

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

Greetings!

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

Another set of interesting hands with several declarer play and defensive problems which many found challenging. This week I have analysed ELEVEN hands in varying degrees of detail ranging from one to six pages: Board# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 17, 20, 21.

In total there are thirty six pages of analysis/comment.

Board#1 is an impossible 3 NT which was allowed to make at several tables due to poor defense! On the other hand most pairs reached 4 ♠ which is quite solid.

Board#2 what do you play when partner leads ♦ A against a slam and dummy has two small diamonds and you hold ♦ KQJ2. You won't believe what happened at some tables!

Board#3 a simple part-score hand./..with some lessons!

Board#4 a slightly tricky 4 ♠ which not all declarers managed to best effect.

Board#5 a Small Slam where it pays to know your Safety Plays although it wasn't as necessary as on a later hand!

Board#9 a hand that exemplifies the Power of Shape ...but not all appreciated the shape and playing power. And some N/S pairs missed opportunities in a diamond save.

Board#12 a simple little 4 ♠ which some eluded some declarers!

Board#17 a Grand Slam bid by 2 pairs or a Small Slam bid by 4 pairs...or game bid by twelve!

Board#20 a simple little 4 ♥ which proved too difficult for those that did not know their Safety Plays!

Board#21 a really interesting declarer play and defensive problem where a BBO Robot showed the a little more thought than its human counterparts!

Enjoy!

And Happy Easter to all!

**Paul J Scannell**

1st April 2021

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 5♣; S 2N; N 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♠=

2 NT can make...but not 3 NT...unless the opponents mis-defend! 4 ♠ is solid. In 4 ♠ declarer will lose 1 Spade, 1 diamond, and 1 club. 3 NT should fail on a small diamond lead from West, or any diamond from East. Note that if East overcalls/bids diamonds the correct lead from West is a SMALL diamond, in particular if NT is bid by South. Partnerships should have a clear agreement as to what to lead from a holding of small cards in partner's suit, ie. M.U.D, Top of Nothing, or lowest from three small, 2nd highest from four SMALL cards, etc. West should not lead ♦ Q from ♦ Qxx, especially if NT has been bid on his right. On this hand, the lead of ♦ Q hands 3 NT to declarer! There is something to be said for leading ♦ Q from ♦ Qx where lead of the small card might block the suit. But but NOT from ♦ Qxx. Also, East must NOT cover lead of ♠ Q from the North hand. If South holds ♠ Ax or even a singleton ♠ A then East's ♠ Kxx will always take a trick whereas covering ♠ Q cannot promote a spade in West's hand! And 5 ♣ also makes!

In a spade contract, particularly if declaring 4 ♠ in an IMPs competition, it makes sense to cash ♠ A and continue with a spade to ♠ 10 and draw trumps ASAP.

### Saints & Sinners

At five tables 3 NT was contracted...and was only defeated at one table! North opened 1 ♠, East (a BBO Robot) bid 2 ♦ and South closed the auction with 3 NT. West, also a BBO Robot, led ♦ 4 to East's ♦ A. East returned a diamond to declarer's ♦ J and West's ♦ Q. West played a third diamond, declarer winning perforce with ♦ K. Declarer played a club to dummy's ♣ J, East winning with ♣ A. East cashed three diamond winners to defeat the contract by two tricks! Perhaps the fault lies in the rushed bidding by South. Holding 4 hearts and a club suit South might have slowed things down by initially making a Negative Double thus allowing N/S to explore alternative options rather than shutting out other possibilities with a preemptory 3 NT. For example, North might had had a four or even a holding of 5-5 in the black suits! So many possibilities that could not be explored when south bid 3 NT. Note that 4 ♠ and 5 ♣ are both makeable contracts! **Sinner** status to **South**.

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 5♣; S 2N; N 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♠=

### Saints & Sinners

3 NT was also contracted at four other tables with very different outcomes. At all four tables North opened 1♠ and East overcalled 2♦. At two of these tables South bid 2♥. This is wrong on two counts... 1) it is a NON-FORCING bid which North can Pass. 2) it shows at least five hearts. The way to show the type of hand that South holds is to make a **Negative Double**, which suggests shortage in partner's suit and length and values in the other two suits, hearts and clubs in this instance. The bid can be made with minimum values but could also be made, as here, with a stronger hand.

At the other two tables South jumped to 3 NT. Better to take time and explore other options rather than jump to 3 NT.

So, 3 NT was reached at all four tables and now the spotlight fell on West's choice of opening lead. At one table, West made the correct lead of ♦ 4 to East's ♦ A. A diamond return saw declarer's ♦ J lose to West's ♦ Q. West played a third diamond leaving East with three diamond winners as declarer won with ♦ K. Unfortunately, West's good work was undone in a flash when declarer played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♠ Q and East foolishly covered with ♠ K. Game over as declarer now cashed six spade winners to add to two top hearts and ♦ K for an improbable nine tricks! East's play is thoughtless and very costly! Yes, we are all taught to cover an honour with an honour but that is not a command which should fly in the face of common sense. Covering an honour with an honour is done to promote a winner for the partnership! With ♠ QJ108xx in dummy, covering ♠ Q with SK cannot promote a trick for the defense and can, as in the layout in this hand, produce the impossible for declarer...making six tricks with a combination of QJ109853 v A6 where one opponent holds Kxx. And if declarer held ♠ Axx then East can hold up until the third round and declarer cannot get back to dummy without playing a club, which East will win with ♣ A and cash three diamond winners to beat the contract! Note that at this table, if East did not cover ♠ Q with ♠ K, then declarer would have failed by TWO tricks as East would also score ♠ K in addition to ♣ A and three diamond winners! **Absolute Sinner** status to **East**. **Saintly** status to **West** for making the correct lead from ♦ Q54.

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 5♣; S 2N; N 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♠=

### Saints & Sinners

At three tables West led ♦ Q which immediately handed declarer a second diamond trick and also gave declarer *the tempo* to establish five spade tricks to add to 2 hearts and 2 diamonds and thus a total of nine tricks! Note that declarer could also come to nine tricks via a successful spade finesse giving 2 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, 3 clubs.

At one table East played low and declarer won with ♦ K. Declarer now played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then led ♠ Q. East correctly played low. Declarer continued with a spade to her ♠ A. Declarer next ran ♣ 9 to East's ♣ A. East cashed ♦ A and then continued with a diamond to declarer's ♦ J as West followed with ♦ 5! Declarer cashed three club winners and ♥ K for nine tricks. Sinner status to West who led the only card that hobbled the defense and enabled declarer to make the contract. Kudos to East for not covering ♠ Q with ♠ K.

At another table West also led ♦ Q, declarer winning with ♦ K. Declarer then cashed ♠ A and played a second spade to dummy's ♠ 10 and East's ♠ K. East cashed ♦ A, hoping that partner had started with ♦ QJ or even ♦ QJx in which case West should unblock the ♦ J on East's ♦ A. BUT, alas the ♦ J did not appear on the second round. East continued with a third diamond, declarer winning with ♦ J. Declarer entered dummy with ♥ A and cashed four spade winners and won a ninth trick with ♥ K to land her contract. **Sinner** status to **West** and **Saintly** status to declarer, **Sheila Baynes**, for choosing the right option at trick two!

At a third table West also led ♦ Q, declarer winning with ♦ K and then cashing ♠ A and playing a second spade to dummy's ♠ Q. East won the third spade and continued with ♦ A and then another diamond to South's ♦ J. Declarer at this table also emerged with nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **West** and **Saintly** status to declarer, **Kathleen Ivers**, for also choosing the right option at trick two!

In many hands, the opening lead is frequently the primary determining factor as to the ultimate success or failure of the contract. This hand is a classic example. Against proper defense 3 NT should never make!

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 5♣; S 2N; N 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♠=

### Saints & Sinners

At one table E/W rashly bid 5♦ which South Doubled. This contract can be defeated by FOUR tricks (-1100) but the opening lead of ♠ A (not unreasonable) cost the defense a trick and so N/S only netted +800 which was worth +3.18 Imps. **Sinner** status to **E/W** for overbidding on a hand where vulnerability was not to their advantage!

At another table North opened a top-heavy 2♠ which became the final contract! The hand is too good for a Weak 2 opening and cost N/S -5.47 Imps.

At all other tables North declared 4♠. At two tables declarer emerged with ELEVEN tricks after East led ♣ A and continued with a second club, declarer winning in hand and then leading ♠ Q. Both Easts covered with ♠ K despite dummy holding a doubleton ♠ A6. Common sense tells you that ducking the first and second spade sees your ♠ K grow into a winner! Old instincts are difficult to shake. There is no substitute for simple and clear thinking! **Absolute Sinner** status to both **Easts**.

At all other tables declarers romped home to ten tricks when no players in the East seat covered ♠ Q, indeed several declarers played spades from the top. No Saints and no Sinners at any of these tables.

## Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

6♠ is not a makeable contract BUT some lucky declarers may escape with twelve or even thirteen tricks. How to stay out of 6♠? **Cue-bidding** does the trick BUT Gerber or Blackwood do not! Gerber or Blackwood simply show how many aces the partnership holds but so not identify clear holes in a hand where the partnership has a suit of at least two cards in each hand in which neither partner holds either ace or king. In other words the defense can cash two tricks in the suit! In this example the defense can cash two top diamonds and thus will defeat 6♠.

East will open 1♠. South should Pass as the hand is not strong enough (Adverse vulnerability!) to use the Unusual NT to show at least ten cards in the minor suits! And so what will West do? What West will do depends on what 'bidding gadgets/conventions' E/W have in their armoury. Yes, West has only 9 hcp BUT the playing strength in spade contract is IMMENSE. Bidding 4♠ is a gross underbid. Using Gerber or Blackwood is too proactive at this stage without some indication as to East's strength and shape. One solution is to use two bidding gadgets that every keen bridge player should have in their armoury. The first is a **Splinter Bid** which is a double jump in aside suit indicating a singleton or void in the suit bid, good trump support for partner's suit, and values for at least game and an interest in a slam if partner has a suitable hand. On this hand West could bid 4♣ (singleton or void in clubs), good spade support, and values for at least 4♠). Note that this bid will not improve East's hand because of the fact that his second suit is clubs, a suit in which he now knows partner has at most a singleton! Subsequent suit bids are also Cue-bids showing 1st round (Aces) or 2nd round (Kings) Controls. Some partnerships agree to show 1st round controls before showing 2nd round controls. East's inability to bid 4♦ would warn West that East does not have ♦ A! E/W should settle in 4♠.

## Saints & Sinners

6♠ was reached at four tables... One declarer got lucky when South led ♦ A and North holding ♦ KQJ2, and looking at a doubleton in dummy played... ♦ 2!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! South switched to ♣ 2 at trick two and declarer got an element of luck to which they were not entitled but N/S got a result that they deserved when declarer emerged with twelve tricks! Do you think that North could have afforded to play ♦ K on partner's ♦ A? **Double Absolute Sinner** status to **North**! In bridge, common sense should always prevail over anything else!

## Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

## Saints & Sinners

At two other tables where East contracted 6♠, South led ♦ A and both Norths played ♦ J. As South I would have plonked a heart on the table ASAP...and afterwards I would have asked partner why they didn't play ♦ K on my ♦ A? **Sinner** status to **both North players** despite the fact that South did play a diamond at trick two.

At the fourth table South also led ♦ A and North, who has been playing for quite a few years, had no problem in playing ♦ K on partner's ♦ A. South continued with a diamond to partner's ♦ J for a deserved defeat of the slam. **Saintly** status to **Frank Davey** in the North seat.

4♠/5♠ was reached at every other table and declarers emerged with eleven, twelve, or thirteen tricks depending on the opening lead and continuation. **Sinner** status to the **three Wests** who only bid 3♠ in response to partner's opening bid of 1S♠.

At five other tables South led ♦ A and four Norths played either the ♦ 2 or ♦ J. **Sinner** status to all **four Norths**. At the fifth table North played ♦ K...**Saintly** status to **Margaret O'Donovan**.

At three tables declarer scored twelve tricks. At one table South led ♣ 10 after West jumped directly to 4♠ in response to East's opening bid of 1♠. North contributed ♣ Q and declarer won with ♣ A. Unfortunate lead. The only question that remains to be asked is how come declarer only scored twelve tricks instead of making all thirteen? Simple explanation....declarer forgot that ♣ J was a winner and failed to discard dummy's two losing diamonds on ♣ KJ. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for lack of concentration.

At the other two tables both Souths cashed ♦ A at trick one and both Norths contributed ♦ 2. One South switched to a club at trick two whereas the other switched to a heart. **Sinner** status to both **Norths**.

At the remaining six tables South led a heart or a club and all declarers emerged with thirteen tricks. No Saints or Sinners there.

### Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

This is a part-score hand. N/S can make 2♥ or 2♠ and E/W can make 2♣ or 1♦. If West opens 1♦ they should rebid 2♣ NOT 2♦.

### Saints & Sinners

**Sinner** status to the **South** who opened 1♠. The South hand does not have the values for a one level opening. South eventually contracted 4♠ ending two down!

**Sinner** status to the **West** who opened 1♦ and rebid 2♦ over partner's 1♠ response. West duly contracted 3♦ which finished two light while a club contract was made at four other tables.

**Absolute Sinner** status to the **West** who bid 2♠ on ♠ J972 after North opened 1 NT, South bid 2♣ (Stayman), North responded 2♦ and South bid 2♥ which was followed by Passes from West and North...and then East came to life! The use of Stayman followed by a bid of a major after the NT opener responds 2♦ usually indicates a hand with 5+ cards in the bid major and at least 4 cards in the other major. East was warned. The contract failed by THREE tricks!

At six tables N/S declarer a heart part-score with declarers making eight, nine or ten tricks!

**Sinner** status to the **defenders** who permitted a declarer to make ten tricks!

At another table South declared 4♥ and a hapless defense let declarer make the contract! North opened 1 NT, South used Stayman and North responded 2♦. South bid 2♥ and North inexplicably jumped to 4♥. South could have a hand with absolutely no points. North should Pass 2♥. West made the dangerous lead of ♦ Q. Okay against a NT contract but NOT against a major suit contract. Declarer continued with ♦ A, felling partner's ♦ K (who did West think had the ♦ K when ♦ Q won the first trick?). Declarer ruffed and played a heart to dummy's ♥ 9 and then led ♥ 10, East ducking again! Declarer now led ♠ Q, West winning and continuing with ♦ J, establishing dummy's ♦ 10 as winner! Declarer ruffed and exited on ♥ Q, to East's ♥ A, dummy's ♥ K falling on which West completed a tour de farce defense by discarding ♦ 4, whilst retaining four useless clubs, thus promoting dummy's ♦ 106 into TWO winners! Declarer claimed with dummy now high: ♠ K, ♦ 106, ♣ KQ9 with declarer holding ♣ A in hand. **Sinner** status to **West**.

### Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 5♣; NS 4♦; NS 2♥; Par +660: NS 3N+2

Sometimes strong hands are difficult to bid. Take this example.

### Saints & Sinners

At one table West opened 1 NT (12-14), North Doubled and East bid 2♦ (not alerted!) which perhaps East intended as a transfer to hearts. South Passed and West, presumably taking East's 2♦ as natural, Passed. North now bid 2♠ which shows a stronger hand than a direct overcall of 2♠. East and South Passed and West now bid 3♦ which East converted to 3♥. South led ♠ 10 and continued with a second spade to dummy's ♠ K and North's ♠ A. North might have continued with ♠ Q which declarer will need to ruff with a high heart to avoid South scoring with ♥ 7. **BUT**, North switched to ♣ Q, declarer covering with ♣ K as South won with ♣ A. South continued with ♣ J10, declarer ruffing the third club as North discarded ♦ 4. Declarer now ran ♥ 9 to North's ♥ J. North continued with ♠ Q in case South had another trump but declarer ruffed with ♥ 3 as South discarded ♣ 3. Declarer duly lost ♥ AK and a diamond for four down!


At another table East declared 3♥ which North did Double. Unfortunately South led ♣ A, thus gifting declarer a trick with ♣ K. South should have led ♠ 10 given her partner's bid of 2♦ over West's opening 1 NT, which showed a single suited major, clearly spades when East is bidding hearts! But three down yielded +800 and a hefty +8.47 Imps to N/S.

At all other tables North played in a spade contract with game being bid at nine tables. At three tables East led a heart and declarer won in hand, led ♣ Q, covered by East's ♣ K and then finessed ♠ 10, drew trumps and discarded losing diamonds on dummy's clubs. Thirteen tricks.

At one table declarer emerged with twelve tricks when East led a heart despite partner opening 1♦. Declarer cashed ♠ A and conceded a trick to West's ♠ K for twelve tricks.

At two tables declarer failed by one trick. At one table West opened 1♣ and North jumped to 4♠. East led a very crafty ♣ 5 from ♣ K5! Declarer, perhaps concerned that East had a singleton club, rose with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer played a heart to his ♥ A, ruffed ♥ J in dummy and then led ♠ 10, finessing successfully. Unfortunately declarer could no longer prevent the defense from scoring tricks with ♠ K, ♦ AK, ♣ K and finished one down.

West Deals  
Both Vul

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

## Saints & Sinners

At the second table West opened 1 ♦, North Doubled, East Passed, South bid 2 ♣, West Passed and North bid 4 ♠. East led ♦ 7 (M.U.D) and West won with ♦ K and cashed ♦ A as East followed with ♦ 3. West continued with ♦ 6 and declarer, perhaps fearful that East had a doubleton diamond, ruffed with ♠ J as East followed with ♦ 9. Declarer now cashed ♥ A and then led ♣ Q and finessed when East played low. Declarer now cashed ♥ A and then ruffed ♥ J with dummy's ♠ 6. Declarer is now home as long as she doesn't go astray from this point on! Declarer led ♠ 10 from hand, West following with ♠ 3...and declarer went astray when she failed to overtake with ♠ Q, cash ♠ A and then concede a spade to West's ♠ K. **BUT**, after ♠ 10 won, declarer has to play a diamond or club to get off dummy and draw trumps... Declarer cashed ♣ A, East's ♣ K falling tellingly! Declarer continued with ♣ J and when West followed with ♣ 9 declarer was at the crossroads... Declarer discarded ♥ K as East ruffed with ♠ 9. Declarer could not avoid losing a trick to West's ♠ K and finished one down. Declarer had several chances to make the contract. After the finesse of ♣ Q is successful, declarer can place ♣ K with East in which case West must hold ♠ K. So, when declarer leads ♠ 10 from dummy she can overtake with ♠ Q in hand, cash ♠ A and concede a spade to West's ♠ K. Alternatively, when declarer leads ♣ J and West follows with ♣ 9 then declarer can ruff with ♠ Q, cash ♠ A and concede a spade to West's ♠ K. Note that declarer cannot cope with a 4-1 spade break and therefore must assume that spades are breaking 3-2. Sympathy to declarer ...but no cigar!

At one table West opened 1 ♦ and North doubled, East bid 1 ♥ and South bid 2 ♣. North jumped to 4 ♠. For some reason East led ♣ K, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer finessed ♠ 10 and continued with a spade to her ♠ J, cashed ♠ A and finished up with ten tricks instead of thirteen because she forgot to unblock ♣ Q at trick one!!! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At seven tables N/S contracted a spade a part-score. At one table West opened 1 ♦ and North simply overcalled 1 ♠. The North hand is way too strong for a simple overcall. **Sinner** status to **North** who should make Takeout Double and then bid spades.

At another table West opened 1 NT and North simply overcalled 2 ♠. North should Double first and then bid spades. This shows a stronger hand than simply overcalling at first opportunity.

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

East will probably open 2 NT. West should bid 3 ♣ to explore the possibility of a suit fit. Whatever gadget you use for this purpose you should identify the heart fit and 6 ♥ is a good contract. Although 7 ♥ can be made it is a poor contract as you have to bring in a heart combination of ♥ AJ96 v ♥ Q854 for NO loser!

6 ♥ is a relatively easy contract to make...6 NT, less so. In 6 ♥ declarer can play three rounds of trumps even losing a trick to South and then cash four clubs, discarding a spade from the East hand, and ruff a spade and then discard the two remaining spade losers from the West hand on East's ♦ AK. The only problem might be if North leads a spade in which case declarer will have to play the heart suit for no loser, i.e. lead ♥ Q and finesse. And, if South covers with ♥ K then declarer must re-enter dummy and finesse ♥ 9. Note, that on a spade lead from South, declarer has to rise with West's ♠ Q. In 6 NT declarer has nine top tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 4 clubs. Three more tricks are needed without losing two!!! Three extra tricks can be scored via the heart suit as previously described. Note that in either contract, 6 ♥ or 6 NT, declarer must first assume that South holds ♥ K. But then declarer faces the decision as to whether South holds a doubleton ♥ Kx or ♥ Kxx. And where is the ♥ 10? There are various different but all legitimate lines as to how to play the heart suit for no loser. It's just a case of guessing to play it the correct way on THIS hand. And South may need to be careful in the end game when he may have to make a discard from ♠ K10, ♦ 10x. Discarding the wrong card lets the contract make!

7 ♥ also makes but is entirely dependent on correctly playing the heart suit for no loser. Note that 7 NT should never make.

**Playing the heart suit safely for one loser.** This combination can be played SAFELY to restrict losers to one trick. The problem arises when EITHER defender holds four hearts, including ♥ K10. The way to cope with either defender holding ♥ K10xx is to finesse ♥ J on the first round and then either lead ♥ 9 or return to hand and lead ♥ 8. Place the heart suit on a kitchen table and distribute the N/S cards so that either defender holds ♥ K10xx and check the play as described. Note that if leading ♥ 9 on the second round, let it ride if North follows with any small heart. Similarly, if leading ♥ 8 from hand on the second round, let it ride if South follows low. Easy! And remember the play of this combination for future use. Another **Safety Play** on Bd#20

### Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

### Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 2 NT and West bid 4 NT. Most experienced partnerships play this as 'Quantitative', i.e. asking partner to bid 6 NT if they hold a maximum hand for their opening 2 NT otherwise Pass. BUT, in this instance it looks like it was treated as Blackwood and East bid 5 ♠ over which West bid 6 NT. South led ♦ 6, dummy's ♦ Q winning perforce. Declarer cashed four clubs and with it went the contract! Why? Because declarer needed to be able to score at least three heart tricks and one spade or four heart tricks. In the latter case declarer has to finesse the hearts by leading from the East hand, at least once...twice if South covers ♥ Q with ♥ K. That means declarer needs entries to the East hand. The club suit provides those vital entries! Declarer should win the first club in dummy and begin playing on hearts and then use a second club honour to take a second heart finesse if needed. With only one entry to dummy (♠ A) after cashing four club tricks, declarer **MUST** bring in the heart suit on a **SINGLE** play of the suit. That probably means that declarer has to decide between playing South for ♥ Kx or ♥ Kxx but **NOT** ♥ K10x which would require two finesses but where declarer no longer has another entry to the East hand to repeat the finesse against South's ♥ 10x. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At a second table two BBO Robots reached 6 ♥ and South found the unorthodox lead of ♠ 10! Double-dummy it can be seen that rising with dummy's ♠ Q is the winning line but the Robot declarer played low from dummy, winning in hand with ♠ A. Declarer next finessed ♥ J and cashed ♥ A. Although ♥ K did not fall declarer still had an extra chance! If South held three or more clubs and ♥ K then declarer could play four rounds of clubs, discarding ♠ 7 from hand, and subsequently ruffing one spade in hand while discarding two spades from dummy on ♦ AK. Unfortunately for declarer, South ruffed the third club and cashed ♠ K for one down.

At a third table South led ♠ 5 against East's 6 ♥. Using the Rule of Eleven declarer can calculate that North has only one card higher than ♠ 5 and hence the odds heavily favour that South holds ♠ K. Declarer should rise with ♠ K at trick one! **BUT**, declarer played low and would now fail unless he could bring in the heart suit for no loser! **BUT**, after winning with ♠ A declarer played a diamond to dummy's ♦ Q. Declarer then played a club to his ♣ J and finessed ♥ J. Declarer subsequently lost a trump trick to South who also cashed ♠ K to defeat the contract by one trick. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

### Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

### Saints & Sinners

At a fourth table South led ♣ 9 against East's 6♥. East won the lead in hand and then finessed ♥ J. Declarer returned to hand via ♠ A (BIG MISTAKE...it establishes South's ♠ K as a winner!). Declarer then led ♥ Q, South covering with ♥ K as declarer won with dummy's ♥ A. South subsequently ruffed a club with ♥ 10 and cashed ♠ K to defeat the contract by one trick. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who had various alternative lines available which would lead to success, e.g. 1) cash ♥ A after ♥ J wins and then play on clubs, using dummy's 4th club to discard ♠ 7 from hand... or 2) return to hand with a club and lead a second heart... or 3) play a small heart towards ♥ Q after ♥ J wins. This has the benefit of catering for a 4-1 break where South started with ♥ K10xx... but a 4-1 trump break is likely to see the contract fail.

At another table East declared 3 NT after responding 3♥ to West's 3♣ response to East's 2 NT opening bid. Rejecting a 4-4 heart fit in a hand with a singleton diamond is a strange decision. Declarer emerged with twelve tricks when South discarded one diamond too many! **Sinner** status to **West** who should surely have steered the partnership to 6♥. And **Sinner** status also to **South** for discarding the crucial diamond.

At another table West became declarer in 4♥ and emerged with eleven tricks when North found the testing lead of ♠ 3. No Saints or Sinners here although perhaps North should be commended for finding the spade lead even though a lead from Jxxx can often turn out to be costly!

At yet another table East declarer 4♥ and had the unique distinction of being the only player to score thirteen tricks! South led ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand and playing a diamond to dummy's ♦ Q. Declarer returned to hand with ♠ A and then led ♥ Q, South covering with ♥ K, dummy's ♥ A winning the trick. Declarer returned to hand via ♣ Q and then led a heart and successfully finessed dummy's ♥ 9, cashed ♥ J and then played a club to ♣ J, cashed ♦ AK discarding two spades from dummy and then ruffed his last diamond with dummy's ♥ 6, cashed ♣ K, discarding ♠ 7 from hand and then ruffed ♠ Q in hand with ♥ 8. Thirteen tricks and **Saintly** status to declarer, **Murt Scarry**, although I would have preferred returning to hand via a club rather than ♠ A which established ♠ K as a winner before the opponents trumps were safely drawn!

### Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

### Saints & Sinners

At three other tables, East contracted 6 NT, mostly making through defensive errors including two tables where West identified the 4-4 heart fit and yet bid 6 NT! At one table the bidding was brief...2 NT-6 NT! South led ♦ 7, Dummy's ♦ Q winning as North followed with ♦ 2 and declarer played ♦ 8. Declarer made the unusual play of leading a heart to her ♥ Q, losing to South's ♥ K. South continued with ♦ 5 to North's ♦ J and declarer's ♦ A. Declarer continued by cashing ♣ AQJ overtaking the third club with dummy's ♣ K as South discarded ♦ 3. Declarer now cashed ♣ K, discarding ♥ 4 from hand as South discarded ♠ 5. Declarer now played three rounds of hearts as North threw ♦ J and then ♠ 3 while declarer discarded ♠ 7 from hand on the fourth heart. South was now at the crossroads and had to discard from ♠ K10, ♦ 106. This is a simple case (well, maybe not that simple really) of knowing declarer's shape. Declarer has already shown up with ♥ Q, ♦ A, ♣ AQJ and by virtue of what happened at trick one (North did not cover dummy's ♦ Q with ♦ K!) declarer is known to also hold ♦ K. That only totals 16 hcp...So, declarer also has ♠ A. South can also count declarer for 4 hearts, 3 clubs, 2 diamonds already played and ♦ K still in hand) and 2 spades (♠ A still in hand and ♠ 7 already discarded). So twelve cards are now known: 2 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds, 3 clubs. Does declarer hold a third spade or a fourth diamond? That's precisely what this comes down to. What is the denomination of declarer's thirteenth card? If it's a spade then South must discard a diamond. But if it's a diamond then South must discard ♠ 10. How can South know? It should be possible for South to now if she knows how many diamonds or spades partner holds. That's why count signals are so important. If South knows that North started with four spades then clearly declarer started with only 2 and her thirteenth card is a diamond and so South should discard ♠ 10. But I don't think that North did give count signals and that left South to guess and she misguessed by discarding ♦ 6 leaving declarer to score the last two tricks with ♦ K9. **Sinner** status to **North & South**.

A similar situation arose at another table and again South misguessed. **Sinner** status to **North & South** and also to **West** who identified that East held 4 hearts yet contracted 6 NT instead of 6♥!

At another table West also contacted 6 NT instead of 6♥ even though she had identified that East held four hearts. At this table South discarded too many diamonds early in the play. **Sinner** status to **South** and also to **West**.

### Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

### Saints & Sinners

At eight tables 6♥ was contracted. At two of these tables West became declarer. At one table North led ♣ 2 (Wrong: should lead ♣ 5, 2nd highest from a suit with four small cards, rather than ♣ 2 which suggests holding at least one honour!). Declarer won in dummy and tackled hearts, eventually losing a trick to South's ♥ 10. South then returned a spade and declarer rose with ♠ Q from hand and so landed her contract.

At a second table where West declared 6♥ North led ♠ 3 and declarer played low from dummy. South winning with ♠ K. Declarer won the spade return in dummy with ♠ A and then led ♥ Q, South covering with ♥ K as declarer won with ♥ A. Declarer returned to dummy with a club and then led another heart and successfully finessed ♥ 9. **Saintly** status to **May O'Sullivan**.

At another table a BBO Robot, playing with **Rory Timlin**, declared 6♥ on the lead of ♣ 9 from South. Declarer won in hand and successfully finessed ♥ J as South followed with ♥ 2 and North played ♥ 3. Declarer then made what seemed like an unusual play by leading ♥ 9 from dummy and rising with HQ when North continued with ♥ 7! But in fact this play was quite sound and catered for either North or South holding an original four card heart holding. If North had started with ♥ K1073 then dummy's ♥ Q would win the second round and declarer could then cash ♥ A and leave North with a then singleton ♥ K. And when North followed to the second round with ♥ 7 then declarer could rise with knowing that either hearts or were breaking 3-2 or that North had started with four hearts and we've already seen how declarer copes with that! South won with ♥ K and continued with a low diamond, declarer winning perforce with ♦ Q in dummy, cashing ♥ A and then playing four rounds of clubs, discarding S7 from hand and subsequently ruffing a spade in hand, cashing 2 top diamonds, while discarding two spades from dummy and then ruffing his fourth diamond with dummy's ♥ 6.

The Robot was clearly programmed to be alert to a possible 4-1 heart break, with either opponent holding the four trumps, an awareness which seemed to be lacking in some of its human counterparts!

### Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; E 5♦; W 4♦; Par -1510; EW 7♥=

### Saints & Sinners

At one table East received the lead of ♦ 10 (**Wrong**: leading the ♦ 10 gifts declarer FOUR diamond tricks. 2nd highest from four small cards or 4th best if you treat ♦ 10 as an honour, are the standard leads from this holding). Declarer won with dummy's ♦ Q and then played a club to ♣ A and finessed ♥ J. At this point declarer led a spade to her ♠ A...[**Note**: this is dangerous because it establishes ♠ K as a winner for the defense. If the opponents can gain the lead with a trump it leaves them in a position to cash ♠ K for a one trick defeat.] Declarer next led ♥ Q which could also have been fatal if North had started with ♥ K1073 as declarer would now lose two trump tricks! Fortunately South covered ♥ Q with ♥ K, declarer winning with ♥ A. And now South's initial lead of ♦ 10 came back to haunt her with a BANG as declarer cashed ♦ AK9, North's ♦ J falling on DK, and declarer was able to discard three losing spades from dummy! If South had not lead ♦ 10 then declarer's ♦ 9 would not have been a winner and declarer would only have been able to discard two losing spades from dummy and would have subsequently lost 2 tricks...♥ 10 and ♠ K. **BUT**, declarer could have avoided that situation by returning to hand with a club rather than ♠ A after finessing ♥ J. **Sinner** status to **South** and **declarer**.

At another table South led ♦ 5 and declarer quickly wrapped up twelve tricks. Winning in dummy, declarer played a club to his hand and then finessed ♥ J. Declarer returned to hand with a club and led another heart, South producing ♥ 10 as declarer won with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer duly played on clubs, discarding ♠ 7 from hand on the fourth club. Twelve tricks to declarer.

At another table South led ♦ 5, dummy's ♦ Q winning the trick. Declarer then made a dangerous and potentially costly play when she led a heart to her ♥ Q, losing to South's ♥ K. The reason why this could have been potentially fatal is that South may have held a singleton ♥ K in which case North started with ♠ 10732 and will win a second trump trick with ♥ 10. **Sinner** status to **declarer** despite the fact that she made her contract!

At another table East led ♥ Q on the first round of the play of the trumps suit. Unless declarer needs to play the suit for NO loser this is wrong. Again, if North holds ♥ K1073, then leading ♥ Q guarantees two losers! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

**Board 6**

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

NS 1N; N 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +90: NS 1N=

**Board 7**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; EW 2♠; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +650: NS 5♥=

**Board 8**

West Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par -100; NS 5♦×-1; NS 5♥×-1

E/W can make 4 ♠...and N/S have a good save in 5 ♦ which should only fail by one trick! If East opens 2 ♠ (Weak) then West can jump to 4 ♠. If East Passes and South opens 1 ♦ and West bids 1 ♠ then East can jump to 4 ♠. And if East and South both Pass and West opens 1 ♠ then East should jump to 4 ♠. All roads lead to 4 ♠. And if South has bid diamonds then N/S might find a sacrifice in 5 ♦.

### Saints & Sinners

**Sinner** status also to those **West players** who heard partner open 2 ♠ and failed to bid 4 ♠.

**Sinner** status also to all **East players** who failed to bid 4 ♠ after partner opened/overcalled 1 ♠.

4 ♠ presents no problem for declarer and it is a simple case of whether N/S cash their three tricks (♦ A and two clubs) or whether the defense switches to a heart and enables declarer to discard a losing club from the East hand! Sympathy to any South who switches to a heart at trick two.

But let's turn our attention to the tables where a diamond contract was declared. Ten tricks can be made but several declarers only made nine! At one table South opened 2 ♦ (Weak), West overcalled 2 ♠, North bid 3 ♦ and East, holding six spades only bid 3 ♠. South bid 4 ♦ and all Passed. West led ♠ A, declarer ruffing with ♦ 3. Declarer then cashed ♦ AK, West discarding ♠ 4 on the second round of trumps. Declarer now led ♣ Q and West played low, East playing ♣ 8. Declarer then finessed ♣ J as East followed with ♣ 5. At this point ten tricks are solid as long as declarer plays correctly. First, what actually happened and then what should have happened! Declarer next cashed ♦ Q, drawing East's last trump. Declarer then continued with ♣ A, East discarding ♠ 4 as South discarded ♥ 3. Declarer continued with a small heart, East winning with ♥ J and continuing with a spade which declarer ruffed. Declarer played another heart, East winning with ♥ K. East forced declarer's last trump with another spade and West took the last two tricks with ♥ A, ♣ K. **BUT**, after winning with dummy's ♣ J, declarer simply needs to ruff a club in hand and then play a trump to dummy's ♦ Q and cash ♣ A10 for ten tricks via 6 diamonds in hand and 4 clubs in dummy. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

### Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par -100: NS 5♦×-1; NS 5♥×-1

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 2♠ (Weak), South bid 3♦, West bid 4♠, North bid 5♦ which West Doubled. West led ♠ A which declarer ruffed with ♦ 3. Declarer now finessed ♣ Q, West following low and East playing ♣ 5. Declarer continued with a club to dummy's ♣ J, East following with ♣ 8. Declarer next played dummy's ♣ A, East ruffing with ♦ 9 as declarer discarded ♥ 3. [Note: it is of no benefit to discard a heart given that dummy still holds three hearts and declarer now holds four hearts!] East continued with ♠ K, declarer ruffing with ♦ 7. Declarer played a diamond to dummy's ♦ Q and returned a diamond to her ♦ J, drawing East's last diamond in the process. Declarer now played a heart towards dummy, West following with ♥ 6 and a crucial point in the play was reached... Note that East holds a doubleton ♥ KJ...if declarer plays low from dummy then East wins with ♥ J, can cash ♥ K but then must play a spade, conceding a ruff & discard whereby declarer can ruff IN HAND while discarding dummy's ♥ Q. Declarer can then ruff a heart in dummy, dropping West's ♥ A, ruff a club in hand and score the remaining trick with ♥ 8 in hand! **BUT (#1)**, declarer played dummy's ♥ Q, East winning with ♥ K. East then played ♥ J. **BUT (#2)** now West fell asleep when she failed to overtake with her ♥ A and cash ♥ 10. Now East had to play a spade, conceding a ruff and discard, **BUT (#3)**, South failed to ruff in hand while discarding the last heart from dummy, and instead ruffed in dummy and then had to lose a heart for two down. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who had at least two opportunities to land ten tricks and to **West** who gave declarer a second opportunity to score ten tricks by her failure to overtake partner's ♥ J and cash ♥ 10.

### Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par -100; NS 5♦×-1; NS 5♥×-1

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 2♥ showing a Weak 2♠ opener or any strong 4-4-4-1 shape. South bid 3♦, West bid 3♠, North 4♦, followed by two Passes and then 4♠ from West. South bid 5♦ and West Doubled. West led ♠ A, declarer ruffing and then drawing three rounds of trumps. Declarer now led ♣ 9, effectively blocking the suit [Note: if clubs were 3-3 with West holding ♣ Kxx then 5♦ can make...but not by leading ♣ 9!]. Declarer continued with ♣ Q, West again playing low. Declarer now had no option other than to lead a heart, East winning with ♥ J. East now erred by cashing ♥ K and then playing a spade instead of simply returning a spade after winning ♥ J. Declarer ruffed the spade return and played a third heart to West's ♥ A. Declarer ruffed the next spade and cashed two winning hearts for ten tricks. East cashing ♥ K gave declarer *the tempo*. Forcing declarer to ruff a spade means E/W retain *the tempo* because declarer's two remaining trumps are used BEFORE hearts are established! **Sinner** status to **East** and **declarer**.

At another table the bidding went 2♠(Weak), 3♦, 4♠, 5♦ followed by three Passes. West led ♠ A, declarer ruffing and then drawing three round of trumps ending in hand as West fatally discarded a heart! Declarer finessed ♣ Q and then played a club to dummy's ♣ A. Declarer can now actually make the contract if she leads ♥ Q, ruffs any return and play a second heart at which point the three remaining hearts in declarer's hand are all winners! BUT, after winning with ♣ A declarer ruffed a club in hand and thus transferred *the tempo* to the defense. Declarer, now down to a single trump in hand, next led a heart, West rising with ♥ A. West now had the opportunity to inflict a **three trick defeat** by playing a spade, forcing declarer to ruff with her last trump while leaving East to win the next heart and cash three spade winners...BUT, West continued with ♥ 10, declarer covering with dummy's ♥ Q as East won with ♥ K, East continued with ♠ K and declarer ruffed and leaving her with three winning hearts in hand, ♥ 875, BUT unfortunately a blocking ♥ 9 in dummy!!! If declarer had played ♥ Q9 on the first two rounds of the suit, then she could have subsequently cashed ♥ 875 in hand to make the contract! Two down. **Sinner** status to **West** (twice!) and to **declarer**.

### Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par -100; NS 5♦×-1; NS 5♥×-1

### Saints & Sinners

At another table South also declared 5♦ after East opened 2♠ (Weak). Declarer ruffed the spade lead, played a trump to dummy's ♦ Q, ruffed dummy's second spade in hand and led ♣ 9, thus ensuring that the club suit was now blocked! Declarer next finessed ♣ Q and then drew two more round of trumps leaving declarer with a single trump in hand! Declarer then led a heart and West erred by rising with ♥ A, crashing partner's ♥ J. West could now have played a spade, forcing declarer to ruff with her last trump and then leaving partner to win the next heart and cash three spade winners! **BUT**, West continued with ♥ 10 to East's ♥ K who now continued with ♠ 8 and declarer now had another chance to make the contract by ruffing in hand whilst discarding the blocking ♥ 9 from dummy (declarer had ♥ 875 in hand). **BUT**, declarer discarded a heart and West won, perforce, with ♠ J and was endplayed to lead a heart or a club! West exited on a heart, dummy's ♥ 9 winning as declarer won last two tricks with ♣ A and ♦ K. **Sinner** status to **West** for rising unnecessarily with ♥ A, **East** for endplaying his partner by returning ♠ 8 instead of ♠ K, and **declarer** who missed chances to make the contract! A comedy of errors from all sides of the table...dummy excepted!

West is particularly guilty for rising with ♥ A. At the point that declarer led a heart from hand West has a perfect picture of declarer's hand. Declarer has already shown a void in spades, 6 diamonds, 2 clubs, and hence must have five hearts! So, even if South has ♥ Kxxxx then declarer can always get to dummy at least once with ♥ Q (maybe twice if South holds ♥ J10xx) but can never avoid losing at least one heart to West's ♥ A. **BUT**, the danger in rising with ♥ A is the fact that West knows that partner has only two hearts and the two hearts could be something like ♥ KJ, ♥ Kx, even ♥ Jx, and with any of these combinations rising with ♥ A will cost the defense.

I am left with a strong feeling that many of the Wests who defended a diamond contract were guilty of lazy thinking and never rationalised that declarer had to have five hearts. Note the West was the only player at the table who should have known declarer's exact distribution.

There is no substitute for clear thinking and simple counting...just as far as thirteen will do!

**Board 10**  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

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

Ten tricks available in either clubs or spades with the latter offering the game option! 5 ♣ can fail if N/S score ♥ A and two diamonds. In 4 ♠ a club lead by West is the most effective for the defense...it kills the club suit. Declarer can still get home by cashing two spades ending in dummy with ♠ J and then cashing two more clubs, discarding two diamonds from dummy and leaving declarer to score 6 spades, 1 heart, 3 clubs. Another line is to win the first club in dummy and play a heart. As it turns out South is now on the horns of a dilemma...if he rises with ♥ A then declarer's ♥ KQ are promoted to winner status whereas, if he ducks, then declarer can win with ♥ K and ruff a heart in dummy which gives declarer 6 spades, 1 heart and 1 heart ruff, 2 clubs. On a non-club lead, declarer wins at first opportunity, draws trumps and cashes dummy's club winners. 3 NT can also make but is difficult to bid!

### Saints & Sinners

At two tables E/W contracted 3 NT with East declaring at one table and West at the other. At each table the player on lead underled their red ace and both declarer's scored all thirteen tricks! 3 NT can be held to ten tricks if the defenders cash them at first opportunity! Leading a heart from the South hand after West has bid the suit certainly doesn't look like the right option!

At two other tables East declared 5 ♣. At one table West opened 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♣ and West rebid 3 ♠, showing a six card suit. East decided to ignore the 6-2 spade fit and jumped to 5 ♣. South cashed ♥ A and switched to a diamond and justice was duly delivered to an inferior contract when declarer ended one down! **Sinner** status to **East**. Sainly status to N/S

At the second table West opened 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♣ and West rebid 3 ♥ and East then jumped to 5 ♣. South led ♦ 10 to North's ♦ Q and North cashed ♦ A and then continued with a third diamond, declarer's ♦ J winning...as declarer, who has a propensity to play too fast, unnecessarily ruffed with dummy's ♣ 5. Declarer played a spade to her ♠ J, drew trumps and cashed dummy's spade winners for eleven tricks! North should have switched to a heart because she can see that dummy has no more diamonds and it is unlikely that declarer had four diamonds headed by ♦ J and didn't bid 3 NT over West's 3 ♥ rebid. Also, dummy's spades look threatening. Best to hope that partner has ♥ A. **Sinner** status to **North**.

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At the remaining fourteen tables West declared a spade contract. At one table West opened 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♣ and South bid a cheeky 2 ♥ [This can suffer at least a three trick defeat, i.e -500]. But West jumped to 4 ♣ (?) and East bid 5 ♣(?). West closed the bidding with 5 ♠ and this proved to be one level too high when North led a heart to South's ♥ A and South switched to a diamond, North cashing ♦ AQ to consign declarer to a one trick defeat!

At another table West opened 1 ♠ and rebid 4 ♠ over partner's 2 ♣ response. North led ♣ 9, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer now embarked on trumps and erred by cashing ♠ J instead of playing two top spades ending in dummy with ♠ J. Declarer next cashed ♠ AK and fatally discarded ♦ 3 from dummy. Declarer is now totally cutoff from dummy's club winners. Declarer next led ♥ K from hand, South winning with ♥ A and continuing with ♦ 5 to North's ♦ Q. North cashed ♦ A, felling dummy's ♦ J and declarer's ♦ K. North should have continued with another diamond forcing declarer to ruff and lead hearts from hand which would see South score two more heart tricks! **BUT**, North continued with ♥ 8 to South's ♥ 10 and declarer's ♥ Q. Declarer now cashed two spades and North erred by discarding her two diamonds while holding on to two useless clubs with ♣ KQ864 staring out from dummy!!! South discarded the highly informative ♣ J on the first spade, telling North, in case she didn't already know, that declarer had no more clubs! But North discarded her last diamond on the second spade, grimly holding on to ♣ 107 as South discarded ♦ 9. Declarer now continued with ♥ 4 and suddenly North's previous diamond discards came into sharp focus as North followed with ♥ 8 and South, who was holding ♥ J6 could not overtake without promoting declarer's ♥ 9! North now led one of her precious clubs to give declarer access to dummy's ♣ KQ on which declarer discarded her losing ♥ 9 from hand for a one trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **North** and **commendation** to **South** for alerting partner to the club position by discarding ♣ J. North of course should have realised from trick one that her ♣ 107 were of no use and should have discarded them and held on to her diamonds. **BUT**, declarer should also have held onto dummy's ♦ J43 and thus the defense could only play two rounds of diamonds before giving declarer access to dummy via ♦ J on the third round. Declarer could also have made much better use of her combined assets and should have made the contract. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West opened 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♣, West rebid 2 ♥, East bid 3 ♣ and West jumped to 4 ♠. North led ♣ 7, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer led dummy's singleton heart and South rose with ♥ A and continued with ♣ J...and declarer ruffed with ♠ Q! Declarer next played a spade to dummy's ♠ J and then continued with a spade to her hand and drew a third round of spades. This is now a lost cause as declarer has two losing diamonds and a losing heart. Declarer has an outside chance if hearts break 4-4 in which case either player will win the fourth heart and will then have to play a diamond (or a club!) and declarer at least will have a chance...gold stamped if North wins the 4th heart and a 50-50 chance if South wins the fourth heart. **BUT**, hearts break 5-3 and South wins the fourth heart with ♥ 10 and then exits on ♥ J leaving declarer to play diamonds from her hand. One down...and **Sinner** status to **declarer** who had several chances to do better.

1) Discard a diamond when South continues with a club after winning with ♥ A. If North does ruff and even plays a diamond to South's ♦ A and South continues with another club then declarer can ruff high and play two top trumps ending in dummy with ♠ J and then cash clubs. If North started with three trumps then declarer will be able to cash all dummy's clubs.

2) After ruffing high with ♠ Q declarer can ruff ♥ 9 with dummy's ♠ 2, cash ♠ J and then play a top club discarding a diamond from hand. Now, even if North ruffs and returns a diamond to South's ♦ A then declarer can ruff high, cash the other top spade and hope that North started with only three trumps which will see declarer's remaining trumps as winners together with ♥ KQ.

3) After declarer ruffed the second club with ♠ Q she should have realised that clubs were breaking 3-2 with North having started with three (remember the opening lead and North's second club) and so she should have considered another option: Cash ♠ A and play a spade to dummy's ♠ J, hoping that South started with exactly two spades. Then cash ♣ K, discarding a diamond and then continue with ♣ Q, discarding a second diamond as North ruffs. Declarer will subsequently lose no more than one heart.

I'm left with a strong impression that declarer did not properly prepare a plan to secure ten tricks!

### Board 11

South Deals  
None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table North led a trump against 4 ♠ and declarer quickly wrapped up thirteen tricks.

At two tables the respective Norths led ♦ A and continued with a diamond to declarer's ♦ K. Declarer drew trumps and then cashed dummy's club winners for twelve tricks. In both cases it should be noted that the respective Souths played ♦ 5 on partner's ♦ A. So the question has to be asked...why would North continue with a diamond when partner has not given an encouraging signal? Given the threatening nature of dummy's clubs North should have switched to a heart. **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table E/W arrived at the dizzy heights of 5 ♠. North cashed ♦ A, South playing ♦ 5...and North continued with another diamond, declarer winning with ♦ K. Declarer drew trumps and then cashed three top clubs discarding two hearts from hand. Declarer then led another club ...and ruffed in hand and duly conceded a heart to South! Clearly declarer was unaware of the fact that ALL dummy's clubs were winners! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table North led a spade against 4 ♠. Declarer played four rounds of trumps and then played three top clubs, discarding two diamonds from hand, South unfortunately (for the defense) discarding a heart on the third club. At this point there are still four winning clubs in dummy but declarer, clearly oblivious to that fact, next led dummy's singleton heart while declarer held ♥ KQ94. South's earlier heart discard meant that declarer only lost two heart tricks. Declarer emerged with eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have scored all thirteen tricks!

At six other tables 4 ♠ was contracted and made although the route to success varied at the different tables. At three tables North led a heart to South's ♥ A and South found the diamond switch, North cashing ♦ AQ and then playing a third round to dummy's ♦ J, declarer discarding ♥ 9 from hand. Declarer drew trumps and claimed.

### Board 11

South Deals  
None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table North led a heart to partner's ♥ A. South switched to a diamond and North cashed ♦ AQ and then switched to ♣ 9. Declarer exercised as much caution as possible by winning with ♣ A and then playing two rounds of trumps, winning the second round with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer next cashed ♣ K, discarding ♥ 9 from hand and continued with ♦ J, ruffing in hand and then drawing the outstanding trump to claim ten tricks. **Saintly** status to **Rhona Bolger**.

At another table North led ♣ 10, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer then played two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy with ♠ J. Declarer now cashed ♣ K, discarding ♥ 4 from hand and continued with dummy's ♥ 2. South rose with ♥ A and this promoted declarer's ♥ KQ9 into two winners. IF N/S heart holdings were reversed declarer would end up losing two hearts and two diamonds! Perhaps declarer should lead a heart after winning with ♣ A, with ♠ J7 still in dummy and thus facilitating at least one heart ruff in dummy and hopefully a discard of either a diamond or a heart on a second top club. As it turns out if South rises with ♥ A on first play of the suit that eases declarer's problems.

At another table North led a heart to South's ♥ A. South switched to a diamond, North winning with ♦ Q. North now played a spade, declarer winning in hand and then playing a trump to dummy's ♠ J. Declarer now led ♦ 4 to his stiff ♦ K, North winning with ♦ A. North continued with ♣ 9 to dummy's ♣ Q. Declarer next cashed ♣ K and must have been relieved to see both opponents follow suit as he discarded ♥ 9 from hand! Declarer then led ♦ J and with ♠ KQ85 in hand and only one outstanding trump, ruffed with ♠ 8 and, again, must have been relieved to see North follow suit! Declarer would have been left with egg on his face if North ruffed the ♦ J given that it would have cost declarer nothing to ruff with ♠ K or ♠ Q, draw the outstanding trump and claim!

West Deals  
N-S Vul

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

## Saints & Sinners

A spade a part-score was reached at five other tables. At one table West, a BBO Robot led ♣ 4 to partner's ♣ K and declarer's ♣ A. Declarer duly played two rounds of spades and when East returned a club at trick three declarer was subsequently able to discard her losing diamond on dummy's ♣ 10 and emerged with eleven tricks. As has been observed before, BBO Robots are very good on bidding and declarer play but not as good when defending! This was the only table where declarer emerged with eleven tricks in a spade contract!

Although the remaining four declarers in a spade contract all emerged with ten tricks that's where the similarities end! At one table West led  $\spadesuit$  K, declarer winning with  $\spadesuit$  A. Declarer led a heart West rising with  $\heartsuit$  A and cashing  $\spadesuit$  Q. Declarer ruffed the next diamond and cashed  $\spadesuit$  A and erred by continuing with a spade instead of finessing  $\clubsuit$  J. East won with  $\spadesuit$  K and played  $\diamondsuit$  10, declarer ruffing. Declarer now played a heart to dummy's  $\heartsuit$  K and belatedly led a club and East came to declarer's rescue by inexplicably rising with  $\clubsuit$  K. **Sinner** status to **East** and **declarer**.

West Deals  
N-S Vul

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

No problem at two tables where declarer used ♠ A and ♥ K to take two club finesses and duly emerged with ten tricks! **Saintly** status to **Deirdre O'Halloran** and **Anne Killilea**

**Saintly** status to **Sheila Baynes** who also used dummy's ♠ A and ♥ K to take two club finesses although slight tarnish to declarer's saintly status for leading ♠ J and running it to East. This line will only benefit declarer when West holds ♠ KQ2 and East holds a singleton ♠ 10. It will cost whenever West holds a singleton ♠ K or ♠ Q.

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

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



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

**Board 14**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

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



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

**Board 15**  
 South Deals  
 N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -400: EW 3N=

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

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



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

**Board 17**

North Deals

None Vul

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

NS 7N; N 7♠; NS 7♥; S 6♠; EW 1♣; Par +1520: NS 7N=

7 NT, 7 ♠ (by North...otherwise East gets a heart ruff), 7 ♥ all make...but none are easily biddable. On the other hand N/S should at least reach 6 ♠ or 6 ♥.

**Saints & Sinners**

Of the eighteen tables in play two N/S pairs bid a Grand Slam...7 NT at one table, 7 ♥ at the other.

At four other tables N/S bid a Small Slam...6 ♥ at one table, 6 ♠ at the other three.

**Sinner** status to the other **fourteen N/S pairs** who failed to bid even the Small Slam.

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

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



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

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

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

	♠ K Q J 7
	♥ K 7
	♦ K
	♣ A Q J 8 7 6

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



EW 5N; EW 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 1♦; Par -660; EW 3N+2

### Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

This is one for those that know their **Safety Plays**! N/S are likely to reach 4♥...but it's the play that will set the men apart from the boys! Declarer has an obvious club loser and it is then simply a case of avoiding 3 trump losers! The 'natural' play seems to be to finesse ♥Q and then cash ♥A...but look what happens...East wins the first trick with ♥K, declarer then cashes ♥A and suddenly discovers that he has two more heart losers... West holding ♥J9 over dummy's ♥10! A **Safety Play** overcomes this scenario. Cash ♥A and when East's ♥K drops play a small heart towards dummy's ♥10 losing to West's ♥J but leaving a position where declarer holds ♥A87 over West's ♥95. Subsequently access dummy and finesse against West's ♥95. Alternatively, once the ♥A fells East's ♥K declarer can assure ten tricks by cashing ♥Q and then playing on side suits. Declarer will only lose ♣A and two trumps. Expect several declarers to fail in this contract! Note 6♦ could make if ♥K was with West and both red suits break 3-3!

### Saints & Sinners

Two pairs declared a NT contract...one at the lofty heights of the six level after the following uninterrupted auction: 1♥-2♣; 3♦-4♣; 4NT-6NT. The 3♦ bid, with only 16hcp and a singleton in a partner's suit is ill advised. Not sure what 4♣ and 4NT meant to ask or say! Declarer failed by two tricks after receiving a spade lead, won by dummy's ♠Q. Has declarer a chance to make this contract? Yes, but odds are not good. It requires West to hold precisely a doubleton ♥KJ... If this layout holds true then declarer can score 5 hearts, 4 diamonds, 3 spades! But, declarer won the opening lead with dummy's ♠A and immediately played a club to her hand and then cashed four rounds of diamonds before finessing leading ♥10, West covered with ♥J and declarer finessed ♥Q which lost to East's singleton ♥K. East could have (maybe 'should have' is more apt!) switched to ♣J to establish two club tricks BUT actually continued with another spade, declarer winning perforce with dummy's ♠A. Declarer now led a heart and finessed ♥8 when West followed with ♥4. Declarer duly lost two more tricks to West's ♥9 and ♣A for a two trick defeat. If East had switched to ♣J it would have been 3 down! **Sinner** status to N/S for a poor bidding sequence and to **declarer** for poor play. The club play at trick two was unnecessary and could have been more costly. Declarer should have played on hearts earlier and could have used dummy's diamonds to make repeated finesses against West's ♥954 thus restricting heart losers to one and overall defeat to one trick instead of two or even three tricks.

### Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

### Saints & Sinners

At the second table North opened 1♥ and South bid 2♦ (2♣ is the more normal response when holding two equal length minor suits). North bid 3♦ and South closed the auction with a bid of 3NT. West led ♠ 8 and declarer won in hand with ♠ A and immediately led ♥ 10, declarer playing low from dummy as West followed with ♥ 4. Upon winning with ♥ K East switched to ♣ 4, West winning with ♣ A and continuing with ♣ 6 to East's ♣ 10 and declarer's ♣ Q, as declarer discarded ♥ 7 from dummy. Declarer cashed all her winners for ten tricks. Yes, declarer could have finessed against West's ♥ J95 (dummy holding ♥ AQ8) but could have found herself in tricky waters if East turned up with ♥ 9, given the delicate nature of dummy's club holding!

At three other tables 6♥ was reached. At one table the following auction occurred: 1♥-2♣; 2NT-4♣(?); 5♣...Doubled by East; 6♥ by South, Doubled by West. East led ♣ 7 to West's ♣ A, declarer's ♣ K falling. West returned ♣ 3, declarer discarding ♠ 9, whilst winning with dummy's ♣ Q. East continued with ♣ 4 and declarer rose with dummy's ♣ 9. Declarer now led dummy's ♥ 10, West covering with ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ A, East discarding ♣ 8. Declarer continued with ♥ 6 from hand, West winning with ♥ 9. West switched to a diamond and declarer is now solid for the rest of the tricks. Simply win in hand with ♦ Q, draw West's ♥ 5, and then claim...**BUT**, declarer won in hand with ♦ Q, and then played two more diamonds, West ruffing the third round with ♥ 5 for a three trick defeat. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table the following auction unfolded: 1♥-2♦; 3♥-4♣; 4♥-5♣; 5♠-6♥. North's jump rebid of 3♥ promises at least six hearts. North should have bid 3♦. South's 5♣ (presumably Gerber) is pointless. South already knows that the partnership is missing an ace so a Grand Slam is not on the cards! East led a spade, dummy's ♠ A winning. Declarer now finessed ♥ Q, losing to East's ♥ K. East now switched to ♣ J, West rising with ♣ A as declarer followed with ♣ K. West continued with a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer now led ♥ 3 and rose with ♥ A when West followed with ♥ 5. Declarer could no longer avoid two more trump losers with West now holding ♥ J9 over dummy's ♥ 10. Declarer finished three down. **Sinner** status to **N/S** for a poor bidding sequence and to **declarer** for poor play.

### Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

### Saints & Sinners

At a third table where N/S reached 6♥ declarer was assisted by a very obliging BBO Robot that led ♥ K!!! At trick two declarer played a spade to dummy's ♠ A and then led ♥ 10, West covering with ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ Q. Declarer subsequently lost two tricks to West's ♥ 9 and ♣ A for a one trick defeat. Sensibly played by declarer after the helpful lead! A note about the bidding. North opened 1♥ and South responded 3♦ an oldstyle♦ promising 16+hcp and a good diamond suit, usually 5+ cards! North now bid 4♣ presumably Gerber and South bid 5♥ showing her one Ace and North now bid 6♦. For it to succeed this contract only requires West to hold ♥ K and both diamonds and hearts to break 3-2! **BUT**, South converted to 6♥. It is often the case that a 4-4 trump fit can produce a better outcome rather than the 5-3 fit because the 5 card suit can provide an opportunity for discards of losers in other side suits!

At another table North opened 1♥, South bid 2♣ and North mis-represented her hand by jumping to 3♥, promising AT LEAST six hearts. North should have contented herself with a simple re-bid of 2♦ accurately portraying her 5-4 red suit holdings. South bid 4NT over North's 3♥ and settled in 5♥ when North responded with 5♦. East led a small spade, declarer winning in dummy and then leading ♥ 2 and finessing ♥ Q as West followed with ♥ 4. East won with ♥ K and continued with ♣ 10 to West's ♣ A and declarer's ♣ K. West continued with ♣ 6, straight into dummy's ♣ Q95!!! Declarer next led dummy's ♥ 3 and doomed herself to a two trick defeat when she rose with ♥ A instead of making the **Safety Play** of ♥ 8 (or ♥ 7 or ♥ 6) in case West had started with four hearts! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table North also declared 5♥ on the lead of small spade. Declarer won with dummy's ♠ A and led ♥ 2 and West erred by contributing ♥ 9 as declarer finessed ♥ Q, losing to East's ♥ K. East played a club to West's ♣ A and West continued with a spade to dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer now led ♥ 3 and played ♥ 7 from hand when West followed with ♥ 5. Declarer re-entered dummy with a diamond and repeated the heart finesse. Declarer duly emerged with eleven tricks. **Sinner** status to **West** for assisting declarer. **Saintly** status to **declarer, Orla McEntee**, for taking advantage of the defender's unintended assistance while also playing safely.

### Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

### Saints & Sinners

At another table North received the lead of ♣ 10 (promising ♣ J), and declarer was ahead of the posse when West ducked, declarer winning in hand with her singleton ♣ K. Declarer could now actually make twelve tricks via cashing ♥ A and then playing a heart towards dummy's ♥ 10 and subsequently finessing against West's ♥ 95...**BUT**, declarer entered dummy with a spade and finessed ♥ Q, losing to East's ♥ K. West continued with a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q and then leading ♥ 10, West covering with ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ A and duly conceded a trick to West's ♥ 9 but still emerged with eleven tricks thanks to scoring with her singleton ♣ K at trick one!

So, kudos to declarer...NO! Why not? Because after losing to East's ♥ K declarer should have made a **Safety Play** to restrict subsequent trump losers to one trick. Declarer didn't do that. After winning the spade return declarer led ♥ 10 from dummy. This is a clear mistake because if East started with ♥ KJ95 then declarer will now lose a total of THREE heart tricks, viz....♥ KJ9! So, what's the **Safety Play**? Simple. Win the second spade in hand and then lead a small heart TOWARDS dummy's ♥ 103... If East started with ♥ KJ95 then East will have to rise with ♥ J or else dummy's ♥ 10 will score. But by rising with ♥ J then dummy's ♥ 10 becomes a winner and declarer only loses two heart tricks.

And if West's ♥ K is a singleton then declarer plays dummy's ♥ 10, losing to West's ♥ J but now leaving declarer's ♥ A87 sitting over West's ♥ 95. Declarer enters dummy with a diamond and then finesses against West's ♥ 95.

You will note that this **Safety Play** works irrespective of which opponent holds the three outstanding trumps!

**Safety Plays** abound in respect of various card combinations and some books detail many of them. But frequently a little rational thinking should see declarer identify what is required!

**Safety Plays** are specifically appropriate in IMPs competitions! See how often 4♥ failed!!!

### Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650: NS 4♥+1

### Saints & Sinners

At four tables where 4♥ was contracted, and failed, all declarers initially played a small heart to their ♥ Q, losing to West's ♥ K. At one table declarer subsequently cashed ♥ A from hand and duly lost two more heart tricks and deservedly failed by one trick.

At the other three tables declarer entered dummy after losing to East's ♥ K and next led ♥ 3, West contributing ♥ 5, and all three declarers failed to make the simple **Safety Play** of covering West's ♥ 5 with ♥ 8 (or ♥ 7 or ♥ 6) which guards against West having started with four hearts, i.e. ♥ J954. All three declarers rose with ♥ A and duly lost two more tricks to West's ♥ J9!

**Sinner** status to **all four declarers**.

At the remaining four tables where North declared 4♥, and emerged with ten tricks, not one declarer made either the initial safety play of cashing ♥ A or a subsequent safety play to protect against either defender having started with four hearts! **Sinner** status to **all four declarers**.

### Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

One of the most interesting hands in the set! 4♦ can make as can 4♥ although few are likely to play in that contract. Most N/S pairs will probably contract 3NT although some may play at a lower level. Note that 3NT is NOT listed as a Makeable Contract! But this is an extremely difficult hand to defend, in particular if West leads a spade. If East rises with ♠K then declarer wins in hand with ♠A, plays three rounds of diamonds and duly scores 2 spades, 5 diamonds, 3 clubs unless E/W first score 3 hearts and 1 diamond. **BUT**, as **Rory Timlin** pointed out, what if East plays low on the spade lead? Now declarer has no guaranteed entry to dummy. One solution could be for declarer to win the opening lead with ♠A, establish the diamonds and then lead ♠4 to dummy's ♠9, forcing East to win with ♠K and thus creating an entry via ♠Q. **BUT, Rory had already sussed out the counter-measure to that play...** If West plays ♠J on declarer's ♠4, declarer must cover with dummy's ♠Q and East wins with ♠K but now declarer's ♠10 in hand is now the master spade...no entry to dummy!

However, I think 3NT CAN make on a small spade lead with dummy's ♠7 winning the first trick. Declarer plays three rounds of diamonds, discarding a club and a heart from hand. East wins and must play either a club or a heart. [Note: a subsequent spade play by either East or West gives declarer access to dummy's winning diamonds as long as declarer plays West for ♠J and East for ♠K.] If East switches to a club, declarer wins and plays a heart, East wins and comes another club and declarer wins and plays a second heart. East wins and comes a third club which declarer wins and exits on a third heart, West winning perforce with ♥A. West, having only spades must play a spade and as long as declarer guesses right to play ♠9 from dummy, declarer is home and dry.

### Saints & Sinners

3NT was contracted at thirteen tables with declarer being successful at six where, ten, eleven, or twelve tricks were made...two apiece! At five tables, West led a spade and East played ♠K, declarer winning with ♠A. Declarer then played on diamonds, either by finessing ♦10 or cashing ♦AK and playing a third diamond, East winning with ♦Q. What happened thereafter differed at each table and accounts for the variety of end results... see following pages.

### Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table, East, upon winning the diamond trick switched to a club and declarer followed with ♣ 8 from hand as West gratefully won the trick with ♣ J! West now continued with a spade, and declarer who seemed to forget that East played ♠ K at trick one (therefor doesn't have ♠ J!) rose with dummy's ♠ Q and cashed the remaining diamond and club winners eventually conceding the thirteenth trick to the defense. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should not have conceded the early club to West's C♣ J. Playing out dummy's diamond winners would have pressured the defense re discards and I suspect that declarer's ♣ 8 would have taken a trick! And declarer should also have finessed ♠ 9 when West returned the suit after winning with ♣ J.

At another table East returned a spade to declarer's ♠ 10 and West's ♠ J, dummy winning with ♠ Q. At this table declarer also discarded ♣ 8 on dummy's diamonds and ALSO forgot to cash dummy's ♠ 9. But West discarded hearts and kept losing spades and when declarer eventually conceded a heart to West's ♥ A, West had to concede the last trick to dummy's ♠ 9. An undeserved eleven tricks to declarer who should have scored twelve! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Two declarers made no mistake after winning the spade return in dummy and cashed dummy's diamond winners discarding all their hearts from hand and noting that East and West discarded clubs. Both declarers duly emerged with twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to **Mary Lonergan** and **Marion Coy**.

3 NT failed at seven tables again with a variety of declarer plays and defensive actions. At one table West led a spade and declarer committed the major sin of playing dummy's ♠ Q and then ducking East's ♠ K. East returned a spade and now declarer, who at one stage was likely to score THREE spade tricks was now destined to win just one! Declarer played ♠ 10 from hand as West won with ♠ J. West cleared the suit with a third round and the contract was now doomed to fail. Declarer duly ended two down...should have been three down until West prematurely cashed ♥ A. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

### Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table West led a spade and East played ♠ K...and declarer ducked... declarer's three spade tricks now reduced to two! Declarer won the spade return in hand with ♠ A and could still make the contract by playing three rounds of diamonds with ♠ Q as an entry for the subsequent diamond winners AS LONG AS East did not find the switch to ♥ Q after winning a diamond! **BUT**, declarer cashed three top clubs, establishing East's ♣ 9 as a winner, and then played three rounds of diamonds, East winning the third round and cashing ♣ 9 before playing hearts with E/W scoring two tricks in the suit (West had discarded a heart earlier in the play). Declarer finished one down in a contract that she should have made. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table West led a club, dummy's ♣ 10 winning the trick. Declarer then cashed two more clubs and then cashed ♦ AK, discarding ♥ 3 from hand on the second diamond. Declarer next played a spade to her ♠ 10 and West's ♠ J. West continued with another spade, declarer playing ♠ 9 from dummy as East played low. Declarer now played a heart to her ♥ K and West's ♥ A. Declarer subsequently scored ♠ A and ♣ A in hand but finished one down.

At another table East led ♠ 5 against North's 3 NT and once West produced ♠ J, declarer winning with ♠ Q, the only possible entry for long diamonds was removed. Declarer finished one down.

At another table, **Rory Timlin**, playing with a BBO Robot, led ♠ 3 as East followed with ♠ 5, dummy's ♠ 7 winning the trick. As mentioned in the introduction to this hand, declarer can still make the contract (see introductory page) **BUT** once declarer retained ♠ A in hand at trick one there is no possibility of an entry to dummy's diamonds unless East (or West) started with a doubleton ♠ Kx. Declarer played three top diamonds East winning the third round with ♦ Q. Declarer won the club switch in hand with ♣ Q and then led ♠ 10 rising with dummy's ♠ Q when West played low and losing to East's ♠ K. East played ♥ Q, South and West following low, and then returned a third spade to declarer's ♠ A. Declarer cashed ♣ AK and continued with ♣ 8 to East's ♣ 9. West took the last two tricks with ♥ A and ♠ J. **Saintly** status to **Rory** and **BBO Robot** partner, who made the key play by not rising with ♠ K at trick one!

**Board 21**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

**Saints & Sinners**

At one table South opened 1♥, North bid 2♦, South bid 3♣ and North closed the auction with 3NT. East led of ♣ 2 (Wrong: should lead 2nd highest from four small cards). Declarer won in dummy with ♣ A and played a diamond to her ♦ 10 and East's ♦ J. East continued with ♣ 3 and declarer played low from dummy, West winning with ♣ J. Unfortunately for the defense, West now made a switch which let the contract make! West continued with ♦ 8 and declarer won with ♦ A and duly cashed four more diamond tricks! Although it is easy to criticise West it should be pointed out that North's hand, unlike at most other tables was not on view to the defenders! Also, West holding ♥ A109 and looking at dummy's ♥ K8763 is not enamoured with leading that suit. Similarly, dummy's ♠ A104 does not look appealing. Perhaps west should have considered playing a club and leaving declarer to get off dummy!

**Board 22**  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

**Board 23**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 3♥; N 4♦; NS 4♣; N 2♠; S 3♦; S 1♠; Par +600: NS 3N=

**Board 24**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; NS 1♥; Par -400: EW 3N=