

TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 14th 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# 4, 7, 8, 9, 14, 21, 23, 24

Note that the review of Board# 8, 9 are covered in a single page whereas the analysis of Board# 7, 24 extend over 9 and 6 pages respectively.

Board#4 was a tricky 4 ♥ which some declarers failed to navigate successfully

Board #7 sees various contracts declared by both partnerships at the table and there is analysis of the associated declarer play. However it also features an interesting defensive problem which was faced by a couple of players in the West seat where, at trick twelve, they have to choose which of two master cards, in separate suits, they must discard! A very common situation for many bridge players. Some suggestions as to how you can arrive at the right decision.

Board#8 saw opportunities for declarer and the defense in a 4S contract which requires a favourable lead or a defensive slip-up to make. Both happened!

Board#9 saw one N/S pair bid a poor slam and then confirm that if you overbid them you have to be able to play them! This South did just that!

Board#14 should have been a standard 3 NT, making ten or eleven tricks when missing ♣ AK and with ♠ Q654 sitting over declarer's ♠ AJ83. And yet one declarer made all thirteen tricks and four more emerged with twelve tricks even though neither declarer nor dummy had a suit of more than 4 cards in length!

Board#21 saw several declarers fail in a 4 ♥ where the trump suit consisted of ♥ Q83 v ♥ AK109632 and yet several declarers lost a trick to ♥ J...and No, the hearts didn't break 3-0!

Board#23 saw another heart hand where the limit should be nine tricks yet some declarers emerged with ten and others who should have scored ten only made nine!

Board#24 where both declarer and the defense had a chance to shine and only some did

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell

21st January 2021

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

E 3♠; W 2♠; E 2♥; NS 2♦; E 2♣; W 1♥; W 1♣; Par -140: E 3♠=

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par -1100: NS 6♠×-4

E/W are likely to reach a heart contract. Yes, 6♥ can be made but the Small Slam is unlikely to be bid...and some declarers would fail to make the requisite twelve tricks. If declarer cashes ♥K and then plays ♣A and continues with ♣K before trumps have been drawn, North will ruff leaving South with a losing diamond in addition to a losing spade. On the other hand a cautious declarer may cash ♣A and then ruff a small club in hand and next cash ♥A, felling North's ♥Q, and still have ♦K as an entry to dummy's ♣K for a diamond discard. Note also that on a diamond lead declarer could run into a subsequent ruff by South.

Many (a real many!) years ago when I was learning bridge from my parents I always remember my father pointing out that where there is a singleton in one hand there is likely to be a singleton in at least one other suit in another hand at the table. In this example all four players have a singleton! Indeed East has two singletons. Tread carefully!

4♠ by N/S offers a good save against the heart game. But declarer will need to be careful to secure eight tricks. Losing five tricks is okay but losing six tricks will be expensive... a three trick defeat will cost -800. A cross-ruff, after cashing one top trump, will produce eight tricks. But a trump lead could thwart that plan in which case declarer will have to place East with two diamond honours and play for a ruffing finesse.

Saints & Sinners

A heart contract was played at 20 of 22 tables in play with five E/W pairs failing to reach game! **Sinner** status to the **five Easts**. Once West opens the bidding, East should not fail to bid 4♥.

One declarer scored all thirteen tricks. West opened 1♣, North overcalled 1♠, East bid 2♥, South bid 2♠ which was Passed back to East who bid 3♥ (3♦ is better). North bid 3♠ and East bid 4♥. South led ♦10, declarer winning in hand and then playing a trump to dummy's ♥K. Declarer next cashed ♣A and continued with a small club, North ruffing with ♥Q as declarer overruffed with ♥A. Declarer drew trumps and played a diamond to dummy's ♦K, **South showing out**, discarded ♠Q on ♣K and ruffed a club. In the end game North retained ♠A whilst discarding the winning ♦J despite knowing declarer's last card was a diamond! **Sinner** status to **North**. **Saintly** status to **Kathleen Lovely**.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par -1100: NS 6♠×-4

Saints & Sinners

Six declarers in 4♥ made twelve tricks. At four of these tables declarer received a spade lead and continuation and the four declarers played safely and emerged with twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to **Breda, Eddie, Orla, Kevin**. At another table a spade was led and North switched to ♣ Q at trick two. Again, declarer played safely and duly emerged with twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to **Kaye Duddy**.

At the sixth table, South led ♦ 10, declarer winning in hand and then playing a heart to dummy's Hk. Declarer, a BBO Robot, next led a spade, North rising with ♠ A (denying ♠ K!!!) as declarer following with ♠ Q. North who had overcalled 1♠ and saw partner bid a pre-emptive 3♠ should have wondered why South made the opening lead of ♦ 10 instead of a spade...**Sinner** status to **North** who failed to grasp the opportunity to give partner a diamond ruff and woodenly continued with a spade. And **Sinner** status also to **BBO Robot**.

At four tables declarer emerged with only eleven tricks. At one table declarer failed to cash a third round of trumps and South scored an unexpected diamond ruff. **Sinner** status to **declarer for lack of concentration**. At the other three tables, declarer attempted to cash two top clubs BEFORE drawing trumps...North ruffed the second club with ♥ Q and South subsequently lost a diamond and a spade. **Sinner** status to the **respective declarers** for careless play.

At two table South led ♦ 10 and both declarers rose with dummy's ♦ K, cashed ♥ K, and attempted to cash ♣ AK, North ruffing the second club with ♥ Q. In both cases declarer discarded ♠ Q. North returned a small diamond and both declarers rose with an honour only to see it ruffed by South. The declarers subsequently had to lose another diamond to North and both duly emerged with only ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **both declarers**. Yes, declarers could deem themselves unlucky...both defenders holding minor suits singletons. But safety should have determined the play at both tables.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par -1100: NS 6♠×-4

Saints & Sinners

At another table North made a Take Out Double of West's 1♣ opening (a two-suited overcall or a simple 1♠ is more appropriate). East bid 1♥ and over West's 2♣ rebid East simply bid 3♥...should bid 3♦ or 4♥. South led ♦ 10, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ K. Declarer next cashed ♥ K and then continued with a diamond, North rising with ♦ J as declarer played ♦ Q from hand...and South ruffed with ♥ 7. South continued with a spade to North's ♠ K and North then continued with ♦ 7 and declarer was in a lose-lose situation. Cover with ♦ A and South would ruff and declarer would still lose a diamond to North...fail to cover and North would continue with another diamond. Declarer emerged with a mere nine tricks. Unlucky perhaps, but declarer should have been suspicious about South's lead of ♦ 10, in particular given North's Take-Out Double which surely marks North with diamond support and therefore South with a likely shortage. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At one table East declared 4♥ after North overcalled 1♠, South raising to 2♠ after East bid 2♥, West bid 3♣, North bid 3♠ and East closed the bidding with 4♥. South made the tell-tale lead of ♦ 10, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ K. Declarer next cashed ♣ AK, North ruffing the second club with ♥ 8 as declarer elected to discard ♠ Q. North continued with ♦ 7, South ruffing declarer's ♦ A with ♥ 2. South continued with ♣ 7, North ruffing with ♥ Q as declarer overruffed with ♥ A. Despite the shaky start declarer is still on course to make the contract as long as she proceeds with care. At this point declarer holds H♥ J106543, ♦ Q6 while dummy holds ♠ 543, ♥ K, ♦ 5, ♣ 1064. South holds ♠ J1076, ♥ 97, ♣ J9. North's hand is irrelevant. Declarer played ♥ 3, South following with ♥ 7 as dummy's ♥ K wins. Declarer could now lead a spade or a club, ruffing in hand, knowing that South has to follow suit, draw trumps, cash ♦ Q and concede a diamond to North and still emerge with ten tricks. BUT, with seven cards left in dummy, declarer continued with the only card that would result in defeat...declarer led dummy's diamond, knowing South was void in the suit, and was forced to rise with ♦ Q when North followed with ♦ 9, South ruffing with ♥ 9. Declarer subsequently had to concede a diamond to North for a one trick defeat! Very careless play by **declarer** who duly earns **Sinner** status. Leading any other black card from dummy would have seen declarer ruff in hand, draw trumps and score ten tricks!

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par -1100: NS 6♠×-4

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♣, North overcalled 1♠, East bid 4♥ and South bid 4♠ which became the final contract. At the very least East should have Doubled. The list of makeable contracts above suggests that N/S can make eight tricks, at most, in a spade contract...but that is based on double-dummy defense. At the table East led ♥A, crashing partner's ♥K. East continued with a heart which West ruffed with ♠3. West cashed ♣A and then switched to ♦3, East winning with ♦Q. East continued with ♥10, West ruffing unnecessarily with ♠5 as declarer overruffed with ♠8. Declarer drew the remaining trumps when she cashed ♠A. Declarer then cross-ruffed diamonds and clubs, establishing her ♦J as a winner to take the last trick and emerged with nine tricks. **Saintly** status to **Marlene** (North) and **Michael** (South).

At another table North declared 4♠ after West opened 1♣, North overcalled 1♠, East bid 2♥, South bid 3♠ and North raised to 4♠. East led ♣8, West winning with ♣K. West continued with ♣A and declarer ruffed with ♠2, East overruffing with ♠Q. East cashed ♥A as West discarded ♦5. East next cashed ♦A, the fifth trick for the defense, leaving declarer to score the remaining tricks and registering a deficit of -200 BUT gaining +5.29 IMPs for N/S. **Saintly** status to N/S, **Ali** and **Marion**.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

North can make 1 ♥ whereas South can make 2 ♥ (if bidding system allows that to happen!). If North declares 2 ♥ then in order to defeat the contract East must lead a spade, West playing ♠ J if declarer plays low from dummy. North can win with ♠ A and play a heart to dummy's ♥ A. Declarer can then lead a spade and West will win. At this stage West must switch to ♣ Q, East overtaking and cashing a second top club and then a third club which West must ruff with ♥ J. This will provide an 'uppercut' and ensure a trump trick for East's ♥ 1062. Declarer will overruff with ♥ Q, cash ♥ K and should subsequently lose three diamonds and a trump to East's ♥ 10. Thus the defense score 1 spade, 1 trump, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs and hold declarer to six tricks. Note re the diamond suit...if declarer plays a third trump to East's ♥ 10 then East exits on a club forcing declarer to ruff and play another diamond from hand, West winning with ♦ Q and then cashing ♦ A. A double-dummy defense, of course! Expect the actual results at the table to be different!

Saints & Sinners

A heart contract was played at thirteen tables. Only three declarers made less than eight tricks! At one table West opened 1 ♦, North doubled (Wrong...with only 2 spades and 2 clubs North should simply overcall 1 ♥). East bid 2 ♣ and South Doubled (not sure what this is supposed to be. It's hardly a Penalty Double with ♣ 7654! North has already shown spade support via the Takeout Double. South can bid 2 ♠). West bid 2 ♠ (A **Reverse Bid** promising 16+ hcp!!!) and North bid 3 ♥, perhaps encouraged by partner's Double of East's 2 ♣! All Passed. East led ♦ J and North made the good play of ducking, declarer winning with ♦ K. [Declarer could have played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and returned to hand with ♠ A, drawn the opponents trumps and claimed eight tricks!...]...BUT declarer found a route to seven tricks! After winning ♦ K declarer next made the unusual play of ♠ A followed by ♠ 10, West winning the second spade with ♠ J. West cashed ♦ A and then erred by not cashing ♦ Q and instead switched to ♣ Q which held the trick. West continued with a fourth diamond, declarer discarding ♣ 10 from hand whilst ruffing with ♥ A in dummy. Declarer next led ♠ 8 from dummy, West following with ♠ K which declarer ruffed with ♥ 9, East overruffing with ♥ 10. East now played ♣ A which declarer ruffed in hand with ♥ 3, cashed ♥ KQ, and duly conceded a trick to West's ♥ J. Note that E/W scored TWO trump tricks. Declarer could have avoided that by playing a heart to dummy's ♥ K at trick two and then a spade to hand and cashed ♥ KQ, stripping both defenders of their trumps. **Sinner** status to declarer.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1♥, East bid 2♣, South bid 2♠, West passed and North bid 3♥ which closed the auction. East led ♣ A, continued with ♣ K, West discarding a diamond and continued with ♣ 8. East, unaware of the location of ♣ J9, should have ruffed with ♥ J but instead discarded another small diamond as declarer ruffed with ♥ 3. Declarer could emerge with eight tricks by playing a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then leading a diamond towards her ♦ K86, eventually drawing the opponents trumps and so scoring 1 spade, 6 hearts and 1 diamond. BUT, declarer led a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led a club from dummy. West should ruff with ♥ J, but actually discarded ♠ 4 as declarer ruffed in hand with ♥ 5. Declarer next cashed ♥ K and then erred by failing to cash ♥ Q and continued with ♠ A and ♠ 10 to dummy's ♠ Q, West winning with ♠ K. West continued with ♠ J, declarer ruffing with ♥ 9 as East overruffed with ♥ 10. Declarer is now in BIG trouble: declarer holds ♥ Q, ♦ K86. East holds ♦ J7, ♣ J9 and West holds ♥ J, ♦ AQ9. The defense can take THREE of the last four tricks! This is how...East continues with ♣ J and West only has to discard ♦ 9 forcing declarer to win with ♥ Q. Declarer can lead a diamond and East can rise with ♦ J, cash ♣ 9 and West will score the last trick with ♥ J. BUT this is what happened: Yes, East did lead ♣ J, BUT West erroneously ruffed with ♥ J while declarer discarded a diamond from hand. West was now forced to cash ♦ A and concede a diamond to North's ♦ K. Declarer won the last trick with ♥ Q and so escaped with seven tricks instead of six. West should have known that when partner led ♣ J that all trumps except ♥ Q and West's ♥ J were already played. Thus by discarding a diamond instead of ruffing declarer would have been forced to ruff with ♥ Q or discard a diamond. And East could then continue with ♣ 7 and West could discard ♦ Q leaving declarer to ruff with ♥ Q or discard another diamond. No matter what declarer did she should only have been able to score one of the last four tricks! Declarer could have been held to SIX tricks and instead emerged with seven where once she could have scored eight! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and also to **West**. Yes, this is a finer point of defense and keeping track of cards played in several suits is not always easy but it can be so rewarding when mastered!

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♦, North bid 1♥, East Passed and South bid 1♠. North bid 2♥ and that closed the auction. East, a BBO robot, led ♦ J, West (another BBO Robot) overtaking with ♦ A. West switched to ♣ Q, East overtaking with ♣ K and continuing with ♦ 7, declarer playing ♦ 4 from dummy, West contributing ♦ 9 as declarer won with ♦ K. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 10 to West's ♠ J as East completed a hi-lo. West cashed ♦ Q and continued with ♠ K, declarer ruffing with ♥ 5, East overruffing with ♥ 6. West now cashed ♣ A to take the defenders tally to six tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the other extreme, one declarer ended up with ten tricks courtesy of a less than challenging defense! West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1♥, East bid 2♣ which South Doubled (?). West re-bid 2♦ and North closed the auction with 2♥. East led three top clubs, West discarding two small diamonds. Declarer ruffed the third trick with ♥ 3 and then led a trump to dummy's ♥ A and then led a diamond, West rising with ♦ A. West now played a small spade which declarer won in hand with ♠ 10 as West followed with ♠ 3. Declarer now cashed ♥ KQ, drawing the opponents trumps whilst discarding a diamond and a spade from dummy. Declarer then cashed ♠ A, East following with ♠ 6 and then cashed ♦ K, East following with ♦ J. Declarer next cashed her last two trumps, East discarding two clubs as declarer discarded a club and a spade from dummy, leaving dummy with ♠ Q. West was now holding ♠ K, ♦ A...and was faced with making a discard... and West got it wrong and discarded ♦ Q leaving declarer to win the last trick with ♦ 8 in her hand. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Marion Coy**, who played the hand excellently, in particular by leading a diamond from dummy after winning the first trump trick with ♥ A. BUT, as is frequently the case in this type of situation, the player that has to make the crucial discard seems to be faced with an imponderable decision. Rubbish! Certainly in this case. Why so? Because it was all self-evident at trick nine. Which one was that I hear you ask? It was when declarer cashed ♠ A. What was so significant I hear you wonder? It wasn't the ♠ A that provided the vital clue...it was when partner followed with ♠ 6!!! How many spades were in dummy? ...five! How many does West hold?...four, meaning there are only four other spades to be accounted for. When declarer wins one trick with ♠ 10 and then plays ♠ A and **East follows to both**, then West knows that declarer has no more spades. Her last card must be a diamond! **Sinner** status to **West**. *Counting, counting...all the time!*

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At five tables declarer emerged with nine tricks! At one table West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1♥, East bid 2♣, South Passed, West re-bid 2♠ and North closed the auction with 3♥. East led ♣ A and continued with ♣ 3...better to continue with another top club! West ruffed with ♥ 7, cashed ♦ A and continued with ♦ Q, crashing partner's ♦ J as North won with ♦ K and dummy's ♦ 10 was now established as a winner! Declarer now played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and continued with a spade, West contributing ♠ J as declarer won in hand with ♠ A and then cashed ♥ KQ, West discarding ♦ 3 on the second heart. Declarer conceded a spade to West's ♠ K but claimed nine tricks via 1 spade, 6 hearts, 2 diamonds! **Sinner** status to **West** who should have continued with a small diamond rather than ♦ Q.

At another table West opened 1♦ and North overcalled 2♥ which became the final contract. East cashed two top clubs, West discarding ♦ 5 on the second trick. East now switched to ♦ J, West rising with ♦ A and then making the mistake of continuing with ♦ 3, declarer letting it run to dummy's ♦ 10. [West should have switched to a trump rather than play a second diamond when ♦ 104 is clearly visible in dummy!] **Sinner** status to **West**.

At one table West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1♥, East bid 2♣, South Passed, West re-bid 2♦ and North bid 2♥ which was followed by three Passes. East led ♦ J and West rose with ♦ A and continued with ♦ 3. Declarer erred by playing ♦ K from hand instead of letting the trick run to dummy's ♦ 10....**Sinner** status to **declarer**. A heart to dummy's ♥ A was followed by the lead of ♠ 2, West contributing spade ♠ 4, declarer winning with ♠ A when ♠ 10 would have won the trick. Declarer next cashed ♥ KQ and continued with ♠ 10 to West's ♠ J. West continued with ♣ Q, East overtaking with ♣ A. East continued with ♣ K followed by ♣ J, declarer ruffing the second club in hand with ♥ 4 as West discarded ♦ 5. Declarer cashed his two remaining trumps and discarded ♦ 10 and ♠ 9 from dummy, leaving dummy with ♠ Q ...and West was faced with discarding ♦ Q or ♠ K...and like the previous West, discarded the wrong card and so declarer won the last trick with ♦ 8. In addition to the aforementioned clarifying picture re the spade suit West should also have noted that West switched to ♦ J suggesting a holding of ♦ J7 rather than ♦ J87. But the layout of the spade suit (and hence declarer's diamond distribution) is so simple and so clear-cut that everything else is superfluous. **Sinner** status to **West**.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♦ and North overcalled 1♥, East Passed, South bid 1♠, West Passed and North re-bid 2♥. East cashed ♣ AK, West discarding ♦ 3 on the second trick. East switched to ♦ J, West ducking as North won with ♦ K. Declarer played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♠ Q, West covering with ♠ K as declarer won with ♠ A, East following with ♠ 3. Declarer next cashed ♥ KQ9, discarding a diamond and two spades from dummy. West discarded ♦ 9 on the third heart. Declarer now exited on a diamond, West winning with ♦ Q and then cashing ♦ A. At this point E/W have scored 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. West holds ♠ J74 and can see ♠ 98, ♣ 7 in dummy. But what does West know about declarer's distribution...declarer has already shown 1 spade, 3 diamonds, surely has 6 hearts, and has followed to 2 clubs. But surely when East had the chance she would have cashed three clubs instead of two if North held 3 clubs. Hence we can place only two clubs with declarer in which case declarer has only two spades. Declarer's last three cards must be ♥ 54 and ONE spade. West should cash ♠ J. BUT, perhaps persuaded by the doubleton ♠ 98 in dummy, West decided to play a small spade hoping that partner held ♠ 10. Faulty thinking. Declarer won with ♠ 10 and cashed two trumps for a total of nine tricks! **Sinner** status to **West**.

At the fifth table West opened 1♦, North bid 1♥, East bid 2♣, South Passed, West rebid 2♦ and North closed the auction with 2♥. East cashed two top clubs, West discarding ♦ 3 on the second trick. East now switched to ♦ J, West rising with ♦ A and then making the mistake of continuing with ♦ 5, declarer's ♦ 8 winning the trick. Declarer played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led a club, leaving herself open to an uppercut by West (ruff with ♥ J) which would promote East's ♥ 10 as a winner! Unfortunately for the defense, West ruffed with ♥ 8 instead of ♥ J, declarer overruffing with ♥ 9. [Note: Declarer could have prevented this possibility arising by returning to hand with a spade rather than playing a club!] Declarer now cashed ♥ KQ54, ♠ A, ♦ K and conceded a spade to West. **Sinner** status to **West** (for not ruffing with ♥ J) and to **declarer** for not returning to hand with ♠ A instead of leading the club which left her open to an uppercut from West's ♥ J!

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At one table East declared 3♣ after West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1♥, East bid 2♣, West bid 2♦, North repeated her hearts and East closed the auction with 3♣. South led ♥A and continued with ♠2 to dummy's ♠J and North's ♠A. North cashed ♥KQ as South discarded two diamonds. North then erred by leading a diamond into dummy's ♦AQ953 and thus the defense's diamond trick evaporated. North should have switched to a trump. Nine tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table the bidding reached dizzy heights! West opened 1♦, North overcalled 2♥, East bid 3♣, West incorrectly **Reversed** with 3♠ and East closed the auction with 4♣. South led ♥A, switched to ♠9, dummy's ♠J and North's ♠A. North cashed ♥KQ, South discarding a spade and a diamond. North continued with ♠10 and declarer could not avoid losing a diamond to North's ♦K for a two trick defeat. **Saintly** status to N/S, **Liam & Colette**, for an accurate defense.

At five tables West played a diamond contract with declarers emerging with 7, 8 or, in one case, a whopping ten tricks! At one table, West declared 2♦ after North overcalled 1♥ and East bid 2♣. North led ♣10 and perhaps declarer played too fast by letting it run to her ♣Q. [Declarer could have risen with a top club from dummy and then played two more rounds, discarding two hearts from hand.] Declarer next cashed ♦A and continued with a diamond to dummy's now stiff ♦J, North playing low and dummy's ♦J winning. Declarer next cashed ♣A, discarding a heart from hand and continued with a spade to her ♠K and North's ♠A. South continued with ♣6 affording declarer the opportunity to discard her remaining heart as North was forced to ruff with ♦K. North continued with ♠10 to South's ♠Q. South next played ♠9, declarer winning with ♠J. Declarer emerged with eight tricks. **Now**...back to trick three when declarer led a diamond to dummy's stiff ♦J. If North rises then dummy's clubs are no longer accessible by declarer. Did South show count on the first club trick? If she showed an odd number then South has either 2 or 4. If only 2 then declarer has 3. BUT, if 4 then declarer has only one. South should rise with ♦K and return a trump leaving it to declarer to open hearts and/or spades. Declarer could lose three spades and three hearts and would suffer a two trick defeat. **Sinner** status to N/S ...and **Sinner** status also to **declarer** for not rising with ♣A (or ♣K) at trick one and playing two more rounds, discarding hearts from hand.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♦, North overcalled 1H, East bid 2C, South Passed and West correctly re-bid 2♦ and not 2♠ which would be a **Reverse Bid**. North made the unfortunate lead of ♠ A and continued with ♥ K which gifted declarer another trick when South won the trick with ♥ A. Unfortunately North has no quick entry (♠ A would have been useful!). South switched to a small diamond and declarer ducked, North winning with ♦ K. North failed to appreciate the heart position (why did South overtake with ♥ A at trick one and why didn't South continue with a heart at trick two?) and continued with a second diamond, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ J. Declarer next led dummy's remaining spade and could have finessed ♠ J but chose to rise with ♠ K. Declarer cashed D♦ A, discarding ♥ 6 from dummy and continued with ♦ 9 on which North discarded ♥ 3, declarer jettisoned dummy's ♥ 10 (MISTAKE!) and South discarded ♠ 8. So, why is it a mistake for declarer to discard ♥ 10? After cashing ♦ A declarer holds ♠ J7, ♥ J8, ♦ Q9, ♣ Q while dummy holds ♥ 10, ♣ AKJ983. This leaves seven tricks to be played. Declarer can count ♦ Q9 and dummy's ♣ AKJ as definite winners BUT will only claim the remaining two tricks if opponents clubs break 3-3 OR if ♣ 10 falls on first two rounds. If ♣ 10 does not fall then declarer could end up losing to ♣ 10 AND either ♠ Q OR ♥ Q. BUT, if declarer retains dummy's ♥ 10 and discards a surplus club (only four club winners are needed to win all the remaining tricks) then declarer can discard ♠ J7 from hand while retaining ♥ J8. Now, if clubs do not behave then declarer can continue with dummy's ♥ 10 thereby establishing ♥ J as a winner in hand whilst still holding ♦ 9 to ruff the spade or club return. So, declarer wins either way...if ♣ 10 falls and, if not, declarer will score ♥ J (or ♥ 10). But at this table declarer discarded dummy's ♥ 10 and got very lucky when clubs broke 4-2 BUT where the ♣ 10 was in the hand with the doubleton. Lucky! **Sinner** status to **declarer**, despite scoring ten tricks! **Sinner** status also to **North** for leading ♠ A instead of ♥ K which would at least have given the defense a chance to hold declarer to nine tricks. A small heart lead and spade return holds declarer to eight tricks.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At one table North overcalled West's 1♦ with a bid of 2♥, East bid 3♣ and West re-bid 3♦. North led ♥Q, South winning with ♥A. South returned a spade, North winning with ♠A. North continued with ♥K and a third heart which South ruffed. South returned a spade to declarer's ♠K. Declarer needs to proceed with care...the defense have already scored four tricks and one of the defenders still holds ♦K...and declarer is vulnerable in spades! Getting out for one down will be an achievement. Can the contract be made? Yes, but it requires a very specific distribution of trumps and clubs. Clubs must break 3-3 and South must have started with precisely ♦K102, the ♦2 having already been used to ruff the third heart. Declarer could cash three top clubs, discarding two losing spades from hand and then lead ♦J, finessing against South's ♦K10. That's a stiff ask. Declarer has a number of options for restricting loses to one trick. 1) declarer could simply play on clubs hoping for a 3-3 break and so discard her two losing spades. As can be seen this option fails, North ruffing the third club with a small diamond and then subsequently scoring another trick with ♦K. 2) declarer could play a diamond to dummy's ♦J7, playing ♦J if North plays low. This will work on the actual layout but would fail if South held ♦Kx while North held ♦10xx. South, upon winning with ♦K could give North a spade ruff! 3) declarer could plan to ruff one spade in dummy and then discard the other on dummy's second top club. BUT, North could discard a club on the third spade and now declarer could suffer a ruff of dummy's second top club by North with a small diamond and with North still to score ♦K. 4) declarer could play ♦A and a diamond to dummy's ♦J but this could result in a defender winning with ♦K and cashing TWO spade winners! 5) cash two top clubs, discarding a spade from hand and then finesse ♦J hoping that South has ♦K10 and thus only conceding a spade at the end. 6) ruff a spade with ♦7, return to hand with ♣Q and ruff the last spade with ♦J and then ruff a club with a diamond (♦9 or ♦Q are options) and hope not to lose two trump tricks. And there are a couple of other options... Lots of roads and not many of them leading to achieve one down! One thing to note is the likelihood that the six outstanding clubs will not break 3-3 (approx 36%) but more likely 4-2 (approx 48%) or even 5-1 (approx. 15%). And of course declarer will also need some luck with the diamond suit where the six outstanding cards could also break in a similar fashion to the club suit. Declarer tried to cash three clubs, discarding two spades from hand as North ruffed the third club with ♦6. North subsequently scored ♦K for a two trick defeat. **Saintly** status to the defenders, **Marlene & Michael**.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

S 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; N 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +110: S 2♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West declared 2♦ after North overcalled 1♥ and East bid 2♣. North led ♠ A and continued with ♥ K, South overtaking perforce with ♥ A. South continued with ♠ 9 and declarer finessed ♠ J. Declarer next cashed ♣ Q and continued with ♠ 7, North discarding ♣ 10 as declarer ruffed with dummy's ♦ 7. Declarer continued with ♣ K, discarding a heart as North ruffed with ♦ 6. North cashed ♥ Q which South inexplicably ruffed with ♦ 10! South next played a club, declarer ruffing with ♦ 9 as North overruffed with ♦ K. And that was the end of the defense. Eight tricks to declarer. Again, the premature cashing of ♠ A cost the defense a trick.

At another table West declared 2♦ after North overcalled 1♥ and East bid 2♣. North led ♥ K, South winning perforce with ♥ A. South continued ♠ 2 to declarer's ♠ J and North's ♠ A. North cashed ♥ Q and continued with a third heart, South ruffing with ♦ 2. South continued with ♠ Q, declarer winning with ♠ K as North followed with ♠ 10. Declarer next ruffed a spade with dummy's ♦ J as North discarded ♣ 2. Declarer next cashed led ♦ J, North winning with ♦ K and North found the good play of ♣ 10, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer continued with ♣ K, discarding ♠ 7 from hand as North ruffed with ♦ 6, thus securing a one trick defeat. **Saintly** status to **Frankie McGreevy** and **Bridie Redahan**.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Many E/W partnerships will reach 4♠. A heart lead lets it out. But on any other lead, or if declarer rises with HA at trick one, then it should be defeated. But...yes, there's always a But...

Saints & Sinners

4♠ was bid at 13 tables with only five declarers emerging successful. Three of these successes were due to a heart lead which declarer let run to her singleton ♥Q thus leaving dummy's ♥A for the discard of a losing diamond from hand.

At another table South led ♥10 [correct from an interior sequence of K109(xx) or Q109(xx) or even A109(xx)], and declarer elected to rise with dummy's ♥A. Declarer continued with ♠9, North playing ♠J as declarer won with ♠K. Declarer continued with a small spade and got lucky when spades broke 2-2. [Declarer should have entered dummy with ♣J and led the second spade towards her hand, just in case North held ♠AJ10.] North continued with a heart, declarer ruffing in hand. Declarer is now facing three diamond losers for one down...BUT, declarer cashed three clubs ending in dummy and then led a diamond...and North gave the contract the kiss of life when he rose with ♦A and suddenly the contract could no longer be defeated! North continued with a diamond to South's now bare ♦K and dummy's ♦Q was now established as the tenth trick. **Absolute Sinner** status to **North** who had no reason to rise with ♦A on the first play of the suit.

At another table declarer also rose with dummy's ♥A at trick one and then played on trumps (using dummy's ♣J to lead the second round of the suit). North won the second spade with ♠A and returned a heart which declarer ruffed in hand. Declarer now played two more rounds of clubs ending in dummy, ruffed dummy's last heart in hand and led a diamond from her hand and in the flash of an eye was home when South rose with ♦K and gave declarer a ruff and discard by playing ♥K. Declarer ruffed with dummy's last trump and discarded a losing diamond from hand. Ten tricks and **Saintly** status to declarer, **Irene Fitzpatrick**. Irene's elimination of hearts and clubs before leading a diamond gave her an extra chance ...or two. **Sinner** status to **South** who should have risen with ♦K (at least he did that) and then continued with a diamond, the only hope being that North holds ♦AJ. South cannot afford to duck the first diamond because he is then endplayed on winning the second diamond and must concede a ruff and discard.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

NS 6♠; S 4N; N 3N; NS 5♣; NS 2♥; NS 2♦; Par +980: NS 6♠=

Yes, 6 ♠ can make but is unlikely to be reached...most N/S pairs will contract 3 NT or 4 ♠. Note that the diamond suit breaks 4-4 and is blocked so that E/W can only cash three diamonds unless East is can make the opening lead!

Saints & Sinners

One pair did reach 6 ♠...and made it! The bidding was not a thing of beauty! 1 ♣ - 1 ♠; 3 ♠ - 4 NT; 5 ♥ - 6 ♠. Firstly South's 1 ♠ bid only guarantees 4 spades and therefore North's raise may be based on 4-3 fit! Secondly, North's hand is not worth a jump rebid...2 ♣ or even 2 ♠ are more appropriate. One has some sympathy for South but this hand has weaknesses, namely a diamond suit of J954, and a total of only 15 hcp. Okay, on to the play.

West led ♦ A and switched to ♥ J, declarer winning in hand with ♥ Q. Declarer next ruffed a diamond and returned to hand via ♣ K and ruffed a second diamond with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer next cashed ♠ K and returned to hand with ♥ Q. Declarer drew trumps and must surely have breathed a sigh of relieve to see the opponents trumps split 3-2. The ♥ A provided access to dummy and declarer then discarded her remaining diamond on ♣ A. Twelve tricks and **Saintly** status to **declarer, Moya Mac Eoin**. But, **Sinner** status to the **partnership** for the bidding sequence.

A majority of pairs played 3 NT, which, with one exception, was played by South, rather than 4 ♠ despite the 5-3 spade fit. I suspect that many South's only discovered the 5-3 spade fit when dummy hit the table! Indeed at twelve tables the bidding was identical: 1 ♣ - 1 ♠; 2 ♣ - 3 NT. In other words, not one South showed their five card spade suit. **Sinner** status to **all those Souths**.

Saintly status to **Maura Connolly** who bid 3 ♦ over North's 2 ♣ re-bid thus clearly showing 5 spades. With 4 spades and 4 diamonds South would initially bid 1 ♦. Unfortunately North failed to show her good three card support and simply bid 3 NT.

At one table North re-bid 1 NT with a singleton diamond. **Absolute sinner** status to **North**. Some justice ensued when East led a diamond and E/W scored 4 diamond tricks.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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



EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; Par -420: EW 4♥=

Board 12
 West Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 2N; W 2♦; E 1♦;
Par -620: EW 4♥=; EW 4♠=

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 5♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +460: NS 3N+2

With only a combined 30 hcp, and two balanced hands, N/S should NOT bid 6 NT. Eleven tricks can be made but, other than spades breaking 3-3 and East holding ♠ Qxx there is no legitimate line for twelve tricks. But, as always at the bridge table, miracles do happen!

Saints & Sinners

Absolute sinner status to the **two N/S pairs** who reached 6 NT. One failed by one trick while the other suffered a two trick defeat. Justice served.

And yet, four players who declared 3 NT emerged with TWELVE tricks. At one table South opened 1♦, North bid 1♥, South re-bid 1♠ and North jumped to 3 NT. Unfortunately for the defense East elected to lead ♠ 10 and when West covered ♠ J with ♠ Q that was four spades and twelve tricks to declarer.

At another table the bidding went as follows (E/W silent throughout): 1♦ - 1♥; 1♠ - 3 NT; 4♣ - 4♥; 4 NT - P. East led ♣ 3, West winning the trick with ♣ K and returning ♣ 5 to declarer's ♣ 9 and East's ♣ 6. So, ♣ AJ is placed with West! Declarer next cashed four diamonds, discarding ♣ 7 and ♠ 2 from hand as West discarded a spade and a heart. Now declarer played three top hearts, West discarding ♣ J on the third round. Declarer led the fourth heart from hand as East discarded a diamond, ♠ 3 was discarded from dummy and suddenly West, who frequently executes squeezes against others, found himself on the receiving end for a change as he was forced to find a discard from ♠ Q65, ♣ A, with dummy holding ♠ AJ8 while declarer held ♠ K7, ♣ Q. West discarded ♠ 5 and declarer cashed ♠ K and played a spade to dummy's ♠ A, felling West's ♠ Q and claiming the last trick with ♠ J. **Saintly** status to **Siobhan O'Sullivan**, who, whether she knew it or not at the time, had successfully executed a **Simple Squeeze** on West.

At another table South opened 1♦ and West made a Takeout Double showing 6-11 hcp and a diamond shortage. South subsequently declared 3 NT on the lead of ♠ 4 to East's ♠ 9 and declarer's ♠ J. Declarer cashed four hearts as East, West, declarer each discarded a small club. Declarer now cashed four diamonds and West began to feel the heat and eventually discarded ♣ J and ♠ 5. Declarer read the situation well and duly cashed ♠ K and then played a spade to his ♠ A, felling West's ♠ Q, and winning a twelfth trick via ♠ 8. **Saintly** status to **Frank Reynolds**.

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 5♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +460: NS 3N+2

Saints & Sinners

At another table South declared 3 NT after opening 1 ♦ and re-bidding 1 NT over North's 1 ♥ response. North raised to 3 NT and West led ♣ K and then switched to ♠ 4, East playing ♠ 10 as declarer won with ♠ J. Declarer cashed four diamonds as West discarded two hearts while declarer discarded two clubs from dummy. Declarer next cashed four hearts discarding a club from hand as West struggled and eventually discarded two spades and a club. Declarer cashed ♠ K, felling West's ♠ Q and then won the last two tricks with ♠ A8. **Saintly** status to declarer, **May O'Sullivan** who had successfully executed a **Simple Squeeze**.

However pride of place goes to the declarer who scored all thirteen tricks! South opened 1 NT, North bid 2 ♣, South showed his spades and North jumped to 3 NT. West led ♣ 5, declarer played ♣ 4 from dummy and won the trick with ♣ 10 as East contributed ♣ 8. Declarer cashed four diamonds, as West discarded two hearts and declarer discarded two clubs from dummy. Declarer continued with four hearts, discarding his remaining club from hand as West discarded two spades and ♣ J. Declarer Held ♠ AJ83 while dummy held ♠ K72, ♣ Q. Declarer next cashed two top spades and when West's ♠ Q fell declarer subsequently cashed ♠ 83 for a clean sweep of all thirteen tricks. **Saintly** status to **James Ward**.

Note that in some of the cases where declarer emerged with twelve tricks via a squeeze the same number of tricks could also be made if West retains ♠ Q65, ♣ A (or ♣ K). In these instances (where E/W have not already won a trick) declarer can cash ♠ K and then exit on ♣ Q, forcing West to win and then led into declarer's ♠ AJ or ♠ A8.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

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



NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +110: NS 2♥=

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

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

E/W can make 4 ♥...but some declarers may fall short! 4 ♠ by N/S might be a good save...at the right vulnerability, but not at adverse vulnerability! Defending against 4 ♥ South might be inclined to lead ♦ A and continue with a diamond to North's ♦ K. North Should cash ♠ A and upon receiving a disinterested attitude signal from South will continue with a third diamond and declarer will need to be alert! If declarer ruffs with ♥ 10 (or ♥ 9) South will overruff with ♥ J for a one trick defeat. But that would be a very silly play by declarer. Declarer has ten trumps between the two hands and can afford to ruff with ♥ A (or ♥ K) and then cash the other top honour in hand and, if necessary, finesse against South's ♥ Jxx. In the first case, 3 missing cards will break 2-1 (or 1-2) 78% of the time and 3-0 (0-3) only 22 times in 100. Secondly even if the trumps break 3-0 it is most likely that South holds the 3 in which case declarer can play safely by cashing the remaining top honour in hand and if South turns up with ♥ Jxx then declarer can finesse dummy's ♥ 8 on the second round and then draw South's ♥ J. BUT, don't expect that to happen all the time!

Saints & Sinners

A heart contract was played at all 22 tables with game being reached at 21 tables.

Two pairs played at the five level. At one table East opened 1 ♥, West responded 3 ♥ and East bid 4 NT. After West showed one ace (5 ♦), East settled in 5 ♥. South found the devastating led of ♦ A and continued with a diamond to North's ♦ K. North cashed ♠ A at trick three and then continued with a low diamond and declarer erred by ruffing with ♥ 9 which South overruffed with ♥ J for a two trick defeat. Assuming that West's 3 ♥ raise promises a standard 10-12 it takes very specific cards in West's hand, as well as luckily positioned cards in the defenders hands to have any chance of making 6 ♥. For example, West would need ♦ AQ(xx), ♣ AQ(xx) meaning no values in spades or hearts. Not only that, but declarer would need to find both minor suit kings with South and the ♠ A with North. I think that calculates to roughly 12%...poor odds for a slam. East should have settled for 4 ♥. **Sinner** status to **East**.

At another table South overcalled East's 1 ♥ opening with a bid of 1 ♠ (not recommended). West bid 4 ♥ and North bid 4 ♠. East closed the auction with 5 ♥. South duly lost 1 spade and 2 diamonds for one down. 4 ♠x could have produced +500 for E/W. **Sinner** status to **East**.

Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table South opened 1♥ and West jumped directly to 4♥ (Note that this bid usually shows a distributional hand with a good trump fit and less than opening points). South found the unusual lead of ♣ 9 (♣ J from a holding of ♣ KJ109 is a standard lead from this 'interior sequence'). Declarer seemed to be happy to settle for one down when she rose with dummy's ♣ A, spurning the finesse. And with that went the contract...declarer duly losing 1 spade, 2 diamonds, and the inevitable club as a result of declarer's play at trick one. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At one table East opened 1♥, South overcalled 1♠, West bid 3♥, North bid 3♠ and East closed the auction with 4♥. South led ♠ 9, North winning with ♠ A and switching to ♦ 2, South winning with ♦ A and continuing with a diamond to North's ♦ K. North continued with a third diamond and declarer capitulated by discarding the winning ♠ K as South ruffed with ♥ 4. Discarding ♠ K was pointless...if it had been a low spade, not ♠ K, then it would have made sense. Declarer ruffed the spade return, drew trumps and conceded a club to South's ♣ K, which must have been galling for declarer! One down and **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At two others table East declared 4♥ on the lead ♦ A, continued with a diamond to North's ♦ K and a third diamond duly which East ruffed with ♥ 9 only to see it overruffed by ♥ J. Declarer subsequently lost a spade trick and finished one down. **Sinner** status to both **declarers**.

N.B.

How to play if N/S lead and continue spades? Declarer should draw 2 rounds of trumps and then lead a SMALL diamond towards dummy. If South ducks then the hand is over even if North holds ♣ K! North may win the diamond but cannot safely attack clubs and declarer can establish a diamond winner for a discard of a potential losing club from hand. If declarer leads ♦ J from hand then South could rise with a diamond honour and switch to a club THROUGH dummy's ♣ AQ83, establishing North's potential ♣ K as a winner BEFORE dummy's ♦ Q is established for a club discard. Leading the small diamond from hand may lull South into following low!

Board 22
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

South Deals
Both Vul

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

Saints & Sinners

At a table where East contracted 3 ♥, South led ♣ Q, declarer ducking in dummy. North won the second trick with ♣ A and played a third club as declarer discarded ♠ 2 from hand while ruffing with dummy's ♥ 8. Ten tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to **North**.

South Deals
Both Vul

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

At another table where 4♥ was contracted by East, South cashed ♠ A, North following with ♠ 5 as declarer played ♠ 2, and then switched to ♣ Q, declarer playing ♣ K from dummy, North winning with ♣ A. North returned a club and South won with ♣ J (♣ 10 better as North will now know that declarer started with only two clubs!). South made no mistake and continued with ♦ 6 and declarer could no longer avoid a diamond loser. In fact declarer subsequently cashed all her trumps and two top diamonds and ceded the remaining tricks to the defense and thus scored a mere eight tricks. Playing on diamonds BEFORE cashing her last trump would have seen declarer score an extra trick, i.e. three diamonds rather than two) **Sinner** status to **declarer**. **Saintly** status to **Bridie Redahan & Frankie McGreevy**.

At another table East declared 4 ♥ and South led ♣ J (Q from QJ10 is standard unless a special partnership agreement dictates otherwise?), declarer covering with dummy's ♣ K as North won with ♣ A. North continued a club to South's ♣ Q. South switched to ♦ 6 and declarer also lost a diamond and a spade for a one trick defeat. **Saintly** status to **Fiona Place & Brendan King**.

At another table South led ♣ J against East's 4 ♥, declarer playing ♣ K from dummy as North wins with ♣ A. North returned a club to South's ♣ 10 and South now switched to ♥ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♥ J and continuing with ♠ 2. South rose with ♠ K, North following with ♠ 6. South continued with ♥ 7 and declarer could not avoid losing a diamond trick for one down. **Saintly status to Michael & Marlene.**

At one table South led ♣ Q, declarer covering with dummy's ♣ K as North won with ♣ A. North continued with a club to South's ♣ J. South now offered declarer a **ruff & discard** when she continued with ♣ 10. Declarer correctly ruffed in dummy with ♥ 8 while discarding ♠ 2 from hand. Declarer now has ten tricks in her sights with only a diamond to lose, assuming the suit breaks no worse than 3-2. BUT, declarer fell from grace when she then cashed ♥ A and next led ♠ Q and let it run to South's ♠ A for one down. **Absolute sinner** status to declarer. Why play for a 50% chance when a 3-2 diamond break offers 68%!!! **Sinner** status also to **South** who should have taken a safer option (switch to a trump or diamond) after winning the second club.

South Deals
Both Vul

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

At one table South led ♣ Q, against 4 ♥, declarer covering with dummy's ♣ K as North won with ♣ A. North continued with a club to South's ♣ J. South now switched to ♥ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♥ J. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♠ Q, South winning with ♠ K. South continued with ♣ 10, declarer ruffing in hand with ♥ 3 whilst discarding ♦ 3 from dummy. Declarer subsequently drew trumps, conceded a diamond whilst establishing a third diamond for herself and ended one down. Sensible defense and **Saintly** status to **May & Anne**

Interesting story at another table....The One That (should have) Got Away. South cashed ♠ A and then switched to ♣ Q, declarer covering with dummy's ♣ K, North winning with ♣ A. North now made a major error by continuing with a spade... which hands declarer the contract! Declarer simply needs to discard her second club from hand (a **Loser on Loser** play) as South wins with ♠ K...BUT ♠ QJ10 are now available for the discard of losing diamonds from hand. Declarer will win any return in hand, draw trumps and then enter dummy with ♦ K and cash ♠ QJ10, discarding two losing diamonds from hand! The defense will simply score two spades and a club! **Sinner** status to **North**. **B U T** declarer didn't spot the **Loser on Loser** play and instead ruffed the spade return. Declarer could still have saved the day by playing two rounds of trumps ending in dummy with ♥ A and then leading ♠ Q and discarding ♣ 6 from hand. But declarer failed to spot that option either and subsequently could not avoid losing a club and a diamond. **Sinner** status to **declarer**. Some plays, like **Loser on Loser**, may be difficult to recognise, particularly if you're not used to them!

At one table West declared 3 NT on the lead of DQ, declarer winning with dummy's DA and immediately playing a club to her CK, North's CA. The defense duly cashed three clubs and two spades for a one trick defeat. Maybe declarer should have played low from both hands at trick one. This protects her CK8 whilst also giving North a chance to play another diamond! And a club switch by North gives declarer her ninth trick!

West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 5 4 3
♥ Q J
♦ 8 7 3
♣ J 10 7

♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ K
♦ A K J
♣ K Q 9 8 3

♠ A 2
♥ 10 8 7 6 3 2
♦ 9 4
♣ A 5 4

♠ K Q
♥ A 9 5 4
♦ Q 10 6 5 2
♣ 6 2

Some E/W partnerships may reach 4 ♥. The first thing that declarer should realise is that there is no way of avoiding three trump losers...no distribution of the outstanding trumps can result in declarer restricting trump losers to two tricks! Bearing that in mind declarer needs to find a way to discard the losing spade from hand. If the defense lead a spade, or find a spade switch after South wins the first heart trick, then declarer MUST finesse ♦ J immediately in order to get rid of the losing spade, otherwise declarer will lose a spade trick in addition to three trumps! Some declarers may play on clubs to discard a spade loser on the fourth club but this line is flawed in so far as it requires declarer to have played a third round of trumps and both defenders to have started with three trump or one defender to hold a doubleton ♥ QJ and the defender that started with four trumps to have three clubs. The straight diamond finesse offers the more likely successful option. Also, when playing the trump suit, declarer should lead a low trump when playing the second round of the suit. That will leave declarer's ♥ 10 as a master trump with which to draw a third round of the suit. NOTE...a diamond lead means declarer can take an immediate finesse of ♦ J...if it loses, declarer's ♠ 2 can subsequently be discarded on ♦ AK. So, nothing lost and much to gain! On a spade lead declarer has to take the chance of finessing ♦ J. If it loses declarer ALSO loses a spade! But the chance to make the contract makes it worthwhile.

Saints & Sinners

Four E/W partnerships declared a heart contract with no declarer making ten tricks. At one table West opened 1 ♣, East responded 1 ♥ and South bid 2 ♦. West bid 2 NT, East bid 3 ♥ and West raised to 4 ♥. South led ♦ 5 and declarer rose with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer correctly played ♥ K at trick two, North contributing ♥ Q as South won with ♥ A. South continued with ♠ K, declarer winning in hand with ♠ A. Declarer is facing a certain spade loser unless she can dispose of ♠ 2. Declarer had a simple option, hugely improved by South's overcall...finesse ♦ J (should have done so at trick one!), BUT declarer continued with ♥ 10, North winning with ♥ J. North continued with ♠ J, crashing partner's ♠ Q (**Sinner** status to **North**...the play of ♠ J can never be right in this situation) and declarer duly finished one down. **Absolute Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; Par -420; EW 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♣, East responded 1♥ and West re-bid 1NT. East bid 2♥ and West now bid 2♠ (should have re-bid 1♠ instead of 1NT). East bid 3♥ and West raised to 4♥. South led ♦5 and declarer rose with dummy's ♦A and then played ♥K, North following with ♥Q and South winning with ♥A. South now switched to ♣6, surely a tell-tale sign that she held ♦Q! Declarer won in hand with ♣Q and now fatally led ♥10 from hand thus giving N/S control of the next TWO rounds of hearts. North won with ♥J and switched to ♠3, declarer rising with ♠A as South followed with ♠Q. Declarer now seemed to take her last opportunity to make the contract when she led ♦9 from hand...but rose with dummy's ♦K instead of finessing ♦J and then cashing ♦K and discarding ♠2 from hand and subsequently losing a trump to South's ♥9. BUT declarer next led ♦J, discarding ♠2 from hand as South won with ♦Q. South played ♠K, declarer ruffing with ♥3. Declarer next played ♥8, South winning with ♥9 (declarer's play of ♥10 at trick 3 now coming back to haunt her!) as declarer made the fatal mistake of discarding dummy's ♠10. South continued with ♣2, declarer winning with dummy's ♣K and finding herself locked in dummy with nothing but clubs. South ruffed the next club with ♥5 for a two trick defeat. If declarer had retained ♠10, discarding a low club instead, then she could have ruffed ♠10 with ♥6, drawn South's last trump with ♥7 and played a club to dummy for a one trick defeat! So near, yet so far away! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table East declared 2♥ after West opened 1♣ and correctly re-bid 1♠ and then Passed East's 2♥ rebid. South led ♠K, declarer winning in hand with ♠A. Declarer played a heart, dummy's ♥K winning as South played low(!) and North followed with ♥J. Declarer continued with a club to her ♣A and then led ♥10 from hand! (North's play of ♥J on first round can hardly be from ♥J9!) and now South paid a price for ducking the first heart when he rose with ♥A, crashing partner's ♥Q, thus restricting N/S to two trump tricks instead of three. South cashed ♠Q and next played a club to dummy's ♣Q. Declarer can now play three diamonds, ruffing the third round in hand with ♥8. Declarer can now make ten tricks by leading a trump to South's ♥9, ruffing the forced diamond return, drawing South's ♥5 and cashing dummy's club winners... BUT, declarer upon ruffing the third diamond, played on clubs, South ruffing with ♥5 and also scoring ♥9. **Sinner** status to **declarer**...and also to **South** who should not have enabled declarer to a position where she could have scored ten tricks!

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; Par -420: EW 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table East declared 2♥ after West opened 1♣ and re-bid 1NT and then Passed East's 2♥ rebid. South led ♠K, declarer winning with ♠A. Declarer next played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third round in hand with ♥2. Declarer then played three top clubs, South ruffing the third round with ♥4. South cashed ♠Q and ♥A and then continued with ♦Q which North should have ruffed with ♥Q so as to lead a spade which would have promoted a trick for partner if South held ♥87 instead of ♥95. South ruffed the ♦Q and then played ♥10, North scoring ♥Q and South scoring ♥9. This sequence of plays meant that N/S scored 4 trump tricks in addition to ♠Q leaving declarer with a mere eight tricks. Declarer should have played on trumps at an early stage which would have restricted N/S to 3 trump tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At two tables West opened 1♣, East responded 1♥, South bid 2♦ and West, despite lacking the necessary values, made a **Reverse Bid** of 2♠...which was Passed out. **Sinner** status to **both Easts**. A **Reverse Bid** shows a hand with 16+hcp. East cannot Pass and must bid again. Worse still was to leave partner in what is clearly a 4-2 fit. With 5 spades West would have opened 1♠. At the very least, East should bid 3♣ showing preference for West's 5+ card club suit! At both tables North led a diamond and thereafter the declarer play and defense varied.

At one of these two tables, declarer cashed three diamond winners, surely conveying their distribution to the defenders...4 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 5 clubs which should have helped N/S in the defense. Declarer continued with ♥K from hand, North following with ♥Q as South won with ♥A. South continued with ♥4, declarer ruffing with ♠6. Declarer next played three rounds of clubs, South ruffing the third round with SK. South continued with ♦6, declarer ruffing with ♠8, overruffed by North with ♠J and won by dummy's ♠A. Declarer led ♥7 from dummy, South following with ♥5 as declarer ruffed with ♠9 and North underruffed with ♠3! Declarer had now accumulated 8 tricks.

Board 24

West Deals
None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; Par -420: EW 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At the second table where West contracted 2♠, declarer won the diamond lead, cashed ♣ A and played a club to her ♣ Q and then continued with ♥ K from hand, North following with ♥ Q as South won with ♥ A. South continued with ♥ 4, declarer ruffing with ♠ 6. Declarer next cashed her remaining two top diamonds and then led ♠ 8, North following with ♠ 3 as dummy's ♠ A won while South followed with ♠ Q. Declarer next led ♥ 6 from dummy, South following with ♥ 5 as declarer ruffed with ♠ 9 which North overruffed with ♠ J. At this point N/S can defeat the contract. This is the position: North holds ♠ 754, ♣ J, South holds ♠ K, ♥ 9, ♦ Q6. Declarer holds ♠ 10, ♣ K98 and dummy holds ♠ 2, ♥ 1087. If North plays ♠ 4, South wins with ♠ K as declarer's remaining trumps, ♠ 10 in hand and dummy's ♠ 2 both fall. South can now cash ♦ Q, North discarding ♣ J and North claims the last two tricks with ♠ 75. Declarer fails by one trick. **BUT**, North DID continue with ♠ 4, South winning with ♠ K and then South failed to cash ♦ Q which would have enabled North to discard ♣ J and leave North holding two winning trumps. But South continued with ♥ 9 (dummy holding ♥ 10!!!) forcing North to ruff and leaving North to concede a club to declarer at trick 13 thus providing declarer with her eighth trick! **Sinner** status to **South**.

At two tables South contracted 3♦ when North made an injudicious raise of partner's 2♦ overcall. At both tables the contract failed by two tricks. At one table E/W applied a Penalty Double and earned +300 and +4.29 IMPs....**Saintly** status to **Mary & Kevin Moylan**. At the other table E/W did not Double and only scored +100, losing 1.10 IMPs. **Sinner** status to **E/W**.

At one table West opened 1♣ and North made a highly inappropriate overcall of 1♠ (only 5 hcp and a very weak suit). East made a Double (showing values?), South bid 2♦, East bid 3♣ which was Passed to South who now offered delayed support for partner with a bid of 3♠. If E/W Doubled they would probably have earned +800 thus confirming North's poor judgment in overcalling 1♠. But, East bid 4♣. North led a diamond and declarer had an obvious route to ten tricks...cash ♠ A, continue with two more top diamonds, discarding ♠ 2 from dummy, and then ruff ♠ 6 in dummy. Declarer then draws trumps thus scoring ♠ A, 1 spade ruff, 3 diamonds, 5 clubs. Indeed, declarer can force a second spade winner for eleven tricks. Declarer sequenced the plays incorrectly and failed to discard dummy's losing losing spade on the third diamond and also lost a club trick to North. **Sinner** status to **North** for poor bidding and to **West** for poor play.

Board 24

West Deals
None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; Par -420; EW 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West declared 4♣ on the hugely favourable lead of ♦ 7 to South's ♦ Q and declarer's ♦ K. Declarer suffered from tunnel vision and duly cashed ♣ K and then played ♠ 6, (North erred by playing ♠ J!) to dummy's ♠ A and South's ♠ Q. Declarer continued with ♠ 2, South winning with ♠ K thus establishing declarer's ♠ 109 as winners! South cashed ♥ A and exited on ♦ 10, declarer winning with ♦ J. Declarer now has ELEVEN tricks via 3 spades (♠ A109), 3 diamonds, 5 clubs. BUT, declarer had lost concentration and proceeded to turn eleven tricks into eight tricks! Declarer next led ♠ 10 (the master spade!) and ruffed with dummy's ♣ 5 and saw it overruffed by South's ♣ 6! South exited on ♦ 2, declarer winning in hand with ♦ A. Declarer next led ♠ 9 (now the master spade) and ruffed with ♣ A thus promoting North's ♣ J10 to a trump trick for the defense. Eight tricks to declarer and the award of **Absolute Sinner**! The obvious point to highlight is that at trick two declarer could have cashed ♠ A followed by two more top diamonds, discarding dummy's ♠ 2 and then ruffed a spade in dummy (not overruffed by South). Declarer could then have drawn trumps and conceded a spade to North's ♠ J and a heart to South's ♥ A and still emerge with eleven tricks. Declarer had two chances for eleven tricks and rejected both!

At another table West declared 4♣ after South overcalled 2♦, West re-bid 2♠ and East bid 3♣. North now bid 3♦, East bid 3♥ and West closed the auction with 4♣. West led a diamond and declarer won in hand, cashed three top trumps, continued with two more diamond winners and then led a spade to dummy's ♠ A and then led a heart, South rising with ♥ A. Declarer subsequently scored a trick with ♠ 1098 and emerged with ten tricks.

At another table, West opened 1♣, East responded 1♥ and West incorrectly bid 2♣ (should have bid 1♠ to show nine or more cards in the black suits). East Passed and South now bid 2♦ which was Passed back to East who bid 3♣ which closed the auction. North led ♦ 7 to South's ♦ 10 and declarer's ♦ J. Declarer cashed three top clubs and then played a spade to dummy's ♠ A and clearly did not take notice of South's ♠ Q. (Declarer can simply play on spades, eventually establishing ♠ 10 as a tenth trick.). Declarer actually cashed her diamond winners and then scored her two remaining clubs and conceded the rest of the tricks to the defense to emerge with just nine tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; Par -420: EW 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♣, East bid 1♥ and West found a re-bid of 2♦, inaccurately reflecting his distribution. West subsequently declared 4♣ on a spade lead, declarer winning with dummy's ♠A. Declarer cashed ♦AK and continued with ♦J, discarding ♠2 from dummy as South won with ♦Q. South switched to a club, declarer winning in hand with ♣Q and then ruffing a spade. Declarer cashed dummy's ♣A and led a heart. South had an opportunity to rise with ♥A and play a diamond, promoting a club trick for North's ♣107, holding declarer to nine tricks. BUT, South followed with a low heart and declarer won with the singleton ♥K. Declarer could now score ELEVEN tricks by cashing two top trumps, drawing North's ♣107, and then conceding a trick to North's ♠J but promoting declarer's ♠9 as the eleventh trick. BUT, declarer, upon winning ♥K needlessly cashed ALL the remaining trumps and lost the last two tricks to North's ♠J and South's ♥A. **Double Sinner** status to declarer for ...1) re-bidding 2♦ instead of 1♠ ...and 2) for not making eleven tricks when South didn't rise with ♥A. **Sinner** status to **South** who should have known that declarer only had three diamonds despite re-bidding 2D (declarer had played three rounds as North followed suit...*Counting, counting... all the time!*). South can then play a fourth diamond (dummy has no trumps left) and that will produce a trump promotion for North's ♣107. The only time that this might cost is if West started with ♥KJ and finesse ♥J into North's ♥Qx whereupon a heart return from North would see South win with ♥A and then play a fourth diamond for a trump promotion for North's ♣107. From South's perspective, a useful piece of information relates to North's opening lead...♠3. If this is a true 4th best then declarer holds 5 spades!!! Why? Because the appearance of ♠2 in dummy means that North's lowest spade is ♠3, and if that is a 4th best lead then North has only 4 spades...in which case declarer must have 5 spades...*Counting, counting... all the time!* On the other hand, if N/S were playing 3rd/5th leads, then North is clearly showing five spades in which case declarer, despite the strange bidding, has 4 spades and therefore a singleton heart. Which spade holding does North actually have?...That's what the opening lead is supposed to tell South!!!