ♣A. Declarer next led ♠9 as East followed with ♠K, declarer winning with ♠A. Declarer emerged with ten tricks and **Saintly** status to **declarer, Mary Moylan**, for taking the better line with the trump suit.

Saintly status to **Brendan King** who received the lead of ♦5 against his contract of ♠S. Declarer rose with dummy's ♦A and at trick two led ♠Q, covered by East's ♠K.

An interesting series of plays at one table where South opened 1♠ and North incorrectly bid 2♥ (this specific sequence guarantees five hearts...North should have bid 2♣ or 1NT. Alternatively, if playing five card majors, North could have responded 3♠). Anyway, South declared 2♠ on the lead of ♦5, dummy's ♦9 winning the trick. Declarer led ♠9 and East CORRECTLY played low ...If East had played ♠K declarer could win with ♠A and then lead ♠10 from hand trapping West's ♠J7. West won with ♠J and continued with ♣2, declarer winning in hand with ♣10. Declarer next cashed ♠A and got lucky when East's ♠K fell. Declarer should probably have played a diamond or club to dummy and repeated the spade finesse! As a consequence declarer was able to draw West's last trump and then cash ♣K and enter dummy with ♦A and discard a heart loser on dummy's ♣A. West's small club return was costly...leading ♣Q would have been better. Note also that in this instance if declarer won the club return in hand and cashed ♠A the contract would have failed if ♠K did not drop as declarer would now lose a second trump and would have no way of avoiding two heart losers. Not a convincing display by declarer who started well by finessing ♠9 but should have repeated the spade finesse at next opportunity! Declarer was also lucky in so far as West held both ♣Q and ♣J thus gifting declarer a soft trick with ♣10 and enabling ♣A as a discard opportunity for a losing heart.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 8 4 2
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A J
♣ A Q J 3

♠ 7 6
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A Q J 10 5
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ 10
♣ 10 9 5

♠ K 9 3
♥ 6
♦ K 9 8 7 3 2
♣ K 8 2

N/S can make either 3 NT or 5 ♦. And yes, N/S can also make 1 ♠ and in fact can make eight tricks unless E/W start the defense with two rounds of spades. On a non-spade lead, declarer wins and cashes ♥ A and ruffs a heart. Declarer next plays a club to the North hand and ruffs another heart with ♠ 9. Declarer next cashes all remaining high-card winners and then leads North's fourth heart (or club) and scores the eighth trick, *en-passant*, with dummy's stiff ♠ K, thus giving declarer ♥ A and 3 ruffs, ♦ A and 3 clubs. Magic! The lead of ♠ A and a spade continuation restricts declarer to ♥ A and a single heart ruff in addition to ♠ K, ♦ A and 3 clubs.

It is more likely that N/S will contract 3 NT or 5 ♦. In 3 NT, declarer can score 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds (finesse ♦ J), 4 clubs. Note that on a heart lead E/W can score 3 hearts and ♠ A. Alternatively, and depending on the opening lead, declarer can score 5 diamond tricks, 4 clubs, 1 spade, 1 heart.

On the lead of a spade, possible if West has bid the suit, best defense is for East to play ♠ 10 which declarer must win and immediately take a finesse of ♦ J. Declarer then cashes ♦ A and plays a club to ♣ K, cashes ♦ K and then cashes all remaining winners to emerge with nine tricks. NOTE, if declarer ducks ♠ 10 then East can switch to a heart giving the defense 3 hearts and 2 spades before declarer can score nine tricks!

Declaring 5 ♦ requires care. On a spade lead declarer must win at first opportunity, either at trick one if East plays ♠ 10 or at trick two if East wins ♠ A and continues with another spade. Declarer can then succeed by finessing ♦ J and cashing ♦ A and then returning to hand safely (♥ A and a heart ruff) before continuing with ♦ K leaving West with a winning ♦ Q. NOTE...if East plays ♠ 10 at trick one then declarer must be extra careful. After cashing ♦ K, declarer MUST play four rounds of clubs discarding a losing spade from hand. If, instead, declarer continues with a fourth diamond to West's ♦ Q then West would win the trick and play their second spade and East would cash two spade winners thus defeating the contract! Note that the singleton ♦ 10 with East means that declarer can play a diamond to dummy's ♦ A, dropping East's ♦ 10 and then continue with ♦ J, overtaking with ♦ K and then playing ♦ 9 to West's ♦ Q. Note that this line would fail if East played ♠ 10 at trick one. West could win the third diamond and, as outlined above, continue with their second spade thus enabling East to cash two spade tricks. This is a hand with fatal traps for an unsuspecting declarer!

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

Saints & Sinners

Eleven of 20 N/S pairs reached 3 NT of which only five declarers were successful, scoring nine, ten or eleven tricks!

At one table North opened 1♣, East overcalled 1♠, South bid 1NT, North raised to 2NT which South raised to 3NT. West led ♠7 and East rose with ♠A and continued with ♠Q, declarer playing ♠K and very relieved when West followed with ♠6, suggesting an original holding of a doubleton rather than three spades. Declarer now played a diamond to dummy's ♦A, happy to see East follow with ♦10. Declarer next played ♦J, overtaking with ♦K in hand and then continuing with ♦9, West winning with ♦Q. With no spade left to play, West continued with ♣6 and declarer claimed. Eleven tricks made. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Enda Glynn**.

At another table South opened 2♦ (Weak) and North jumped to 3NT. East started with ♠A (♠Q recommended) and continued with ♠Q at trick two, declarer winning with dummy's ♠K. Declarer now played a diamond to her ♦A and continued with ♦J, crucially overtaking with dummy's ♦K before continuing with ♦7 to West's ♦Q. West switched to ♥J (denying ♥Q!) which declarer won with her ♥A. Declarer now wrapped up 11 tricks via 1 spade, 1 heart, 5 diamonds, 4 clubs. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Fiona Place**.


At another table North opened 1NT (Strong) and South raised to 3NT. East led ♠A (♠Q recommended) and continued with ♠Q which declarer ducked. Declarer won the spade continuation with dummy's ♠K as West discarded ♣4. Declarer played a diamond to ♦A in hand and continued with ♦J overtaking with dummy's ♦K. West won the third diamond with ♦Q and declarer duly scored the rest of the tricks. **Saintly** status to **Carmel Musitano**.

At one table North opened 1♣ (Strong, 16+) and East overcalled 1♠ with South eventually contracting 3NT. West led ♠7 and East rose with ♠A (♠10 is better) and then continued with ♠Q and a third spade to North's ♠K. Declarer next played a diamond to dummy's ♦A and continued with ♦J, overtaking with ♦K and conceding a trick to West's ♦Q and then making the rest of the tricks. **Saintly** status to **Michael O'Connor**.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

Saints & Sinners

At another table North declared 3 NT after East overcalled 1 ♠. At this table East led ♠ A and continued with ♠ Q which declarer won with dummy's ♠ K. Declarer next played a diamond to ♦ J and then cashed ♦ A. And now the diamonds were blocked! Yes declarer could play a club to dummy's ♣ K and then cash ♦ K and play a fourth diamond but there was no other entry to dummy to cash the winning diamonds. Declarer emerged with nine tricks. Finessing the ♦ J could lead to losing the trick to a singleton ♦ Q in the East hand and thus enable East to cash several spade to defeat the contract. Playing for diamonds to be 3-2, or for either defender to hold a singleton ♦ Q or ♦ 10, and also with the option of running ♦ J into West, who cannot make a harmful return, seems the safer option.

At another table North opened 1 ♣, East overcalled 1 ♠ and South eventually declared 3 NT. West led ♠ 7 and East made the excellent play of ♠ 10...and for declarer the moment of truth had arrived! Declarer won the trick with ♠ K and could still make the contract by finessing ♦ J thereby scoring 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 4 clubs. BUT, declarer sealed his fate by cashing four clubs, East discarding ♥ 10 while West discarded ♦ 6 as declarer discarded ♠ 3. With ♣ K already played, declarer had no realistic chance of bringing in 3 or more diamonds unless either defender was holding a doubleton ♦ Q10. Even a singleton ♦ Q was no longer of any use because declarer no longer had an outside entry to his hand! Declarer cashed ♦ A and ♦ K and then conceded the remaining tricks to the defense. South could, have ducked the ♠ 10 and then won a spade continuation thus cutting communications between E/W. HOWEVER, E/W could counter by switching to a heart at trick two thus setting up three hearts and two spade winners. BUT declarer could always have made nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table North opened 1 NT and East bid 2 ♠. South bid 3 ♦ and North bid 3 ♥ after which South bid 3 NT. East led ♠ Q which held the trick and continued with ♠ J which declarer won with ♠ K. Declarer next killed any chance of making the contract when he cashed ♣ K, the only entry in dummy for any diamond winners! Belatedly, declarer played a diamond to his ♦ A and then led ♦ J, rising with dummy's ♦ K as East discarded ♥ 4. Declarer next cashed all his remaining winners, conceding the last four tricks to East for one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

Saints & Sinners

At another table North opened 1 NT and South raised to 3 NT after East Passed. East led ♠ Q which held the trick and continued with ♠ J which also won. East then cashed ♠ A and two more spades to defeat the contract by one trick. Top marks and **Saintly** status to **East, Marion Coy**, for a good lead and continuation. This is not an uncommon situation and declarer may have been playing for West hold ♠ Ax or ♠ Axx which would limit the defense to two or possibly three spade tricks unless East had an outside entry. Rising with ♠ K on the second round means that declarer cannot lose five spades unless East started with a doubleton ♠ QJ. If West wins the second round and returns a spade then the suit is breaking 4-3. West should rise with ♠ K on second round.

At another table North opened 1 ♣, East overcalled 1 ♠ and South bid 2 ♦. North reversed with 2 ♥ and South bid 3 ♦ over which North bid 3 ♠. South closed the bidding with 3 NT. West led ♥ 2 which puts declarer under pressure as to how to proceed in order to score nine tricks. Declarer can count 1 heart, 2 diamonds, 4 clubs...declarer needs to manufacture another two tricks but has to be careful not to lose more than four tricks! It can be done! But first let's see what declarer actually did... Declarer rose with ♥ A and cashed ♦ A and continued with ♦ J, rising with ♦ K when East showed out on the second diamond. Declarer could have continued with ♦ 9 losing to West's ♦ K and settled for one down with the defenders scoring 1 spade, 3 hearts and 1 diamond. BUT, declarer proceeded to cash four club tricks as East and West each discarded a spade. Declarer then led a spade from dummy. East rose with ♠ A and then cashed ♥ K and continued with a heart to West's ♥ J. West next cashed ♥ Q and declarer was finding discards difficult and eventually discarded two diamonds from hand whilst keeping ♠ K thus leaving West to score the last two tricks with ♦ Q6. Declarer finished two down! Declarer should have noted the lead...♥ 2 suggesting that the hearts were breaking 4-4. Secondly, declarer should have noted West's spade discard on the fourth club and that West also followed with a spade when declarer led a spade from dummy. West's hand is now an open book... 4 hearts, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs and hence only 2 spades. So, in the end game declarer should have discarded SK and retained ♦ 98 which would have scored the last trick. To make the contract on a heart lead declarer needs to win ♥ A, play a spade towards ♠ K and subsequently finesse ♦ J whilst retaining ♣ K as an entry to cash the ♦ K. And note that the defense can only cash ♠ A and 3 heart tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 8 4 2
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A J
♣ A Q J 3

♠ 7 6
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A Q J 10 5
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ 10
♣ 10 9 5

♠ K 9 3
♥ 6
♦ K 9 8 7 3 2
♣ K 8 2

Saints & Sinners

At another table North opened 1 NT and South raised directly to 3 NT. East led ♠ A and continued with ♠ Q, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ K. Declarer killed any prospect of making the contract by cashing ♣ K at trick three... Declarer next cashed three more clubs, East discarding ♦ 10 on the fourth round. Declarer then made the extraordinary play of leading ♦ J and letting it run to West's ♦ Q (even if it won the suit was still blocked!). West now switched to a heart and declarer rose with ♥ A. Declarer next exited on a spade and E/W now cashed three spades and three hearts leaving declarer with six tricks and the remarkable fact of not scoring even one diamond! **Sinner** status to **declarer** who clearly played too quickly and without forming any clear plan of play!

At three tables North opened 1 ♣, East overcalled 1 ♠, South bid 2 ♦ and North **Reversed** with 2 ♥ showing 16+ hcp. All three South's simply re-bid 3 ♦ instead of trying 3 NT or bidding 3 ♠. Also, North might have bid 2 ♠ over South's 2 ♦ given that South's 2 ♦ bid shows 9+ hcp albeit South originally Passed so the upper limit is likely to be 10-11 hcp. **Sinner** status to the three N/S **partnerships** for missing a vulnerable game. All declarers made eleven tricks.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

Saints & Sinners

At another table South declared 3♦ and scored only ten tricks when forgetting to draw West's last diamond which West used to ruff the fourth round of clubs! Careless play by declarer and **Sinner** status duly awarded to **South**.

At one table South declared 3♦ after East overcalled 1♠. West led ♠ 7 and East played ♠ Q (♠ 10 is better) as declarer won with ♠ K. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♦ J and ran it in to West who won with ♦ Q. West continued with a second spade and East's play at trick one was rewarded when East won with ♠ A and then cashed ♠ J. East continued with another good play by playing a fourth round of spades. Declarer erred by ruffing with ♦ 9 in hand instead of ruffing with dummy's stiff ♦ A. Declarer next played a trump to dummy's ♦ A and then led a heart ruffing in hand with ♦ 7. Declarer neglected to draw West's outstanding trumps and duly suffered a club ruff to leave declarer with a mere nine tricks instead of eleven. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=; NS 5♦=

Saints & Sinners

At another table North opened 1 NT and East overcalled 2 ♠ (showing BOTH major suits is better if you have an appropriate conventional bid in your armoury!). South led her singleton heart and North rose with ♥ A and returned ♥ 7 which South ruffed. South continued with a diamond to North's ♦ A and North returned ♥ 3 (surely a suit-preference signal for a club!) which South ruffed with ♠ 9. South, who obviously ignored the bidding, tried to cash ♦ K with declarer ruffing and then cashing ♠ A, felling South's ♠ K. A club return by South after ruffing the second heart would see North win with ♣ A and give South a third heart ruff with ♠ K. N/S South could then cash two more club winners inflicting a THREE trick defeat on declarer. Declarer ultimately finished two down. **Saintly** status to N/S with **Sinner** status to **South** for trying to cash ♦ K knowing that East cannot have a second diamond... When you hold six cards in a suit and can see 4 of the suit in dummy and where partner has opened 1 NT then clearly declarer has AT MOST one card in that suit! *Counting, counting...all the time!*

What a diverse set of results on one board!

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul

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

	♠ 10 9 4
	♥ K J 5 2
	♦ Q 9 4 2
	♣ Q J

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



NS 3♣; EW 1N; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +110: NS 3♣=