

TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 18th February 2021, in the **Tribes Bridge Club BBO IMPs Pairs**.

Another very interesting set of hands, including the usual selection of challenging declarer and defensive plays which many players failed to master. And a number of bidding opportunities too!

Fewer hands analysed this week due to heavy bridge commitment last weekend!

This week I analysed the following hands: Board# 13, 14, 15, 16, 23 with 22 pages of commentary and observations.

Two hands received detailed analysis...Board#16 is analysed over eight pages and Board#23 is dissected over nine pages.

Board#13 sees N/S with an opportunity to bid a small slam in hearts (only one pair did!) and yet several pairs failed to reach game when North didn't appreciate the power of his pointless hand!

Board#14 illustrates why 4 NT is not always the solution when it comes to bidding a slam, particularly where the opponents have bid! There are alternative methods!

Board#15 sees E/W with an opportunity to bid a small slam in spades or diamonds...or for N/S to 'sacrifice' in hearts which sees them with a 7-6 trump fit! And if you declared the small slam in spades or diamonds did you manage to make all thirteen tricks on a heart lead?

Board#16 only 4 declarers were successful in making their contract. Bidding on less than 5hcp caused major problems for a number of partnerships, several failing by 3 or more tricks!

Board#23 provided opportunities for both sides. Declarer opportunities for N/S and defensive opportunities for E/W. Few successes although a small number shine through!

As always there were several other hands that I wished I had time to analyse...Time, time, time!

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell

25th February 2021

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

NS 4♦; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +130: NS 3♣+1; NS 3♦+1

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

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

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 1N; NS 2♣; NS 1♦;

Par -140: EW 3♥=; EW 3♠=

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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



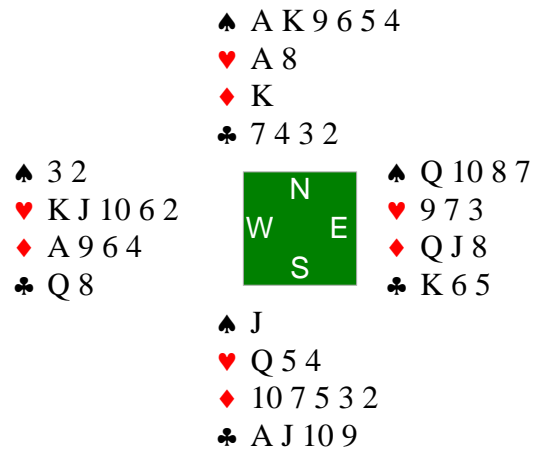
S 2♥; S 3♣; S 1N; EW 2♦; N 2♣; EW 1♠; N 1♥;
 Par +110: S 2♥=; S 3♣=

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

W 2N; W 2♥; W 3♦; EW 3♣; E 1N; E 2♦; S 1♠; E 1♥;
 Par -120: W 2N=

Board 12
 West Deals
 N-S Vul



S 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 2♥; N 3♣; EW 1N; Par +130: S 4♣=

Board 13

North Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 4♠; S 3N; N 2N; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par +1100; EW 7♦×-4

Yes, 6♥ does make...but bidding it with any degree of confidence is difficult. In fact don't be surprised if some pairs fail to bid game! South should open with a strong 2♣ or 2♦ according to your system methods. If South opens 2♣ then North will presumably relay with 2♦ and South should re-bid 2♥. North can now rebid 4♥, where 3♥ would be stronger and forcing. South should Pass 4♥. If the defense lead a club then in order to make twelve tricks declarer needs to establish dummy's spade suit. Declarer gets very lucky when the suit breaks 3-2. On a diamond lead from West declarer has an easier route to twelve tricks because dummy's losing club can be discarded on ♦ K and then a club and diamond can be ruffed in the North hand.

Saints & Sinners

If you can't argue with success then **Saintly** status has to be awarded to the one pair who bid 6♥. South opened 2♣, North bid 2♦, South re-bid 3♥ (2♥ should be enough). North raised to 4♥ and South jumped to 6♥. West led ♦ A and that was the end of the defense! **Saintly** status to N/S, **Ali & Marion**.

Sinner status to the **South** who single-handed launched his side into a no-hope 6NT. Without knowing the bidding system that was in use I cannot give a detailed insight to the bidding sequence. But when South opens 2♣ I think that most Norths will make a negative or relay bid of 2♦. This North bid 2♠ (spades can be bid later) and South then jumped to 4♣, presumably Gerber) and North bid 4♦. South then blasted into 6NT. Hearts were never mentioned! South should have rebid 3♥ over North's 2♠ response and now they have a chance of reaching the heart slam. **Sinner** status to **both players** who would do well to spend some time discussing their approach to bidding big hands!

Six other N/S pairs languished in 2♥. This is very disappointing and suggests a lack of understanding re bidding big hands. It also suggests a lack of hand evaluation by the six North players who should have raised South's 2♥ bid to 4♥. The North hand might lack honour cards but opposite a strong hand with a known 5/6 card heart suit the North hand is HUGE! **Sinner** status to the **Norths**.

Board 14

East Deals
None Vul

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

EW 5♥; EW 1N; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -450: EW 4♥+1

E/W can make 5 ♥...but not 6 ♥. This is a classic example that illustrates the uselessness of 4 NT where the opponents have bid a suit. If South has bid clubs and East subsequently decides to explore slam possibilities it is crucial to establish whether or not E/W have two losing clubs...asking for Aces does NOT provide the answer to that question. Yes, E/W have twelve tricks via 3 spades, 7 hearts, 2 diamonds...BUT N/S can cash two club tricks leaving declarer a trick short. **Cue-bidding** can be used to identify the possession (or absence) of **Controls**, i.e. aces, kings, voids or singletons, in side suits. The problem with this hand is that East is short of 1st round controls (voids or aces) and many users of Cue-bids prefer to show first round controls before showing second round controls (singletons or kings). But that's all for partnership agreement. Note that if West held a singleton (or void) in clubs then 6 ♥ is a solid contract!

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the **two E/W pairs** who used 4 NT and reached 6 ♥ and suffered a one trick defeat! Time to start researching **Cue-Bidding**.

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♦; NS 3♥; EW 4♣; Par -980: EW 6♠=

6 ♠ or 6 ♦ make...In fact all thirteen tricks can be made on the likely heart lead...as long as declarer does the right thing at trick one! In 6 ♠, declarer needs to ruff in the West hand with the short trump holding and discard a club (or a diamond) from the East hand. Declarer will then score 5 trumps, 1 heart ruff (in the West hand), 6 diamonds and 1 club! In 6 ♦ declarer will ruff the heart lead in the East hand and will subsequently score 6 trumps and a heart ruff, 5 spades, 1 club.

N/S have an incredible 7-6 heart fit and yet 5 ♥x-2 could be costly because the spade slam may not be bid frequently on the E/W cards. -500 by N/S could cost if only game is being bid by E/W, albeit that with E/W scoring at least 480, the loss should be negligible. If South opens 1 ♥ then North should bid 4 ♥ at first opportunity. 5 ♥x-2 is a very good save against 6 ♠ or 6 ♦ by E/W.

Reaching 6 ♠ (or even 6 ♦) is not that easy, in particular if N/S 'bounce' the bidding. In West's favour, if East has bid spades, is the fact that West has good four card trump support, a void in the opponents suit, a good six card diamond suit headed by ♦ AK, and ♣ A. A lot may depend on the freedom that East is afforded in the bidding. There is a big difference if East jumps freely to 4 ♠ over 2 ♥ or 3 ♥ by North as opposed to bidding 4 ♠ over 4 ♥ from North. The latter could be forced by N/S bouncing the bidding and East's 4♠ could be forced and based on lesser values.

Saints & Sinners

Three obvious pairs of **Saints**...those that bid 6 ♠... At one table South opened 1 ♥ and West made a Takeout Double which is better than bidding 2 ♦ in so far as it brings the spades, and to a lesser extent the clubs, into play. North made what must surely be regarded as the underbid of the evening when she emerged with a bid of 2 ♥! Holding seven cards in partner's suit, which presumably promises at least 5 hearts, North should bid 4 ♥ which also increases the pressure on E/W. Over North's 2 ♥ bid East jumped to 4 ♠. This was enough to propel West to further action and her bid of 4 NT duly caused North to reappraise her hand and she now bid 5 ♥. West, unperturbed, jumped to 6 ♠. On the heart lead declarer did the right thing and duly scored thirteen tricks. **Saintly** status to E/W, **Marion Coy & Deirdre McCoy**. **Sinner** status to **North** for her meek initial 2 ♥ response to partner's 1 ♥ opening.

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♦; NS 3♥; EW 4♣; Par -980: EW 6♠=

Saints & Sinners

At a second table South Passed (Sinner status to South...the hand is well worth an opening bid of 1 ♥...top heavy for a Weak 2 ♥). West opened 1 ♦, North Passed and East responded 1 ♠. South belatedly sprang to life with 2 ♥ and West bid 4 NT (RKCB). East bid 5 ♠ (not alerted but generally played as showing 2 keycards AND the Queen of trumps!). West closed the auction with a bid of 6 ♠. South led ♥ A and declarer erred by discarding a club from dummy and ruffing in hand. Declarer duly made twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to E/W, **Frank & Pat**, in particular to West for bidding on to the small slam. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for misplaying the hand and only scoring twelve tricks!

At the third table, South opened 1 ♥, West made a Takeout Double and North made a huge underbid when she bid 2 ♥ instead of jumping to 4 ♥. But, if North made an underbid, so too did East who bid a mere 2 ♠ opposite partner's Takeout Double of 1 ♥. East should have bid 4 ♠. South competed with 3 ♥ and West jumped to 4 ♠. North persevered with 5 ♥ and East now bid 5 ♠. West raised to 6 ♠. South led ♥ A and declarer erred by discarding ♣ 3 from dummy and could no longer score thirteen tricks. **Saintly** status to E/W, **Kevin & Mary**, for reaching the top spot but the auction was less than convincing. East's initial bid of 2 ♠ is a real underbid. And North's raise to 2 ♥ is also underwhelming!

And only five of thirteen declarers who played a spade contract (game or slam), on a heart lead actually made 13 tricks. **Sinner** status to those **that failed to make 13 tricks!** As outlined in the opening paragraph, making thirteen tricks on a heart lead is straightforward...ruff the lead in the hand with the short trumps (West) and discard a minor card from the East hand. At least eight declarers ruffed in the hand with the LONG trumps and discarded a club from the West hand. At these tables declarer duly lost a club trick!

One declarer in 4 ♠ actually discarded a diamond from the West hand on the initial heart lead and subsequently lost TWO club tricks and ended up with a total of just eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♦; NS 3♥; EW 4♣; Par -980: EW 6♠=

Saints & Sinners

Three E/W pairs reached 5♦. At one table, North led a spade despite South opening 1♥. Declarer could now only make 12 tricks. At the other two tables, a heart was led. One declarer emerged with thirteen tricks when she correctly ruffed the opening heart led in the East hand...**Saintly** status to **Anne Killilea**. At the second table, declarer ruffed in the West hand and now could only score twelve tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Any declarer who played this hand with the E/W cards and received a heart lead, offering a ruff & discard, should have stopped and done some serious thinking before playing from dummy. Remember that one of the main benefits of a ruff & discard is the ability of declarer to increase the total number of trump tricks **by ruffing in the hand with the short trumps** whilst discarding from the other hand.

At four tables N/S were allowed play in 5♥. **Absolute Sinner** status to the **one E/W pair** who failed to Double the final contract. There is nothing to the play...declarer loses 2 spades, 1 diamond, and 1 club and should emerge with nine tricks.

At one table South declared 5♥x and took a totally anti-percentage line by rising with ♣ K when East switched to a small club. With ♣ K106 opposite ♣ J92 it makes absolute sense to play for East to hold ♣ Qx(xx). There are three possible scenarios where it might be right to rise with ♣ K when East switches to a small club... 1) where West holds a singleton ♣ Q, ... 2) where West holds a doubleton ♣ Qx, and...3) where East has a doubleton ♣ A. In the first case, rising with the ♣ K drops a singleton ♣ Q and declarer subsequently loses just one club to East's ♣ A. In the second and third cases, rising with ♣ K sees declarer win the trick, and if diamonds have already been eliminated, or if declarer can eliminate the suit without losing the lead, then declarer can exit on a second club and whichever opponent started with the doubleton ♣ Ax or ♣ Qx will win and be forced to give declarer a ruff and discard whereby declarer can discard a club from one hand and ruff in the other. BUT, in reality the play with the best probability (50%) of success is simply to play East to hold ♣ Qx(xx). **Sinner** status to **declarer** for rising with ♣ K...and suffering a three trick defeat, -800, and the loss of 5.95 IMPs.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

What a mis-fit! Despite holding the minority of strength (19hcp) N/S can actually make 2 NT whereas E/W can only make 1 ♠ or 1 ♥. I expect variety of contracts, from both sides of the table, and where few declarer will emerge with a plus score! For E/W the rot sets in when West bids. The West hand is too weak to open 2 ♥ (Weak) apart from which holding four spades does not make a weak 2 ♥ as an attractive opening option. When East opens West does best to reject the desire to bid. Perhaps an initial 2 ♥ response (Weak, and again not ideal when also holding four spades) is preferable but many Easts will have no difficulty in moving forward and now West will have difficulty in applying the brakes!

Saints & Sinners

At four tables West contracted 4 ♥ with declarers suffering 3, 4, or 5 trick defeats! At one table a pair playing a Strong Club system had difficulty stopping short of 4 ♥. North led ♠ 10, declarer playing dummy's ♠ J as South won with ♠ K. South returned a spade to dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer next led ♥ 7 and played ♥ J from hand, North winning with ♥ K. North continued with ♠ 8, South ruffing dummy's ♠ A with ♥ 5. South next played ♦ 3 to North's ♦ K, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer next cashed ♣ A, North following with ♣ 2, and then led ♣ 10, South rising with ♣ K which declarer ruffed in hand with ♥ 2 as North followed with ♣ 3. Declarer next led ♥ Q from hand, North winning with ♥ A as South discarded ♣ 6. North cashed ♠ 9 as South discarded ♣ 9. North continued with ♦ 9 to dummy's ♦ J and South's ♦ Q. South applied the *coup de grace* by continuing with ♦ 10, North eventually scoring ♥ 108 for a five trick defeat. Excellent defense by N/S, **Rhona & Margaret**, who are awarded **Saintly** status...

At a second table East opened 1 ♣, West responded 1 ♥ and East **Reversed** with a bid of 2 ♦ showing his shape and strength. West rebid 2 ♥, East jumped to 3 NT and West converted to 4 ♥. North led ♠ 10, declarer playing ♠ J from dummy as South won with ♠ K. South returned a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer ran ♥ 7 to North's ♥ 8. North played a third spade, South ruffing dummy's ♠ A with ♥ 5. South continued with a diamond to North's ♦ K and dummy's ♦ A. Declarer next led dummy's ♦ 5 and South erred by rising with ♦ Q instead of playing ♦ 10. South continued with ♦ 4, declarer discarding ♠ 7 from hand as North ruffed with ♥ 10. North cashed ♥ AK and conceded the remaining tricks to declarer for a four trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **West** for bidding 1 ♥.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1♣ and West responded 1♥ over which East jumped to 3NT. West converted to 4♥. North led ♠ 10 and declarer rose with dummy's ♠ A and continued with ♥ 7 to her ♥ Q and North's ♥ K. North played a second spade to South's ♠ K and South then switched to ♦ 4, North playing ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer next tried to cash dummy's ♠ J which South ruffed with ♥ 5. South was now effectively end-played...a club into dummy's ♣ AQ or cashing ♦ Q and continuing with a diamond thereby forcing North to ruff while declarer discarded her losing spade whereas a diamond continuation from North would have seen South score ♦ 10 whilst retaining ♦ Q. South continued with ♦ Q and then ♦ 10, declarer discarding ♠ 7 as North ruffed with ♥ 8. North continued with ♠ 9 which declarer ruffed in hand. North subsequently scored ♥ A10 for a four trick defeat. 1♣ by East might have produced a better result for E/W! **Sinner** status to **West**.

At the fourth table East opened 1♣ and South overcalled 1♦. West ventured 1♥ and North joined the party with a bid of 1♠. East rebid 2NT reflecting his 18hcp. West tried to get off the bus with 3♥ and East bid 3NT and West closed the auction with 4♥. North led ♦ K, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer continued with ♥ 7 to ♥ 9 in hand, North winning with ♥ 10. North continued with ♥ 9, declarer playing low from dummy as South also played low. North now switched to ♠ 8, dummy's ♠ J losing to South's ♠ K. South continued with ♦ 3 which declarer ruffed with ♥ 6 as North overruffed with ♥ 8 [West might have done better to discard a spade]. North, perhaps persuaded by South's small diamond return, switched to ♣ 2, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer is now in good shape (relatively speaking when compared to what happened at other tables!). Declarer now ruffed a club with ♥ 2 and continued with ♥ J, losing to North's ♥ K but crucially felling South's ♥ 5 so that South could not ruff a spade. And with ♦ J available in dummy for a spade discard declarer actually escaped for three down. The absence of a spade lead from North meant that South never got the vital spade ruff with his ♥ 5. And the ♦ J provided a discard for declarer's fourth spade. It's quite amazing how a different sequence of bids can produce a totally different sequence of plays and a very different final outcome. Only three down represented a good result from what was a very poor contract.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At a six tables E/W contracted 3 NT with results varying from 3 NT made (at one table) to 3 NT-5 at two tables! At one table North opened 1♣, East Doubled, South Passed, West bid 1♥, East bid 2 NT, West bid 3♥ and East closed the auction with 3 NT. [Note: If an overcall of 1 NT=16-18, a Takeout Double followed by a bid of 1 NT=19-20 and so a Takeout Double followed by a re-bid of 2 NT=21-22]. Against 3 NT South led ♣ 4 to North's ♣ J and declarer's ♣ Q and clearly placing ♣ A10 with declarer...North would have risen with ♣ A if he had it and similarly should play ♣ 10 from a holding that includes ♣ J10! Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ Q and North's ♥ K. North switched to ♠ 10, declarer playing ♠ J from hand as South won with ♠ K. And now South continued with ...♣ K, declarer discarding ♥ 2 from dummy as she won with ♣ A in hand. Declarer continued with ♦ 5 from hand and South rose with ♦ 10. South next led ♣ 9, declarer discarding ♥ 4 from dummy as she won with ♣ 10 in hand. Declarer now cashed ♣ 85, discarding a diamond and heart from dummy, while South discarded ♦ 3 on the fifth club as North discarded ♥ 8 and then, fatally, the ♥ 10. Declarer next cashed ♠ AQ, South discarding the crucial ♥ 5. Declarer next cashed ♦ A, felling North's ♦ K. Declarer was now left with ♦ J7 while South held ♦ Q6. Declarer exited on ♦ J, South winning with ♦ Q and then having to return ♦ 6 to declarer's ♦ 7 at trick thirteen while North discarded ♥ A and ♠ 8, both winners, on the last two tricks! There is only one word to describe this defensive effort...a total disaster! What was in South's favour was the fact that North opened the bidding. That should have helped South to piece together some valuable information that should have assisted him in planning a more effective defense. Firstly, I presume that North's opening bid could have been made on a three card suit. South should have considered that possibility. Secondly, when South led a club and North contributed ♣ J South should have realised that North did NOT have either ♣ A or ♣ 10. Thus continuing with ♣ K was suicidal...and then playing ♣ 9 into declarer's ♣ 108 at a later stage was also thoughtless. Also, why didn't declarer playing a second heart? And when declarer showed up with ♠ A, in addition to ♠ J in the earlier play of the suit, it doesn't leave North with very much to account for his opening bid! North has only shown up with ♥ K, ♣ J. North must have HA and some values in diamonds, either ♦ K or ♦ QJ. But the ♥ A is a must. North doesn't have an opening bid without ♥ A. When declarer leads ♠ Q South should discard a small diamond and retain ♥ 5. This will ensure a one trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **South**. **Saintly** status to **East** for declarer play. **Sinner** status for **her bidding**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 2♥ (Weak), not recommended at this vulnerability! East jumped to 3NT, not recommended with only a singleton card in partner's suit. [Note: E/W should have a mechanism whereby partner can enquire (2NT?) about opener's strength and where opener's response narrows the range of his opening bid. But, that aside the West hand is not appropriate for an opening bid, particularly at this vulnerability.] South led ♦ 4 to North's ♦ K, declarer ducking. North continued with ♦ 9, declarer covering with ♦ J as South won with ♦ Q. South continued with ♦ 10, North discarding ♠ 8, promoting ♦ 7 as a second diamond trick for declarer. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ Q, South winning perforce with ♠ K. South punched another diamond to declarer's ♦ 7, dummy and North discarding each discarding a heart. Declarer cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ Q, South winning with ♣ K as declarer discarded ♠ 5 from dummy. South cashed her last diamond, dummy and declarer discarding a heart as North discarded ♠ 10. South had no difficulty in continuing with a heart, and declarer erred by following with ♥ 9 instead of rising with ♥ J or ♥ Q. North won with ♥ 10 and then cashed ♥ AK and CJ for a five trick defeat. East scored a mere four tricks! Declarer could have saved a trick by cashing ♠ J before playing the second club. **Sinner** status to **West** for a poor opening bid. E.W should have a mechanism for the partner of a Weak 2 opening to enquire as to the strength of the opening bid, i.e. range of hcp and/or quality of suit.

At another table East opened 1♣, West bid 1♥, East rebid 2NT, West bid 3♥ and East closed the auction with 3NT. South led ♦ 4 to North's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 10, (hoping to crash a doubleton ♣ 9?), North winning with ♣ J. North cashed ♥ AK, declarer discarding ♦ 5 on the second heart, and then continued with ♦ 9, declarer following low as South overtook with ♦ 10. South now cashed ♦ Q63 declarer discarding two hearts and a spade as North discarded ♥ 10, ♣ 3 while declarer discarded ♣ 5, ♠ J. South, holding ♠ K6, ♣ K9 while declarer held ♠ AQ, ♣ Q8, was now in an interesting position. South could play either suit, throwing declarer on lead while conceding a trick in the chosen suit but then being the beneficiary of having declarer concede a trick to South in the other suit! South exited on ♠ K, declarer winning with ♠ A, cashing ♠ Q, but then having to lead from ♣ Q8 to South's ♣ K9. Five down and well defended by N/S. **Saintly** status to **Bridie & Mary**. **Sinner** status to **West**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1♣ and West bid 2♥ (presumably Weak). North Doubled (Takeout, showing support for the two unbid suits, spades and diamonds!!!). East closed the auction with a bid of 3NT. South led ♦4, North contributing ♦K as declarer won with ♦A. Declarer cashed ♣A and continued with ♣5 as South contributed ♣6 and ♣4 respectively, presumably showing count for partner's benefit! North won the second club with ♣J and continued with ♦9, declarer following with ♦5 (covering with ♦J would eventually see declarer score a second diamond). North next cashed ♥AK, declarer discarding ♠J on the second round. North now switched to ♠10, declarer finessing ♠Q as South won with ♠K. What followed is first-class defense by South who had clearly worked out declarer's distribution and used it to full effect. Clearly North's inability to continue with another diamond after playing ♦9 meant that declarer held ♦J7. Also, declarer's reluctant discard of ♠J placed declarer with an original holding of ♠AQJ. And given declarer's known singleton heart the picture is quite clear and South read it perfectly. This was the position after South won ♠K. South held the following: ♠6, ♦Q106, ♣K9 while declarer held ♠A, ♦J7, ♣Q108. South returned ♠6 to declarer's ♠A. Declarer continued with ♣Q, South winning with ♣K and exiting on ♣9, declarer winning with ♣10 and then cashing ♣8. But declarer now had to lead from ♦J7 with South holding ♦Q10. Four down. Nice card-reading by South, **May O'Sullivan....Saintly** status awarded. Yes, after winning ♠K, South could have cashed ♦Q and conceded a diamond to declarer's ♦J and then cash her long diamond after winning with ♣K. But the way she did it was more elegant and confirmed a player who had a sound appreciation of what was going on at the table!

At another table East opened 1♣, South overcalled 1♦, West bid 1♥ and North bid 1NT. East bid 2NT, West bid 3♥ and East converted to 3NT. South led ♥5 and declarer played ♥9, North winning with ♥10. North continued with ♦K, declarer winning with ♦A. Declarer next led ♣10, North winning with ♣J. North continued with ♦9, declarer covering with ♦J as South won with ♦Q. South now continued with ♥3 to dummy's ♥J and North's ♥K as declarer discarded ♠J. North exerted more pressure on declarer by cashing ♥A, declarer discarding ♣5 as South discarded ♦4. North continued with ♣3, declarer finessing ♣Q, South winning with ♣K. But now South was end-played and whatever he played next would cede a trick to declarer! South exited on ♣6, declarer winning with ♣8 and then cashing ♣A, dropping South's ♣9! Declarer now led ♦5 from hand, South winning with ♦6 and then cashing ♦10 but then having to lead from ♠K6 into declarer's ♠AQ. Declarer finished four down.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1♣ and West bid 1♦ (presumably this is a 'Negative' response. It MUST be alerted). East rebid 2NT, West continued with 3♥ and East closed the auction with 3NT. South led ♦ 4 to North's ♦ K, declarer ducking as he followed with ♦ 5. North continued with ♦ 9, declarer again playing low. North now switched to ♠ 10, declarer playing ♠ J from hand as South won with ♠ K. South now played ♦ 10, surely knowing that declarer held ♦ AJ at this point... North would have played a third diamond if she had one! North discarded ♣ 2 as declarer won with ♦ J and played a heart to dummy's ♥ J, North winning with ♥ K. North now switched to ♠ 9, declarer winning with ♠ A. Declarer cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 10 and South erred by rising with ♣ K, crashing partner's ♣ J. South played ♦ Q to declarer's ♦ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ Q and ♣ Q before conceding the last two tricks to South's ♣ 9, ♦ 6 but emerged with six tricks. South could have refrained from conceding an unnecessary trick to declarer's ♦ J. And South should have played low when declarer led ♣ 10, letting North win with ♣ J. After winning with ♠ K, South can switch to a heart and can generate two more heart tricks for the defense. This also pressures declarer in terms of discards...two will have to be made! Declarer should be at least four or, more probably, five down. Remember that N/S only scored one heart trick! **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table East declared 2NT after West responded 1♥. South led ♦ 4 to North's ♦ K, declarer ducking. North continued with ♦ 9, declarer again playing low. North switched to ♠ 10, declarer finessing ♠ J as South won with ♠ K. South exited on ♠ 6, declarer winning with ♠ Q. Declarer led ♣ 5 from hand, South following with ♣ 4 as North was forced to win with ♣ J. North now made a costly error...holding ♠ 93 in her hand and with ♠ 75 visible in dummy she continued with ♠ 9, declarer winning with ♠ A and dummy's ♠ 7 was now promoted as a winner!!! North should have continued with ♠ 3. Declarer next cashed ♣ A and then cashed ♦ A, establishing South's ♦ Q10 as winners! Declarer continued with ♦ J, South winning with ♦ Q as North fatally discarded ♣ 3. South now holds ♥ 5, ♦ 10, ♣ K9. North holds ♥ AK108, Dummy holds ♥ QJ96 and declarer holds ♥ 7, ♣ Q108. N/S can clearly take the remaining four tricks. South cashes ♦ 10, ♣ CK and then plays a heart to North's ♥ AK. BUT, South cashed ♦ 10 and then played a heart (without cashing ♣ K!!!). North won ♥ AK and then conceded a heart to dummy's ♥ Q!!! Just three down! **Sinner** status to **North** and **South**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1♣ and West bid 1♥ and East rebid 2NT which became the final contract. South led ♦ 4 to North's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next led ♣ 5 from hand, South following low as North won with ♣ J. North continued with ♦ 9, as declarer and South followed low. North now found the unusual switch of ♣ 2! (Not usually a good idea to play declarer's suit!) Declarer followed with ♣ 10 from hand, South winning with ♣ K. South cashed ♦ Q and continued with ♦ 10 to declarer's ♦ J, declarer discarding ♥ 4, ♠ 2 from dummy as North discarded ♣ 3, ♠ 3. Declarer next cashed ♣ AQ8 as declarer discarded ♠ 457 while North discarded ♥ 108, ♠ 8. Declarer, now holding ♠ AQJ, ♥ 7, exited on ♠ J, South winning with ♠ K. South cashed ♦ 6 and North took the last two tricks with ♥ AK to leave declarer three down. East should have cashed ♠ A and then continued with SQ (or SJ) and in that way declarer would have emerged with six tricks and been only two down! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and also to **North** and **South** who could have made better use of their assets.

At one table East opened 1♣, West bid 1♥, East rebid 2♦ (Reverse) which South Doubled. West Passed and North now ventured into the fray with 2S. [Perhaps East should Double...best defense sees this go two light!]. BUT, East bid 2NT and that closed the auction. N/S paid for the error of their ways when South led ♠ K into the jaws of East's ♠ AQJ!!! But declarer returned the gift by playing a heart to dummy's ♥ 9, North winning with ♥ 10...declarer has no chance of establishing heart winners and even less chance of getting access to them! North continued with ♠ 10, declarer winning with ♠ J. Declarer now did what she should have done at trick two...play a club, South rising with ♣ 9. South now switched to ♦ 4, North's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. South continued with ♣ 8 from hand, South playing low as North won with ♣ J. North continued with ♠ 9, declarer winning with ♠ Q as South made the disastrous discard of her second heart thereby severing all communication with North's two heart winners! Declarer continued with ♣ A and then ♣ Q, South winning the second trick with ♣ K. South, with nothing in her hand except ♦ Q1063, completed a poor defense by N/S when she cashed ♦ Q, crashing partner's crucial ♦ 9 and then having to lead from ♦ 1063 into declarer's ♦ J7 and with ♣ 10 this gave declarer eight tricks. Contract made. Exiting on a small diamond instead of cashing ♦ Q would have seen the contract defeated by one trick! **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East also declared 2 NT after opening 1♣ and re-bidding 2♦ (Reverse) over West's 1♥ response. East closed the auction with 2 NT after West rebid 2♥. South led ♣ 4 to North's ♣ J and declarer's ♣ Q. Declarer continued with ♠ J, South winning with ♠ K. South played ♣ 6 to declarer's ♣ 8. Declarer next played her ♥ 7 to dummy's ♥ J and North's ♥ K. North continued with ♣ 3 to declarer's ♣ 10 and South's ♣ K. South now switched to ♦ 3, North playing ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ A and then exited on ♦ J (Why declarer did not first cash her two club winners is still a mystery to me!). Upon winning with ♦ Q South cashed ♦ 10 and then continued with ♦ 4, declarer winning with ♦ 7. Declarer now cashed ♠ Q and ♣ A5 for eight tricks as North went to bed with ♥ A10!!! **Sinner** status to **North and South**.

At one table North opened 1♣, East Doubled, South bid 1♦, West bid 1♥, North passed and East re-bid 1 NT (showing 19-20 hcp). South bid 2♣, West bid 2♥ and North bid 2 NT. East must have thought that there were 60 hcp spread around the table! East led ♥ 7 to partner's ♥ J and North's ♥ K. North next led ♦ K, East following with ♦ 5. North continued with ♦ 9, East following with ♦ 7 as declarer rose with dummy's ♦ Q. South continued with ♦ 6, hoping for a 3-3 break but West discarded ♣ 7, declarer discarding ♣ 2, as East won with ♦ J. East continued with ♣ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J, as West discarded ♥ 2 thus making her hand an open book...[She must have started with 4 spades, 6 hearts, 2 diamonds, 1 club. The minor suit distributions are already known leaving West with ten unknown cards. BUT, if West held 5 spades and 5 hearts she would have bid 1S instead of 1H at first opportunity... hence 4 spades and 6 hearts.] East inserted ♣ 10 forcing declarer to win with South's ♣ K thus establishing East's ♣ AQ5 as winners. South continued with ♦ 10 to East's ♦ A, North discarding ♠ 3. East now cashed ♣ AQ5 and then continued with ♠ J, declarer rising with dummy's ♠ K and cashing ♦ 4 to land eight tricks. Contract made. **Sinner** status to **East and declarer**. Back to where East won the third round of diamonds as West discarded ♣ 7 and North discarded ♣ 2. Add these two club discards to what East can see in her hand and dummy and East knows that North has at most ♣ J3. East should continue with ♣ Q, forcing declarer to rise with dummy's ♣ K while now establishing East's ♣ A10 as winners. This gives E/W at least one more trick, possibly two more because East can also establish two spade winners thus giving E/W 2 spades, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs. Declarer should have played on spades rather than diamonds, forcing two spade winners.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1♣, South bid 1♦, West bid 1♥, North bid 1NT which East Doubled. South Redoubled (??), West bid 2♥, North Passed and East closed the auction with 2NT. South led ♦4 to North's ♦K and declarer's ♦A. East continued with a heart to dummy's ♥Q which North, needlessly and fatally ducked! [North holds ♥AK108 sitting over dummy's ♥QJ9642. There is no way that declarer can establish a heart trick without first conceding FOUR heart tricks to North! And looking at dummy there is no way that declarer can play more than two rounds of hearts, assuming declarer even has a doubleton heart! **Sinner** status to **North**] Declarer, with a bonus trick now in the bag made good use of the unexpected entry to dummy, by leading a club to her ♣10, and South's ♣K. South now conceded TWO tricks to declarer by cashing ♦Q and continuing with ♦3 to declarer's ♦7. Declarer cashed ♣AQ and continued with ♣5 to South's ♣9, as North discarded ♠8. South then completed a nightmare defense by N/S when she exited with ♠K leaving declarer to score ♠AQJ, ♦J, ♣8 thus giving declarer an unparalleled TEN tricks! **Absolute sinner** status to **North/South**. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Brendan King**, for maximizing his assets to best effect.

At another table, East opened 1♣ and West bid 2♥ (alerted as Weak). North and East Passed and South came to life with 3♦. North bid 3NT, perhaps not giving too much thought as to why South had not entered the bidding at first opportunity!!! East applied the axe and duly led ♣Q which got the defense off to a great start. Declarer rose with dummy's ♣K and continued with ♦3, West playing ♦8 (showing partner a singleton or doubleton in the suit). North played ♦K as East followed with ♦5. North continued with ♦9 which he successfully finessed into West as East again played low. North continued with ♠3, East rising with ♠A. East now cashed ♣A and continued with ♣5 to declarer's ♣J. North cashed ♥A and then switched to a spade, East playing ♠J as declarer won with dummy's ♠K. Declarer next led ♦Q and East, winning with ♦A proceeded to cash ♠Q, ♦J, ♣108 for a three tricks defeat leading to -500 for N/S and +11.53 IMPs for E/W. **Saintly** status to **Louise & David**.

Three E/W pairs declared a club contract, one making seven tricks while the other two emerged with six tricks. This was a hand where many players overbid...and paid the price!

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

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

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

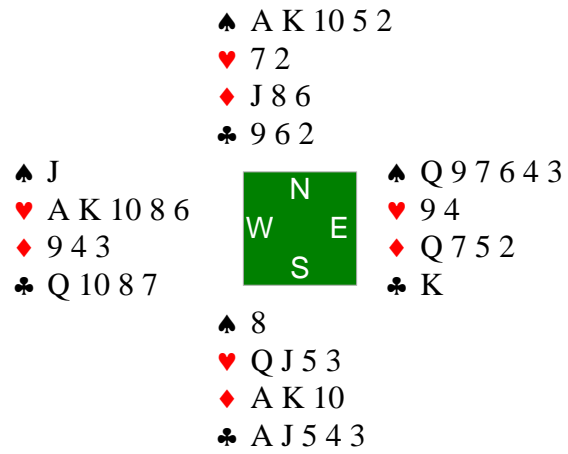
NS 2N; S 2♠; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; N 1♠; Par +100; EW 3♦ ×-1

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul



S 2N; N 1N; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; Par +120; S 1N+1

Board 21
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

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

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

Board 22
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

N/S can make 2 NT but shouldn't make 3 NT. And 4♥ can make but the winning line isn't obvious...declarer (North) can ruff two spades in hand, cash two top diamonds and ruff a diamond in the South hand and then cash two top clubs and ruff a fourth diamond in the South hand, even with ♥ A. And with two top trumps still in the North hand that amounts to ten tricks. West needs to be careful not to get too busy in the auction as a spade contract by West can be held to five tricks. If West plays spades from the top he will lose two spades tricks...♠ Q, ♠ 8!

But some N/S pairs will likely reach 3 NT and now it's E/W that need to be careful. Double-dummy (i.e. seeing all four hands) it can be seen that declarer can score eight tricks via 4 hearts, and ♦ AK and ♣ AK. If declarer leads a low spade at trick one then declarer scores a ninth trick with ♠ Q. Note also that if West cashes ♠ AK and continues with ♠ J then declarer can win with ♠ Q and continue with ♠ 8 to promote ♠ 7. Note that if West cashes a top spade at trick one and then switches to a club East can win a trick with ♣ Q but West can now only cash two more spades when East continues with a spade UNLESS declarer covers with ♠ Q. The killing defense sees West lead ♣ J with East rising with CQ if declarer ducks. East can then switch to ♠ 9 and that produces four spades tricks for the defense. Declarer should also be careful in playing the club suit. Although it can be seen that East actually holds ♣ Qxx the bidding strongly suggests that west might hold either both or one of the missing honours. If West holds ♣ Qxx or ♣ Jxx then cashing ♣ AK promotes West's master club not only as a winner but also as an entry for winning spades. Declarer should play clubs safely by finessing into East, twice if necessary if South has sufficient entries to repeat the finesse.

Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT and West bid 2♠. North jumped to 3 NT. West cashed ♠ AK, crashing partner's ♠ 92, and continued with ♠ J, declarer winning in hand with ♠ Q discarding ♦ 84, ♣ 5 from dummy while East discarded ♦ 3. Declarer now has eight tricks. Declarer next led ♣ 10 from hand which West covered with ♣ J, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer returned to hand and led ♣ 6, SAFELY finessing ♣ 8 when West followed with ♣ 3. That is top class with declarer showing absolute awareness of the possibility and potential danger if West had started with ♣ QJx. **Saintly** status to **Mary Lonergan**. And yes, Mary could have established a second spade winner instead by leading ♠ 8 after winning ♠ Q.

South Deals
Both Vul

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

At one table West opened 1 ♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT and North raised to 3 NT. West cashed ♠ A and switched to ♥ 8, handing declarer a soft eighth trick. Declarer next played three rounds of clubs, East winning the third round with ♣ Q. East continued with ♠ 9 and when South ducked that was the end of the defense. West could have saved a trick by overtaking with ♠ 10 and cashing ♠ K but when West followed low declarer won the remaining tricks to emerge with 3 NT+1. The natural instinct might be to cover ♠ 9 with ♠ Q but this gives West three winners (♠ KJ10) to add to the ♠ A and ♣ Q and that would give the defense five tricks and leave declarer a trick short! Ducking ♠ 9 does not really cost because if East has a third spade then the defense can only cash two more spade tricks anyway. Is there any reason why declarer might cover spade ♠? Yes, If East started with precisely ♠ 109x, because then when South covers ♠ 9 the suit will be blocked! West will then have two choices after winning with ♠ K...cash ♠ J, felling partner's ♠ 10 and promoting declarer's ♠ 87...OR return a small spade to East's ♠ 10 but now unable to cash ♠ J. And of course West cannot be sure that East holds ♠ 10 (yes, in this case West knows that East doesn't have ♠ 10). The primary reason for not covering ♠ 9 with ♠ Q is that if East started with a doubleton spade then declarer knows that West cannot cash three more winners. And if West ducks ♠ 9 (as happened at this table) then that's the end of the defense. The big question for declarer is does East hold two spades or three and in particular where is the ♠ 10. Surely if East had started with ♠ 109x then he would continued with ♠ 10 rather than ♠ 9. No guarantee...but a possible clue! **Saintly** status to declarer, **Margaret Walsh**.

At another table West opened a top-heavy 2 ♠ (Weak). North Doubled, South bid 2 NT and North raised to 3 NT. West cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 5 being lucky to find partner with ♠ 9. Declarer won with ♠ Q...ducking could be very dangerous if East had a third spade! Declarer now cashed two top hearts ending in dummy and then cashed ♣ AK and got lucky when East won the third club with ♣ Q. [Note if West's minor suit holdings were reversed declarer would be headed for a two trick defeat! Declarer should have ducked a club into East after winning ♠ Q.] East exited on a diamond and subsequently scored a trick with ♥ J.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1♠, North Doubled, South bid 1NT and North raised to 3NT. West cashed ♠AK and continued with ♠5, declarer winning with ♠8 and leaving declarer in a position that she did not have to create four tricks from the heart suit. After cashing ♠AK, West should have continued with ♠J although South could win with ♠Q and continue with ♠8 to create a second spade trick with ♠7. Note that declarer discarded 1 club and 2 diamonds on the three rounds of spades. East, with the North hand clearly visible, erred significantly when she discarded a heart on the third spade...should have discarded a diamond. Declarer duly cashed ♠Q, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs for ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **East**.

At one table West opened 1♠ and South declared 3NT after North made a Takeout Double. At this table West led ♠10, declarer winning in hand with ♠Q as she discarded ♦4 from dummy. Declarer continued with ♣10, West covering with ♣J as declarer won with dummy's ♣K. Declarer next played a heart to her ♥A in hand and continued with a club to dummy's ♣9 and East's ♣Q. East returned ♠9, West overtaking with ♠J and cashing ♠AK as declarer discarded ♦8, ♥10, ♣5 but leaving dummy with ♥KQ, ♦AK, ♣A8, all winners. 3NT made and **Saintly** status to **Teresa Byrne**.

At another table South bid 1NT after West opened 1♠ and North made a takeout Double. At this table North bid 2NT. North should have bid 3NT as South should not bid 1NT without at least a minimum of values in the absence of which South would have bid a suit, even a three card one! West led ♠AK and continued with ♠J, declarer winning with ♠Q in hand whilst discarding ♦84, ♣5 from dummy. Declarer next led ♣2 and finessed ♣8, East winning with ♣Q. East continued with a diamond, declarer winning with dummy's ♦K. Declarer next led dummy's ♥10 and East erred by covering with ♥J. Declarer now has TEN tricks via 1S, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds 3 clubs. Whether declarer intended to finesse HJ into West is a mystery to which only one person knows the answer! It would have been a very sorry South who might have finessed and lost to West's ♥J and then seen West cash ♠10 to leave declarer with a mere eight tricks! **Sinner** status to **East** for covering ♥J.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

2 NT was also reached at another table after West opened 1 ♠ and North Doubled. South bid 1 NT and West put his head on the block by bidding 2 ♠. North could have Doubled again (More Takeout) which South might have Passed and could have resulted in West suffering a -800 penalty. But, North bid 2 NT instead and South Passed. West led ♠ J and declarer, discarding ♦ 4 from dummy, made the unusual play of ducking, thus rejecting the eighth trick required for her contract. West could now have given declarer a rough journey by switching to a club... BUT, West threw declarer a lifeline by continuing with ♠ 5 to East's ♠ 9 and declarer's ♠ Q as declarer discarded ♦ 8 from dummy. Declarer duly cashed her winners, 3 hearts, ♦ AK, ♣ AK. If West had not continued with a second spade, declarer would need to score four heart tricks to make her contract. Ducking ♠ J was silly and could have been very costly. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At one table West opened a top-heavy 2 ♠ (Weak), North Doubled, South bid 2 NT and North raised to 3 NT. West found the killing lead of ♣ J, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer played a heart to his ♥ A and then finessed ♣ 10 into East who won with ♣ Q. East switched to ♠ 9, declarer ducking, and continued with a spade to West's ♠ 10. West cashed ♠ AK to defeat the contract by one trick. **Saintly** status to **Marion & Ali**.

At another table West opened 1 ♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT, North bid 3 ♣ and South closed the auction with 3 NT. West cashed ♠ AK and continued with ♠ J, declarer winning with ♠ Q as ♦ 84, ♣ 5 were discarded from dummy. Declarer continued with ♣ 10 and rose with dummy's ♣ K as West followed with ♣ 3. Declarer returned to hand with ♥ A and continued with ♣ 2, West following with ♣ J as declarer won with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer continued with ♣ 9, East winning with ♣ Q. East continued with a diamond, dummy's ♦ A winning the trick. Declarer then cashed ♦ K and continued with ♥ KQ and with ♥ 10 and ♣ 8 remaining, declarer, obviously oblivious to the fact that ♣ 8 was a winner, continued with ♥ 10, East winning with ♥ J and then cashing ♦ J to inflict a one trick defeat. But in reality this was self-inflicted by declarer who had two chances to make the contract. Winning ♠ Q at trick three declarer could have continued with ♠ 8, promoting his ♠ 7 as a winner. And of course at the end he could have cashed ♣ 8 instead of playing ♥ 10. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for lack of concentration.

South Deals
Both Vul

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

At another table West opened 1 ♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT which North raised to 3 NT. West led ♦ 2, declarer rising with dummy's ♦ K. Declarer cashed ♣ AK and continued with a third club, East winning with ♣ Q as west discarded ♥ 8. East continued with ♠ 9 and the defense scored four spade tricks to defeat the contract by one trick. The non-spade lead put declarer under pressure and there was no recovery. Even guessing to finesse ♥ 9 would still only give declarer eight tricks. **Saintly** status to **West (Marlene)** for not leading a spade.

At one table West failed to bid and North opened 1 ♣, South bid 1 ♠, North Reversed with 2 ♥ and South bid 2 ♥. North bid 3 ♥ and South bid 4 ♥. North and South should both realise that this is a 4-3 fit and the contract will come under pressure if the opponents play spades forcing North to ruff. Clubs, with a 5-3 trump fit might be a better proposition even allowing for the extra trick required to make the contract. Anyway, 4 ♥ it was and East led ♣ 7 declarer winning in hand with ♣ K. Declare next cashed ♦ A and then ruffed a diamond in dummy with ♥ 9. Declarer next cashed ♥ AKQ and then played ♣ A and continued with a club to East's ♣ Q. East cashed ♦ J and continued with a spade, West following with ♠ J as declarer ruffed with ♥ 10 thus scoring nine tricks but ending one down. Declarer should have been two down! After winning ♣ Q, East should have cashed ♥ J, drawing North's ♥ 10 and then cashed ♦ J before playing a spade for West to score ♠ AKJ. **BUT**, declarer could have made ten tricks not only on the club lead which she did receive but on any lead! Sometimes it's difficult to see the wood from the trees! Some habits are difficult to shake, like drawing trumps when they're are better ways to use trumps! In this case, if declarer's club and diamond honours stand up then declarer only needs six more tricks. If declarer can ruff a third round of diamonds (as she did!) with dummy's ♥ 9 then suddenly things are really looking up. Now all that declarer requires is that East holds two spades. After ruffing the third diamond declarer should ruffs a spade in hand with ♥ 4 and then ruffs the fourth diamond with ♥ A and then ruffs a second spade with ♥ 10. Declarer has now amassed eight tricks via 2 top diamonds and 2 diamond ruffs, 2 spade ruffs, 2 top clubs, and declarer still has ♥ KQ in hand giving declarer ten tricks. There are many contracts where declarer does not need to worry about the defenders trumps and rather should concentrate on how to get the best value from his/her own trumps. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

South Deals
Both Vul

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

At another table West opened 1 ♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT which North raised to 3 NT. West cashed ♠ A and then switched to ♥ 7, East contributing ♥ J as declarer won in hand with ♥ A. Declarer played a club to dummy's ♣ A, cashed ♣ K and continued with a club to East's ♣ Q, West discarding ♠ 5. East continued with ♠ 9 and declarer covered with ♠ Q and West won with ♠ K and then cashed ♠ J10 to defeat the contract by one trick. If declarer did not cover then West would have subsequently scored ♠ AKJ, giving the defense a total of four tricks. The only benefit on covering ♠ 9 is if East started with ♠ 1092 in which case after ♠ 9 is covered then the suit is blocked! Would East return ♠ 9 from an original holding of ♠ 1092? On the other hand, if West started with six spades then by not covering ♠ 9, West will be limited to scoring ♠ K10 IF he overtakes ♠ 9. And would West discard a spade from a five card suit? Sounds like West started with six spades in which case East started with only two and the ♠ 9 is the second one!

At another table West opened 1 ♠, North Doubled and all Passed. North led ♣ A, South following with ♣ 2. North continued with ♦ A, South playing ♦ 10 (a strong suggestion of a doubleton or even a singleton!). But, North continued with ♥ K, and when it held then played ♥ Q. North next continued with a heart to South's ♥ A, declarer ruffing with ♠ 5. Declarer continued with ♣ J from hand, North winning with ♣ K as South followed with ♣ 6, clearly showing a tripleton rather than a doubleton (would have played ♣ 6 on the first round and then ♣ 2). North now made the suicidal play of ♥ 10, knowing that neither South nor declarer held any more hearts and with ♥ J clearly visible in dummy and thus putting partner's neck on the chopping block! South had the good wit and presence to ruff with ♠ 7, declarer overruffing with ♠ 10. Declarer continued with ♠ A, North discarding a club. Declarer next played DQ, North winning with ♦ K as South completed her hi-lo by following with ♦ 5. North, clearly oblivious to South's diamond signals, found the devastating continuation of a club to dummy's ♣ Q, South following with ♣ 10 as declarer discarded ♦ 9 from hand. Declarer now led ♠ 9 and South, who had defended well up to this point, played low instead of covering which would have promoted her ♠ 8 for the setting trick. Declarer won the last two tricks with ♠ KJ thus emerging with seven tricks. **Saintly** status to **declarer, David Walsh**. **Sinner** status to **North**. A commendation to South for her valiant effort up to trick ten.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At four tables N/S contracted a club part-score making 9, 10 or 11 tricks but all partnerships missing game. **Sinner** status to the **four N/S pairs**.

At three tables West declared 2♠. This can be held to five tricks with the defense scoring 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and a diamond ruff, 2 clubs. At one table West opened 1♠, North Doubled, South bid 1 NT. West passed and North bid 2♣. [Note: This sequence suggests that North is holding a strong hand. Remember that North could have overcalled 2♣ with anything up to 16 hcp. South should bid again]. South Passed and West bid 2♠ and all Passed. N/S scored eight tricks leaving declarer 3 down. It should have been Doubled. **Sinner** status to **North** and **West**.

At another table West opened 1♠ and North, with an IDEAL hand for a Takeout Double, simply overcalled 2♣, a bid that could have been made with six clubs and a minimum hand. North has 19 hcp and a minimum of 4 card support for ALL 3 unbid suits, which will never be conveyed via a simple 2♣ overcall. Not surprisingly East and South Passed and West re-emerged with a bid of 2♠ which closed the auction. North got off to the lead of ♦ A, South following with ♦ 5 (does this show a doubleton based on N/S's signaling methods?). North then switched to ♥ K which held, and continued with ♥ 4 to South's ♥ A. South, who should have continued with her second diamond, switched to ♣ 2, North winning with ♣ A (denying ♣ K!). North now continued with ♦ K and then cashed ♣ K. North rejected the option to give partner a diamond ruff and instead continued with ♥ Q, declarer ruffing in hand. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 6 to dummy's ♠ 9 and South's ♠ Q. South, unable to put North on lead for a diamond ruff, continued with ♠ 7, declarer winning with ♠ 10 and then drawing South's remaining trumps before cashing ♦ Q at trick thirteen. Declarer had escaped for two down and N/S emerged with a mere +200 on a board that several other N/S pairs were chalking up +600. Poor bidding and defense which earns **North** a deserved **Sinner** status.

Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; S 2♠; NS 3♦; N 1♠; Par +620: NS 4♥=

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened a top-heavy 2♠. North made a Takeout Double and all Passed. I don't think that I would like to be defending, with the South hand, 2♠x after partner has made a single Takeout Double. Note that North has an exceptionally strong hand for his Takeout Double. If West opened 1♠ and North Doubled, I would bid 1NT with the South hand. If West then bid 2♠ and North made a second Takeout Double, showing a stronger hand, then I would be a lot happier about defending 2♠x. North cashed ♣A and then switched to ♥4, South luckily holding ♥A. South continued with ♦5 (not sure if N/S lead ♦5 from ♦105 to show a doubleton?), North winning with ♦A. North now cashed ♥K and continued with ♥Q, declarer ruffing. Declarer next cashed ♠A, North discarding ♣5. Declarer continued with ♠K, North discarding ♦4, and then ♠J, North discarding ♣8 as South won with ♠Q. South continued with ♦10 (does this now confirm an original doubleton holding of ♦105?) North winning with ♦K (should have won first diamond with ♦K). North now knows that there is only one diamond still outstanding (♦Q). North should play a third diamond...either South holds ♦Q, forcing declarer to ruff, or declarer holds ♦Q in which case South can ruff! BUT, North chose another line... North continued with ♥10 knowing that ♥J was in dummy and that neither South nor declarer had any more hearts. This is putting your partner's head on the chopping block! If South ruffs then declarer overruffs. And if South discards then declarer discards. It is one of the most suicidal plays for a defender to make! Watch what happened... South discarded ♣6 and declarer discarded his losing ♦Q (South could have ruffed it!). Declarer continued with ♦J and South discarded ♣10 as declarer discarded his losing ♣J. Declarer, holding ♠106, and South holding ♠87, each scored one of the last two tricks as declarer escaped for a mere two down! Sinner status to North for not giving partner a diamond ruff and also for not scoring a trick with ♣K. When South switched to a diamond North should have recognised that South held a doubleton or else chastised partner for not leading the correct card to convey a doubleton diamond. Even still, North should have continued with diamonds forcing declarer to ruff if South started with ♦Q105 or else giving South a ruff on the third round. And leading ♥10, with ♥J clearly visible in dummy and knowing that South and declarer were both out of hearts, was pure suicidal. Declarer should have been three down. Declarer also bears some blame...cashing ♠AK was wrong. Declarer knows the trumps are breaking badly and should have played a small spade towards dummy's ♠9. Declarer can subsequently draw all South's trumps at next opportunity. **Sinner** status to **West** and **North**.

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul

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



EW 6♠; EW 6♣; EW 5♥; EW 1N; EW 1♦; Par -980: EW 6♠=