

## **TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021**

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 21st 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.

This week I analysed the following hands: Board# 1, 15, 17, 22

I have also included a brief comment on Board# 12

Thanks to **Rory Timlin** who directed my attention to Board# 12, 17 and highlighted important aspects of both hands. In one cases he was an active participant where he and partner **David Walsh** were the defenders at the only table (of nineteen) where a NT contract failed to produce nine or more tricks for the declaring side!

Board#1 features an initial choice of bid by South which will largely determine the final contract and also illustrates a lack of appreciation by some Norths as to how to respond to South's bid. it also proved to be a challenging hand for some declarers.

Board #15 sees E/W face a choice of 4 ♠ or 3 NT. Eight opted for the former with only two emerging with ten tricks! And the challenges weren't only with declarer. And a couple of declarers in 3 NT also found the going tough!

Board#17 saw opportunities for declarer and the defense in another 4 ♠ contract which requires a favourable lead or a defensive slip-up to make. Both happened!

Board#22 saw 16 declarers attempt to secure ten tricks in a tricky 4 ♠ where in many cases the success or failure swung on the opening lead....eight emerged successfully and eight failed. But the opening lead was not the sole determinant and both declarers and defenders were given lifelines, some of which were accepted and some were not!

Note that the annual **CBAI Simultaneous Pairs** will take place on Thursday, 4th February 2021. Entry fee BB\$5.

Enjoy!

**Paul J Scannell**  
28th January 2021

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

Yes, N/S can make 5 ♥ but will the heart game always be bid? What will South bid if North opens 1 ♠. The South hand is rock minimum for a 2 ♥ response BUT with the singleton in partner's suit some South's may simply respond 1 NT. Swap North's red suit holdings and the hand is a different beast altogether. Consequently, some South's may respond 1 NT and some North's will next bid 2 ♣....and that may become the final contract. 4 ♥ is a lucky fit. Playing in a heart contract declarer can score eleven tricks by establishing 1 spade and 1 diamond ruff or two spades if West rises with ♠ A on first round of the suit. Add those two tricks to 5 trumps (finessing against West's ♥ Q92) and 4 clubs and declarer should emerge with a total of eleven tricks. NOTE: if declarer draws trumps BEFORE playing on spades (or before securing two diamond ruffs) the defense may be able to secure three tricks via 1 spade and 2 diamonds.

### Saints & Sinners

At 13 of 23 tables the hand was played in a heart contract with game being bid and made at 9 tables, declarers scoring either ten or eleven tricks.

One declarer, playing 3 ♥, emerged with TWELVE tricks. North opened 1 ♠, South bid 2 ♥, North raised to 3 ♥ (should have bid 4 ♥) and South Passed. West led a trump, declarer winning in hand and playing ♠ 4. West rose with ♠ A and continued with a second trump. Declarer drew trumps, ending in dummy and then cashed ♠ KQ, discarding two diamonds from hand. Declarer next ruffed the fourth spade, re-entered dummy with a top club and discarded his third losing diamond on dummy's fifth spade. Twelve tricks to declarer and **Saintly** status to **John Fahy**.

Only four declarers made eleven tricks. At one table West led ♦ K and continued with ♦ Q at trick two, declarer ruffing in dummy. Declarer played a club to hand and next led a spade, dummy's ♠ K winning when West followed low. Well played **Deirdre O'Halloran**.

At another table West led ♦ K and switched to ♠ A... Eleven tricks to declarer.

At another table West led ♦ K and switched to a trump, declarer winning in hand. Declarer led a spade and West rose with ♠ A. Declarer now had eleven tricks.

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At the fourth table where declarer emerged with eleven tricks, West underled (not recommended against a suit contract) her ♦ KQ83, East luckily winning with ♦ A. East switched to a small spade, West rising with ♠ A...and that was the end of the defense.

At five tables where South declared 4♥, declarers emerged with ten tricks. At one table West led ♦ K and continued with a trump to East's ♥ Q and declarer's ♥ K. Declarer, who should have played a spade from hand, actually played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♠ K FROM dummy thus ceding the chance for two top spade winners! West won and switched to a club, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ J, cashing ♠ K while discarding a diamond from hand and then drawing trumps and conceding a diamond at the end. Declarer had a couple of opportunities for making eleven tricks...leading a spade from hand at trick three; ruffing a diamond before drawing trumps. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table West also underled her ♦ KQ, East winning with ♦ A and returning a club, declarer winning with ♣ Q and ruffing a diamond in dummy. Declarer now cashed ♥ A and finessed ♥ J in hand and drew a third round of trumps and subsequently lost another diamond and a spade. Declarer should have led a spade before drawing trumps.

At one table West led ♦ K and switched to ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ K and ruffing a diamond in dummy. Declarer next led ♠ K, discarding a diamond from hand. West continued with another club, declarer winning in hand with ♣ Q. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and continued with a heart, East following with ♥ 9, and rose with dummy's ♥ K, subsequently losing a trick to East's ♥ Q. Note: If declarer had finessed ♥ J and West won with ♥ Q and continued with a club, East might have ruffed for the setting trick. Careful play by declarer who would have done better to play a spade at trick three. The diamond ruff can come later.

At another table West found the lead of a trump, declarer winning with ♥ K as East contributed ♥ Q. Declarer played a diamond, West rising with ♦ Q and continuing with another trump, declarer winning with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer played a club to ♣ Q, ruffed a diamond and returned to hand with ♣ K, drew East's trump and subsequently conceded a spade and a diamond.

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table North opened 1♠, South bid 2♥, North bid 3♣, South raised to 4♣ and North closed the auction with 4♥. West led ♦K and switched to ♥8, East playing ♥Q as declarer won with ♥K. With this sequence of plays declarer can afford to play a spade, even if ♠A is with East and a heart is returned, declarer can win with dummy's ♥A, play a club to ♣Q, ruff a diamond, cash ♠Q, discarding a diamond from hand, ruff a spade in hand, draw North's last trump and play a club to CJ, ruff another spade, establishing dummy's long spade, enter dummy with ♣A and discard declarer's third diamond. The issues here are the fact that ♥Q has already been played and is not a threat to declarer; clubs have not yet been played and therefore the possibility of a club ruff by either defender is reduced. **BUT**, declarer cashed ♥10 at trick three and then ruffed a diamond with ♥A. Declarer returned to hand with ♣Q, drew trumps and then cashed her clubs eventually conceding a spade and a diamond to West. Ten tricks, when eleven could have been made.

At two other tables where declarer contracted 3♥, ten tricks were made at both tables. At one table West led ♦K and switched to a trump, East's ♥Q losing to declarer's ♥K. Declarer next cashed ♥J and then led ♠4, West playing low as dummy's ♠Q scored. Declarer could have played a club to hand, ruffed a diamond and then ruffed a spade, drawn trumps and emerged with eleven tricks via 1 spade, 5 trumps, 1 diamond ruff and 4 clubs. **BUT**, after winning with dummy's ♠Q, declarer cashed ♥A, ruffed a spade, cashed her club winners and duly lost two diamonds at the end. Declarer emerged with ten tricks when eleven could have been safely made.

At the other table where South declared 3♥, West underled (NOT recommended) ♦KQ83 to East's ♦A. East returned a spade and West rose with ♠A and returned a spade, dummy's ♠Q winning, as declarer unusually discarded ♣5 instead of a losing diamond! Declarer can now cash ♥A and safely finesse ♥J (defenders cannot cash a diamond with a trump still in dummy!) In fact declarer should have emerged with eleven tricks. **BUT**, declarer cashed ♥A and then played another heart, East contributing ♥9, and declarer rose with dummy's ♥K thus conceding a third trick to the defense. If East's ♥9 was a true card, then either West has ♥Qxx and will score ♥Q or East started with ♥Q92. Declarer should finesse ♥J.

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table North opened 1 ♠ and South responded 2 ♥...which North passed! **This is so wrong**.... South was not a Passed hand and therefore 2 ♥ is forcing for at least one round. South has shown at least 9 hcp BUT could have anything, even 20+ hcp! North should have shown a better than minimum opener with three card trump support and rebid 4 ♥. West led ♦ K and switched to ♣ 3 at trick two, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer played a small heart to her ♥ K and continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then, with only one trump outstanding, declarer needlessly played a third heart to East's ♥ Q. E/W now cashed two diamonds and also cored ♠ A to see declarer emerge with just eight tricks. After winning with ♥ A declarer could have played a club to hand and ruffed a diamond thus scoring at least nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **North** for Passing 2 ♥ and **South** for not scoring at least nine tricks.

At two tables N/S declared 3 NT...without success. At one table North opened 1 ♠, South bid 2 ♥ (this bid GUARANTEES 5 hearts, 9+ hcp), North bid 3 ♣ (Should have bid 4 ♥), South, with three small diamonds and no stopper in the suit made a poor bid of 3 NT. South had better options. Best is if N/S are playing **4SF (4th Suit Forcing)** which asks partner to make another bid. Note that **4SF** is not natural, in fact it probably suggests a poor holding in the 4th suit. With stoppers the player would bid 3 NT. Alternatively, South could bid 4 ♣ over 3 ♣ although this bypasses 3 NT. Over 3 ♦ (**4SF**) North should bid 4 ♥ (should have bid this at initial re-bid over South's 2 ♥). Either way, N/S should avoid 3 NT and should reach either 4 ♥ or 5 ♣. West led ♦ 3, East rising with ♦ A. East returned ♦ 2, declarer following with ♦ 7 as West won with ♦ 8 but with the suit now **BLOCKED**. West cashed ♦ KQ as declarer injudiciously discarded three spades from dummy, leaving ♠ KQ barer on the table. West cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 5, declarer winning perforce with ♠ K whilst discarding two clubs from hand. Declarer now cashed ♥ A and then cashed ♣ A thus ensuring that she could only score two clubs tricks instead of **FOUR** as the suit was now **BLOCKED**. Declarer next led a heart, East playing ♥ 9 and declarer, playing against the odds, rose with ♥ K. Declarer cashed ♣ Q and then conceded all the remaining tricks to the defense for **FOUR** down! After winning ♠ K declarer could have scored the rest of the tricks...Cash ♥ A and finesse ♥ J, and then play ♥ K and two more heart winners. Declarer will also score three club tricks. As it went, if declarer didn't cash ♣ A she could have cashed four club tricks by playing to ♣ Q and then overtaking ♣ K with dummy's ♣ A and cashing ♣ J6. A poor effort in both bidding and play. **Sinner** status to **North** and **South**.

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At the second table where N/S declared 3 NT, North opened 1♥, South bid 2♥ and unbelievably, with a singleton diamond, North bid 2 NT which South raised to 3 NT. East led ♦ 2 (playing 3rd and 5th leads) and West won the first trick with ♦ Q and had no difficulty in then cashing ♦ K and continuing with a diamond to East's ♦ A. East cashed two more diamonds as declarer discarded two hearts from dummy and three spades and a club from hand while West discarded ♣ 9. East continued with a spade to West's ♠ A. North won the spade continuation and claimed the remaining tricks with 2 hearts, 4 clubs for two down. **North** receives **Absolute Sinner** status for re-bidding 2 NT with a singleton diamond instead of supporting partner's known five card heart suit or even bidding 3♣, letting South bid 3 NT if needs be and at least have the diamond lead coming into the hand with the stopper(s).

At two tables South declared 1 NT. At one table E/W cashed 4 diamonds and then West switched to a small spade, dummy's ♠ K winning the trick. Declarer then cashed four club winners and duly played ♥ A and a heart to his ♥ J and then cashed three more heart tricks. West, seeing ♠ KQ in dummy should have cashed ♠ A and continued with a small spade and would thus have held declarer to eight tricks. With the North hand I would have re-bid 2♣ over South's 1 NT.

At the other table West led ♦ K and switched to ♥ 8 despite East's encouraging ♦ 6 on the opening lead! Declarer now has nine tricks...5 hearts, 4 clubs....BUT declarer failed to cash her fifth heart and duly ended up with only eight tricks. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At one table North opened 1♠, South bid 1 NT, North re-bid 2♣ and all Passed. East chose the unfortunate lead of ♥ 2, dummy's ♥ J holding the trick. Declarer played three rounds of clubs, East discarding ♦ 5. Declarer next played four rounds of hearts, West discarding two spades and a diamond as declarer discarded ♦ J and ♠ 3 while East discarded two diamonds. Declarer then led dummy's singleton spade and West erred by following with ♠ J instead of rising with ♠ A, declarer winning with ♠ Q. Declarer now ruffed ♠ 6 with dummy's ♣ K as West's ♠ A fell. Declarer ruffed a diamond in hand with ♣ 6 and cashed ♠ K7 for a total of THIRTEEN tricks! **Saintly** status to **David Walsh**. And **Sinner** status to **West** for discarding spades and not rising with ♠ A. When declarer shows up with three hearts he can only have one diamond, at most!

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table, East made the unfortunate lead of ♥ 9 against North's 2♣, dummy's ♥ 10 winning the trick. Declarer cashed three rounds of trumps and continued with four rounds of hearts, West fatally discarding 2 spades and one diamond while declarer discarded D♦ J and a spade as East discarded a spade and a diamond. Declarer next led ♠ 4, West rising with ♠ A as East followed with ♠ 8. West continued with ♦ 8 and declarer ruffed and claimed, emerging with twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to **May O'Sullivan** and **Sinner** status to **West** for discarding spades. **Note:** If West retains her spades and ducks the first round, declarer can only make eleven tricks!

At two tables North opened 1♠, South bid 2♥, North re-bid 3♣ (4♥ is what North should bid) and both Souths Passed!!! **3C, a new suit at the three level, is forcing for at least one round.** South should bid 3♦ (4SF) or 4♣ but cannot Pass. **Sinner** status to **both Norths** and **both Souths**. As to the play...it differed at the two tables. Both Easts UNDERLED ♦ A (not recommended), West winning with a diamond honour. At one table West returned a diamond, declarer ruffing in hand. Declarer cashed two top clubs, winning the second one with dummy's ♣ Q. Declarer then led ♠ 4, West rising with ♠ A. West continued with a diamond, declarer ruffing in hand with ♣ J, his last trump. Declarer then cashed ♠ KQ, discarding two hearts from dummy, as East and West followed suit. Declarer cashed ♥ A and finessed ♥ J, cashed ♣ K, drawing West's last trump, cashed ♥ K and won the last trick with dummy's ♣ 7. Eleven tricks.

At the other table West switched to ♣ 9 at trick two (♣ 3 is better), declarer winning in dummy with ♣ Q. Declarer then ruffed a diamond with ♣ 6. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ K and ruffed dummy's last diamond with ♣ J. Declarer cashed ♣ A and continued with ♠ K from hand...H'mm. West won with ♠ A and this was the position: Declarer held ♠ Q763, ♥ A7. Dummy held ♥ J1043, ♣ Q7. West now held ♠ J95, ♥ 8, ♦ 8, ♣ 4. East held ♠ 108, ♥ Q9, ♦ A10. **IF**, West plays a diamond then South must ruff. If South now cashes ♣ Q to draw West's last trump then declarer must play a heart to his ♥ A, can cash ♠ Q, and must concede the last two tricks to E/W (either East's ♥ Q and ♦ 10 or West's ♠ J9. **BUT**, West returned a club to dummy's ♣ 7. Declarer next cashed dummy's ♣ Q, East fatally discarding ♥ 9. Declarer played a heart to dummy's ♥ A, East's ♥ Q falling, and won the remaining tricks with ♥ 1043. Upon winning with ♣ 7 declarer could play a heart to ♥ A and a third heart to East's ♥ Q but then claim with dummy's ♣ Q, ♥ J10. **Sinner** status to **declarer** and to **East**.

North Deals  
None Vul

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

As the List of Makeable Contracts shows, 5 ♣ can be made. One N/S pair reached 5 ♣. East led ♦ A against North's 5 ♣ and continued with a diamond to East's ♦ Q, declarer ruffing. Declarer next played a heart to dummy, rising with ♥ K and continuing with dummy's singleton spade. West rose with ♠ A and continued with a heart, declarer rising with ♥ A. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps, ending in hand, and then cashed ♠ KQ, discarding a losing diamond and a heart from dummy. Declarer could have escaped for one down by continuing with a heart, East winning with ♥ Q but with dummy now containing ♥ J, ♣ 9. **BUT** declarer lost her way and played a fourth spade, discarding ♥ 10 from dummy as West won with ♠ J. West played a diamond to East's ♦ 10, declarer ruffing and then having to concede a heart to East's ♥ Q for two down. Guessing to finesse ♥ J instead of rising with ♥ K sees the contract make. But declarer should still have got out for one down, not two. **Sinner** status to **North**.



**Board 2**

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

EW 4N; EW 3♠; EW 4♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -630; EW 3N+1

West Deals  
Both Vul

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

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

**Board 6**

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♦; Par -600: EW 3N=

**Board 7**

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 2♠; NS 1♣; Par +630: NS 3N+1

**Board 8**

West Deals

None Vul

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

S 3N; NS 3♥; NS 4♦; N 2N; S 2♣; S 1♠; N 1♣; Par +400: S 3N=

**Board 9**

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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



**Board 10**  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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

South Deals  
None Vul

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

### Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

W 6N; W 6♥; E 5N; E 5♥; W 4♣; E 3♣; EW 1♠; W 1♦;  
Par -990: W 6N=

6 NT and 6 ♥ can both be made but neither are good contracts. If North leads ♠ A against 6 ♥ then declarer can count ten tricks (assuming hearts don't break 4-0) via 7 hearts, 2 diamonds, 1 club. Two more tricks are needed. Double-dummy (i.e. viewing all four hands) it can be seen that declarer can cash a top heart and ruff a spade in dummy. Also, pressure can be exerted on North who is holding ALL the vital cards, ♠ A, ♣ K1096 (the four card holding is important because it means that South cannot protect the club suit), and ♦ QJ7632. Alternatively, if North leads ♦ Q declarer can win with ♦ K, cash ♦ A and ruff a diamond in hand...leaving ♦ 9 in dummy and with the knowledge that North holds the remaining diamonds. Declarer next cashes his remaining six hearts and North begins to feel the heat! North must find FIVE discards from ♠ A2, ♦ J76, ♣ K1096. Four discards are easy enough...♠ 2, ♦ 76, ♣ 6 ...but the fifth discard becomes one too many! Discarding ♦ J promotes dummy's ♦ 9. Discarding ♣ 9 means that declarer can finesse ♣ Q, cash ♣ A and then cash ♣ 752. Discarding ♠ A leaves declarer with a winning ♠ K which, when cashed, forces North to make another discard and in effect declarer can score all thirteen tricks.

In 6 ♥, if North leads ♠ A then declarer has a couple of alternative lines of play. Declarer now has eleven top tricks and declarer could take a simple club finesse or play for a spade ruff in dummy. Note that if ruffing a spade in dummy declarer must take the precaution of cashing one top trump first and then ruff a small spade. Note this line does require trumps to split 3-1 and for the hand with the short spade to also have a singleton heart!

### Saints & Sinners

The slam was bid at just two tables. At one table, West (a BBO Robot) opened 1 ♥, North overcalled 2 ♦, East bid 3 ♣, West bid 3 ♥, East raised to 4 ♥ and West deployed RKCB and settled in 6 ♥ when East showed two aces. North led ♠ A and continued with a spade to South's ♠ 10 and declarer's ♠ K. Declarer drew trumps, played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third round in hand and then finessed ♣ Q. Twelve tricks.

At the other table North also led SA and continued with a spade to declarer's ♠ K. Declarer duly rejected the various options, including the club finesse. One down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

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

EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; E 2♣; EW 1♥; W 1♣;  
 Par -110: EW 1♦+2; EW 1♠+1

**Board 14**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

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

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

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

E/W can make 3 NT whereas the spade game can be held to ten tricks as long as North does not lead a diamond into West's ♦ AQ. Note also that three rounds of hearts with North ruffing the third round with ♠ 10 will also prove to be problematic for declarer as it might promote a second trump trick for South.

### Saints & Sinners

One E/W pair played 1 NT making nine tricks. Perhaps East should move over West's 1 NT!

At eight tables E/W played in 4 ♠. Only two declarers made the contract. At one table East declared 4 ♠ on the lead of ♦ 8, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ A. It now looks like declarer has four losers...1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 diamond. But watch what happened... Declarer led ♠ Q, North following with ♠ 10, declarer playing low from hand... and South ducked. Declarer continued with ♠ 3 (leading ♠ J might be better and leaves the suit unblocked!) and played ♠ 9 from hand when North discarded ♣ 2. South won with ♠ K and continued with ♦ 6, North winning with ♦ K. North continued with ♦ 5, declarer following with ♦ 9 as South discarded ♥ 5 and declarer discarded ♥ 3 from dummy. Declarer next played a spade to dummy's ♠ J. Declarer now played a club to ♣ A in hand, and then cashed ♠ A, drawing South's last trump. Declarer then entered dummy via ♣ K and cashed ♣ Q, discarding a losing heart from hand. Declarer subsequently lost one heart and emerged with ten tricks. This is a tricky one for the defense but perhaps North should have reflected after winning ♦ K. Declarer seems to have 5 spades and 4 diamonds leaving him with four unknown cards. North has to assume that South has either ♥ A or ♣ A. If declarer has both then the contract cannot be defeated. If partner has ♣ A and declarer has ♥ A then the contract cannot be defeated because declarer can finesse against North's ♥ K. North should therefore assume that South has ♥ A and should also be wary if declarer has a doubleton ♣ A as well as a doubleton small heart in which case, if given the chance, declarer can discard a losing heart on dummy's ♣ KQ63. North should switch to ♥ K after winning ♦ K, and then play a second heart to South's ♥ A. One down instead of making! Yes, it's always difficult to lead from Kx when you can see QJxx in dummy. But in this case it can't cost and can gain! Declarer could also have made life easier for herself by continuing with ♠ J instead of ♠ 3 on the second round of trumps.

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened a Strong NT and East transferred with 2♥. East jumped to 3NT over West's 2♠ response and West converted to 4♠. North made the unfortunate (for the defense) lead of ♦5, declarer winning in hand with ♦Q. Declarer next played three rounds of clubs discarding ♥2 on the third round as South ruffed with ♠2. South continued with ♥A and then ♦6, declarer winning in hand with ♦A. Declarer then finessed ♠Q into South who ducked. Declarer continued by leading ♥Q, North following perforce with ♥K as declarer ruffed in dummy. Declarer next led ♦9, South discarding a heart, as declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠J. Declarer continued by leading ♥J, discarding ♦J from dummy and leaving dummy with ♠97. South scored a trick with ♠K as declarer emerged with ten tricks. The diamond lead was unfortunate and unlucky! Declarer handled his assets (and those in dummy) to best effect. **Saintly** status to **Frank Davey**.

Six other tables saw declarer fail in 4♠, four times when East declared and twice where West was declarer. At one table West received the lead of ♣5, dummy's ♣10 winning the trick. Declarer immediately finessed ♦Q losing to North's ♦K. North continued with ♠10, declarer playing low from dummy as South rose with ♠K and continued with a diamond to declarer's ♦A. Declarer actually has eight more tricks (4 spades, 1 diamond (♦J in dummy) and 3 clubs, to add to the ♣10 and ♦A already scored. BUT, unfortunately declarer cannot unravel them! Winning the first trick with ♣10 may have been a false economy because now declarer has ♣KQ6 opposite ♣A in dummy but if declarer draws trumps she has no way to unblock the clubs and cash ♣KQ to discard losing hearts in dummy. And if declarer plays on clubs without cashing trumps then South will ruff the third club and cash ♥A for one down. Back to trick one...declarer should win with ♣A and play on spades by leading small towards ♠QJ3. If South rises with ♠K and switches to a diamond, declarer can rise with ♦A, cash ♠Q and then overtake ♠J with dummy's ♠A and then cash ♠9, drawing South's last trump. Declarer can then lead a club to her ♣KQ and discard a losing heart from dummy and then lead ♦Q establishing ♦J as a winner. Note that if N/S cash two top hearts after South wins ♠K that will see dummy's ♥QJ established as winners which, in addition to ♣Q, offer discards for three diamonds, with either a club or ♦A as an entry.

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West also opened a Strong NT and East transferred with 2♥. East jumped to 3NT over West's 2♠ response and West converted to 4♠. North made the unorthodox lead of ♥8, declarer following mistakenly with dummy's ♥10 as South won with ♥A. South returned a heart to declarer's ♥Q and North's ♥K. North now made the unfortunate continuation of a diamond to declarer's ♦Q. Declarer continued with ♠Q, finessing into South who won with ♠K. South continued with a diamond to declarer's ♦A. Declarer now has ten tricks! Declarer has already scored ♦AQ and can also score 4 trumps, 1 heart, 3 clubs. Declarer simply needs to cash ♠J, continue with a spade to dummy's ♠A, cash ♠9, drawing South's last trump, and then play ♣A and another club to ♣KQ in hand and also cash ♥J. **BUT**, declarer led ♠3 (North's play of ♠10 on first round surely suggested a 4-1 break) to dummy's ♠A. Declarer was still okay when he played a spade back to his ♠J. Still on course for ten tricks... A club to dummy's ♣A and declarer could draw South's last trump with ♠9 and then return to hand on ♣KQ and ♥J...**BUT**, after declarer won ♣A he attempted to cash ♣KQ, discarding a heart from dummy as South ruffed the second top club for the setting trick. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At one table East declared 4♠ on the lead of ♥A followed by a heart to North's ♥K. North continued with a club, declarer's ♣10 winning. Declarer took the losing diamond finesse and subsequently lost a trump trick to South's S♠K for one down. If declarer had played on spades after winning the club switch then there was still a chance but perhaps declarer should have won the club switch with ♣A instead of ♣10 which left the suit blocked! Declarer's line might have worked if South held ♦K and North held ♠K10 or even ♠Kxx with South holding ♠10x. Personally speaking I hate taking a finesse unless I have to...

At another table South led ♥A against East's 4♠. Looking at dummy a diamond switch seems to suggest itself BUT South continued with a heart to North's ♥K. North now switched to a club and declarer made the thoughtful play of winning with ♣A, thus leaving the suit unblocked. Declarer continued with ♠A and another spade towards dummy, South rising with ♠K and switching to ♦8 and suddenly declarer's goose was cooked. Declarer could rise with ♦A but could not play three rounds of trumps, necessary to draw South's outstanding trumps. Unfortunately for declarer, an initial small spade towards dummy would have worked. Unlucky.



### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♣ and made a **Reverse Bid** of 2♥ over East's 1♠, East duly contracted 4♠ and South found the lead of ♥5 to North's ♥K. North returned a heart to South's ♥A. South could kill the contract by switching to a diamond through dummy's ♦AQ, establishing partner's ♦K as a winner whilst still holding ♠K. But South continued with a third heart, North providing an 'uppercut' by ruffing with ♠10, forcing declarer to overruff with ♠A. Declarer can still make the contract but it requires declarer to run the ♠7... BUT, declarer led ♠4 spade towards dummy and South erred by rising with ♠K...if South followed with ♠5 then dummy's ♠Q would win and now South would score two spades tricks with ♠K82 where dummy holds ♠J3 and declarer has ♠976. Declarer cannot continue playing the trump suit without conceding two tricks to South's ♠K82. **BUT**, after winning ♠K, South continued with ♣9, North following with ♣J, declarer winning with ♣A. Declarer can now cash dummy's ♠QJ, return to hand with ♣10 and cash ♠9 drawing South's last trump and then play a diamond to dummy's ♦A and cash ♥Q and ♣KQ thus scoring 4 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 4 clubs...ten tricks! **BUT**, unaware of the lurking dangers (a club ruff) declarer lost her way when she won the ♣A and played a trump to dummy's ♠Q, cashed ♥Q, discarding a diamond from hand and then played three rounds of clubs South ruffing the third round for the setting trick. **Absolute Sinner** status to **declarer** and **South**, both grasping defeat from the jaws of victory!!!

At the fourth table, South led ♣9 against East's 4♠, declarer winning in hand and immediately taking the losing diamond finesse. Declarer duly lost ♠K, and two top hearts for one down.

At fourteen tables E/W reached 3NT with West as declarer. This protects ♦AQ. On a diamond lead declarer can safely secure nine tricks via 4 spades, 2 diamonds, 3 clubs. **BUT**, at one table West received the lead of ♦2, declarer winning with ♦Q. Declarer duly finessed ♠Q, which held and continued with ♠J which South won with ♠K. South returned his second diamond, declarer winning perforce with ♦A. Declarer next cashed three top clubs and then led ♠3 to dummy's ♠A and could have claimed nine tricks with ♠97 still to be cashed...**BUT** declarer failed to cash the two winning spades and instead led ♦J and duly lost the last five tricks to finish two down. A lack of concentration at a crucial point in the play by a very experienced and usually reliable player. **Sinner** status to **West**.

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West declared 3 NT on the the lead of ♦ 5, declarer winning with ♦ Q. Declarer led ♠ J, North following with ♠ 10, and finessed into South who won with ♠ K and returned a diamond, declarer winning, perforce, with ♦ A. Declarer made a major mistake by continuing with ♠ 3 instead of ♠ Q thus blocking the spade suit! But all was still well. Declarer won with dummy's ♠ 9, continued with a spade to her ♠ Q and then returned to dummy via ♣ A, cashed ♠ A....and clearly forgetting that ♠ 7 was a winner, continued with a club, cashing ♣ KQ in hand and conceding one down. **Sinner** status to **West** for lack of concentration.

At twelve other tables West contracted 3 NT. Seven declarers emerged with ten tricks but therein lies a tale or two most notably at one table where N/S actually had a chance to defeat the contract! West opened 1 NT, East bid 2♥ (Transfer) and West eschewed the known 5-3 spade fit and settled for 3 NT. North led ♦ 5 and declarer made her first mistake by playing ♦ J from dummy despite holding a doubleton ♦ AQ in hand thus crashing two honours in one trick AND now creating an unnecessary weakness in the diamond suit! Declarer won with ♦ Q and then played a club to dummy's ♣ A and led a small spade, South rising with ♠ K. South could have established three diamond winners for partner by returning her second diamond but instead continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning with ♣ K. At this point declarer can cash ♠ Q and then (thanks to North's singleton ♠ 10) overtake ♠ J with dummy's ♠ A and then cash ♠ 97 and subsequently play a diamond to her ♦ A and cash ♣ Q thus giving declarer nine tricks via 4 spades, 2 diamonds, 3 clubs. **BUT**, declarer continued with ♠ J and then played ♠ Q and failed to overtake with dummy's ♠ A thus leaving two spade winners stranded in dummy and no means of accessing them! With careful defense the contract can now be beaten. Declarer next cashed ♣ Q and continued with a small heart from hand and North's moment of fame came and passed in a flicker when she rose with ♥ K and the chance to beat the contract was now gone. If North had played low then South would have won with ♥ A, continued with a diamond thus establishing two diamond winners (and ♣ J) for North who still possessed ♥ K as an entry. **BUT**, after winning with ♥ K, North let declarer off the hook when, without even cashing the ♣ J, she continued with ♥ 8 to South's ♥ A whilst also creating two winners for declarer! Declarer emerged with ten tricks when she should have made nine but could have been held to seven! **Sinner** status to **West**, **North**, and **South** for not continuing with a diamond after winning ♠ K.

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At a couple of tables North led a diamond, declarer winning with ♦ Q. Declarer then finessed a spade to South's ♠ K and most South's thoughtlessly returned a diamond despite seeing ♦ J94 in dummy! At one table that was what happened but the real damage was done to the defense when North discarded clubs thus providing declarer with four clubs tricks and ten in total whilst still holding on to ♦ K107 despite seeing dummy's ♦ J9. Pointless, especially where declarer opened 1 ♣! North should have discarded diamonds. **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table declarer had an opportunity for ELEVEN tricks! West opened 1 ♣ and rebid 2 NT which East raised to 3 NT. North led ♦ 5, declarer winning with ♦ Q. Declarer led ♠ Q and continued with ♠ J, South winning with ♠ K. South took stock. A diamond continuation seemed pointless with dummy holding ♦ J94 and so South switched to ♥ 5. Give North ♥ KJx and the defense will prevail. North won with ♥ K and continued with ♥ 8. South, playing for partner to have started with ♥ K84, ducked dummy's ♥ 10 and inwardly groaned when declarer followed with ♥ 4 clarifying that West had started with ♥ QJ43. Declarer is now in a position to score all remaining tricks. Declarer holds ♠ 3, ♥ QJ, ♦ A, ♣ KQ63. Dummy holds ♠ A97, ♦ J94, ♣ A10. North holds ♦ K107, ♣ J8752. South's hand, despite holding ♥ A, is irrelevant! With eight tricks to play, declarer has seven winners...♠ A97, ♦ A, ♣ AKQ and poor North is going to be squeezed in clubs and diamonds to concede the eighth trick. Declarer will proceed by cashing ♦ A and then playing three spade winners discarding ♥ QJ from hand leaving declarer's hand with ♣ KQ63 whilst dummy holds ♦ J9, ♣ A10. Now, YOU select the four cards that North will retain. If North holds four clubs then dummy's ♦ J will win a trick and declarer will then score the last three tricks with ♣ AKQ. If North discards a club then declarer will score four club tricks. **BUT**, declarer didn't spot this opportunity and simply cashed her spade and club winners for a total of ten tricks. And it would have been a real coup to execute the squeeze given that the two defenders were Irish internationals, both of whom would have recognised and seized the opportunity if the shoe was on the other foot! Note that in no way does executing the squeeze threaten the contract! An opportunity missed. And yes, South was right to duck the second heart. In IMPs, defeating the contract is paramount for the defense. Conceding a possible overtrick is a small price to pay for an opportunity to defeat the contract!

### Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1 NT (15-17), East incorrectly bid 2 ♣ instead of transferring to spades, West showed 4 hearts and East raised to 3 NT. North led ♣ 5, dummy's ♣ 10 winning the trick. Declarer continued by leading dummy's ♥ 10 to North's ♥ K. North continued with a club to dummy's ♣ A. Declarer next led a spade to ♠ Q and continued with ♠ J to South's ♠ K. South switched to ♦ 8, declarer finessing ♦ Q to North's ♦ K. North should take stock...Declarer is known to hold ♠ QJ, ♣ KQ, ♦ Q and, if South's ♦ 8 is from a small doubleton, then declarer also holds ♦ A. Count the points...14! Therefore declarer cannot have ♥ A. North should return a heart, holding declarer to nine tricks. **BUT**, North returned ♣ J and declarer scored ten tricks! Note also that South could have ducked the second spade this restricting declarer to three spades.

At five tables declarer contracted 3 NT and emerged with nine tricks. But, as usual, there is a tale to tell. At one table West opened 1 ♣ and rebid 2 NT in response to East's 1S. East raised to 3 NT. North led ♦ 5, declarer winning with ♦ Q. Declarer continued with ♠ J, South ducking. Declarer then made the mistake of continuing with ♠ 3 (instead of ♠ Q) to dummy's ♠ 9, South winning with ♠ K and leaving the spade suit blocked! For some strange reason South cashed ♥ A and then continued with ♦ 6 to declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next cashed ♠ Q, North discarding a club, and continued with a club to dummy's ♣ A. North is now under pressure! Declarer holds ♥ QJ4, ♣ KQ6 while dummy holds ♠ A7, ♥ 10, ♦ J9, ♣ 10. North holds ♥ K, ♦ K10, ♣ J87. South's hand is irrelevant. Declarer next cashes two spade winners, discarding two hearts from dummy. What two cards will North discard? The ♦ 10 is an easy choice...but whatever other card North discards creates an extra trick for declarer! Ten tricks to declarer. Check it out...**BUT**, declarer didn't see that option and simply cashed her black suit winners and then conceded two tricks to North. Nine tricks to declarer. It's amazing how often simple squeezes pop up in hands!

**Board 16**  
 West Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

### Board 17

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400; EW 3N=

3 NT can make. West will likely open 1 ♣ and re-bid spades opposite partner's 1 ♥ response. The partnership will then reach 3 NT. Declarer seems to have only eight tricks...1 spade, 2 diamonds, 5 clubs. Note also that declarer can play on hearts but can be deprived access to the East hand to cash any heart winners. Note that if West becomes declarer then a diamond lead from North will concede a ninth trick to declarer, i.e. declarer will score three diamond tricks by winning the opening lead in hand with ♦ Q and then finessing ♦ J and cashing ♦ A. If East becomes declarer then South has a natural lead of a diamond with choice of card led based on your methods. And now declarer cannot establish heart winners AND access them because the play of a second round of diamonds cuts communications to the East hand. But declarer has one final string to his/her bow...a fortuitous spade layout. Declarer must play for South to hold both spade honours. Assuming that East is declarer and South leads a diamond, declarer will likely play ♦ Q, which North will cover with ♦ K, declarer winning with ♦ A. But it takes careful play from this point. Declarer must lead a spade and if South pays ♠ K or ♠ Q declarer must duck! If declarer wins with ♠ A and plays a diamond to ♦ J and then leads a second spade, South can rise win with ♠ K (or ♠ Q) and the defense can then cash two diamonds and two hearts thus defeating the contract. BUT, if declarer ducks the first spade honour played by South then declarer can win the second diamond and now finesse ♠ J for nine tricks. It's all about timing, i.e. not setting up diamond winners for the defense BEFORE you finesse ♠ J.

### Saints & Sinners

**Absolute Sinner** status to the **various Souths** who found themselves on lead against 3 NT and led a spade or a heart where E/W had bid the suits.

**Saintly** status to the **Souths** who led a diamond.

Commiserations to the **Norths** who led a diamond against 3 NT.

**Sinner** status to the **West**s who opened 1 NT despite holding two doubletons... ♥ 93, ♦ Q3. Better to show your shape and strength by opening 1 ♣ and re-bidding spades over partner's 1 ♦ or 1 ♥ response.

### Board 17

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400: EW 3N=

### Saints & Sinners

3 NT was bid at 14 tables...and thirteen declarers emerged with nine or more tricks. At three tables declarer scored eleven tricks; at three others declarer made ten tricks. Nine tricks were scored at the other seven tables.

At one table West opened 1♣, East responded 1♥, West bid 1♠ (2♠ better to show both strength and shape) and East bid 1 NT which West raised to 3 NT. South led ♦ 10, declarer played ♦ Q from dummy and North covered with ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer cashed five club tricks, discarding a spade and a diamond from hand as North discarded a spade and a heart while South discarded two spades and a heart. Declarer next led ♥ 9 from dummy, North following low as South won with ♥ A. South continued with ♦ 9 which declarer ducked. South played another diamond which declarer won perforce with ♦ J whilst discarding a heart from dummy. Declarer exited on ♥ Q to North's ♥ K and North cashed his diamond winner. North continued with a spade into dummy's ♠ AJ, South winning one trick with his ♠ KQ. One down and very well defended and **Saintly** status to **David** and **Rory**. Now go back to trick 2...instead of leading a club and cashing club winners, if declarer leads a spade what does South do? If South plays low then declarer can finesse ♠ J for his ninth trick. And if South plays either ♠ K or ♠ Q then declarer ducks, leaving a straight finesse of ♠ J on the next lead of the suit from the East hand! And in the meantime N/S can only cash two top hearts! Nine tricks to declarer. BUT, declarer fails if he beats South's spade honour and then plays a diamond to dummy to lead another spade towards dummy's ♠ J52...South wins and N/S then cash two more diamonds and ♥ AK to defeat the contract by one trick.

At one table West bid clubs and spades and East bid hearts and eventually declared 3 NT. Sinner status to South who led ♥ 2. N/S cashed their two top hearts and South then switched to ♦ 6, declare playing ♦ Q from dummy as North covered with ♦ K. The defense erred on the play of declarer's heart and club winners with North and South discarding diamonds thus enabling declarer to win a third diamond trick with ♦ 5!!! Eleven tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to N/S, especially South for a poor choice of lead.

### Board 17

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400; EW 3N=

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♣ and re-bid 2NT (Wrong...2♠ is better) over East's 1♥ response. North led ♦4, South incorrectly contributing ♦10 instead of ♦9, as declarer won with ♦Q. Declarer continued with ♥9, North playing low as South won with ♥K. If South continues with a diamond then declarer no longer has access to dummy and cannot score any heart winners. **BUT**, South switched to a club and declarer was able to win in hand and play a second heart thus establishing two heart winners in dummy and subsequently gained access via a diamond. Declarer scored eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table West opened 1NT and North led ♦4 after East used Stayman and West showed spades. North raised to 3NT, presumably with four hearts in his hand! Same play as outlined in previous paragraph...and same outcome. Sympathy for South's switch at this table given that West did not open 1♣.

At another table West also opened 1NT and North led ♦4 after East used Stayman and West showed spades. East raised to 3NT, presumably with four hearts in her hand! Declarer won in hand with ♦Q and proceeded to cash five clubs discarding a diamond and a heart from dummy as North discarded a heart and a spade while South discarded a heart and two diamonds. Declarer next led a diamond and finessed ♦J, South discarding a spade. Cashing ♦A, and with ♠A to come, would see declarer emerge with nine tricks. **BUT**, declarer next led ♥10 leaving ♦A isolated in dummy! South played low as North won with ♥A. North continued with ♠9 to South's ♠Q and declarer's ♠A. Declarer exited on a heart to South's ♥K and South duly cashed ♠K and then played ♠8 to declarer's ♠J. Declarer scored a tenth trick with ♠5! If South hadn't discarded a spade he would have won the last trick with ♠7! Perhaps it would have been safer (remember this is an IMPS competition!) for declarer to cash DA after finessing ♦J and at least guarantee nine tricks.

At another table West opened 1♣, East bid 1♥, West re-bid 2♠ and East jumped to 3NT. I like the bidding sequence. **South** earns **Sinner** status for leading ♠7 instead of a diamond, declarer winning with ♠J. Declarer continued with ♦Q and **North** is awarded **Sinner** status for not covering with D♦K. Declarer subsequently finessed ♦J for ten tricks.



**Board 17**

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400; EW 3N=

**Saints & Sinners**

At another table West opened 1♣, East bid 1♥, West re-bid 1♠ and East bid 1NT. West raised to 2NT and East bid 3NT. South found the good lead of ♦6, declarer playing ♦Q from dummy and **North** earns **Sinner** status for not covering with ♦K. Declarer next led ♥9 and South won with ♥K and switched to ♠K, declarer winning with dummy's ♠A. Declarer continued with another heart, North winning with ♥A. North ignored South's earlier spade switch and continued with a heart, declarer winning in hand while discarding a spade from dummy. Declarer cashed her fourth heart, discarding another spade from dummy as North discarded a small diamond. Declarer next cashed ♦A, spurning the option of finessing ♦J, perhaps persuaded that South held ♦K when North failed to cover ♦Q at trick one, and then cashed five club tricks for a total of ten tricks. On the other hand it would have cost declarer nothing to play on clubs first and watch the discards made by both defenders and then make the diamond play. Indeed, South seems to have ♠Q and if she also holds ♦K then she will be squeezed in the two card ending where dummy holds ♠J, ♦3 and declarer holds ♦AJ. South cannot hold ♠Q and ♦Kx.

At four tables West opened 1♣ and rebid spades after East responded 1♥. East duly declared 3NT and at all four tables South led a spade...Sinner status to the four Souths. At two tables North overtook South's ♠7 and then made the fatal return of a diamond to dummy's ♦Q. At the other two tables South started with a spade honour. At one of these tables declarer won with ♠A and cashed five clubs, North discarding ♥4, ♦4 while South discarded ♠7, ♥2, ♦6. Declarer continued with ♦Q, North covering with ♦K as declarer won with ♦A. Declarer continued with ♥Q, South winning with ♥K. South continued with ♦10 which declarer ducked. South cashed ♠K and continued with a spade to dummy's ♠J. Declarer also cashed ♠5, South having discarded a spade earlier. Nine tricks to declarer. At the second table where South led a spade honour declarer found the excellent play of ducking. At trick two South switched to a club. Declarer won the club switch in dummy and next led ♦3, finessing ♦J. Declarer then led ♠6 and when South followed with ♠7 declarer finessed dummy's ♠J. **Saintly** status to **Catherine Fleming**.

At another table West declared 3NT on the lead of ♦4, declarer winning with ♦Q and duly emerging with nine tricks.

### Board 17

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400; EW 3N=

### Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♣ and rebid 3♠ over East's 1♥ response (many would play this 3♠ bid as a **Splinter**, agreeing hearts as trumps and showing a singleton/void in spades with values for game. Perhaps West mis-clicked 3♠ instead of 2♠ which would perfectly describe her hand.) East bid 3NT. South found the lead of ♦ 9, declarer playing ♦ Q from dummy and beating North's ♦ K with ♦ A. Although she may not have realised it, declarer is under pressure to make nine tricks BUT at trick two she made the winning play when she led ♠ 3. South inserted ♠ Q, surely promising the ♠ K as well and declarer made a second winning play when she ducked in dummy. South continued with ♦ 10 and North, perhaps keen to encourage partner made what could have been a costly play of following with ♦ 7 instead of ♦ 4. [Note: North cannot now overtake partner's ♦ 6 with ♦ 8 on the next round because it would promote declarer's ♦ 5 as a winner!). Declarer won the diamond continuation with ♦ J. Declarer simply needed to lead a spade and finesse ♠ J to claim nine tricks...**BUT**, despite having done the groundwork, declarer played on clubs instead of finessing ♠ J and could now have been defeated if North and South held their diamonds and if South won the first heart so that he could cash ♦ 6 thus leaving North to win the second heart and cash ♦ 8. **BUT**, declarer cashed five clubs and North and South made the wrong discards (North discarded a diamond as did South!) and then South found herself on lead at trick twelve with ♠ K8. South led ♠ 8 but declarer finessed ♠ J for nine tricks. Declarer should have finessed ♠ J before playing clubs.

At another table West opened 1♣ and re-bid 1♠ over partner's 1♥ response. East bid 1NT and West raised to 3NT. South led ♦ 10 to dummy's ♦ Q, North's ♦ k and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next cashed four clubs, North discarding a heart while South discarded two hearts. Declarer next led ♥ 9 South winning with ♥ K as North followed with a low heart. N/S can now defeat the contract...IF South continues with ♦ 9, thus establishing two diamond winners for North who still has ♥ A as an entry. If declarer leads a spade after winning ♠ J South will rise with ♠ Q thus ensuring that declarer cannot score ♠ J. After declarer cashes the fifth club she will have to concede 2 diamonds, ♥ A, ♠ K, to add to the ♥ K the defense already have in the bag. One down and well done to N/S. **B U T...** South, upon winning with ♥ K switched to ♠ 7, declarer rising with ♠ A. Declarer continued with dummy's remaining heart thus establishing two heart winners in her hand. North rose with ♥ A and continued with a diamond but declarer won with ♦ J and gratefully cashed two heart winners for nine tricks! **Sinner** status to **South**.

**Board 17**

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -400; EW 3N=

**Saints & Sinners**

At five tables game was not reached and E/W played in a NT part-score. At two of these tables East responded 1♦ and not surprisingly both Souths duly led ♥2. At both tables North and South also discarded too many diamonds and both declarers scored three diamond tricks! Eleven tricks made at both tables. **Sinner** status to **North** and **South** at both tables for enabling declarer to score three diamond tricks.

At another table North overcalled 1♦ and subsequently declared 3♦ which failed by four tricks. This contract should have been Doubled which would have seen E/W reap +800 instead of +200. **Sinner** status to **East**.

At three tables E/W declared a part-score in clubs. One declarer, a BBO Robot, made eleven tricks while the other two declarers scored ten tricks.

**Board 18**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

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

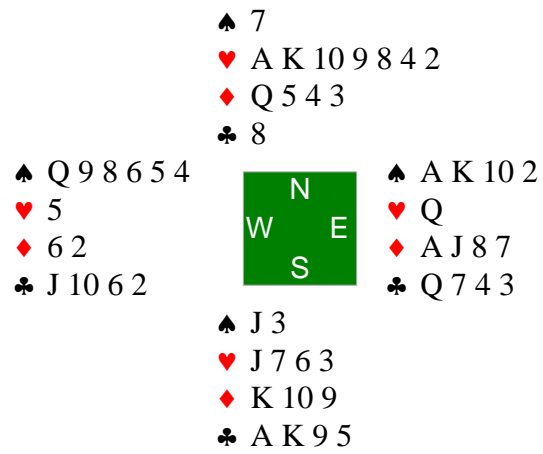
NS 5♥; NS 5♣; NS 2♠; NS 1N; EW 1♦; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

**Board 19**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

**Board 20**  
 West Deals  
 Both Vul



NS 5♥; EW 2♠; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; Par +650: NS 5♥=

**Board 21**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

E 6N; EW 6♠; E 6♣; W 5N; W 5♣; EW 3♥; EW 3♦;  
Par -990: E 6N=

## Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

As the list of makeable contracts shows, 4 ♠ can be made by West but East can be restricted to nine tricks! But that's only if South leads a diamond! 4 ♠ by East fails on a diamond lead because N/S can subsequently score 2 hearts, 1 diamond, 1 club. On any other lead declarer can establish two hearts in hand, on one of which declarer can subsequently discard the losing diamond in dummy and then ruff declarer's losing diamond with dummy's third trump. Alternatively, declarer can try for a 'ruffing finesse' in clubs, hoping that North holds one of the two club honours. So, a couple of routes to ten tricks on a non-diamond lead from South. Note that if East opens 1 ♠ and West bids 2 ♣ then North can make a **Takeout Double** showing an opening bid with support for **both red suits**. Bidding 2 ♦ with the North hand is not a recommended option.

## Saints & Sinners

A total of 17 E/W partnerships bid the spade game. At eight tables, East contracted 4 ♠ and in each case South led a diamond thus inflicting a one trick defeat on declarer. In some cases North made a **Takeout Double** after West responded 2 ♣ to East's 1 ♠ opening, showing support for the red suits. In one case North actually bid 2 ♦ rather than show diamonds and hearts via a Takeout Double. In some other cases East re-bid 2 ♥ thus persuading South that a diamond lead might be more appropriate! **Saintly** status to all eight **Souths**... **Rhona, Rory, Victoria, Colette, Michael, Patricia, Carmel, Mary**.

Another E/W landed in 5 ♠ after N/S bid to 5 ♦. 5 ♦ x could have earned E/W a+500 penalty, not as good as making a vulnerable 4 ♠ but better than 5 ♠-1!

At two tables East contracted 4 ♠ making ten tricks. At one table South led ♦ 10 in response to partner's overcall and declarer rose with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps and then conceded a heart to North's ♥ K. North cashed ♦ K, ♥ A and then oblivious to the danger played ♦ 9 conceding a fatal ruff and discard to declarer who discarded his singleton club from hand whilst ruffing with dummy's ♠ 8. Ten tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to **North**.

At the second table South led a heart and declarer duly discarded a diamond from dummy on a winning heart and then ruffed a diamond in dummy. **Saintly** status to **Irene Fitzpatrick**.



## Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

## Saints & Sinners

At six other tables E/W declared 4 ♠ and all declarers emerged with ELEVEN tricks. The rot started for N/S when South cashed ♣ A at trick one and, despite viewing the six card club suit in dummy, five Souths continued with another club, picking up North's ♣ K as declarer ruffed. Declarer simply drew trumps and discarded losers from hand, duly conceding a red suit loser at trick thirteen. This line of defense is based on declarer holding a doubleton club and North holding a singleton! Optimistic!

At the sixth table, South switched to a diamond at trick two, declarer rising with ♦ A. Declarer next led ♣ Q, North following with ♣ K, perforce, as declarer ruffed. Again, declarer drew trumps and conceded a trick to North at the end. It should be noted that at two of these tables West bid 2 ♣ in response to East's opening 1 ♠, surely suggesting an alternative opening lead from South. At least this South had the wit to switch to a diamond at trick two but it was too late!

At five tables E/W played in a spade part-score. At one table, East opened 2 ♦ (a top-heavy Multi... a 1 ♠ opening is better and leaves the heart suit in play!), West responded 2 ♥ which East converted to 2 ♠. South underled her ♣ A (not recommended against a suit contract), North winning with ♣ K. North returned a club, declarer ruffing with ♠ 2. Declarer cashed two top trumps and then played a heart to dummy's ♥ Q. North cashed two top hearts and continued with a heart, declarer winning in hand whilst discarding a diamond from dummy. Declarer cashed his fourth heart, discarding a club from dummy. Declarer then played a diamond to dummy's ♦ A, ruffed a club in hand and ruffed his losing diamond in dummy. **Saintly** status to **Pat Duff**.

At another table East opened 1 ♠, West bid 2 ♣, North overcalled 2 ♦ (**Sinner** status to **North**), East re-bid 2 ♠ which West raised to 3 ♠ and that became the final contract. South led ♦ 10, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps, ending in hand and then led a club, South rising with ♣ A and continuing with a diamond to North's ♦ K. North next cashed two top hearts and then optimistically played ♣ K, declarer ruffing and having to settle for nine tricks.

## Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

## Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1 ♠, West bid 2 ♣ and North bid 2 ♦ (a **Takeout Double** is much better as it brings the two red suits into play for N/S). East bid 2 ♠ (2 ♥ is an option in the absence of a Takeout Double from North) and West closed the bidding with 3 ♠. South led ♦ 10, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ A as North followed with ♦ 2 and declarer played ♦ J. Declarer cashed two round of trumps, ending in dummy, and then led ♥ Q. North won with ♥ K and then cashed ♦ K as declarer followed with ♦ Q and South played ♦ 7. North next cashed ♥ A and then conceded the tenth trick to declarer when she played ♦ 9 as declarer discarded her losing club from hand and ruffed with dummy's S♠ 8. Yes, South's lead of ♦ 10 might have confused North but when declarer contributes ♦ QJ on the first two rounds of diamonds North should realise the true layout of the diamond suit and should appreciate that playing a third round was fraught with danger. There is no way that declarer can discard all dummy's clubs but an injudicious ruff and discard could see declarer discard a club from hand! **Sinner** status to **North**.

At one table, where West raised opener directly to 3 ♠, thus denying North the opportunity to show her support for both red suits, South led ♥ 4 (M.U.D), declarer played ♥ Q from dummy as North won with ♥ K. North continued with ♥ A, South playing ♥ 6, confirming her likely three-card holding. North switched to a trump and declarer drew the opponents trumps in two rounds. Declarer cashed ♥ J, discarding ♦ 4 from dummy, continued with ♥ 10 discarding a club from dummy and then played ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Declarer simply needs to concede a club, ruff a club in hand and then trump ♦ Q with dummy's last trump. **BUT**, after winning with ♦ A, declarer inexplicably played dummy's last trump overtaking in hand and subsequently conceded a club and a diamond. Note the lucky 2-2 trump break. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the fifth table East opened 1 ♠, West responded 2 ♣, North Passed (Dbl would be appropriate) and East re-bid 2 ♠. South led ♥ 4, North winning with ♥ K, cashing ♥ A and switching to ♠ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♠ K and then ruffing ♥ 10 with ♠ 8 (instead of discarding ♦ 4). South won the first club and played a diamond to North's ♦ K. Nine tricks and **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

### Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table, ♥ 4 was also led and North cashed two top hearts, South contributing ♥ 6 on second round, and then switched to ♠ 10. Declarer won the trump switch in hand and immediately led ♥ 9 (now a master heart) from hand ruffed with dummy's ♠ 8 thus ensuring that ten tricks would become nine! Declarer next led ♣ Q, losing to South's ♣ A. South continued with a diamond, North winning with ♦ K to leave declarer with nine tricks! Declarer could have played a master heart at trick four, discarding ♦ 4 from dummy and then cash ♦ A, return to hand with a trump and ruff a diamond in dummy. There is one potential fly in the ointment...if South started with three hearts and three trumps. Now, after declarer ruffs the losing diamond in dummy, declarer must lead a club, North winning with a club honour and leading a fourth heart which South can ruff. A solution to this is to play a club after winning the first trump thus setting up the position that after ruffing the losing diamond declarer can safely return to hand via a club ruff and draw the remaining trumps. Note by the way that on this particular hand, because of the favourable 2-2 trump break, all routes involving the ruffing of a diamond lead to home. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

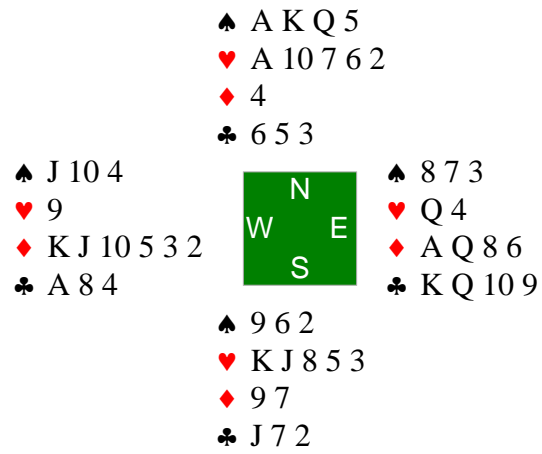
A horror story emerged at one table where East opened 1 ♠, South Passed and West raised to 3 ♠. North made a highly injudicious **Takeout Double** and South subsequently found herself declaring 4 ♣x. Declarer miraculously emerged with FIVE tricks but N/S suffered an 1100 penalty which earned their opponents a valuable 13 IMPs and was a significant contribution to their eventual overall win with a total of 55.72 IMPs. **Absolute Sinner** status to **North**.

**Board 23**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

E 3♥; EW 4♦; W 2♥; EW 1N; NS 2♣; S 1♠; Par -140: E 2♥+1

**Board 24**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul



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