

TRIBES BRIDGE CLUB - 50th ANNIVERSARY: 1971 - 2021

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 15th April 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 SIX hands in varying degrees of detail ranging from two to five pages: Board# 3, 8, 9, 16, 20, 22.

In total there are 22 pages of analysis/comment. The past week was a busy one for me with several commitments outside of bridge...including getting my first Covid-19 jab!

Board#3 a heart contract by E/W. Will North get endplayed to give the twelfth trick! And will declarer guess right in the trump suit?

Board#8 4 ♥ looks easy...indeed declarer can make twelve tricks. Some failed to make ten! And some defenders got a chance to shine but but failed to set the table alight!

Board#9 a tricky 3 NT where declarer actually had a simple route to nine tricks...but some went astray and didn't recognise the trick earning potential of their small clubs!

Board#16 a neat Dummy Reversal offers declarer a route to ten tricks in a heart contract. But some didn't spot the opportunity! The '*always draw the trumps*' mantra is too heavily ingrained!

Board#20 Take your pick...6 ♣ or 4 ♠.

Board#22 5 ♥ is cold and yet some found it beyond them! Blocking the club suit was a common issue!

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell
22nd April 2021

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

If defending a heart contract, North must not to switch to a diamond!!! Note that if declarer has eliminated trumps and spades and then leads a club from the West hand, North should insert ♣ Q or ♣ K so as to avoid being endplayed for 12 tricks...if North ducks and declarer wins with ♣ J (or ♣ 10) declarer can then cash ♣ A and put North on lead with a third club. This leaves North having to lead a diamond AWAY from his ♦ K742, declare winning in hand with ♦ Q... OR North plays a spade giving declarer a ruff and discard whereby declarer discards his losing diamond from the East hand while ruffing in the West hand.

Saints & Sinners

3 NT is NOT a contract to reach with E/W hands! At one table West opened 1 NT and East, despite holding a 5-4-2-2 shape with a five card heart suit, raised directly to 3 NT instead of transferring to show her five hearts, or even just bidding a forcing 3♥. When South misguessed the heart layout the contract was doomed to fail. Declarer ultimately finished two down. **Sinner** status to **East** for not showing her five card heart suit and thus avoiding the inferior 3 NT.

At another table West also opened 1 NT and East bid 2♠ which was alerted with the following explanation..."it is take out to minor but I bid wrong". A coupe of observations...1) if you have genuinely mis-clicked a bid then make an immediate request for 'Undo'. Most opponents will acceded to a genuine request in which case you can correct your bid. 2) if your request for an 'Undo' is not granted then simply explain the bid as per your system BUT DO NOT indicate that you have mis-bid! At the table West bid 3♣ (alerted as 'forced') and East could now have bid 3♥ but opted to bid 3 NT. North led a diamond, declarer winning in hand with ♦ Q as South contributed ♦ J. Declarer played on hearts and misguessed by finessing ♥ J which lost to North's ♥ Q. North continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A. Declarer is in a good position and can actually score ten tricks SAFELY via 2 spades, 4 heart, 3 diamonds, 1 club! **BUT**, declarer cashed her heart and black suit winners and settled for nine tricks. Instead, declarer should have cashed the hearts, played a spade to her ♠ A (or ♠ K) and led ♦ 10 (or ♦ 9) from hand and established a third diamond winner whilst still holding top controls in both black suits. **Sinner** status to **East** and **West**.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At the other end of the spectrum were the FOUR N/S pairs that overbid and reached the dizzy heights of 6♥. At one table West opened 1♦ and East bid 2♥ (old style strong hand with 5+ hearts?). West raised to 3♥ and East wheeled out Blackwood. Presumably West's 3♥ showed a minimum opening in which case East knows that the partnership may have as few as 28hcp! A 1♥ response by East is much better and doesn't jam the bidding space! If West raises to 2♥ then East can bid 3♣ (100% forcing) and wait to see does West then bid 3♥ or 4♥ after which a slam can be investigated if appropriate. At the table East simply jumped to 6♥...I was going to suggest that East at least check for aces but then noticed that East held three aces and presumably the partnership doesn't use Roman Keycard Blackwood so East felt comfortable jumping to 6♥ given that the partnership could not be missing 2 aces! [Note: **Roman Keycard Blackwood** is MUCH superior because it treats the trump King as a fifth ace and also allows checking to see if partner holds the trump Queen!] South lead a small club to North's ♣K (wrong playing ♣K denies holding ♣Q... North should play ♣Q) and declarer's ♣A. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps and then played a spade to ♠K and continued with a second club, North rising with ♣Q and exiting on a third club. Declarer won the third club and cashed her fourth club, discarding a diamond from dummy. Declarer entered dummy with a spade and lead ♦10 and finessed into South's ♦J when North played low! One down. Did declarer have a chance on the lead of a club? Yes...but not a great one because it would require two things to succeed. 1) North to have started with a doubleton ♣KQ, and 2) North to also hold ♦K. So, declarer wins the club lead, cashes two rounds of trumps, eliminates spades, and then leads a club from the West hand. IF North had indeed started with a doubleton ♣KQ then he is forced to win and must return a diamond, into West's ♦Q, or lead spade and give a ruff and discard. As, I said...not a great chance...but a chance! Declarer's line had NO chance UNLESS North held a singleton ♦K!

At another table West opened 1♦ and East bid a simple 1♥ which West raised to 2♥. East jumped on her Gerber bike and charged off into the ether instead of making a forcing bid like 3♣ to assess whether West had extra in the tank for her initial 2♥ raise. South led a spade and declarer drew trumps in two rounds and then tried a 'Chinese' finesse in diamonds by leading ♦Q and hoping that North wouldn't cover with ♦K! North did cover and declarer finished one down.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At a third table, West opened 1 NT and East bid 2 ♣ [WRONG....It is wrong to use Stayman when you hold one five card major and less than four cards in the other major. In this situation you either transfer or bid your five card major.] As it turns out, West bid 2 ♥ and East now leaped to 4 NT and then jumped to 5 ♥ after West showed one Ace. [Note: A little variation on Major Suit Transfers that some partnerships use...if the NT opener holds four card support for responder's major suit and a MAXIMUM hcp then he can jump to 3 of the major suit leaving responder, with insufficient values for game, much better positioned to decide if game might be an option. Very useful for bidding marginal games]. North led ♣ K and declarer won with ♣ A, drew trumps in two rounds and then tried the old '*Chinese*' finesse in diamonds, North covering with ♦ K and declarer duly losing a trick in each minor suit.

At a fourth table, West opened 1 ♦, East responded 1 ♥, and West made a gross overbid of 3 ♥. East cannot be faulted for subsequently wheeling out 'Gerber' and duly bidding 6 ♥ when West showed one ace. South led a spade and declarer won and drew two rounds of trumps and then led a club from dummy, North rising with ♣ Q as declarer won with ♣ A. Declarer continued with ♣ J from hand, North winning with ♣ K. North exited on a spade declarer winning with dummy's ♠ K. this declarer also tried the '*Chinese*' finesse in diamonds and North failed to cover...and the slam was duly let out! **Sinner** status to **North**. There is no layout, given North's four card diamond holding, whereby covering ♦ K can cost the defense. If declarer holds ♦ AJ or ♦ AJx(x) then covering ♦ Q with ♦ K will not cost. **BUT**, if declarer holds ♦ Ax then by NOT covering with ♦ K declarer will score a trick to which she is NOT entitled, and in this case will make the Small Slam. **Absolute sinner** status to **North**. Note that if South holds a singleton ♦ J the lead of dummy's ♦ Q will ensure that declarer scores all four diamonds with ♦ Q1095 opposite ♦ A863! **Sinner** status to **West** also for overbidding with his 3 ♥ raise which steered the partnership into a Small Slam with little hope of success.

At seven other tables E/W contracted 4 ♥ and all declarers emerged with eleven tricks. At one table declarer tried a '*Chinese*' finesse in diamonds but an alert **Kathleen Lovely** was up to the occasion and earns **Saintly** status for covering with ♦ K and restricting declarer to eleven tricks.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At five tables E/W contracted 4H and all declarer's emerged with TWELVE tricks via different routes. At one table South led a spade and declarer won and drew two rounds of trumps and then cashed his second spade. Declarer then led a low club and North followed low. Declarer won with ♣ J, cashed ♣ A and threw North on lead with a third club. With trumps drawn and spades and clubs now eliminated North found herself having to play a diamond or give declarer a ruff and discard with all roads leading to home for declarer. North switched to a diamond and declarer let it run to dummy's ♦ Q. **Saintly** status to **declarer, David Walsh**, for seeing the endplay and executing it, with North's unintended assistance through playing low on the first club! If North inserts a club honour on the first round of the suit then she cannot be end-played!

At a second table South also led a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ A. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps and then lead a club towards his hand and finessed ♣ 10 when North played low. Declarer returned to dummy with a trump and led a second club, North inserting ♣ Q as declarer won with ♣ A. Declarer played a spade to dummy's ♠ K, eliminating the suit from the E/W hands, and led a third club, North winning perforce with ♣ K. North returned a diamond which declarer let run to dummy's ♦ Q. Twelve tricks and **Saintly** status to **Robert Delargy**.

At a third table South led a spade. Declarer won and drew two rounds of trumps, cashed ♦ A and then ran ♦ 8 to North's ♦ K. North now erred by switching to ♣ 2, declarer finessing ♣ J which won the trick. Declarer next played a trump to dummy and cashed ♦ Q10, South's ♦ J dropping, and discarded ♣ 103 from hand and emerged with twelve tricks. **Sinner** status to **North** who should have switched to a club honour after winning with ♦ K.

At another table North led a diamond after East used Stayman instead of making a Transfer bid or bidding hearts naturally. Declarer let the lead run to her hand and subsequently lost only a club to North, and duly emerged with twelve tricks. No Saints or Sinners here.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At the fifth table West opened 1 NT (12-14), East Transferred via 2♦ and West made an illuminating response of 3♥...Illuminating??? Yes, because this bid showed 4 card heart support and a maximum opening, i.e. 13-14 hcp. This is very useful information for both defenders, particularly North! Declarer won the spade lead, cashed two top trumps ending in hand and then led ♣ 5. North inserted ♣ Q and declarer won with ♣ A and carefully played ♥ 3 to ♥ 6 in hand and led a second club towards dummy's ♣ J103. North rose with ♣ K and now has three options... 1) exit on a club... 2) play a spade... or 3) switch to a diamond. Declarer opted to switch to a diamond and declarer let it run to his ♦ Q and thus emerged with twelve tricks. North should have taken heed of the information provided via West's 3♥ response to partner's 2♦ transfer... North can see 16 hcp in dummy. North holds 10 hcp leaving a mere 14 hcp in the combined West and South hands! Hence West is almost guaranteed to hold ♦ Q. North should have made the 'safe' exit of a third club. Note that even if declarer started with just two clubs then declarer can only discard two diamonds from hand and will eventually lose a diamond. A spade return would be equally damaging to the defense because of the ruff and discard option now available which would see declarer discard the losing diamond from dummy while ruffing in hand! **Sinner** status to **North**. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Sean Glynn**.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ K J 9 5
♥ J 10
♦ K J 7 2
♣ K 4 3

♠ A Q 10 8 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 9
♣ 7 6 5 2



♠ 4
♥ A Q
♦ A 10 8 6 5 4 3
♣ Q 9 8

♠ 7 6
♥ K 9 8 7 6 3 2
♦ Q
♣ A J 10

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

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Par -100: NS 4♦×-1; S 4♥×-1

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 3♦; Par -620: EW 4♠=

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 6♦; N 4N; S 3N; NS 5♣; NS 1♠; Par +980: NS 6♥=

Yes, 6♥ and 6♦ can be made, the fortuitous 3-3 break in the diamond suit being particularly favourable to N/S in either red suit contract and indeed in a possible club contract!

Saints & Sinners

At one table West Passed and North opened 1♥. East, who might have considered Passing with her minimum hand actually made a Takeout Double. South bid 2♦ and West came to life with an overly frisky 4♠. This was Passed to South who ventured forth with 5♥ and this was Passed to East who, at equal vulnerability, bid 5♠ which is **hari-kiri** bridge style. 5♠ finished FIVE down which should have resulted in a -1100 penalty. BUT, N/S didn't apply a Penalty Double. **Sinner** status to **E/W** and **N/S**.

A strange bidding sequence arose at one table where I am firmly of the belief that Gerber posed a problem! North opened 1♥ (five card suit!), East made a Takeout Double and South bid 2♣. West passed and North bid 2♥. East passed and South now bid 4♣ (Gerber?). North bid 5♣, East Doubled and all Passed!!! West led ♠ J, East following with ♠ 8 as declarer played low from dummy and ruffed in her hand. Declarer played a diamond to dummy's ♦ K, East winning with ♦ A. East switched hopefully to a small heart, declarer winning with ♥ K in hand. Declarer entered dummy with a second diamond and led ♣ 10, East playing low. Declarer repeated the club finesse, winning the second club in hand with ♣ J, cashing ♣ A, and then playing heart winners (diamonds in her hand were also winners!). Declarer, with the tempo in her favour, could not be stopped from making eleven tricks!

At the remaining sixteen tables North declared a heart contract with game being reached at fifteen tables.

Sinner status to the **South** who failed to bid the heart game after North opened 1♥, East made a Takeout Double and South simply bid 3♥.

The heart game was reached at the remaining fifteen tables.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 6♦; N 4N; S 3N; NS 5♣; NS 1♠; Par +980: NS 6♥=

Saints & Sinners

At one table North opened 1♥ and after East Passed South jumped to 4♥. East led ♣ 6 and declarer played low as West produced ♣ 9, declarer winning in hand with ♣ 10. Declarer played two rounds of trumps, ending in in dummy, and then played a diamond to her ♦ Q, East winning with ♦ A. East now played her last heart, declarer winning in dummy with ♥ K. Declarer continued with a diamond to her ♦ K. Declarer then finessed ♣ J and simply needed to cash ♣ A, discarding a spade from hand, and then cash ♦ J65, discarding three more losing spades. Declarer would have emerged with TWELVE tricks! **BUT**, declarer experienced a '*senior moment*' and led ♣ Q from dummy, East winning with ♣ K. East made no mistake and cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 8 to ensure that declarer, with no means of accessing dummy's winning clubs and diamonds, would lose another spade at trick thirteen. Declarer emerged with a mere nine tricks. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for lack of concentration.

At another table North opened 1♥, East made a Takeout Double and South had a rush of blood to the head and jumped to 4NT. North bid 5♣ and South closed the bidding with 5♥. East led ♣ 8 and South rose with CA, ensuring at least 1 club loser, as West played a helpful ♣ 9. [Note: East's Takeout Double of North's opening 1H strongly suggests that the remaining outstanding honour cards, in all suits, lie with East! And East's Takeout Double also suggests that East is NOT short in clubs! And the ♣ A is the only guaranteed entry to dummy!] Declarer was now in trouble! Declarer next cashed ♥ KQ and then played a diamond to her ♦ K and East's ♦ A. East found the excellent continuation of ♥ 8 thus removing any possible entry to dummy and with the diamond suit still blocked! [Note: With ♣ A gone at trick one declarer should have played two rounds of diamonds BEFORE playing two rounds of trumps.] Declarer won the third heart with dummy's ♥ 9 and then played a diamond to her ♦ Q and then led ♣ 10 from hand, East winning with ♣ K AS WEST FOLLOWED WITH ♣ 4. [Now, why did Paul type those last few words in CAPITALS?... to confirm that dummy was now dead as far as the club suit was concerned unless declarer had a third diamond! BUT, if declarer had a third diamond then declarer would have played the third diamond to dummy's ♦ J and discarded her losing ♣ 10 on dummy's 4th diamond.] East assured the defeat of the contract by cashing ♠ A (it would have been helpful if West played ♠ J on partner's ♠ A) and continued with ♠ Q (♠ J from partner would still help!). Declarer won with ♠ K, cashed two trumps and conceded the last two spades to West. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 6♦; N 4N; S 3N; NS 5♣; NS 1♠; Par +980: NS 6♥=

Saints & Sinners

At the remaining thirteen tables all declarers emerged with at least ten tricks. At six tables where North scored ten tricks, declarer could have made twelve tricks at four tables and could have been held to nine tricks at two tables! At one table North opened 1♥, East Doubled and South jumped to 4♥. East led ♥6, declarer winning with dummy's ♥K. Declarer led ♥9 to his ♥10 and continued with ♣10, East playing low as declarer followed low from dummy. Declarer erred when he continued with ♣5 and found himself in dummy with ♣J and suddenly had few options in respect of disposing of his FOUR spade losers! **BUT**, declarer could still make the contract! First what actually happened! Declarer cashed ♥Q and then cashed ♣A, West and declarer discarding small spades. Declarer continued with a diamond to his ♦K and East's ♦A. East continued with a diamond to North's ♦Q and the contract was now doomed as North held ♠K75, ♥AJ while dummy held ♦J65, ♣Q3. East held ♠AQ8, ♦10 and West held ♠J10932. Dealer cannot avoid three spades losers EXCEPT on a mis-defense! Declarer led ♠7, East playing ♠8 and a crucial point in the defense now arose! West **MUST** overtake and return a spade... West rose to the occasion by winning with ♠9 and then returned ♠J, Declarer covering with ♠K as East won with ♠A. **BUT**, instead of cashing the ♠Q as the setting trick, East played ♦10 to dummy's ♦J as declarer discarded his losing ♠7. **Sinner** status to **North** and **East**. **BUT**, declarer could have legitimately made the contract after winning the second club with ♣J. Declarer simply ruffs a club in hand and then plays a third heart to dummy's ♥Q. Declarer can then cash ♣A (East's ♣K dropping) and the fifth club on which declarer discards two spades from hand. Declarer then plays a diamond towards his ♦KQ and emerges with ten tricks via 5 hearts (including 1 club ruff), 1 diamond, 4 clubs.

At another table North opened 1♥, East Passed and South jumped to 4♥. East made a good lead of ♥2 and declarer cashed three rounds of trumps ending in hand. Declarer then led ♣10 and let it run and then played a club to dummy's ♣J. Cashing ♣A saw West discard ♦4 as declarer discarded ♠4. Declarer next led a diamond to her ♦K and East's ♦A. The contract is now doomed...unless East cashes ♠A. And that was what happened! Contract let out. **Sinner** status to **declarer** and **East**. [Note: West's discard of ♦4 must show something. If it shows three diamonds then East knows it's safe to exit on a diamond as either West has ♦K or else the suit is blocked! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and to **East**, albeit East will need to think out the right play!

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

A hand that needs to be played with care! Most E/W partnerships will reach 3 NT. Declarer has seven top tricks via 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs. Extra tricks might be sourced via ♠ Q, a second heart, or a couple of clubs. The latter suit offers the best options. It only requires the opponents clubs to break 3-2 (68% probability) for the suit to produce four tricks! But declarer needs to be careful re entries to enjoy the long clubs and general communications between the two hands! And the defense will also play a significant role in the final outcome of the hand. Ducking the first or second round of clubs will do nicely!

Saints & Sinners

The hand was played in NT at all eighteen tables. Only one pair failed to bid game. At this table West opened 1 ♦, East bid 2 ♣ and South Doubled which was alerted as 'Takeout' (showing spades and hearts). West made an underbid of 2 ♦ and East now bid a natural 2 ♥. This bid, coupled with her initial 2 ♣ response, shows 10-12 hcp (she had initially Passed, hence the upper limit of 12hcp). West bid 2 NT (should have bid 3 NT or else bid 2 ♠ asking partner to bid NT with a spade honour). North led ♠ 2 to dummy's ♠ 9 and South's ♠ 10, declarer winning with ♠ A. Declarer now played three rounds of clubs, North winning the third round as South discarded ♥ 3. Declarer would have faced an anxious moment if North had continued with ♠ 3...with ♠ Q9 in dummy declarer would have to decide whether to play North for ♠ K or ♠ J! [If South has both cards then declarer's play is irrelevant! Which is another reason why declarer should have ducked the second club, South winning perforce with ♣ J and thus protecting dummy's ♠ Q9). **BUT**, North switched to ♥ 5 and declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer now has nine tricks via 1 spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 4 clubs, and could have made a tenth trick. Declarer cashed dummy's ♣ 87, discarding ♥ 7, ♣ 8. Declarer then cashed three top diamonds and continued with a fourth diamond to North's ♦ 9. North cashed ♦ J and ♠ K to hold declarer to nine tricks. Declarer makes an extra trick if she retains ♠ 8 and exits on this card after cashing her top diamonds. North will be endplayed and will have to concede a diamond to declarer's ♦ 10 or a spade to dummy's ♠ Q. **Sinner** status to E/W for not bidding 3 NT.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

3 NT failed at four tables. At one table West opened 1♦, East bid 1♥ and West rebid 2 NT which East raised to 3 NT. North led ♥ 5, declarer playing low as South won with ♥ Q. South now switched to ♦ 2, declarer rising with ♦ A. Declarer now continued with ♦ K and followed with ♦ Q on which she discarded her best chance of extra tricks...dummy's small clubs! Declarer failed to do some basic counting re the diamond suit and continued with ♦ 10 to North's ♦ J as she discarded another club from dummy while South discarded ♠ 5, having discarded ♥ 3 on the previous round. North, who had been counting the diamonds, now cashed ♦ 9 as declarer discarded ♥ 6 from dummy while South discarded ♣ 2. North continued with ♣ 9, declarer playing ♣ 8 from dummy and winning in hand with ♣ K. Declarer, now facing defeat, could still get out for one down by cashing ♠ A and continuing with a spade to dummy's ♠ Q....**BUT**, declarer led ♥ 7 and played ♥ 8 from dummy, South winning with ♥ 9. South continued with ♥ 10 to dummy's ♥ A. Declarer had now amassed six tricks and could cash ♣ A to bring the total to seven...**BUT**, declarer continued with ♠ 9 from dummy, South winning with ♠ 10. South cashed ♥ K and North took the last trick with ♠ K. Declarer finished **THREE DOWN** on a hand where all other declarers scored at least nine tricks! I suspect that declarer did not form a clear plan at the start as to how she hoped to make the contract. Failing to make the most of the club suit was a fatal error. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table, after identical bidding to that outlined in the previous example, North led ♠ 2 to South's ♠ J (should have played ♠ 10)...and declarer fatally ducked. [This is wrong as declarer now has no chance to score two spade tricks! Declarer should have won the first trick with ♠ A.]. South, who should have continued with a small spade actually switched to ♥ K which declarer ducked! And when South continued with ♥ Q, declarer unbelievably ducked again! South now played ♠ 5, the card she should have played at trick two, declarer winning perforce with ♠ A. Declarer now cashed ♥ J and then played ♦ AKQ, discarding the trick-making small clubs from dummy! Declarer then cashed ♣ K and played a club to dummy's ♣ A. After cashing ♥ A declarer conceded a spade to North's ♠ K for one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have identified, and pursued, the better option for extra tricks via the club suit.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

Saints & Sinners

At a third table West opened 1 ♦, East bid 1 ♥ and West re-bid 1 NT which East raised to 3 NT. North led ♠ 2 and declarer guessed well to rise with dummy's ♠ Q as South followed with ♠ 5. Declarer now played three rounds of clubs, North winning the third round with ♣ Q as South discarded ♦ 2. North now switched to ♥ 5, declarer rising with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer now has ten tricks via 2 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 4 clubs...**BUT**, declarer lost her concentration and failed to cash ♣ 87 and instead played a diamond to her hand and cashed ♦ AKQ and ♠ A, leaving the two clubs winners isolated in dummy. Declarer finished one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

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

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 3N; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +1430: NS 6♥=

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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



NS 6♣; NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 3♥; S 3♦; N 2♦; Par +920: NS 6♣=

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 4♠; EW 3♥; NS 4♦; EW 2N; NS 3♣;
 Par +300: EW 4N×-2; EW 5♥×-2

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -300; NS 5♣×-2

E/W can make ten tricks in a heart contract. Reaching 4♥ is not that easy. If West opens 1 NT then East should bid 2♣ (Stayman). Remember, all that is required to use Stayman is that the 2♣ bidder can stand any response from the NT opener! Stayman can be used with zero points as long as you have the right shape, i.e. 4 spades, 4 hearts, 5 diamonds. Holding that type of hand, even with zero points, you will simply Pass any response that opener makes! I would also use it on a hand where I had one card less in either major and an extra diamond or even a singleton club! At worst partner will end up declaring 2♠ or 2♥ on a 4-3 fit! On this hand there is also no problem using Stayman as you will Pass 2♠ or 2♥ and if partner responds 2♦ then you will bid 2♥ (showing 5+ cards in the suit as well as 4 spades) which partner will Pass. How to get to 4♥? Not easy. If (and it's wrong!) East bids 2♦ (Transfer) with the East hand then West might respond with 3♥ indicating 4 hearts and a maximum hand and now some Easts might raise to the heart game. Other than that I don't see any sensible sequence that would get E/W to 4♥.

The Play ...this hand is a classic **Dummy Reversal**! Note carefully that if declarer draws three rounds of trumps then he can only ruff one losing spade in the West hand which together with 5 hearts and 3 diamonds comes to a total of nine tricks! Now let's play it differently. Let's say the defense cash a top club and then switch to a diamond. Win with ♦A and ruff a club in the East hand with ♥A (♥Q or ♥J), play ♥2 and win with ♥9 and ruff another club with ♥Q and then play ♥4 to ♥10 and ruff the last club with ♥J. Play a diamond to ♦K and cash ♥K, drawing North's ♥8. ♦Q and ♥6 provide the ninth and tenth tricks. Alternatively, declarer may get an opportunity to safely ruff two spades in the West hand! A trump lead is best for the defense.

Saints & Sinners

Six E/W partnerships reached 4♥ with all but one making the required ten tricks! So what happened at this one table? West opened 1 NT and East responded 2♦ (Transfer... wrong!). West bid 2♥ and East jumped to 4♥ (wrong!). West's 2♥ bid promises no more than two hearts and that simply by virtue of opening 1 NT!). West could have held 4 spades and only 2 small hearts and E/W would have missed the best spot of 2♠! Also, East has only 9 hcp opposite a weak NT...therefore insufficient points for game. West received a club lead followed by a diamond switch. When declarer drew three rounds of trumps she could no longer make the contract!

Sinner status to East and to **declarer** for failing to spot and execute the **Dummy Reversal**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -300; NS 5♣×-2

Saints & Sinners

At the other five tables declarer ended up with ten tricks, mostly as a result of misdefense or luck! At one table West opened 1♣, East bid 1♥ and West bid 2♥. East jumped to 4♥, at least in the knowledge of a probable 5-4 heart fit. Declarer received the very helpful lead of ♠AK from South which meant that declarer could ruff a spade in dummy (ninth trick for declarer) and North's ♠Q would fall thus promoting declarer's ♠J as a tenth trick! South switched to a club at trick three, North winning with ♣A (wrong... should win with ♣K!). North continued with ♣K which declarer ruffed with ♥2 and then misplayed the hand by cashing three top trumps and simply got lucky (undeservedly so) when she ruffed ♠J with dummy's last trump and North's ♠Q fell. After ruffing the second club declarer should have ruffed ♠J with dummy's ♥K, played ♥6 to her ♥J and then ruffed ♠10 with dummy's ♥10. Declarer then plays ♥9 and overtakes with ♥J and draws North's remaining trump with ♥Q. Ten tricks made without requiring any luck! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At a second table West opened 1NT, East bid 2♣ and West responded 2♥, East raised to 3♥ and West bid 4♥. The bidding suggests a trump lead but North led ♣A and South, holding ♣Q976, played...♣6!!! North switched to ♠5 and South, despite my shouting from the rooftops in these columns since I first started writing them, played ♠A instead of ♠K as declarer played ♠10 from dummy! South then cashed ♠K setting up her partner's ♠Q to be ruffed out on the third round. South duly continued with a diamond, declarer winning in hand with ♦A. Declarer then played a heart to dummy's ♥J and led ♠6, ruffing with dummy's ♥9 as North's ♠Q fell thus promoting dummy's ♠J as the tenth trick! **Saintly** status to declarer, **Enda Glynn**.

At a third table an identical auction to that outlined in the previous paragraph saw West declare 4♥ on the lead of ♣A, South at this table also following with ♣6! North switched to ♦5, declarer winning in hand with ♦Q. Declarer played a heart to dummy's ♥A and played a second heart to ♥K in hand. Declarer next ruffed a club with dummy's ♥4 and then played a diamond to her ♦K and ruffed another club with dummy's ♥J. Declarer then played a third diamond to her ♦A and ruffed her last club with dummy's ♥Q. With ♥109 still in hand, declarer had ten tricks via 4 hearts, 3 diamonds, 3 club ruffs. **Saintly** status to **Rosaleen O'Muircheartaigh**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -300; NS 5♣×-2

Saints & Sinners

At a fourth table West opened 1 NT (Weak) and East correctly bid 2♣ (Stayman) but was overly exuberant when West responded 2♥ and jumped to 4♥. North cashed ♣ A, South following with ♣ 7, and then switched to ♠ 5, South correctly playing ♠ K. North now switched to ♦ 6, declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer then erred by cashing three top hearts, ending in dummy with ♥ K as South discarded ♠ 3 and ♣ 6. [Saintly status to South for her club plays!] Declarer returned to her hand via ♦ Q and then led a club ruffing with dummy's ♥ J. Declarer played another diamond to ♦ K in hand and led ♠ 7, North rising with ♠ Q as South followed with ♠ 8. An interesting position has now arisen. North (on lead) holds ♠ 9, ♣ K10. Dummy holds ♠ J10, ♥ Q while South holds ♠ A, ♦ 9, ♣ Q and West holds ♥ 10, ♣ J5. There is only one card that North can now play which will result in the contract failing! Either of the other two cards will see declarer home! First what happened and then what could have happened! North continued with ♠ 9, declarer covering with dummy's ♠ 10 as South followed, perforce, with ♠ A which declarer ruffed thus promoting dummy's ♠ J as a winner. Declarer ruffed a club in dummy with ♥ Q and then cashed the winning ♠ J for ten tricks! Note also that if North leads ♣ K, declarer ruffs in dummy with ♥ Q as South's ♣ Q falls thus promoting declarer's ♣ J! The winning defense is for North to lead ♣ 10 to South's ♣ Q. If declarer ruffs this with dummy's ♥ Q then declarer will ultimately lose the last trick to North's ♣ K. If declarer fails to ruff South wins with ♣ Q for the setting trick. **Sinner** status to **North** who should have taken some time to do some SERIOUS thinking before playing ♠ 9 which really is a no-win situation. What can North determine about declarer's hand, and partner's, at this point in the play? North knows that declarer holds ♥ 10 and that South holds ♠ A. Also, South has shown ♠ K (played at trick two), and has discarded ♠ 3 and has followed to this spade trick with ♠ 8. So, South has shown four spades, and with four visible in dummy and North holding three, it means that declarer started with only two, both now played. So, leading ♠ 9 will allow declarer to ruff out South's ♠ A while simultaneously promoting dummy's ♠ J! North can now reason that declarer's two other cards are clubs and hence South has a singleton club. If West has ♣ Qx then North cannot prevent declarer from scoring a club trick. South, with a singleton club at this point in the play, cannot hold ♣ Q AND ♣ J. Declarer has one of these two cards. Hence North must switch to ♣ 10 and hope that South has ♣ Q! **Sinner** status to **declarer** who had other routes to a sure ten tricks. North had a tricky decision to make and maybe could have reasoned the right play! North would have earned Super Saintly status if she underled ♣ K!

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -300: NS 5♣×-2

Saints & Sinners

At the fifth table West opened 1♣, East responded 1♥, West raised to 2♥ and East jumped to 4♥. South cashed ♠AK and then switched to ♣7, North winning with ♣A and thus leaving South thinking that East held ♣K!!! But, North next played ♣K, declarer ruffing with ♥2. Declarer now led ♠10 and ruffed with dummy's ♥9, North's ♠Q falling and thus promoting declarer's ♠J. Declarer could have claimed at this point but instead played ♥6 to his ♥A and now proceeded to ruff his winning ♠J with dummy's ♥10, leaving dummy with a stiff ♥K as North discarded ♦3. Declarer now cashed ♥K and then ruffed a club with ♥J, and cashed ♥Q, drawing North's remaining trump. ♦AKQ took the last three tricks. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Robert Delargy**.

At one table West opened 1NT (Weak) and East incorrectly bid 2♦ (Transfer) instead of 2♣ (Stayman). West bid 2♥ which was Passed to South who made a Takeout Double. North Passed, perhaps not reading South's Double the way it was intended! Declarer emerged with ten tricks for a score of +1080 and +12.88 valuable Imps! N/S can make seven tricks in spades or nine tricks in clubs albeit West might compete in hearts. **Sinner** status to **East** for using a Transfer bid rather than Stayman. **Sinner** status to N/S for either not having a clear agreement re South's Double OR for poor judgment by North for not bidding 3♣.

At another table after a similar bidding sequence where East also incorrectly used a Transfer bid instead of Stayman South bid 2♠ instead of making a Takeout Double with a perfectly suited hand with 4-1-4-4 shape. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At ten other tables E/W contracted a partscore in hearts at either the two or three level. At six of these tables West opened 1NT and the bidding developed in the following ways:

- 4 Easts incorrectly bid 2♦ (Transfer). **Sinner** status to all **four**.
- 1 East Passed (!!!) and then found herself competing with N/S who were bidding clubs as East bid, unaided by partner, to 3♥. Justice would have seen West turn up with four spades and 2 hearts! Use Stayman at first opportunity. Don't Pass partner's 1NT. **Sinner** status to **East**.
- 1 East correctly bid 2♣ in response to partner's 1NT opening. **Saintly** status to **Agnes Curley**.

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -300: NS 5♣×-2

Saints & Sinners

At the ten tables where a heart part-score was played three declarers emerged with only nine tricks! At one table South cashed ♠ AK and then switched to a club, North winning with ♣ A (Grrr!) and the played ♣ K which declarer ruffed with ♥ 2. Declarer continued with three top hearts, ending in dummy with ♥ K. Declarer next cashed three top diamonds and then ruffed ♣ 5 with ♥ J and now ruffed a spade with dummy's ♥ 10 but then had to concede the last trick to South's ♣ Q. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At a second table West declared 2♥ after East incorrectly Transferred instead of using Stayman. North led ♣ A and switched to a trump. Declarer erred by cashing three rounds of trumps and could no longer make ten tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the third table South cashed ♠ A at trick one, North following with ♠ 5 and for whatever reason South continued with a small spade to North's ♠ Q. This could have been disastrous if East held ♠ Qx(xx). Anyway, North won with ♠ Q and cashed ♣ A on which South played ♣ 6. North continued with ♣ K, declarer ruffing with ♥ 2. As at several other tables, declarer quickly drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand. Declarer could now lead ♠ J and if South covers then declarer ruffs in dummy and will eventually cash ♠ 10 as a tenth trick...**BUT**, declarer cashed three top diamonds and then ruffed a club in hand and a spade in dummy, South's ♠ A falling, but then had to concede a club to South's ♣ Q. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At most tables there was a simple route to ten tricks if declarer could resist the urge to cash three top trumps before ruffing spades in the West hand or clubs in the East hand. Clearly these declarers did not think beyond the first couple of tricks and failed to consider opportunities for disposing of black suit losers and, in most cases, duly paid the price.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

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

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 1♦; Par +110; NS 2♥=

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 6♣; NS 4♠; NS 2N; EW 1♦; Par +1370: NS 6♣=

6 ♣ can make. 4 ♠ can make. The difference in makeable tricks results from the fact that against a spade contract declarer can be forced by an opening heart lead and continuation which forces declarer to ruff the second heart with ♠ K, promoting East's ♠ Q as a winner. And E/W can cash a second heart winner after East wins with ♠ Q. BUT, if the defense don't start with a heart declarer can cash ♠ AK, felling East's ♠ Q7 and then draw West's ♠ 9 leaving declarer with club winners. But this is a lucky contract...give West ♠ Qxx and the contract will fail with the defense scoring 1 spade and 3 hearts. Reaching 4 ♠ or 5 ♣ is not automatic and don't be surprised if game is not bid at a significant number of tables.

Saints & Sinners

Six pairs reached 4 ♠ with 13 tricks being made at four tables, 12 tricks at one, and 10 tricks at another. At the table where declarer only scored ten tricks the damage was done at trick one! West led her singleton ♣ 10 and declarer erred by winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer cashed ♠ AK, East's ♠ Q falling on the second round but then needed to get to her hand to draw West's ♠ 9. Declarer innocently played a club to her ♣ Q and may have received a minor shock when West ruffed with ♠ 9. The contract can now be beaten...E/W simply need to cash three heart tricks! West cashed ♥ A and continued with ♥ 2 to partner's ♥ K... **BUT**, East now continued with ♣ J, declarer winning in hand with ♣ A as West discarded ♦ 2. Declarer played a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then cashed the remaining club winners, discarding her losing heart from hand! **Sinner** status to **East** who clearly didn't listen to the bidding...South bid 1 ♠, 2 ♠ and then 3 ♠ showing her SIX card spade suit. East can count an original 4 spades between dummy and her own hand thus leaving partner with an original holding of just three spades, two of which were played on dummy's ♠ AK and the third was used to ruff declarer's ♣ Q! West does not have any more spades at the point that East plays ♣ J!!! East should have returned a red suit and as it turns out...either will do! Note that a diamond return forces declarer to win with ♦ A, thus removing the only entry to the winning clubs, whereas a heart return sees West win the setting trick with ♥ Q. **Sinner** status to **East**. But **Sinner** status also to **declarer** who should have made the contract IN COMFORT! Clearly the ♣ 10 lead is a singleton. Declarer blocked the clubs by winning with dummy's ♣ K. Declarer should have won the opening lead in hand and then cashed ♠ AK. Declarer then needs to return to hand SAFELY and can do this by cashing DA, ruffing a diamond in hand and then drawing West's ♠ 9 and then cashing dummy's clubs! 12 tricks.

West Deals
Both Vul

NS 6♣; NS 4♠; NS 2N; EW 1♦; Par +1370: NS 6♣=

At another table South contracted 3 ♠ on the lead of ♣ 10, Declarer correctly played low from dummy, winning in hand with ♣ A. Declarer, concerned about the possible loss of three heart tricks lead a heart at trick two, presumably with the intention of ruffing at least one heart in dummy. West rose with ♥ Q and continued with a diamond, dummy's ♦ A winning the trick. Declarer ruffed a diamond in hand and then ruffed a heart with ♠ K. Declarer returned to hand with another diamond ruff and ruffed her last heart with dummy's ♠ A. Declarer ruffed another diamond in hand and then played ♠ J, East winning with ♠ Q. East now played ♥ K, declarer ruffing with ♠ 6 and then cashing ♠ 10 for her ninth trick as declarer conceded the last two tricks

At four other tables N/S contracted 5 ♣. At one table West bid a cheeky 2 ♥ over South's 1 ♠ response to North's 1 ♣ opening bid. East led ♥ K against North's 5 ♣ and then switched to ♦ Q, declarer winning in hand with ♦ A. This is not an easy hand to play and declarer at this table should have thought a little deeper before ruffing a diamond in dummy. This is not the way to go because by ruffing more diamonds in dummy declarer is promoting trump trick(s) for the defenders. The spade suit has to be brought into play and declarer can make a good start by cashing ♠ AK. When East's ♠ Q falls on the second round declarer is safe as long as trumps break no worse than 3-1. After cashing ♠ AK declarer continues by cashing ♣ K and then play a club to dummy's ♣ Q. When clubs prove to be 3-1 declarer cashes ♣ A and then reels off dummy's spade winners. And yes, I hear you wondering...what if ♠ Q doesn't fall? In that case declarer plays a club to dummy's ♣ Q, leads a spade and ruffs with ♣ K. Declarer re-enters dummy with ♣ A and then leads winning spades leaving the defense to ruff with the outstanding trump if clubs were initially divided 3-1. BUT, declarer can then ruff the diamond return with dummy's ♣ 8 and cash the remaining spade winners. This line will work whenever spades break 3-2 with the ♠ Q in the hand with three spades and where clubs break no worse than 3-1.

West Deals
Both Vul

NS 6♣; NS 4♠; NS 2N; EW 1♦; Par +1370: NS 6♣=

At another table North contracted 5 ♣ on the lead of ♠ 3. Declarer played low from dummy and beat West's ♣ 10 with ♣ K. Declarer now embarked on ruffing her losing diamonds with dummy's clubs. Two things about this approach...1) declarer will only be able to ruff two losing diamonds....2) Ruffing losing diamonds with dummy's clubs will promote at least one trump winner for the defense...and declarer will still have a losing diamond as well as a heart loser and a trump loser. Not a winning formula! Declarer did manage to ruff two diamond losers but then had to concede a diamond trick to E/W as well as a heart and a diamond. One down. Declarer would have had better success by playing on spades.

At another table North also declared 5C and scored all thirteen tricks after East led a diamond. Declarer won, cashed two top trumps and then cashed ♠ AK and entered dummy via ♣ Q to cash the remaining spades. **Saintly** status to **Eugene Gath**.

Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

W 5♠; EW 5♥; EW 4N; E 4♠; EW 5♣; NS 1♦;
Par -650: EW 4♥+1; W 4♠+1

5♦ is a level too high...if Doubled. Note that 5♠ by West also makes...as well as 5♥. 5♥ is easy...discard a losing spade on ♦ A and then concede just two clubs. 5♠ is different! Ruff two diamonds in dummy and cash two top trumps and then play hearts, discarding losing clubs from hand....not that anyone is likely to reach that contract!

Saints & Sinners

Two E/W pairs reached the dizzy height of 5♥. At one table the contract was Doubled! At that table East opened 1 NT (Weak), South bid 3♦, West bid 3♥ and North raised partner to 4♦. East bid 4♥ and South now bid 5♦ whereupon West bid 5♥ which North Doubled. North led ♦ 10 and declarer rose with dummy's ♦ A and immediately condemned herself to one down when she discarded ♣ 3 instead of her losing ♠ 2! Declarer could no longer avoid losing 1 spade and 2 clubs. IF declarer had discarded ♠ 2 at trick one she could then have drawn trumps and simply conceded two club tricks to North and emerged with +850 instead of -200, the latter score generating +11.88 Imps to N/S instead of approx +7 Imps to E/W...a swing of nearly 19 Imps! **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table West also reached 5♥ after South preempted in diamonds, subsequently supported by North. At this table North also led ♦ 10 and declarer correctly discarded ♠ 2 on dummy's ♦ A. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps ending in dummy with ♥ J. Declarer duly lost two clubs to North but emerged with eleven tricks. **Saintly** status to **Anne McElwain**.

Nine other declarers made eleven tricks in 4♥ but that's where the similarity ends! At two tables declarer found themselves in a situation whereby they could have been held to ten tricks!

1) Declarer won the diamond lead, discarding ♠ 2 from hand, played three rounds of trumps and then cashed ♠ AK. Declarer then led ♣ 2 and finessed ♣ 9 (mistake...should lead dummy's ♣ 10 or ♣ 8). North won with ♣ J and now played ♠ Q forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer now cashed ♣ A leaving her with ♣ Q53 opposite ♣ 10 with North holding ♣ K7. She continued with ♣ 3 and North had an opportunity to shine by playing ♣ 7 forcing dummy's ♣ 10 to win BUT leaving declarer to ruff a spade (or diamond) with her last trump and North would then win ♣ K and cash ♠ 10 or ♦ 10. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who managed to block the club suit!

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

W 5♠; EW 5♥; EW 4N; E 4♠; EW 5♣; NS 1♦;
Par -650: EW 4♥+1; W 4♠+1

Saints & Sinners

2) At the second table declarer also emerged with eleven tricks but could have been held to ten! North led ♦ 10, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A while discarding ♠ 2 from hand. Declarer played three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and then led ♣ 10 and followed with ♣ Q from hand, North winning with ♣ K. North returned a diamond, declarer ruffing. Declarer now held ♣ A953 with ♣ 82 in dummy while North held ♣ J76...and declarer had only one trump left in her hand! Declarer at this table now also contrived to block the club suit when she cashed ♣ A and then led ♣ 3. All North needs to do is play ♣ 7, letting dummy's ♣ 8 score. Declarer now has to ruff a diamond or spade in hand, **WITH HER LAST TRUMP**, after which North will win the next club with ♣ J and can deny declarer access to the winning clubs in her hand and force her to concede a spade trick to N/S at the end. **BUT**, North rose with ♣ J and thus declarer's ♣ 95 were now established as winners with a trump still in hand to access them! Declarer brought about this situation by not taking the simple step of leading leading ♣ 3 (or ♣ 5) from ♣ A953 to dummy's ♣ 82 while North held ♣ J76. Now the clubs cannot be blocked irrespective of what North does! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At four other tables N/S played a diamond contract. At two tables N/S reached 5♦. At one of these tables the contract was Doubled and the resulting FOUR trick defeat earned E/W a healthy +800. At the other table E/W failed to Double and when the contract also failed by four tricks E/W scored a miserable +200 which cost them -7.00 Imps!

At two other tables N/S contracted 4♦ which was Doubled at both tables. Both declarers failed by three tricks but wound up losing just -500 when other N/S pairs were suffering a loss of -650 when E/W bid and made 4♥+1!

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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



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

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul

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



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