

TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 25th February 2021, in the **Tribes Bridge Club BBO IMPs Pairs**.

This set of hands feature defenses and declarer plays where many failed to appreciate the status of ♥ 4, ♦ 7. It's not always honour cards that produce winners!

- In one hand the defense manouevred a situation where declarer was presented with four winners with a suit combination of AQ75 opposite 109. Impossible? No, it happened...but declarer failed to appreciate the gift!
- Eleven tricks turned into eight in an awkward 3 NT!

All this and more in the hands analysed from last week's game!

This week I analysed the following hands: Board# 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 with 30 pages of commentary and observations. Two hands received detailed analysis...Board#16 is analysed over ELEVEN pages and Board#3 is dissected over seven pages.

Board#3 sees declarer negotiate a simple 3 NT...well maybe not so simple. And not easy for the defense either. But all the clues were there...and still some defenders failed to rise to the occasion! Did you, either as declarer or as a defender?

Board#5 presented bidding opportunities for both sides but in particular for N/S. One pair got it right!

Board#8 sees East declare a delicate 3 NT with opportunities for declarer and the defense. Some rose to the occasion...but many didn't. And declarer need to make the right guess in one suit!

Board#9 sees East declare an interesting heart contract. Some negotiated it well with one declarer making twelve tricks whereas another only managed seven. And many scored eleven but four only managed eight tricks!

Board#10 another heart contract for East...but few managed it well!

Board#16 I devoted eleven pages of analysis to what was definitely the trickiest hand of the bunch. Mostly played in 4 spades...but very few managed it successfully!

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

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell

4th March 2021

North Deals
None Vul

S 6N; S 6♠; S 6♣; N 5♠; N 4N; N 5♣; N 2♦; NS 1♥; S 1♦;
Par +990: S 6N=

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

N/S will likely reach 3 NT although some pairs may miss the game. On any lead 3 NT makes irrespective of who is declarer ...as long as declarer is careful re unblocking the diamond suit. When one suit (diamonds here) is blocked it means that another suit has to provide an entry to access the winners in the blocked suit! In this example, the ♠ K is the only other guaranteed entry to the South hand. If declarer prematurely cashes the ♠ K before cashing all four diamond winners, then declarer will be restricted to three diamond tricks UNLESS East discards a diamond. When West plays ♦ J10 on the first two rounds of the suit then East should become aware of the significance of the ♦ 7!!! Declarer can score 3 spades, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds as long as the tricks are cashed in the right order. Two top diamonds must be cashed first and then a third diamond won by North's ♦ 9. Declarer can then return to the South hand with ♠ K to cash ♦ Q. Needless to say, declarer has to take the 'right view' re finding ♠ Q otherwise the defense can cash 1 spade and 4 clubs! Also, note that if West leads a small heart, declarer can make 3 heart tricks...insert ♥ 9 at trick one and then subsequently finesse ♥ Q!

Saints & Sinners

At one table, South opened 1 ♦, North responded 1 ♠ and South rebid 1 NT which North raised to 3 NT. West gave declarer a very helpful start when she led ♠ 3.... it is seldom a good idea to lead from strength through a suit bid by your LHO! The lead sets declarer up to score four spade winners! Declarer played low from dummy and beat East's ♠ 8 with ♠ 10. Declarer, who should have tested diamonds by cashing ♦ AK actually returned ♠ 7 and spurned the obvious finesse of ♠ J and instead rose with ♠ A. Declarer continued with ♠ 2 to ♠ K in hand, East discarding ♥ 2. Declarer continued with ♥ Q, West covering with ♥ K as dummy's ♥ A won the trick. Declarer can still get home. She simply needs to cash D♦ AK and then play a small diamond to dummy's ♦ 9 and return to hand with ♥ J and cash ♦ Q for her ninth trick! **BUT**, declarer DID cash ♦ AK but failed to appreciate the promotion of dummy's ♦ 9 when West followed to these two tricks with ♦ J10. Declarer continued with ♦ Q, crashing dummy's winning ♦ 9 and leaving East with a now promoted ♦ 7. East won the fourth round of diamonds, West discarding ♣ 8, and the defense could now have scored the remaining tricks via West's ♠ Q, and four club tricks. **BUT**, East cashed ♣ A, thus blocking the suit, and then continued with a small club to West's now stiff ♣ K. West cashed ♠ Q and declarer could still have got home by discarding ♣ J from hand leaving West to lead from ♥ 105 with dummy holding ♥ 94 and declarer holding ♥ J6. **BUT** declarer discarded ♥ 6 and upon winning the penultimate trick with ♥ J had to concede a club to East's ♣ Q! **Sinner** status to both **East** and **South** (declarer)

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

3 NT was reached at thirteen tables but the contract was only made at nine tables! At another table South opened 1 ♦, North bid 1 ♠, South re-bid 1 NT, North bid 2 NT and South raised to 3 NT. West led ♥ 3, North played dummy's ♥ 4, East contributed ♥ 6 and declarer won with ♥ J. At trick two declarer cashed ♠ K, and with it went her only entry for the fourth diamond! Declarer continued with ♠ 10, West covering with ♠ Q as East's ♠ 8 dropped. This now produces a situation where declarer holds ♠ 7, West holds ♠ 94 and dummy holds ♠ J5. Thus a finesse position against West's ♠ 94 has now evolved. But, will declarer recognise the position...and secondly, IF, she leads ♠ 7 from hand and West plays ♠ 4 will declarer finesse or play for East to have started with ♠ 986? At this table declarer cashed dummy's ♠ J at trick four this promoting West's ♠ 9 as a winner. Declarer next cashed ♦ AK and got the news about the diamond suit! Declarer cashed ♦ Q, West discarding ♥ 5 and continued with ♦ 6 to East's ♦ 7, West discarding ♣ 8. The defense were now in a position to score all the remaining tricks...East holds ♥ 8, ♣ AQ32 while West holds ♠ 9, ♥ K10, ♣ K9. Declarer holds ♥ Q6, ♣ J104 and dummy holds ♠ 5, ♥ A9, ♣ 76. If East plays a small club West wins with ♣ K, cashes ♠ 9 and returns a club to East who then cashes ♣ AQ3. BUT, East cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ Q, crashing West's now bare ♣ K and promoting declarer's ♣ J!!!. West cashed ♠ 9, declarer discarding ♥ 6, and then led ♥ 10 and declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A instead of letting it run to her now stiff ♥ Q whereupon she could have cashed ♣ J for her ninth trick. As it was, West scored the last trick with ♥ K. West could have exited on ♥ K and now declarer cannot win with ♥ Q and must lose the last trick to West's ♥ 10. **Sinner** status to **South** (declarer) for not testing diamonds BEFORE cashing ♠ K; to **East** (for 1) cashing ♣ A and blocking club suit, 2) needlessly playing ♣ Q which crashed under partner's ♣ K; and to **West** for not exiting on ♥ K at trick twelve.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At a third table South also declared 3 NT after opening 1 ♦ and rebidding 1 NT over North's response of 1 ♠. North raised to 2 NT and South raised to the NT game. West led ♥ 5 and declarer inserted dummy's ♥ 9 which held the trick...declarer can now score three heart tricks! Declarer now played a spade to her ♠ 10 and West's ♠ Q. West found the switch of ♣ 8 to East's ♣ A and, crucially, declarer's ♣ 4. Why crucially? Because East can now read West's ♣ 8 switch as from a three or four card holding and also, because it is the lowest card West has it should be from an honour!!! East won with ♣ A and returned ♣ 2 to West's ♣ K. West faithfully returned ♣ 9 to East's ♣ Q who then cashed ♣ 3 for the setting trick. Well defended by E/W and **Saintly** status to **Breda & Sheelagh**. Sinner status to declarer for taking a premature finesse where if it loses could result in the defenders cashing five tricks, in this case at least four clubs in addition to the spade winner. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have tested the diamonds and could then have got home via 2 spades, 3 hearts, 4 diamonds.

At the fourth table, South opened 1 NT (Strong) and North bid 2 ♣ (not alerted but presumably Stayman). South responded 2 NT (also not alerted) and North bid 3 NT. West led ♠ 3, declarer playing low from dummy and beating East's ♠ 8 with ♠ 10. At trick two declarer successfully finessed dummy's ♠ J thus giving declarer four spade tricks. Declarer continued with a diamond to her ♦ Q and West's ♦ J. Declarer next led ♥ J, West covering with ♥ K as declarer won with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer has now scored 4 tricks and this is now the position: Declarer holds ♠ K, ♥ Q6, ♦ AK6, ♣ J104 while dummy holds ♠ A5, ♥ 94, ♦ 98, ♣ 765. West holds ♠ Q9, ♥ 1053, ♦ 10, ♣ K98 and East holds ♥ 87, ♦ 753, ♣ AQ32. Declarer can actually score TEN tricks as long as she unravels them carefully. Note that the spade and diamond suits are blocked! Declarer can unravel them as follows: play a spade to her ♠ K, cash ♦ A, continue with a diamond to dummy's ♦ 9, cash ♠ A, return to hand with ♥ Q and cash ♦ Q...ten tricks! **BUT**, declarer cashed ♠ A, crashing her ♠ K and promoting West's ♠ 9. Ten tricks now reduced to nine! Declarer can still play a diamond to her ♦ A, felling West's ♦ 10 and promoting dummy's ♦ 9 and with ♥ Q still available as an entry to hand to cash ♦ Q. **BUT**, declarer DID play a diamond to ♦ K and failed to note the significance of West's ♦ 10 falling. Declarer cashed ♦ Q, promoting East's ♦ 7, and ten tricks now became eight. **Sinner** status to **declarer**. Declarer's mistake was in playing too quickly!

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At one table South opened 1 NT and his digital partner responded 2 ♣ (Stayman). North rebid 2 NT over South's 2 ♦ response and South raised to 3 NT. West led ♥ 3, declarer playing ♥ 4 from dummy as East inexplicably played ♥ 2 allowing declarer to win with ♥ 6! [**Sinner** status to **East**] Declarer next cashed ♠ K and continued with ♠ 10, West failing to cover and thereby handing declarer four spade tricks. [**Note:** it would be right for West NOT to cover ♠ 10 as long as West is 100% sure that East started with three spades, i.e. South started with a doubleton ♠ K10 and therefore cannot subsequently finesse ♠ J. BUT, declarer continued with ♠ 7 and finessed ♠ J as East fatally discarded ♦ 3. Declarer now led dummy's ♦ 2 to his ♦ A and then led ♥ Q, West covering with ♥ K as declarer won with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ A, East and declarer each discarding a small club. Declarer next cashed ♥ Q and ♦ KQ6 for eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **East** for playing H♥ 2 at trick one and also for discarding a diamond when the bidding has told her that declarer can only have length in the minor suits! And East should also have noted partner's play of ♦ J on first round of the suit! **Saintly** status to **Robert** for scoring eleven tricks.

At another table South opened 1 ♦, North bid 1 ♠ and South eventually contracted 3 NT. West led ♥ 3, declarer playing low from dummy as East contributed ♥ 7, declarer winning with ♥ J. Declarer continued with ♠ 10, West playing low instead of covering with ♠ Q. When ♠ 10 won declarer continued with a finesse of dummy's ♠ J. Declarer played a third spade to her ♠ K in hand as East fatally discarded ♦ 3. Declarer next cashed four diamonds, her ♦ 6 having grown up thanks to East's earlier discard of ♦ 3. West discarded ♣ 8 and ♠ Q. Declarer next cashed dummy's ♠ A as East discarded ♣ 2, South discarding ♥ Q and West discarding ♥ 5. Declarer next led a club from dummy and East failed to stop and think before playing...not just once, but twice! East inserted ♣ Q as declarer followed with ♣ 4 and West played ♣ 9. East now botched the defense by continuing with ♣ A, felling West's ♣ K and promoting ♣ J as declarer's eleventh trick. So, what thinking could East have done before playing ♣ Q? East should have counted South's points... ♠ K, ♥ QJ, ♦ AKQ...15 hcp. Therefore South cannot have ♣ K. Also, when ♦ Q wins then East knows for sure that West has ♣ K AND that West also has ♥ K. East should have played low on the first (or even the second) round of clubs. **Sinner** status to **East**. And **Saintly** status to **Deirdre McCoy** for giving the defense the chance to go wrong!

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A J 5 2
♥ A 9 4
♦ 9 8 2
♣ 7 6 5

♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ J 10
♣ K 9 8

♠ 8 6
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 7 5 4 3
♣ A Q 3 2

♠ K 10 7
♥ Q J 6
♦ A K Q 6
♣ J 10 4

Saints & Sinners

At another table South also opened 1 ♦, North bidding 1 ♠ and South eventually became declarer in 3 NT on the lead of ♥ 3, declarer playing low from dummy as East played ♥ 7 and declarer won with ♥ J and confirming, for West at least, that declarer also held ♥ Q! Declarer next led ♠ 10, West covering with ♠ Q as dummy's ♠ A won, East following with ♠ 8. Declarer now played a diamond to her ♦ A, noting West's ♦ 10. Declarer continued with ♦ K, West's ♦ J falling and then played ♦ 6 from hand, dummy's ♦ 9 winning the trick. Declarer can now score ten tricks by picking up the spade suit for no loser...play a spade to her ♠ K and then run ♠ 7 unless West covers with ♠ 9 which promotes dummy's ♠ 5. Declarer DID lead a spade to her ♠ K, cashed ♦ Q, on which West discarded ♠ 4 thus solving declarer's worry re making four spade tricks! Declarer duly played a third spade to dummy's ♠ J and then cashed ♠ 5 and ♥ A for ten tricks! West's spade discard removed the potential question for declarer...to finesse ♠ 7 or not? **Sinner** status to **West** who clearly could afford to make a discard in either clubs or hearts.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table South also opened 1♦, North bidding 1♠ and South eventually became declarer in 3NT on the lead of ♥3, declarer playing low from dummy as East incorrectly played ♥8 (denying ♥7!) as declarer won with ♥J and confirming, for West at least, that declarer also held ♥Q! Declarer next cashed ♠K and continued with ♠10, West erring by her failure to cover with ♠Q. Declarer then continued with a spade to dummy's ♠J as East fatally discarded a diamond. Declarer next cashed ♠A, discarding ♣4 from hand as East discarded ♣2. Declarer subsequently cashed four diamonds and ♥A for ten tricks courtesy of a less than stellar defense. **Sinner** status to **East** and **West**.

At another table South opened 1NT (15-17) and North used Stayman to which South responded 2♦ before contracting 3NT. West led ♥3 and declarer won with ♥Q as East contributed ♥7. Declarer at this table then cashed ♦AK, noting the fall of West's ♦J10, and then continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦9 as West discarded ♣8. Declarer continued with a spade to her ♠K and then cashed ♦Q, West discarding ♥5 as declarer discarded a club from dummy. Declarer next led ♠10 and West erred by not covering with ♠Q. [Note: declarer has already shown up with ♠K, ♥Q, ♦AKQ and therefore declarer has no way of getting to her hand to take a third round finesse of ♠7.] When West failed to cover ♠10 declarer played a third spade and finessed ♠J. Declarer duly cashed ♥A for ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table south opened 1♣ (16+) North bid 1♠ (artificial, showing 9+ hcp but no five card suit). South rebid 1NT (unlimited strength). North bid 2♥, showing 4 spades and South closed the auction with 3NT. West led ♦J, declarer winning with ♦K. Declarer next led ♠10, West covering with ♠Q as dummy's ♠A won. Declarer played a spade to his ♠K and continued with ♥Q, West again covering with ♥K, dummy's ♥A winning. Declarer cashed ♠J on which East discarded ♦4 and declarer now had nine tricks via 3 spades, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds. Note East's diamond discard not costly at this table because declarer could still unravel the suit with ♥J as the vital entry to his hand.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table South opened 1 NT (15-17) and North used Stayman to which South responded 2 ♦. North bid 2 NT and South raised to 3 NT. West led ♥ 3 and declarer made the unusual play of rising with dummy's ♥ A instead of letting the lead round to her hand! Declarer next led ♦ 9 to her ♦ A and West's ♦ J. Declarer continued with ♦ K as West followed with ♦ 10. Declarer, oblivious to the fact that dummy's ♦ D8 was now a winner continued with ♦ Q from hand, thus promoting East's ♦ 7 as the master diamond. Declarer next cashed ♠ K and continued with ♠ 10, West failing to cover with ♠ Q. Declarer then finessed ♠ J, East discarding ♥ 7. Declarer then cashed ♠ A, East discarding ♣ 2 as declarer discarded the now useless ♦ 6. Declarer has now scored eight tricks and the defense can take remaining five (♥ K, ♦ 7, ♣ AKQ) to defeat the contract by one trick...BUT, declarer led ♥ 4 to East's ♥ 8 and ♥ Q from hand, West winning with ♥ K. West knows that partner is holding ♦ 7 (why would declarer have discarded ♦ 6 instead of cashing ♦ 76?) and that East must have ♣ A (declarer has already shown 14hcp), and also may hold ♣ Q. And if East held ♥ J why did she discard a heart instead of a club? **BUT**, upon winning ♥ K, West returned a heart to declarer's ♥ J. Nine tricks to **declarer** and **Sinner** status for rising with ♥ A at trick one and also for not playing the diamond suit for four tricks BEFORE playing on spades. **Sinner** status also to **West** who should have played a club to partner's ♣ A after winning ♥ K.

At another table South opened 1 NT and North raised to 3 NT. West led ♦ J, declarer winning with ♦ A and then cashing ♦ K, noting West's ♦ 10 falling. Declarer continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ 9, West discarding ♥ 3. Declarer continued with a spade to her ♠ K and then cashed ♦ Q as West discarded ♥ 5, declarer discarding ♣ 5. Declarer next played ♠ 10, West failing to cover as East discarded ♥ 2. Declarer then finessed dummy's ♠ J, East discarding ♥ 7. Declarer cashed ♥ A for nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **West** who should have covered ♠ 10 with ♠ Q. Declarer is now stuck in dummy and can no longer score four spade tricks BUT may still have a chance to make the contract by exiting on a club!

At one table South opened 1 ♦, North bid 1 ♠ and East, South and West passed! North's hand is of UNLIMITED strength, not having previously Passed. South must bid again. **Absolute sinner** status to **South**. Declarer scored eight tricks where he should have scored nine by playing on diamonds earlier in the play.

Board 4

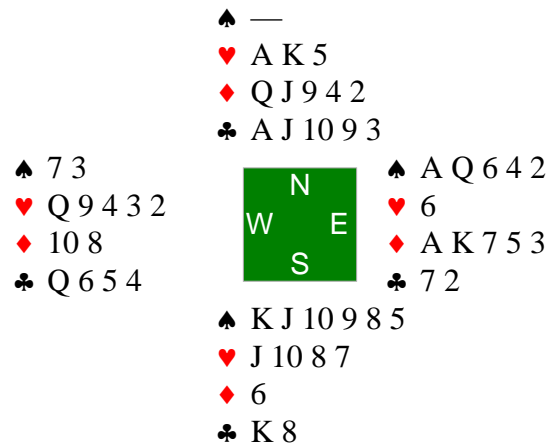
West Deals

Both Vul

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

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

North Deals
N-S Vul



What should you do with the South hand when partner opens 1 ♦ and your RHO overcalls 1 ♠? Simple...You Pass! At seven tables South made a Double. Unless you're still playing 1920s style bidding the use of Double in this position, i.e. partner has opened and RHO has overcalled, is used as Takeout. In other words, you have a hand that is short in partner's suit AND RHO's suit and thus have support for the two unbid suits. Note that if LHO Passes then a subsequent Double from Partner is Takeout and shows shortage in the suit overcalled and with the South hand you would PASS thus converting partner's Takeout Double into a Penalty Double.

P.P.S. What should you open with the North hand. With two touching suits of equal length open the higher ranking and then re-bid the lower ranking, twice if possible. This shows at least 5-5 distribution. Opening the lower ranking and rebidding the higher ranking is a Reverse (16+hcp).

At one table North opened 1 ♣, East bid 2 ♣ (not alerted but presumably showing 5/5 in spades/diamonds). South, obviously oblivious to the nature of East's 2 ♣ bid, got excited and with her bare minimum 8hcp jumped to 3 ♠ (2 ♠ would have been sufficient and an accurate description of her hand)! North now decided to bid 4 ♦, 100% forcing...and yet South Passed! Clearly on this bidding, North has longer clubs than diamonds and South should have converted to 5C. East led ♥ 6 and declarer played ♥ J from dummy and West made the instant reaction play of covering with ♥ Q instead of playing low! Declarer led ♦ 2 from hand and East made the gut reaction play of rising with ♦ 7 only to see partner overtake with ♦ 8. West returned ♥ 2 and East ruffed with ♦ 3. East continued with ♠ A which declarer ruffed with ♦ 4. Declarer next led ♦ J which East ducked, as declarer discarded ♠ 8 from dummy while West followed with ♦ 10. Declarer could now have got out for one down by cashing ♥ K leaving East to ruff with ♦ A or ♦ K if she chooses and thus leaving dummy with two discard options ...♠ K and ♥ 10. BUT, declarer continued by playing a club to dummy's ♣ K, cashing ♠ K while discarding a club from hand but ultimately losing three more tricks to East's ♦ AK and a club to West's ♣ Q. **Sinner** status to all **four** **players**...North for opening 1 ♣ instead of 1 ♦; East for failing to alert her 2 ♣ overcall; South for bidding 3 ♠ instead of 2 ♠; West for covering ♥ J with ♥ Q, although this is the least of all the sins perpetrated at this table.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 7 3	♠ —	♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ Q 9 4 3 2	♥ A K 5	♥ 6
♦ 10 8	♦ Q J 9 4 2	♦ A K 7 5 3
♣ Q 6 5 4	♣ A J 10 9 3	♣ 7 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; line-height: 60px;"> N W E S </div> </div>	
	♠ K J 10 9 8 5	
	♥ J 10 8 7	
	♦ 6	
	♣ K 8	

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

At several tables North opened 1♦ and East overcalled 1♠. Seven Souths made a Double instead of Passing. BUT at a number of tables South did Pass and when West also passed North should Double. This Double is Takeout... a Double at the first opportunity is invariably for Takeout. In this case it is a Protective Double, i.e. showing shortage in the overcalled suit. The bid can be made on a weak hand (minimum opening bid) and allow for the fact that partner may be holding a trump stack sitting over East OR it can be made on a strong hand with shortage in the suit overcalled.

Only SIX South's found a Pass when East overcalled 1♠. At these six tables only ONE North found the re-bid of Double (Takeout)...and perhaps it was no surprise that it was **Robert Delargy's** partner...**Robert** was playing with a **BBO Robot**! East, South and West all Passed. Neither declarer nor the defense shone but when the dust had settled declarer was two down...+300 to Robert & his digital partner. **Saintly** status to N/S for their bidding, i.e. South's initial Pass of 1♠, North's Takeout Double and South's second Pass which converted it to a Penalty Double.

At the other five tables where South passed East's 1♠ overcall, West also Passed and now the spotlight shone on North. All could have Doubled, for takeout, but instead bid 2♣ and N/S mostly contracted a part-score in clubs.

BUT, at one table East, having overcalled 1♠ then made the injudicious bid of 2♦ after North had opened 1♦ and then re-bid 2♣. West converted to 2♠ which South should have Doubled. Declarer was only two down due to a soft defense! **Sinner** status to **East** and **South**.

Worse still, at another table where North opened 1♦, East overcalled 1♠, South and West Passed and North re-bid 2♣. East at this table re-bid 2♠ which South should have Doubled and the defense should then have inflicted a three trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **East** for her dangerous and potentially very costly re-bid on a hand that didn't reflect the re-bid, i.e. only five spades, exactly as shown by her initial 1♠ overcall! South of course, should have Doubled, **LOUDLY**...only joking...about the use of loudly. That would be unethical. But South should definitely have Doubled. **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

At several other tables where North opened 1♦ and East overcalled 1♠ South bid 1NT. This is an alternative to Pass. At a couple of tables North re-bid 2♣. At one table South Passed and at another South converted to 2♦.

Some North's overstretched with a re-bid of 3♣ and South subsequently contracted 3NT. Note that the List of Makeable Contracts suggests that N/S should only make eight tricks in NT! Not surprisingly several South's escaped with nine tricks due to less than stellar defense on a hand that is difficult to defend. One of the club's two resident **Grand Master** players (highest ranked players in Ireland), **Rory Timlin**, (the other is **Enda Glynn**), has studied this hand with the aid of **DeepFinesse** and has concluded '*3NT can be beaten as long as West doesn't lead a spade or a queen.*' [Note: **Deep Finesse** is an interactive hand analyzer that lets you examine play lines of any bridge deal. It can be downloaded, (FREE) via the following link:

<http://www.deepfinesse.com/description.html>]

[Note. Rory who contributes a regular column for the **Irish Bridge Journal** will shortly start a series of articles that will explore the magic of **Squeeze Play**.]

A couple of North's opened 1♣ instead of 1♦ and then made a Reverse bid of 2♦ (A Reverse bid shows 16+ hcp which North does not have!!!). **Sinner** status to those **Norths** who opened 1♣ instead of 1♦.

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

N 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; S 2♠; EW 1N; EW 2♦;

Par +140: NS 2♥+1; N 2♠+1

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Most E/W pairs will reach 3 NT and as the List of Makeable Contracts above shows, declarer can make nine tricks. But what it doesn't show is how declarer can actually make the nine tricks! In most cases it comes down to declarer making the right guess in the club suit, i.e. leading a low club towards dummy's ♣ Q103 and playing ♣ 10 rather than ♣ Q. This is really a pure guess. You also probably need to find the clubs breaking 3-3 and then it is a simple case of guessing to play South for ♣ J! Simple!!! The only other suit worth considering, albeit only briefly, is spades. But without even a single guaranteed entry in dummy this is not a route to pursue except towards the end of the hand where one spade trick might be required!

Saints & Sinners

Outright Sinner...the **West** who opened 1 ♣ (I'm at a loss to explain this other than perhaps a mic-click of 1 ♣ instead of Pass...the two bids are close to each other on the BBO bidding screen!). The end result was that East contracted 6 NT and actually emerged with TEN tricks! Declarer received the lead of ♥ 9, declarer rising with dummy's ♥ 10 as North contributed ♥ J, declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer next led ♣ 2 from hand and guessed correctly when playing ♣ 10 from dummy. North won with ♣ K and perhaps could be accused of panicking somewhat when she cashed ♠ A. And when clubs proved to break 3-3 declarer had ten tricks.

At another table East declarer 3 NT on the lead of ♦ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♦ Q. Declarer went down a false trial when she cashed two top hearts...only a singleton ♥ J will likely produce an extra heart trick! Declarer then led ♠ J, South covering with ♠ Q as declarer played ♠ 2 from dummy. South continued with ♦ 8, declarer winning in hand with ♦ K. Declarer now led ♠ 5 and inserted ♠ 8 from dummy as North won with a deceptive ♠ 10. North exited on ♦ J, declarer winning in hand with ♦ A. Declarer now led ♣ 2, South contributing ♣ 8 which declarer covered with dummy's ♣ Q as North won with ♣ K. North, who could have cashed ♠ A for one down, exited on ♥ J, declarer winning in hand with ♥ Q while discarding ♠ 6 from dummy. Declarer now cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 5 to South's ♣ J. South cashed ♥ 9 and ♦ 7 to see declarer finish two adrift. **Saintly** status to N/S, **Carmel & Pat**, with particular praise to North who refrained from cashing ♠ A when the opportunity arose. Declarer could consider herself unlucky in so far as ♠ A was offside and she misguessed the play of the club suit.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East contracted 3 NT and South led ♥ 9, declarer rising with dummy's ♥ 10 as North covered with ♥ J, declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer continued with ♣ 2 to dummy's ♣ Q and North's ♣ K. North now played ♥ 5, declarer winning with ♥ K thus confirming to North that declarer also held ♥ A! Declarer continued with ♣ 5 from hand, South rising with ♣ J. South's next play handed the contract to declarer!!! South continued with ♥ 8, declarer discarding ♠ 2 from dummy as North followed with ♥ 6.... **BUT**, declarer did not recognise that by winning with ♥ A she was also promoting her ♥ 4 as a winner, South holding the only outstanding heart.... ♥ 3!!! Declarer ducked, following with ♥ 4, thereby rejecting the opportunity to score four heart tricks! [Note: you may need to retrace the play of the heart suit to confirm for yourself that declarer could have won the third and fourth round of hearts with ♥ A4!] South continued with ♥ 3 to declarer's ♥ Q, declarer discarding ♦ 3 from dummy while North discarded ♣ 9. Declarer played a club to dummy's ♣ 10 and then returned to hand with a diamond to cash ♣ A. Declarer duly lost two spade tricks and finished one down! Moments come and moments go occasionally in the play of a hand. This one went when declarer failed to appreciate that her little ♥ 4 had grown up on the third round of the suit. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table South led ♦ 9 against East's 3 NT, declarer winning in hand with ♦ Q. At this table declarer cashed ♥ AK...cashing ♥ A is okay in case either defender holds a singleton ♥ J but it is pointless to then cash the second top heart. Another heart from either opponent will see the creation of an additional defensive trick! Declarer next led ♠ J, South covering with ♠ Q as declarer played ♠ 2 from dummy. South now played ♥ 8, declarer discarding ♠ 6 from dummy as declarer won in hand with ♥ Q. Declarer now cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 2 to dummy's ♣ Q and North's ♣ K. North exited on ♣ 9 to South's ♣ J. South now cashed ♥ 9, the fourth defensive trick, as dummy and North discarded small diamonds. South could now have secured at least a two trick defeat by continuing with a spade through dummy's ♠ K87, North scoring at least two tricks, three if declarer rises with dummy's ♠ K. But why should South find the spade continuation? Because clearly declarer does not have ♠ 10! Nor ♠ A! And do you remember the opening lead...and North's failure to rise with ♦ A or ♦ K. Clearly declarer started with ♠ J, ♥ AKQ, ♦ AKQ, ♣ A. **BUT**, South continued with ♦ 8 and declarer escaped for one down! **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East also declared 3 NT and at this table South led ♥ 8 (the standard second highest from four (or more) small cards. Declarer rose with dummy's ♥ 10 as North covered with ♥ J, declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer next led ♣ 2, South following with ♣ 8, and misguessed to play ♣ Q from dummy, North winning with ♣ K. North continued with ♥ 6 as declarer won with ♥ K, telling North that declarer also held ♥ A! Declarer led ♣ 5, South rising with ♣ J. South, perhaps cautious that declarer might hold ♥ A53, refrained from continuing with a heart from his ♥ 94 and instead exited on ♣ 6, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ 10. Declarer now played a diamond to her ♦ Q and continued with a spade to dummy's ♠ K and North's ♠ A. North continued with ♥ 5, declarer winning with ♥ A and then cashing ♦ AK, ♣ A before conceding the last two tricks to South's H♥ 9, ♠ Q for one down. **BUT**, declarer could have made the contract! Instead of playing a spade to dummy's ♠ K declarer can cash her heart, diamond and club winners reducing everyone to three cards. Declarer holds ♠ J5, ♥ 4 while dummy holds ♠ K87. North holds ♠ A109 and it depends on what cards South retains. If ♠ Q, ♥ 9, ♦ 9 then declarer leads ♠ 5, South covers with ♠ Q, perforce and North wins with ♠ A but must concede a spade to declarer's ♠ J. If South retains ♠ Q4, ♥ 9 then declarer exits on ♥ 4, South winning with ♥ 9 but now having to lead a spade from ♠ Q4. If South leads ♠ 4 and declarer guesses right then she will score a spade trick!

At one table East opened 2 ♣, West bid 2 ♦ (relay?...should be alerted) and East made an inappropriate rebid of 2 ♥ which promises at least 5+ hearts!!! East should have re-bid NT. 4 card majors can be shown over 2 NT via a 3 ♣ enquiry. At the table West passed 2 ♥ and declarer scored eight tricks for her efforts although nine tricks can be made. **Sinner** status to **East** for re-bidding 2 ♥ and to **West** for not keeping the bidding open for at least one round via 2 ♠. East/West should then reach 3 NT. E/W need to discuss their 2 ♣ openings and subsequent sequences.

Note that if East rebids 2 NT then West can show five spades via a 3 ♥ transfer or by a direct bid of 3 ♠. Four card suits, or Major suits only, can be shown via 3 ♣.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At fifteen other tables East contracted 3 NT. At five tables declarer emerged with ten tricks whereas the other ten declarers made the requisite nine tricks. At one table East re-bid 2 NT which West raised to 3 NT. South led ♥ 8, dummy and North playing low as declarer won with ♥ K. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ 10 and North's ♣ K. North continued with ♥ J, declarer winning with ♥ A. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ Q and then cashed three top diamonds. Declarer now cashed ♣ A7, South discarding ♦ 8 on the second club as North discarded ♠ 3. Declarer now cashed ♥ Q and continued with ♠ 5, South following with ♠ 4 as declarer played ♠ 7 from dummy, North winning perforce with ♠ 9. North could cash ♠ A but then had to concede a spade to dummy's ♠ K. Well played and **Saintly** status to **Louise Mitchell**.

A similar bidding sequence at another table, although West bid 3H over East's 2 NT to show 5 spades, saw East contract 3 NT on the lead of ♥ 2 (Wrong... ♥ 2 signals an honour holding... should lead ♥ 8, standard second highest lead from four small cards!). Declarer rose with dummy's ♥ 10, North covering with ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ A. Declarer led ♣ 2 to dummy's ♣ 10 and North's ♣ K. North continued with ♥ 6 to declarer's ♥ K. Declarer next played ♠ 5 to dummy's ♠ K and North's ♠ A. North continued with another heart, declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer now cashed ♣ Q, three top diamonds and ♣ A7 on which South fatally discarded ♥ 9 promoting declarer's ♥ 4 as a tenth trick. **Sinner** status to **South** who should have discarded ♦ 9 (three rounds already played and all followed...so ♦ 9 is the last diamond) instead of ♥ 9.

At another table East declared 3 NT after West showed five spades. South led ♦ 9, declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ 10 and North's ♣ K. North continued with ♦ J, declarer winning with ♦ K. Declarer next led ♠ 5 to South's ♠ 4 and dummy's ♠ K, North winning with ♠ A. North played another diamond, declarer winning with ♦ Q. Declarer next cashed three clubs and South erred by discarding ♥ 2 on the last club. South has a clear picture of declarer's distribution...declarer clearly has only 2 spades (would have bid 4 ♠ instead of 3 NT with 3 spades); declarer has already shown 3 diamonds and only three clubs (North followed to three rounds) so declarer must have 4 hearts! *Counting, counting...all the time!* So, **Sinner** status to **South**.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 2♣ and inappropriately rebid 2♥ over West's 2♦ relay. West now bid 2♠ and East closed the auction with 3NT. South led D♦ 9, declarer playing dummy's ♦ 10 and North following with ♦ J as declarer won with ♦ Q. From South's perspective this clearly places ♦ AK also with declarer! At trick two declarer led ♣ 2 and guessed correctly when playing ♣ 10 from dummy, North winning with ♣ K. North continued with ♦ 6, declarer rising with ♦ A and then playing a club to dummy's ♣ Q. Declarer now made an imaginative play of leading ♠ 2 FROM dummy, North following with ♠ 3 as declarer played ♠ J from hand and was unlucky to find South holding ♠ Q. Swap the spade honours in the North and South hands and declarer would have secured a spade trick for herself! What North will rise with SQ when declarer leads from dummy? For some reason South continued with ♣ J instead of playing another diamond. Declarer won in hand with ♣ A and then cashed ♣ 7 and South erred by discarding ♥ 2, giving declarer four hearts and ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At one table East opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT over West's 2♦ (relay) which West raised to 3NT. West could have shown her five spades. South led ♥ 8 declarer rising with dummy's ♥ 10, covered by North with ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ A. Declarer continued with ♣ 2, playing ♣ 10 from dummy which took North's ♣ K. North continued with ♥ 5, declarer winning with ♥ K. Declarer next led ♠ J, South covering with ♠ Q and declarer rising with dummy's ♠ K, North winning with ♠ A. North continued with ♠ 9 and then switched to ♥ 6, declarer winning with ♥ Q. Declarer cashed her minor suit winners and South discarded ♥ 2 on the last club thus conceding ten tricks to declarer. **Sinner** status to **South** who should have been able to work out that declarer had four hearts!

At ten tables East declared 3NT making just nine tricks and in most cases it hinged on declarer playing the club suit for three tricks, i.e. leading a small club to dummy's ♣ 10 forcing North to win with ♣ K which, combined with the 3-3 break gave declarer three clubs tricks.

At one table, South led ♣ 6 and declarer played ♣ 10 from dummy and breathed a sigh of relief when North played ♣ K. When clubs broke 3-3 declarer had nine tricks.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At one table South led ♦ 2 (should lead ♦ 8) declarer winning in hand with ♦ A and then played a club to dummy's ♣ Q and North's ♣ K. Declarer's prospects were not looking good. North continued with a club to South's ♣ J and South exited on a club. The contract is now doomed...unless the defense come to the aid of declarer! Declarer won the third club in dummy and played a heart to her ♥ A and cashed ♥ K. Then declarer led ♠ 5 from hand...declarer must now lose two spade tricks... **BUT**, South rose with ♠ Q and suddenly declarer had her ninth trick when she covered with dummy's ♠ K, North winning with ♠ A but in the process declarer's ♠ J was promoted to winner status! **Sinner** status to **South** who snatched defeat from the jaws of victory!

At another table South led ♦ 9, declarer playing low from dummy and North needlessly playing ♦ J as declarer won with ♦ Q. Declarer continued with ♠ J, South covering with ♠ Q and declarer playing ♠ K from dummy as North won with ♠ A. North now exited on ♦ 6, declarer winning in hand with ♦ K. Declarer now played ♣ 2 from hand and rose with dummy's ♣ Q, losing to North's ♣ K. North now cashed ♠ 109 bringing the defenders total to four tricks and leaving a situation where declarer can no longer make the contract. In fact declarer can suffer a two trick defeat because declarer has a losing heart and club in her hand and can only count seven tricks...3 hearts, 3 diamonds, 1 club, having discarded ♣ 5 on the S9...**BUT**, South also had to discard on ♠ 9 and unfortunately for the defense South discarded ♥ 2. Okay, so declarer is now back up to eight tricks...**BUT**, North continued with ♥ 5 and declarer played ♥ 4 from hand and dummy's ♥ 10 won the trick and declarer was now able to cash ♠ 8 in dummy, discarding the losing ♣ 7 from hand! A most unlikely nine tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to **North**. Yes, North was looking at a dummy which had, at that point, three 10s, and she may have wondered which suit to return after cashing ♠ 9. A simple thought...North holds ♥ J so that's a dangerous suit to return. If North doesn't lead a heart then declarer cannot access dummy via hearts as long as North holds ♥ Jx. Also, South had discarded a heart. North should return a club...if declarer has ♣ AJx they cannot be prevented from accessing dummy. But if South has ♣ Jx then N/S will score another trick ... **Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Yes, the List of Makeable Contracts suggests that E/W can only make nine tricks in a heart contract. And yet when I reviewed the hand and associated results I discovered that the hand was played in a heart contract at THIRTEEN tables with one declarer scoring twelve tricks and seven others emerging with eleven tricks. On the other hand, one declarer only scored seven tricks while two managed to scramble eight and two others emerged with nine. If the defense do not cash three spades from the start then declarer can always score at least eleven tricks. Two lines present themselves. 1) As long as hearts and diamonds behave then declarer can cash two top hearts and then play on diamonds. With North holding three diamonds declarer will be able to discard two spades from hand BEFORE North can ruff with HQ. The defense will then score one spade trick but that's all. Dummy's remaining diamonds can be accessed via a club ruff and any black suit losers in declarer's hand can be discarded on dummy's diamond winners. 2) An alternative line requires declarer to ruff two club losers in dummy, cash ♥ AK and then play on diamonds, discarding two spades from hand before North can ruff with H♥ Q and cash a spade.

Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 1♥ and West raised to ♥ which became the final contract. South led ♦ 7 and declarer played low from dummy (Mistake...declarer should have inserted ♦ 10 (or ♦ 9) in case the suit breaks 4-1. North contributed ♦ J (unnecessary...North holds ♦ J82 and declarer has not played either ♦ 10 or ♦ 9 from dummy so South's ♦ 7 is equal value with North's ♦ J8!). Declarer won with ♦ Q, cashed ♣ A and ruffed a club in dummy. Declarer returned to hand with a trump to her ♥ A and then cashed ♥ K. Declarer made a mistake in continuing with a third heart to North's ♥ Q while discarding ♦ 6 from dummy. N/S proceeded to cash three spades and could have beaten the contract if North continued with ♣ K. **BUT**, North pointlessly and fatally continued with his fourth spade despite knowing that declarer had no more spades and that South had no more hearts! Declarer ruffed and subsequently discarded her losing club on dummy's diamond winners. **Sinner** status to **North**...and to **declarer** who could have ruffed her last club in dummy. Declarer could have won the first diamond in dummy (♦ A or ♦ K) and then cashed ♣ A and ruffed a club, returned to hand with ♦ Q and ruffed another club and then drawn two rounds of trumps eventually conceding 3 spades and 1 heart. Alternatively declarer could have made eleven tricks by winning with ♦ Q, cashing ♥ AK and playing on diamonds, discarding two spades before North could ruff.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table East declared 3♥ after South overcalled 2♣ and North competed with 3♣. South led ♣ Q, declarer winning in hand and ruffing a club in dummy and then returning to hand with a trump to her ♥ A and ruffing another club in dummy. Declarer then played a diamond to ♦ Q and cashed a second top heart and continued with a third trump to North's ♥ Q. N/S cashed three spade tricks to hold declarer to nine tricks. Declarer did okay up to the point of cashing her second top trump. She should then have played on diamonds and would have been able to discard two spades before North could ruff with ♥ Q and cash one spade. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table east also contracted 3♥ after South overcalled in clubs. South led ♣ Q, declarer winning with ♣ A. Declarer then made a bizarre play of leading a small heart from hand, North winning with ♥ 9. North switched to a spade, South winning with ♠ A and returning a spade to dummy's ♠ Q and North's ♠ K. North cashed ♠ J and then applied the *coup de grace* by continuing with the thirteenth spade and N/S could not be denied a second trump trick no matter what declarer did! Declarer ended one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the fourth table, east also contracted 3♥ after South overcalled in clubs. South led ♣ Q and declarer won with ♣ A and then cashed ♥ AK and continued with a third heart to North's ♥ Q....and the floodgates opened! N/S cashed two clubs and three spades to defeat the contract by two tricks!!! If South had played on diamonds instead of playing that fatal third trump she would have emerged with eleven tricks instead of eight! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

And how did one declarer make 2♥+4 on a club lead? Declarer ruffed two clubs in dummy and then cashed two top hearts and then played on diamonds and North failed to ruff the third or fourth round so that declarer was able to discard all his spades from hand and just lost a trick to ♥ Q. **Absolute Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

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

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

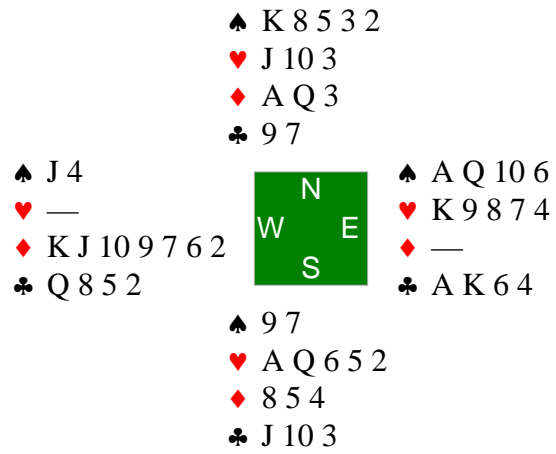
No time for detailed analysis. But, in a nutshell, declarer can always make nine tricks by playing on spades BEFORE playing trumps. If South made a takeout Double then he can be played for ♠AQJ and declarer should be able to promote a spade in hand as well as ruffing one in dummy. led ♠8 from dummy and run it and then lead spade from hand and play for a ruffing finesse against South's spade holding. And declarer gets a bonus tenth trick if he cashes trumps from the top!

Saints & Sinners

Absolute sinner status to the **declarer** who failed to make eight tricks.

Sinner status to the **seven declarers** who only managed to make eight tricks!

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul



EW 5♦; EW 5♣; EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 1♥;
 Par -400: EW 5♣=; EW 5♦=

Board 12
 West Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 4♦; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par -450; EW 4♠+1

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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



EW 5♥; EW 3N; NS 2♠; EW 3♣; NS 1♦; Par -450: EW 5♥=

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♣; NS 3♥; EW 1N; Par -980: EW 6♠=

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Most E/W pairs will reach 4 ♠. If West is declarer then ten tricks can be made but if for some reason East declares 4 ♠ then it can be held to nine tricks on a heart or trump lead from South. Some partnerships may reach 3 NT which can produce ten tricks played by East or West.

Saints & Sinners

4 ♠ was bid at nineteen of twenty-one tables. Only 4 declarers were successful! At one table the bidding was 1 ♠ - 2 ♠; 4 ♠ - Pass. North led ♣ A and then found the unorthodox switch of ♦ J, South rising with ♦ K...and declarer now had FOUR diamond tricks! Declarer won with ♦ A and continued with a small diamond to dummy's ♦ 10, South's ♦ 8 falling. Declarer next led ♠ 4, South following with ♠ 10 as declarer played ♠ Q from hand as North followed with ♠ 3. Declarer continued with ♦ 7 and ruffed with dummy's ♠ 9 as South discarded ♥ 3. Declarer now led ♠ J and North won with ♠ K. North continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K and continuing with ♣ Q on which declarer discarded ♥ Q from hand, North ruffing with ♠ 5. North continued with a diamond, declarer winning in hand, drawing North's remaining trump and claiming ten tricks. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Margaret Forde**, even though N/S provided a less than compelling defense.

At another table West opened 1 ♠ and North made a poor overcall of 2 ♦. East bid 2 ♠ which West raised to 4 ♠. North led ♣ A and continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with a small spade North rising with ♠ K. North might have given the contract a good rattle by continuing with a third spade thus denying declarer the opportunity to ruff a diamond in dummy. BUT, North switched to a small diamond, South rising with ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer next played a spade to dummy's ♠ J and then continued with ♣ K discarding ♦ 5 from hand as North ruffed with his last trump. North can now beat the contract...simply return ♦ J, forcing declarer to win in hand. North will eventually score the setting trick with ♥ K...**BUT**, declarer returned a small diamond and dummy's ♦ 10 won. Declarer now cashed ♣ Q discarding the losing ♥ Q from hand. Contract made and **Sinner** status to **North**. North should have known that declarer held ♦ Q. On the initial diamond switch, South played ♦ K... denying the ♦ Q! **Sinner** status also to **declarer** who should not have been in such a hurry to draw trumps with no secondary source of tricks!

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1 ♠, East raised to 2 ♠ and West jumped to 4 ♠. North cashed ♣ A and then switched to ♦ 2, South rising with ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer cashed ♠ A and played a second spade to dummy's ♠ 9 as North played low and South discarded ♣ 4. Declarer continued with ♠ J, North winning with ♠ K as South discarded another club leaving dummy's ♣ KQ6 as winners. South could have afforded to discard a couple of hearts...but watch what happened! Upon winning ♠ K, North continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer continued with ♣ Q, South's ♣ 10 falling and leaving dummy's ♣ 6 as a winner! Declarer discarded ♦ 5 as North gratefully ruffed with ♠ 8. Again, in the exact same fashion as happened at the table outlined in the previous paragraph, North could have defeated the contract by returning ♦ J, denying declarer access to dummy via ♦ 10 and the winning ♣ 6. BUT, North returned a small diamond, dummy's ♦ 10 winning and declarer then cashing dummy's ♣ 6 on which she discarded her losing ♥ Q as South finally discarded one of the five useless hearts in her hand! Ten tricks to declarer and **Sinner** status to both **North and South**. And declarer doesn't earn any kudos for her declarer play.

At the fourth table, West opened 1 ♠ and jumped to 4 ♠ when partner bid 2 ♠. North led ♦ 3 to South's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next led ♣ J, North rising with ♣ A. North now switched to a small spade, declarer playing ♠ 4 from dummy as South followed with ♠ 10, declarer winning with ♠ Q. Declarer next cashed ♦ Q and continued with ♣ 8, dummy's ♣ K winning the trick. Declarer now played ♣ Q, discarding HQ from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 5. North continued with ♦ 4, declarer ruffing with dummy's ♠ 9. Declarer now played a heart to his ♥ A and then ruffed his last diamond with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer next ruffed a heart in his hand and cashed ♠ A and conceded a trick to North's ♠ K. Ten tricks and **Saintly** status to declarer, **David Walsh**. And there's not a thing that the defense could have done to change the outcome. Note that the play of the trump suit was initiated by North, not by declarer!

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

The majority (fifteen of nineteen) that contracted 4 ♠ failed by one or two tricks. At one table West declared 4 ♠ after North overcalled 2 ♦ (a poor bid). North led ♣ A and continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. Declarer next led a spade to dummy's ♠ J, South's ♠ 10 falling ominously! Declarer now had various options and seemed not to heed the bidding which surely placed the outstanding honour cards with North. Also, the lead seemed to suggest a club shortage with North. Declarer next finessed ♥ Q losing to North's ♥ K. North exited on a heart to declarer's ♥ A. Declarer next made a series of losing plays. First she cashed ♠ A and then she cashed ♦ A and continued with a low diamond, North rising with ♦ J and South winning with ♦ K. South now played ♣ 7, declarer discarding the winning ♦ 7 as North ruffed with ♠ 7. North then cashed ♠ K for two down.

At another table North also led ♣ A9, declarer winning the second club in hand with ♣ J. Declarer continued with ♠ A and then a spade to dummy's ♠ 9. Declarer next tried to cash ♣ K, discarding ♦ 5 from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 7. North now cashed ♠ K, felling dummy's ♠ J and exited on ♦ 6 to South's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. North cashed ♠ Q, North discarding ♦ 2, and could have escaped for one down either by cashing ♥ A followed by ♥ Q, end-playing North to lead a diamond into declarer's ♦ Q7, OR by cashing her last trump, and without first cashing ♥ A, forcing North to discard another diamond, and then end-play North in diamonds by cashing ♦ Q and exiting on ♦ 7 to North's ♦ J forcing North to lead a heart into declarer's ♥ AQ. But, it was two down. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for not having a plan to deal with her diamond losers!

At another table West declared 4 ♠ after East raised West's opening bid to 2 ♠. North led ♦ 2, South contributing ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. Declarer next cashed ♦ Q and continued with a third diamond, ruffing with dummy's ♠ 4 as South overruffed with ♠ 10. South switched to a heart and declarer finessed ♥ Q losing to North's ♥ K. North cashed ♣ A and continued with a club, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with her fourth diamond, ruffing with dummy's stiff ♠ J. Declarer led ♣ K, ruffing in hand with ♠ 6 and being overruffed by North's ♠ 7. North dully scored ♠ K for two down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At a fourth table West opened 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♠ and South Doubled (alerted as showing hearts and a minor!). West bid 4 ♠. North led ♣ A9, declarer winning the second club in hand with ♣ J. Declarer then cashed ♠ A and continued with ♦ A followed by ♦ 5, North playing low as South won with ♦ K. South switched to ♥ 3 and declarer, not surprisingly, finessed H♥ Q, losing perhaps surprisingly, to North's ♥ K! North exited on ♥ 9 to declarer's ♥ A. Declarer with ♠ Q862 in hand opposite ♠ J9 now made the costly play of leading SQ, crashing dummy's equivalent value ♠ 9, North rising with ♠ K. North continued with ♠ 5 to dummy's ♠ J and declarer suddenly realised the expensive nature of his play of ♠ Q! North, holding a singleton ♠ 7 while declarer held ♠ 862 could not be deprived of a trick with her ♠ 7 as declarer was forced to lead a club or heart from dummy. A well deserved, self-inflicted, two down to declarer. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table North led ♦ 3 against West's 4 ♠. Declarer beat South's ♦ K with ♦ A and then cashed ♦ Q, North following with ♦ 2 (a five card suit?) as South produced ♦ 8! Declarer continued with ♦ 5, North covering with ♦ 4, declarer ruffing with dummy's ♠ 9 as South overruffed with ♠ 10. South switched to ♥ 7 (second highest from a suit with no honour), declarer's ♥ Q losing to North's ♥ K. North now cashed ♣ A and continued with ♥ 9 to declarer's now stiff ♥ A. Declarer now led a club to dummy's ♣ Q and continued with ♣ K, discarding his losing ♦ 7 from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 3. North subsequently scored a trick with her ♠ K leaving declarer two down.

At the remaining ten tables where 4 ♠ was reached, all declarers escaped for one down. At one table North led ♣ A9, declarer winning the second round in hand with ♣ J. Declarer continued with ♥ AQ, North winning the second heart with ♥ K. North continued with ♦ 3 to South's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next cashed ♠ A and then continued with ♠ Q, crashing dummy's equal value ♠ 9, North winning with ♠ K. North continued with ♦ J to declarer's ♦ Q, South's ♦ 8 falling thus promoting declarer's ♦ 7 as a winner. Declarer played a trump to dummy's ♠ J, cashed ♣ K as declarer mistakenly discarded ♦ 7 instead of ♦ 5. North ruffed with ♠ 7 and returned ♦ 2 to declarer's ♦ 5 for one down instead instead of cashing ♦ 6 for two down! **Sinner** status to **North** and to **declarer** for crashing ♠ Q and ♠ 9 in a single trick.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ K 7 5 3	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ J 6 4 3 2	
	♣ A 9	
♠ A Q 8 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: green; position: relative;"><div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; transform: rotate(45deg);"></div><div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; transform: rotate(-45deg);"></div><div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; left: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; transform: rotate(45deg);"></div><div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; right: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; transform: rotate(-45deg);"></div></div>	♠ J 9 4
♥ A Q		♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A Q 7 5		♦ 10 9
♣ J 8		♣ K Q 6 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ 8 7 6 5 3	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ 10 7 5 4 3	

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table West declared 4♠ on the lead of a small diamond to South's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer continued with ♦ Q and then switched to ♣ J, North winning with ♣ A. North now played ♦ J, declarer ruffing with ♠ J and promoting declarer's ♦ 7 as a winner. Declarer next led ♠ 4, South following with ♠ 10 as declarer played ♠ A. Declarer now led ♣ 8 to dummy's ♣ K and then cashed ♣ Q... and now has the contract made! All declarer needs to do is discard the losing ♥ Q from hand as North ruffs with ♠ 5. **BUT**, declarer obviously hadn't kept an eye on the diamond suit and instead discarded the winning ♦ 7 instead of the losing ♥ Q! **BUT**, North returned a diamond presenting declarer with a brief reprieve as declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠ 9 whilst discarding ♥ Q from hand. Declarer was back in business! A heart to declarer's ♥ A followed by ♠ Q (or ♠ 8) would see North score ♠ K and declarer would regain the lead via a heart or diamond and then cash ♠ 8, drawing North's ♠ 7....**BUT**, declarer played a heart to her ♥ A and with ♠ Q86 in her hand and with North holding ♠ K7 declarer led ...♠ 6!!! North gratefully won with ♠ 7 and cashed ♠ K for one down. **Absolute Sinner** status to **declarer**. And **Sinner** status to **North** who, after ruffing the third club with ♠ 5 could have cashed ♠ K, removing dummy's ♠ 9, and then exited on a diamond or a spade and sat and waited for her ♥ K to win the setting trick!

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CLEAR THINKING, BE IT AS DECLARER OR DEFENDER...

At another table North cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. Declarer cashed ♠ A and continued with a spade to dummy's ♠ J. Declarer now cashed ♣ K, discarding ♦ 5 from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 7. North, who should have cashed ♠ K, removing dummy's ♠ 9 and then continued with a diamond and awaited to score her ♥ K for the setting trick. **BUT**, after ruffing ♣ K, North found the disastrous switch of ...♥ K, declarer gratefully winning with ♥ A and now holding a promoted ♥ Q!!! Declarer subsequently could not avoid losing ♠ K and a diamond for one down. But declarer should have been two down if North did not switch to ♥ K. **Sinner** status to **North**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ K 7 5 3	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ J 6 4 3 2	
	♣ A 9	
♠ A Q 8 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black; position: relative;"><div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%; text-align: center; color: white; font-size: 10px;">N W E S</div></div>	♠ J 9 4
♥ A Q		♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A Q 7 5		♦ 10 9
♣ J 8		♣ K Q 6 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ 8 7 6 5 3	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ 10 7 5 4 3	

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

Saints & Sinners

At one table North led ♣ A9, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ K on the second round. Declarer next led ♠ J, South following with ♠ 10 as North won with ♠ K. North switched to ♦ 2, South contributing ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. 4 ♠ can now be made! Declarer can cash ♦ Q and ruff a diamond with dummy's ♠ 4, play a heart to ♥ A and ruff her fourth diamond with ♠ 9. Declarer then plays ♣ Q and discards ♥ Q as North ruffs. Declarer is left with ♠ AQ86...all winners. **BUT**, declarer, upon winning with ♦ A cashed ♠ A, perhaps not paying enough attention to South's ♠ 10 on first round of the suit. Declarer continued with ♦ Q and then ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♠ 9. Declarer then played ♣ Q, discarding ♦ 7 from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 5. North played ♦ J, declarer ruffing but then having to lose the setting trick to North's ♥ K. Declarer knew that North had no more clubs and did have two small trumps, so playing ♣ Q was pointless. Declarer would have been better advised to take the opportunity to finesse ♥ Q. If it wins then declarer is home via 4 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 diamond ruff, 1 club. Poor play by declarer who had it in her hands to make the contract and then also had an opportunity to give herself a 50% chance via the heart finesse! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and also to **North** who should have returned a spade after winning ♠ K.

The significance of South following with ♠ 10 when declarer leads a spade from dummy is that it suggests that South likely started with a singleton ♠ 10 and that North holds 4 trumps. **BUT** it also means that as long as North holds at least two diamonds then declarer can ruff her two losing diamonds in dummy and can then discard the potentially losing ♥ Q on dummy's ♣ Q!

At another table North cashed ♣ A and continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ J. Declarer cashed ♣ A and then made the costly continuation of ♠ Q, crashing dummy's equal value ♠ 9!!! North ducked and declarer then led ♦ 5 from hand, North rising with ♦ J and South overtaking with ♦ K and finding the good switch of ♥ 8, declarer finessing ♥ Q which lost to North's ♥ K. North cashed ♠ K for one down!

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ K 7 5 3	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ J 6 4 3 2	
	♣ A 9	
♠ A Q 8 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black; position: relative;"><div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; line-height: 10px;">N</div><div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; left: 0; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; line-height: 10px;">S</div><div style="position: absolute; left: 0; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%); width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; line-height: 10px;">W</div><div style="position: absolute; right: 0; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%); width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; line-height: 10px;">E</div></div>	♠ J 9 4
♥ A Q		♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A Q 7 5		♦ 10 9
♣ J 8		♣ K Q 6 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ 8 7 6 5 3	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ 10 7 5 4 3	

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table North also led ♣ A9, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ K on the second round. Declarer next led ♠ J, South following with ♠ 10 as North won with ♠ K. North switched to ♦ 3, South contributing ♦ K as declarer won with ♦ A. 4 ♠ can now be made! Declarer can cash ♦ Q and ruff a diamond with dummy's ♠ 4, play a heart to ♥ A and ruff her fourth diamond with ♠ 9. Declarer then plays ♣ Q and discards ♥ Q as North ruffs. Declarer is left with ♠ AQ86...all winners. **BUT**, declarer, obviously not concerned with what to do with her two losing diamonds and potential losing heart, continued with ♠ A and then played a spade to dummy's ♠ 9. Declarer next finessed ♥ Q losing to North's ♥ K. North returned ♦ J, declarer winning with ♦ Q, cashing ♠ Q (drawing North's ♠ 7) and then losing the last, and setting trick to North's D6. One down.

At one table declarer received the lead of ♣ A9, declarer winning the second round with dummy's ♣ Q. Declarer next played ♠ 4, South following with ♠ 10 as declarer finessed ♠ Q which lost to North's ♠ K. North now played ♦ 2 to North's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. As has been outlined in previous pages, declarer can now make the contract by ruffing a diamond with dummy's ♠ 9, returning to hand with ♥ A and the ruffing the last diamond with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer can then cash ♣ K discarding ♥ Q from hand. Declarer wins any return in hand and then draws North's remaining trumps. **BUT**, declarer played a trump to dummy's ♠ 9 and then finessed ♥ Q, losing to North's ♥ K. North returned a trump, dummy's ♠ J winning the trick. Declarer now played ♣ K, discarding ♥ A from hand. This play would make sense if North held a third club because declarer could then cash ♥ J and ♥ 10, discarding diamonds from hand. **BUT**, the opening lead suggests that North started with only two clubs, both already played, and that North has an outstanding trump! North ruffed ♣ K with ♠ 7 and then played a heart, dummy's ♥ 10 winning as declarer discarded ♦ 5. Declarer then discarded ♦ 7 on ♥ J but was already one down.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table North led ♦ 3 to South's ♦ K and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer next played ♣ J, North rising with ♣ A. North continued with ♦ J, South following crucially with ♦ 8 thus promoting declarer's ♦ 7 as a third diamond winner for declarer. Declarer next played a club to dummy's ♣ K and then led ♠ 4, South following with ♠ 10, declarer covering with ♠ Q and North winning with ♠ K. North now played ♦ 6, declarer ruffing with dummy's ♠ 9, despite declarer holding the winning ♦ 7 in hand! But declarer is still on target for ten tricks. Declarer can cash ♠ J and then continue with ♣ Q, discarding ♥ Q from hand as North ruffs with ♠ 5. Declarer can win any return and cash trumps FROM THE TOP and then claim. **BUT**, after ruffing the diamond with dummy's ♠ 9, declarer DID cash ♠ J and then continued with ♣ Q and discarded...the winning ♦ 7 instead of the losing ♥ Q!!! North ruffed with ♠ 5 and exited on ♦ 4 forcing declarer to ruff in hand. Declarer cashed ♠ A, drawing North's ♠ 7 but eventually had to concede a heart to North's ♥ K. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who emerged with nine tricks instead of ten because she discarded a winner (♦ 7) in order to keep a loser (♥ Q)!

At another table (the last one featuring a contract of 4 ♠) North led ♣ A9, declarer winning the second round with dummy's ♣ Q. Declarer next cashed ♣ K and discarded ♥ Q from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 5. North continued with ♦ 6 to South's ♦ K, declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer next cashed ♦ Q and then continued with a third diamond, ruffing with dummy's ♠ 4 which was overruffed by South's ♠ 10. South could not avoid losing a trick to North's ♠ K and finished with nine tricks. Once declarer lost an overruff to South's ♠ 10 the contract could no longer be made.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At another table North overcalled 2 ♦ and then led ♦ J against West's 4 ♠. Declarer won with ♦ Q as South followed with ♦ 8. Declarer continued with ♣ J, North rising with ♣ A and then making the play of ♦ 6 thereby giving declarer FOUR diamond tricks with ♦ AQ75 opposite ♦ 109!!! Declarer won the diamond return with ♦ A, South's ♦ K falling. [Note: Declarer is now home! Simply cash ♠ A and continue with a spade towards dummy's ♠ J9, North eventually scoring ♠ K, If North continues with a club then declarer can discard ♥ Q on dummy's ♣ Q thereby conceding a second trump to North...but that's all!] **BUT**, declarer, upon winning the second diamond played a club to dummy's ♣ K and then led ♠ 4, South playing ♠ 10 and declarer finessing ♠ Q which lost to North's ♠ K. North now made a very costly play when she continued with ♥ 9...[the bidding tells North that declarer has all the remaining high cards...partner has already shown up with ♦ K and cannot have any other honour card!!!] This unexpected bonus for declarer cements her opportunity to bring home the contract. Her two diamonds (♦ 75) are both winners. Declarer simply needs to draw trumps and claim! In fact declarer can make ELEVEN tricks at this point. Win the heart in hand with ♥ Q and play a spade to dummy's ♠ J and then lead dummy's ♠ 9 overtaking with ♠ A in hand and then cash ♠ 8, drawing North's last trump. Declarer then cashes ♥ A and ♦ 75 [You did know that the two diamonds were winners?...Honestly?] **BUT**, declarer won the with ♥ Q and then played a spade to dummy's ♠ J and then played ♣ Q, discarding ♦ 5 from hand as North ruffed with ♠ 5. Okay, so no eleven tricks for declarer...but assuredly ten! North exited on ♥ K, declarer winning with ♥ A. Declarer now holds ♠ A86, ♦ 7 while dummy holds ♠ 9, ♥ J10, ♣ 6 and North holds ♠ 7, ♦ 432. Declarer simply needs to cash ♠ A and claim. **BUT**, declarer played ♦ 7, North following with ♦ 2 as declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠ 9. [THIS IS LIKE WATCHING AN ONCOMING TRAIN DISASTER HAPPENING IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES] Declarer now leads ♥ 10 and with ♠ A86 in her hand declarer ruffs with ♠ 6 allowing North to overruff with ♠ 7. And eleven tricks have become nine!!! North with a doubleton ♠ 75, and where declarer held ♠ A862 opposite ♠ J9, managed to score both of her small trumps!!! This is an unbelievable lapse in concentration by declarer. **Absolute sinner** status awarded to **declarer**. Ruffing the ♥ 10 with either ♠ A or ♠ 8 would still have seen declarer emerge with ten tricks as long as they then cashed the other top trump, drawing North's ♠ 7.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

3 NT was contracted at two tables. At one table West opened 1 ♠ and, despite playing five card majors, East elected to suppress his three card spade support and instead bid 1 NT. West raised to 3 NT. South led a club, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ J as North won with ♣ A. North continued with ♣ 9, declarer winning with ♣ Q. Declarer then ran ♠ J, South following with the ♠ 10 and North ducking. Declarer continued with ♠ 9 to North's ♠ K. North found the good continuation ♠ 7, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ 8. Declarer then cashed ♠ AQ, discarding ♣ 6 and ♦ 9 from hand as North discarded ♦ 2 on the fifth spade while South discarded hearts and clubs. Declarer then cashed ♥ A and continued with ♥ Q to North's ♥ K. Declarer now had ♥ J10, ♣ K in hand but no way to get at them! North continued with ♦ 3 to declarer's ♦ 10 and North's ♦ K. Declarer now holds ♥ J10, ♣ K and dummy holds ♦ Q75 while North has ♦ J64 and South holds ♦ 8, ♣ 107. Declarer can make the contract by leading ♦ 5!!! If North plays ♦ 6 then South wins with ♦ 8 and is forced to lead a club to declarer's ♣ K with ♥ J10 taking the last two tricks. And if North rises with ♦ J (crocodile play that swallows partner's ♦ 8) then North is forced to return a diamond from ♦ 64 into dummy's ♦ Q7. **BUT**, declarer cashed ♦ Q and then conceded the last two tricks to North. One down. **Sinner** status to **East** for not supporting spades. Declarer could also have made the contract by cashing ♣ Q before playing on spades.

See next page for analysis of play of 3 NT at a second table...with a very different defense!

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ K 7 5 3	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ J 6 4 3 2	
	♣ A 9	
♠ A Q 8 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: green; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">N W E S</div>	♠ J 9 4
♥ A Q		♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A Q 7 5		♦ 10 9
♣ J 8		♣ K Q 6 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ 8 7 6 5 3	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ 10 7 5 4 3	

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

Saints & Sinners

Identical bidding to that outlined on the previous pages saw East at another table also contract 3 NT. At this table South led ♣ 7 and declarer played ♣ 8 from dummy as North rose with ♣ A. North continued with ♣ 9., declarer winning with dummy's ♣ J. Declarer next cashed ♥ A and continued with ♥ Q, North winning the second trick perforce with ♥ K. North continued with ♦ 2 to South's ♦ K which North ducked. South continued with ♦ 8, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ Q. Declarer now cashed ♠ A and when South followed with ♠ 10 the contract could no longer be defeated by the defense!!! At this stage declarer held ♠ J9, ♥ J10, ♣ KQ. Declarer has won four tricks and lost three tricks up to this point. The very simple play of a small spade from dummy guarantees an entry to declarer's hand via ♠ J or ♠ 9, North winning the ♠ K at her leisure but not being able to prevent declarer from accessing her hand to score five of the remaining six tricks! **BUT**, declarer did not spot this simple line and instead continued with ♠ Q which North ducked! And suddenly declarer was no longer able to access her hand!!! Declarer continued with a small spade (should have done that at previous trick!) and North rose with ♠ K and made the fine play of exiting on a spade, declarer winning in dummy and able to cash another spade but then having to concede a diamond to North at trick thirteen. One down and **Sinner** status to **declarer**. Sometimes it's difficult to see the wood from the trees!

Saintly status to **North, Nora Hanratty**, for two key plays... 1) ducking ♠ Q... and... 2) winning the third spade and then returning a spade to lock declarer in dummy and unable to access the winners in declarer's hand. Excellent defense.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

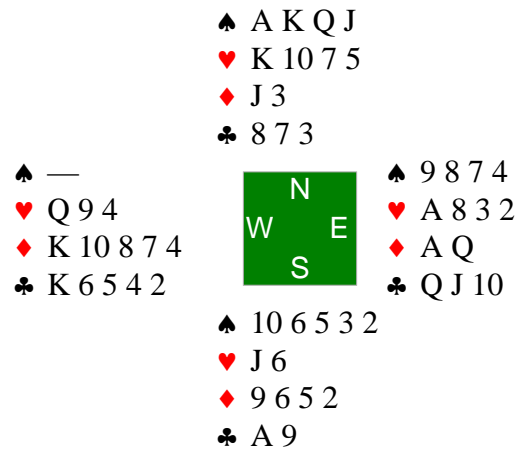
♠ K 5		♠ A Q 10 8 4 3
♥ A Q 6 2		♥ J 7
♦ A J 8 3		♦ K 7
♣ 10 9 6		♣ A K 5
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>	♠ 9 6 2
		♥ 5
		♦ Q 9 6 2
		♣ J 8 7 4 3
		♠ J 7
		♥ K 10 9 8 4 3
		♦ 10 5 4
		♣ Q 2

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

N-S Vul

NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 2♣; E 1♠; Par +110: NS 3♦ =

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul



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

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

North Deals
N-S Vul

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

E-W Vul

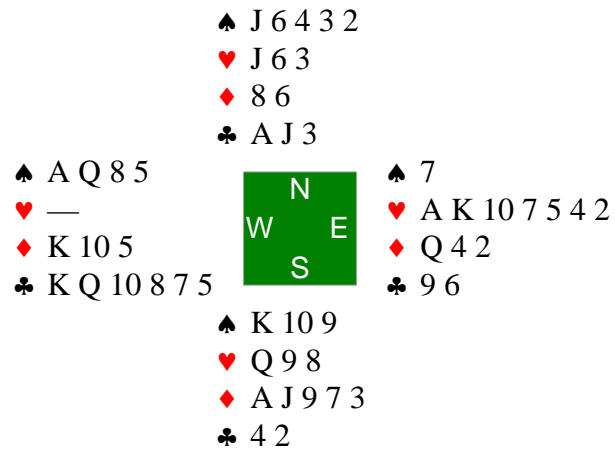
NS 4♠; NS 4♥; EW 1N; EW 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +420: NS 4♥=; NS 4♠=

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul



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