

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

Greetings! And apologies for the delay. I had an unexpected visit to UHG's A&E a couple of days ago and it set me back in terms of finishing the analysis of hands from the previous week. A&E experience was very positive and I'm grateful for the attention and professional service that I received. I'm recovered and back to normal self again! So, apologies for being late with the analysis.

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 29th 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 SEVEN hands in varying degrees of detail ranging from one to ten pages: Board# 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 14, 23

In total there are 35 pages of analysis/comment.

Board#1 an interesting hand where N/S can succeed in 7 ♣...but only three pairs even managed to reach 6 ♣. And one pair paid the price for bidding 6 NT instead of 6 ♣.

Board#3 A simple case of 'right-siding', i.e. ensuring that one player rather than the other declares the contract!

Board#8 Another hand where it pays to find your 5-3 spade fit. Also an interesting play problem where declarer may find it profitable to play on a side suit before drawing trumps...and then only drawing two rounds of trumps! And where holding ♦ AQ98 v ♦ K1052 can you ensure four tricks in the suit given that the opponents make the first lead in the suit? Simple? Some didn't find it that way! But they were the authors of their own misfortune!

Board#9 E/W can make 5 ♥ but a couple of N/S pairs were allowed play in 5 ♣...and the defense wasn't always up to scratch! The last page features a warning about making / accepting a claim.

Board#11 An interesting 4 ♠ or 3 NT. One declarer was given the opportunity to score THREE tricks from the following holding: ♥ A1084 v ♥ 97 but failed to take advantage. And several other declarers failed to play this combination to best effect!

Board#14 Perhaps the most interesting hand of the set where most declarers failed to see the wood from the trees! **Sinners** abounded on this one with only a couple of **Saints**!

Board#23 A very interesting 4 ♠ where **Eugene Gath** displayed good '*table presence*' to emerge with twelve tricks while some declarers could only manage eight tricks and others deserved less!

Enjoy!

**Paul J Scannell**

8th May 2021

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

NS 7♣; NS 5N; NS 5♥; NS 3♦; NS 1♠; Par +1440: NS 7♣=

It takes diamond lead to beat 6 NT. But why bid a dubious 6 NT when 6 ♣ is rock solid and indeed 7 ♣ can be easily made by ruffing 3 diamonds in the South hand... N/S should avoid 6 NT. Note that if South responds 1 ♥ then North should not re-bid 2 ♦ (a **Reverse Bid** showing 16+ hcp). 2 ♣ or even 2 ♥ are rebid options for North.

### Saints & Sinners

Eight pairs bid a club contract but only three bid the Small Slam. Also, note that if using Blackwood or Gerber the Grand Slam will never be bid due to the missing Ace. Blackwood or Gerber are seldom the route to take when either player holds a void! Indeed South's ♠ KQ are redundant and the Slam will still make if those cards were replaced with ♠ 32! **Saintly** status to **Kevin & Mary Moylan, Fiona & Brian Place, Deirdre McCoy & Marion Coy**.

**Sinner** status to the **N/S pair that reached 6 NT** and duly, and deservedly, failed by one trick.

**Sinner** status also to the **three declarers who contracted 5 ♣ and received a non-spade lead and failed to make thirteen tricks**.

Eight N/S pairs reached 3 NT of which six emerged with twelve tricks.

**Sinner** status to the **Wests** who discarded a heart(s) and thus gave declarer an easy twelve tricks.

Several Wests led ♦ 6 against 3 NT affording declarer an easy second diamond trick and also giving declarer *the tempo* to create a spade trick and thus enabled declarer to make twelve tricks.

**Board 2**

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; W 4♣; W 2♠; E 3♣; E 1♠; EW 1♦;  
Par -400: EW 3N=

### Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

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

5 NT can be made by East but only 2 NT if played by West...a diamond lead from North does damage! If East opens 1♣ and South overcalls a cheeky 1♦ then it is absolutely vital that East becomes declarer in any subsequent NT contract! If West declares NT then a diamond lead from North can skewer the contract! On the other hand, if East declares 3 NT then declarer can emerge with eleven tricks!

Note also that a diamond lead by itself is not enough. South must be careful to retain ALL of his diamonds. If South discards even one diamond then declarer can emerge successfully even on a diamond lead from North. N/S need to score five tricks...1 spade and 4 diamonds does just that! If South discards a diamond then declarer will have time to establish at least one spade trick to add to the 1 diamond, 5 clubs, 2 hearts (finesse ♥ Q).

### Saints & Sinners

At ten tables East contracted 3 NT with declarers emerging with nine to twelve tricks! At three other tables West declared 3 NT and at two of these tables the contract failed when South overcalled 1♦ and North subsequently led a diamond! **Sinner** status to the **two Wests** who bid NT instead of 'engineering' partner to declare the contract! At the third table South did not bid diamonds and North failed to find the killing lead!

One strange contract ...2♠ by West! East opened 1♣ and West responded 1♠ (wrong...should bid 1♥... spades can be bid later). East rebid 1 NT and West bid 2♠...Was this intended or a mis-click where West intended to bid 2 NT? Declarer finished 1 down. Remember, if you 'Mis-click' you can ask for an 'Undo' but should do so immediately, ideally before anyone else bids although usually at least your left hand opponent will have bid before your 'Undo' request appears on the opponents screens!

At another table East opened 1C, West responded 1♥, North overcalled 1♠ (not recommended with such a poor suit). East bid 2♥ and West bid 3♥ which East raised to 4♥. Over East's 2♥ West should bid 2 NT for two reasons...1) partner may have only three hearts...and 2) West has good spade stoppers. 3 NT on a spade lead is an easy make.

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

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

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

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

N 5♥; S 4♥; NS 3♠; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; Par +650: N 5♥=

**Board 6**

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♣; EW 2N; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -620: EW 4♠=

**Board 7**

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 6♣; NS 3N; EW 3♠; NS 2♥; EW 1♦; Par +800: EW 6♠×-3



West Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ J 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ J 6 4 3

♣ A 8 7 3

3 NT gets its just desserts! And it takes a heart lead to hold declarer to ten tricks in a spade contract...and yet several declarers, on a non-heart lead, failed to score eleven tricks! And would you believe that in a couple of instances, declarer received a diamond lead and still managed to lose a trick in the suit despite holding six of the top seven cards in the suit...that's careless!!!

At one table West opened 1  $\heartsuit$  and East responded 1  $\spadesuit$ . West re-bid 1 NT and East simply jumped to 3 NT. North led  $\heartsuit$  K, declarer ducking as South followed with  $\heartsuit$  4. Dummy's  $\heartsuit$  A won the second round of the suit as North continued with  $\heartsuit$  2. Declarer played a diamond to his  $\heartsuit$  A and then led  $\spadesuit$  9, North covering with  $\spadesuit$  10 as declarer won with dummy's  $\spadesuit$  K. Declarer now guessed right to cash  $\heartsuit$  K, North showing out, and then led  $\heartsuit$  5, finessing his  $\heartsuit$  8 when South followed with  $\heartsuit$  4. Declarer now led  $\spadesuit$  5 and North followed with  $\spadesuit$  6 as declarer played  $\spadesuit$  8 from dummy which lost to South's  $\spadesuit$  J. South cashed  $\clubsuit$  A and then continued with  $\heartsuit$  J, North overtaking with  $\heartsuit$  Q and cashing two more hearts to leave declarer two adrift! **Sinner** status to **East** who should have made some attempt to identify the 5-3 spade fit!

The declarer play at two of these three tables was also less than stellar! At one table South led ♦ 3, declarer winning in hand with ♦ 10. Declarer next cashed ♠ AK and now has eleven tricks in her sights! Declarer simply needs to lead ♣ J, establishing ♣ Q for the discard of the losing ♥ 8 from her hand thus only losing a trump and ♣ A....**BUT**, declarer continued with a third trump thus transferring *the tempo* to the defenders who were now able establish a heart trick BEFORE declarer knocked out ♣ A!!! Declarer emerged with ten tricks instead of eleven. **Sinner status to declarer.**

West Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ J 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ J 6 4 3

♣ A 8 7 3

## Saints & Sinners

At a second table declarer received the hugely beneficial lead of ♣ 3 which gave declarer *the tempo*....declarer will be able to discard her losing heart on dummy's third club and emerge with eleven tricks, losing just ♣ A and ♠ Q.. **BUT**, declarer won with ♣ J, cashed ♠ AK, and then handed *the tempo* back to the defense when she needlessly continued with a third trump to North's ♠ Q. North switched to ♥ 2 (I would have switched to ♥ K) and declarer rose with ♥ A. But now things went from bad to worse when declarer played on diamonds instead of clubs and guessed wrong when she cashed ♦ AQ. Not only did this leave her with a losing diamond but she had also removed the only guaranteed entries to dummy (♦ AQ) which could have been used to cash a club honour on which she could have discarded a diamond from her hand and thus avoided the loser in that suit! Careless play by declarer who ended up with a mere nine tricks when eleven were originally on the horizon! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the third table declarer seized the opportunity when South led ♣ A at trick one and then switched to a heart. Declarer won the heart switch with ♥ A and immediately played a club to dummy's ♣ K and then cashed ♣ Q, discarding ♥ 8 from hand. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Breda Cunningham**, although she would have been better advised to cash ♠ AK before playing a club to dummy's ♣ K...just in case South had started with a doubleton, or even a singleton, club.

The remaining sixteen E/W pairs reached the spade game with nine declarers emerging with eleven tricks when a heart was not lead at any of these tables. At a couple of tables South cashed ♣ A, or led ♣ 3, at trick one which immediately handed *the tempo* to declarer. **Sinner** status to **two declarers** who received a diamond lead and unnecessarily won with an honour instead of winning with ♦ 8 in dummy or ♦ 10 in hand thus leaving themselves open to the possibility of losing a diamond if they misguessed how to play the subsequent rounds of the suit!

At the other seven tables, each declarer emerged with ten tricks...**BUT** this hides the fact that at only three of these tables did South lead a heart. Therefore, four declarers failed to take advantage of the non-heart lead. No Saints or Sinners at the three tables where a heart was led. Declarer made all the tricks possible on this defense and N/S struck a good lead. Well done to all.

### Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 2N; Par -420: EW 4♠=

### Saints & Sinners

Now let's see what happened at the four tables where a heart was not led!

At one table South led ♦ 3 and declarer erred by rising unnecessarily with dummy's ♦ Q. Declarer next cashed two top trumps and then led ♣ J, South rising with ♣ A and switching to a heart, declarer winning in hand with ♥ A. Declarer continued with a club to dummy's ♣ Q and then cashed ♣ K, discarding the losing ♥ 8 from her hand. **BUT**, South's unnecessary play of ♦ Q now came to back to haunt her when she next cashed D♦ A and discovered that she now had a losing diamond! Declarer's error was rising with ♦ Q at trick one instead of letting it round to her ♦ K1052 thereby ENSURING four diamond winners! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At three other tables, South led ♣ A thereby handing 'the tempo' to declarer. **BUT**, the three declarers failed to take advantage. At one table South switched to ♥ 4 at trick two, declarer winning with ♥ A and cashing ♠ AK. There is now only one trump outstanding, ♠ Q, and declarer can simply play on clubs discarding the losing ♥ 8 from her hand...**BUT**, declarer continued with a third trump and North was now able to cash ♥ K. **Sinner** status to **declarer**!

At a second table South also cashed ♣ A at trick one and then switched to ♦ 3. At this table declarer rose unnecessarily with dummy's ♦ A. Declarer then played three rounds of trumps, North winning the third round with ♠ Q. North switched to ♥ K, declarer winning with ♥ A. Declarer now played two round of clubs discarding ♥ 8 from hand and then unfortunately guessed wrong by cashing dummy's ♦ Q and then discovering that he now had a diamond loser. Careless play by declarer who could have avoided the loss of a diamond trick by playing low from dummy at trick two. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

A consideration for all declarers on this hand at this point in the play (winning with ♥ A) is to cash the remaining two trumps and then dummy's two clubs and note the discards made by both defenders. This may provide clues as to how to play the diamond suit. But it doesn't take away from declarer's mistake in not letting the first diamond round to his ♦ K1052 which guarantees four diamond tricks!

### Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♦; EW 2N; Par -420: EW 4♠=

### Saints & Sinners

At another table South also led ♣ A and continued with a second club, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ K. At this table declarer still has *'the tempo'* because the heart switch has not been found! Declarer next cashed two top trumps and then continued with a third trump, North winning with ♠ Q. North now found the heart switch, declarer winning with ♥ A. Note that at this table declarer now has all the remaining tricks as long as she doesn't lose a diamond trick. Clearly there is no diamond loser if the suit breaks 3-2. The only problem is if one defender holds ♦ Jxxx. [NOTE: if one defender holds all the outstanding diamonds, i.e. ♦ Jxxxx, that is NOT a problem because cashing ♦ A or ♦ Q will reveal the position and now a finesse can be taken (♦ D9 or ♦ 10) against whichever opponent holds all of the diamonds!] But if diamonds break 4-1 then declarer will need to guess correctly which defender holds the four! **BUT**, at the table declarer led ♦ 2 to dummy's ♦ A, North following with ♦ 7. Declarer then cashed ♣ K, discarding ♥ 8 from hand and then cashed ♦ Q and so lost a diamond to South's ♦ J. Declarer might have noted that South did not lead a diamond which she might have done if she had started with a singleton! Also, South followed to the first round with ♦ 3 whereas North played ♦ 7. With ♦ J64 still outstanding I might place those with South rather than North. No guarantee, but perhaps those are little clues that are worth considering.

North Deals  
E-W Vul

EW 5♥; NS 4♠; NS 4♣; NS 3♦; Par -100: NS 5♠×-1

## Saints & Sinners

At the remaining eight tables N/S declared a range of of contracts with varying outcomes! At one table North opened 1 ♣, East overcalled 1 ♥, South Passed, West jumped to 4 ♥ and North was left holding the baby! North decided to bid 5 ♦ and South was now left with the decision whether to convert to 6 ♣ or Pass. South Passed and declarer duly failed by two tricks! I don't think that N/S play a Strong Club System in which case North carries the blame for not opening 1 ♦ and then being in a position to offer partner a choice of contracts at the five level by re-bidding 5 ♣ over West's 4 ♥. **Sinner** status to **North**.

At another table North also opened 1 ♣ (not playing a Strong Club System). East overcalled 1 ♥, West jumped to 4 ♥ and North made a Takeout Double. South bid 4 ♠, West bid 5 ♥, North bid 5 ♠ which East Doubled and all Passed. The contract failed by one trick...a good result for N/S.

North Deals  
E-W Vul

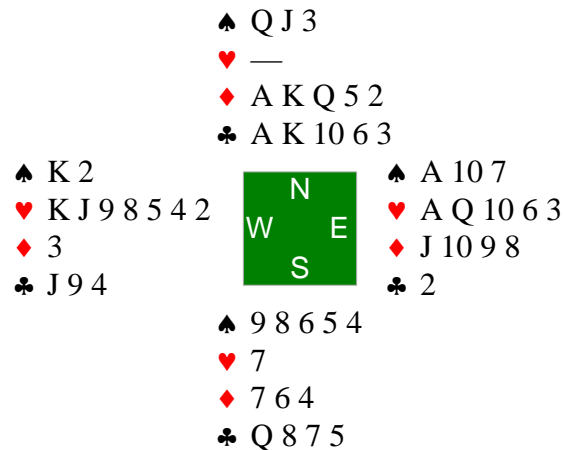
EW 5♥; NS 4♠; NS 4♣; NS 3♦; Par -100: NS 5♠×-1

At one table North opened 1 ♦, East overcalled 1 ♥, West jumped to 4 ♥ and North now bid 5 ♣. East bid 5 ♥ and South bid 6 ♣ which became the final contract. East led ♥ A, declarer ruffing in hand. Declarer drew trumps and then played four rounds of diamonds, ruffing the fourth round with dummy's last trump. Declarer now led a spade and West rose with ♠ K. West now erred by continuing with a spade instead of forcing declarer to ruff a heart with his last trump while partner still held ♠ A and a heart. East won the second spade and switched back to hearts, no doubt harbouring dastardly thoughts about partner!!! Declarer ruffed and his hand was now high with ♠ Q, ♦ 5, both established as winners, with a little help from West! Eleven tricks to declarer instead of ten. **Sinner** status to **West**.

At another table North opened 1 ♦, East bid 1 ♥ and West jumped to 4 ♥. North Passed...I would be definitely inclined to bid on her hand...either Double (Takeout) or 5 ♣. But never fear. South came to life with 4 ♠. West bid 5 ♥ and North, who should surely have been thinking of a Grand Slam in spades simply bid 5 ♠ (she must be used to South's bidding!). West led ♦ 3, declarer winning in dummy with ♦ A. Declarer next played a club to his ♣ Q and then ruffed his solitary heart with dummy's ♠ 3. Declarer now led dummy's ♠ J and East rose with ♠ A. East returned a diamond, West ruffing with ♠ K. Declarer subsequently lost a trick to East's ♠ 10 for one down. Double-dummy it can be seen that if East ducks ♠ J, West wins with ♠ K and can then give East a club ruff with ♠ 10 after which East can give West a diamond ruff with ♠ 2 and East will also score ♠ A leading to a two trick defeat.

But the real action occurred at three other tables where N/S reached 5 ♣. At one table North opened 1 ♦, East overcalled 1 ♥, South Passed and West only bid 3 ♥. North bid 4 ♣ and East bid 4 ♥ and South closed the bidding with 5 ♣. East cashed ♠ A and continued with ♠ 10 (mistake...if West had started with ♠ K32 and North with ♠ QJ then continuing with ♠ 10 establishes dummy's ♠ 9 as a winner!) to West's ♠ K and suddenly the defensive effort was over. West couldn't get a spade ruff and E/W had no other winner to cash. It takes the unusual lead of a small spade from East to defeat 5 ♣ OR a forcing defense by cashing ♥ A and continuing hearts at subsequent opportunities. And 5 ♥ always makes!

North Deals  
E-W Vul



## Saints & Sinners

At the other two tables both Norths arrived in 5 ♣ via slightly different bidding sequences. At one table North opened 1 ♦, East overcalled 1 ♥, South passed and West jumped to 4 ♥. North pressed on with 5 ♣ which became the final contract. At the other table North erroneously opened 1 ♣ instead of 1 ♦ (**Sinner** status to **North** at this table). East overcalled 1 ♥, South passed and West made an underwhelming bid of 3 ♥. North now bid 4 ♦ which East, not surprisingly, Passed. South converted to 5 ♣ which became the final contract.

Both Easts led ♥ A which declarer ruffed. Both declarers now cashed three top clubs and then continued with four rounds of diamonds ruffing the last one in dummy. Both declarers now led a spade from dummy and both Wests rose with ♠ K and now found themselves at the crossroads... The next card that each West plays will determine the outcome of the contract at their table!

But what does West know at this point? Clearly partner has ♠ A...but what about declarer's hand? West knows from the play so far that North started with precisely 5 diamonds and 5 clubs. West also knows that North had a void in hearts and therefore must have started with three spades. West also knows that declarer has a solitary trump left in hand and if West plays another heart then declarer will have to ruff but that will leave partner with ♠ A and a heart winner, irrespective of what spades declarer holds. Note also the false thinking that West may need to play a spade in case partner holds ♠ AJ and declarer has ♠ Qx. This is false because after declarer ruffs the heart return declarer will have to play spades from hand and partner will score ♠ AJ. **BUT**, returning a heart as opposed to a spade is essential if North holds ♠ QJ. Sadly (for the defense), both Wests returned ♠ 9 and now the respective declarers could no longer be stopped from making eleven tricks! **Sinner** status to **both Wests**. Note how a moment of serious thinking resolves this issue for West rather than making a hasty and fatal play.

**WARNING:** At one table declarer is credited with a result of 5 ♣+1 despite having lost a trick to West's ♠ K at trick 9 and West then continuing with a spade to North's ♠ J and East's ♠ A at which point (i.e. before a card was played from dummy) declarer mistakenly claimed 5 ♣+1. A defender accepted the erroneous claim and that became the result. Be careful re claims! If play to the tenth trick had been completed, declarer would not have been able to claim 5 ♣+1!

**Board 10**  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul

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



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



South Deals  
None Vul

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

## Saints & Sinners

At the two tables where 4 ♠ failed both Norths opened 1 NT and both Souths bid 2 ♥ (transfer to spades). Both Norths bid 2 ♠ and thereafter the bidding diverged. One South correctly rebid 3 NT which North converted to 4 ♠. At the other table, South incorrectly jumped to 4 ♠. Why incorrectly? Because North's 2 ♠ (2 ♥ was a transfer, i.e. North was commanded to bid 2 ♠) and the bid does not promise more than 2 spades as per the 1 NT opening! South got lucky when North turned up with three spades! **Sinner** status to the **South** who incorrectly jumped to 4 ♠.

### Board 11

South Deals  
None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At one table North declared 4 ♠ and East led ♥ 3 to West's ♥ J...and North ducked instead of winning with ♥ A and thereby leaving himself assured of a second heart trick! West returned a heart at trick two and declarer rose with ♥ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ K and continued with a spade to East's ♠ Q and dummy's ♠ A. Declarer now finessed ♦ J which lost to East's ♦ Q. East continued with ♥ K and declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠ 6, West overruffing with ♠ 8. This was careless by declarer who could have either drawn West's trump BEFORE finessing ♦ J... OR ruffed with ♠ J or ♠ 9 and then drawn West's ♠ 8! Declarer could not avoid a club loser and so finished one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At the second table where 4 ♠ failed East also led ♥ 3 to East's ♥ J. But this declarer correctly won with ♥ A, cashed ♠ K and continued with a spade to East's ♠ Q and dummy's ♠ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ J, East discarding ♥ 2. Declarer can now count 5 spades, 1 heart (♥ A), 2 diamonds, 1 club. And declarer has two finesses (♦ J and ♣ Q) each offering a 50% chance of success. **BUT**, declarer has a 100% option to produce a second heart trick (♥ 1084 opposite dummy's ♥ 9) by simply conceding two hearts to East's ♥ KQ5. The play is simple...lead ♥ 9. East will win and then must find a continuation. A diamond into declarer's ♦ KJ5 or a club allowing declarer to rise with dummy's ♣ Q...or declarer could simply continue with a heart. All roads lead to home. Note that even if West held ♣ K then declarer could win the club in hand with ♣ A and continue with ♥ 10 and either ruff if East covers or simply discard a losing club. **BUT**, after cashing ♠ J declarer finessed ♦ J which lost to East's ♦ Q. East now cashed ♥ K and continued with a club, declarer playing low from dummy and winning in hand with ♣ A as West produced ♣ J. Declarer, holding ♥ 108 in hand, and with ♥ Q as only higher heart still outstanding, led ♥ 8 and when East followed with ♥ 5 declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠ 6. Okay...not the end of the world. Declarer can still return to hand via ♦ K and lead a club towards dummy's ♣ Q7 for her tenth trick... **BUT**, declarer did return to hand with ♦ K and then...led ♥ 10!!! East covered with ♥ Q and declarer ruffed with dummy's last trump! Worse still, with ♦ A, ♣ Q7 in dummy declarer had to lead a club AWAY FROM HER ♣ Q7 and thus lost two club tricks to East and so finished one down. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who had several chances to make the contract and could have emerged with eleven tricks by scoring with ♣ Q, ♥ 10.

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

The records show that eight declarers emerged with exactly ten tricks in 4♠. Behind those records lie a multitude of Sins and Sinners, and no Saints although opportunities abounded!

At one table South declared 4♠ after opening 1♠ and rebidding 2♠ over North's 2♥ (wrong, as outlined earlier). West led ♦ 8 (correctly leading second highest from a suit of four small cards). Declarer finessed ♦ J, East covering with ♦ Q and declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer now guessed correctly in the trump suit by playing a spade to dummy's ♠ K and returning a spade to East's ♠ Q and declarer's ♠ A. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and pulled ♥ 4 from dummy, East rising with ♥ Q as West's ♥ J collided. East switched to ♣ 3, declarer's ♣ 6, West's ♣ J and dummy's ♣ A. Declarer immediately returned a club, East contributing ♣ 10 as declarer won with ♣ Q. At this point declarer can now score eleven tricks. All she needs to do is play a trump to dummy's ♠ 10, drawing West's ♠ 8 and then lead ♥ 10 (or ♥ 8) and, whether East covers or not, discard the losing club from hand. Declarer can then re-enter dummy with DK and discard the losing diamond on dummy's remaining heart. Declarer ultimately loses two heart tricks and nothing else! **BUT**, after winning with ♣ Q, declarer entered dummy via ♦ K and led ♥ 8. East played low and declarer had to ruff with ♠ 9 (otherwise West would ruff with ♠ 8!). Declarer now exited on her third diamond, East winning with ♦ 10. East cashed ♣ K and then led ♥ K...What saved declarer's bacon was the fact that dummy held ♠ 10 and West held ♠ 8. Swap those cards and East's play of ♥ K at trick twelve would have seen West score a trick with ♠ 10 in a play known as a *trump promotion*. If South ruffed ♥ K with ♠ 6 then West would overruff with ♠ 10. And if South ruffed ♥ K with ♠ J then West's ♠ 10 would take the last trick. West ruffed ♥ K with ♠ J and then played ♠ 6 to dummy's ♠ 10, drawing West's ♠ 8 in the process! Very careless play by declarer who should have drawn West's ♠ 8 earlier in the play of the hand and could also have made better use of dummy's hearts to score an eleventh trick. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At three tables East overcalled 1♥ after North opened 1♣. At each of these tables West led ♥ J which, combined with East's overcall, placed declarer in an excellent position to manufacture a second heart trick! But the three declarers failed to take advantage of the situation as can be seen in the details outlined following pages...

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At one table West led ♥ J in response to partner's overcall, declarer rising with ♥ A. Declarer cashed ♠ K, played a spade to her ♠ A and played a third spade to dummy's ♠ 10. Declarer now has a simple line of playing a heart to ♥ 9 to put East on lead after winning with ♥ Q which leaves the defender in an awkward situation. He cannot make any return, even a heart, without conceding a trick to declarer. If East plays a small heart, declarer can discard a diamond from hand...whereas if East plays ♥ K declarer ruffs and subsequently discards a losing diamond on dummy's master heart. On a club return declarer rises with ♣ Q and then plays a diamond to dummy's ♦ K and leads ♥ 10 (or ♥ 8), discarding a diamond if East doesn't cover, otherwise ruffing if East does cover. Declarer then plays a club to dummy's ♣ A and discard the losing diamond on the master heart. A club towards ♣ Q7 will result in eleven tricks with declarer losing only a heart and a club...**BUT**, after cashing S ♠ 10 declarer now played a diamond to her ♦ A and then finessed ♦ J which lost to East's ♦ Q. East cashed ♥ K and then exited on ♦ 10. Declarer could not avoid losing a trick to East's ♣ K and so ended up with the bare ten tricks! Opportunity not seized! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At another table East also overcalled 1 ♥ (and then incorrectly rebid 2 ♥ at next opportunity ... **Sinner** status to **East**) and West duly led ♥ J against South's 4 ♠. Declarer rose with ♥ A and then played a diamond to her ♦ A (why?), cashed ♠ A and led ♠ J, rising with dummy's ♠ K and surely felt good when East's ♠ Q fell. Declarer cashed dummy's ♠ 10, East discarding H♥ 2. This declarer then found the good play of leading a heart towards her stiff ♥ 9, East rising with ♥ Q and finding herself end-played. East exited on ♣ 3 and declarer again played well by rising with her ♣ Q. At this point declarer holds ♠ 96, ♦ 76, ♣ 76 while dummy holds ♥ 108, ♦ KJ, ♣ A9. East holds ♥ K5, ♦ Q10, ♣ K10. Declarer has only lost one trick. Declarer can simply play a club to dummy's ♣ A, lead ♥ 10 and ruff if East covers with ♥ K, otherwise discard her last club. One way or another declarer will win five of the last six tricks! **BUT**, declarer finessed ♦ J, East winning with ♦ Q. East exited on ♥ 5 and declarer failed to grasp the opportunity by discarding a club and instead ruffed with ♠ 6. Declarer could no longer avoid losing a club and so ended with just ten tricks. Declarer made some good plays but failed at the key moment. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who turned eleven tricks into ten!


South Deals  
None Vul

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

At a third table West also led ♥ J in response to partner's 1 ♥ overcall and declarer rose with ♥ A, cashed ♠ K and continued with a spade to East's ♠ Q and declarer's ♠ A. Declarer then cashed ♠ J and continued with a club to dummy's ♣ A and returned a club towards his hand, East rising with ♣ K. East then cashed ♥ K and exited on ♣ 10, declarer winning in hand with ♣ Q. Unfortunately declarer, with only one guaranteed entry available...DK, was no longer in a position to access dummy and lead a heart and then re-enter dummy to cash the remaining heart winner! Declarer was forced to finesse ♦ J which lost to East's ♦ Q, and duly ended up with a mere ten tricks. Declarer should have played his second heart after cashing ♠ J instead of playing on clubs. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At two other tables West found the lead of ♥ J after South opened 1 ♠ and duly declared 4 ♠. Both declarers rose with dummy's ♥ A and with ♥ 10 in dummy must surely have been aware that West's lead was from a short suit! Despite this, both declarers played a heart at trick two, one East rising with ♥ Q while the other played ♥ K, as both West's contributed ♥ 6 confirming an original doubleton! Play diverged somewhat after that... At one table East continued with ♥ 2 and declarer ruffed with ♠ 9 as West discarded ♣ 2. Declarer next played a spade to dummy's ♠ K and continued with a spade to East's ♠ Q and declarer's ♠ A. Declarer played a third spade to dummy's ♠ 10 and then cashed ♦ A and finessed ♦ J. East won with ♦ Q and played ♥ K, declarer ruffing in hand with his last trump! Declarer now played a diamond to dummy's ♦ K and then led a small club towards his hand. East rose with ♣ K and could have cashed a winning heart to defeat the contract ...except that she had discarded her long heart on the third round of spades!!! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for a poorly played hand, in particular for not recognising the trick-taking potential of dummy's hearts after West's lead of ♥ J. **BUT**, trumps should be drawn first! Sympathy for East's heart discard. The defender surely could not have foreseen that declarer would play in such a manner as to present East with an opportunity to defeat the contract with a long heart!

South Deals  
None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

## Saints & Sinners

At the second table East won the second heart with ♥ K and continued with ♥ Q (wrong...should continue with a small heart forcing declarer to ruff with ♠ J or ♠ 9 or else West will ruff with ♠ 8). Declarer did ruff with ♠ 3 and West overruffed with ♠ 4! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and to **East**. Declarer actually ruffed with ♠ 3 and West overruffed with ♠ 4. Note that North's ♥ 10 is now a winner (which is why East should have continued with a small heart and not ♥ Q!). West switched to ♦ 3 (wrong...should switch to ♦ 8...playing ♦ 3 suggests that West holds a diamond honour!), declarer playing ♦ J from dummy as East covered with ♦ Q and declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ AK, felling East's ♠ Q, and duly discarded his losing diamond from hand on dummy's established ♥ 10. Declarer subsequently lost a trick to East's ♣ K. Note that at this table East would have given declarer a serious problem by playing a small heart at trick three instead of ♥ Q. If declarer ruffed with ♠ 3 and West overruffed with ♠ 4 then declarer would not be able to avoid losing a diamond and a club and so would finish one down! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for embarking on a potentially dangerous line of play by playing a heart at trick two. **Sinner** status also to **East** for playing ♥ Q at trick three instead of a small heart which would have defeated the contract.

At another table South declared 4 ♠ after opening 1 ♠ and hearing partner respond 2 ♥ (wrong...this promises 5+ hearts). Despite the bidding West led ♥ J and declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer cashed three rounds of spades, ending in hand, and then led ♥ 9, effectively end-playing East who won with ♥ K. East exited on ♣ 3, declarer winning with dummy's ♣ A. Declarer next led dummy's ♥ 8, East covering with ♥ Q as declarer ruffed with ♠ 6. Declarer can now emerge with eleven tricks by returning to dummy with ♦ A and cashing ♥ 10, discarding the losing diamond from hand and then leading a club to her ♣ Q. **BUT**, declarer next cashed ♠ 9, his last trump and then played a diamond to dummy's ♦ K and led the winning ♥ 10 and mistakenly discarded ♣ 7 from hand instead of ♦ 7. All players were now reduced to three cards as follows: Dummy held ♦ J5, ♣ 9 while declarer held ♦ A7, C ♣ Q. East held ♦ Q10, ♣ K. West's hand is irrelevant. Playing MPs declarer might consider going for the endplay by leading ♣ 9, forcing East to win with ♣ K but then having to lead away from ♦ Q10 so that declarer can score the last two tricks! **BUT**, playing IMPs this is a complete no-no and declarer simply cashed ♦ A via a '*Chinese finesse*' (leading ♦ J without ♦ 10 in either hand) to land ten tricks! Declarer could have made 11 tricks by rising with ♣ Q when East switched to ♣ 3

### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At nine other tables N/S contracted 3 NT with North as declarer. At four tables North emerged with eleven tricks whereas four other declarers scored ten tricks. And one declarer scored a mere nine tricks! At this latter table North opened 1 ♣, East overcalled 1 ♥ and South bid 1 ♠. North re-bid 1 NT and South raised to 3 NT. East led ♥ 3, to West's ♥ J as declarer won with ♥ A. Declarer now cashed S♠ K and continued with ♠ 10 to East's ♠ Q and dummy's ♠ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ J and then played two more winning spades discarding ♦ 5, ♣ 5 from hand as West discarded ♣ 3, ♥ 2, ♥ 5. Declarer now has an easy play of leading ♥ 9, losing to East's ♥ Q, and leaving East on lead! **BUT**, declarer continued by finessing ♦ J, East winning with ♦ Q. East now cashed ♥ KQ and then exited on a diamond. At this point declarer held ♥ 10, ♦ K, ♣ A9 while dummy held ♦ A7, ♣ Q7. Yes, declarer has four tricks but cannot unravel them!!! Declarer had to lose a fourth trick to East's ♣ K. If declarer had exited on ♥ 9 instead of finessing ♦ J she would have emerged with ten tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

At four other tables North emerged with ten tricks resulting from different plays by declarer and defenders! At one table North declared 3 NT on the lead of ♥ 3 after East had overcalled 1 ♥. Declarer beat West's ♥ J with ♥ A and then led ♠ 10, East covering with ♠ Q as declarer won with dummy's ♠ A. Declarer cashed two more rounds of spades ending in dummy with ♠ J as East discarded ♥ 2 on the third round of spades. Declarer now cashed ♠ 9, discarding ♣ 5 from hand as East discarded ♥ 5. Declarer now led ♥ 9, East winning perforce with ♥ Q. East refrained from cashing ♥ K and switched to ♣ 10, declarer guessing right to rise with dummy's ♣ Q. This was now the position: Declarer holds ♥ 108, ♦ KJ5, ♣ A while dummy holds: ♠ 6, ♦ A76, ♣ 76 and East holds ♥ K, ♦ Q102, ♣ K3. Declarer has a very simple line to make five of the last six tricks! Play a diamond to declarer's ♦ K and then lead a heart, East winning perforce with ♥ K but North's last heart is now established as a winner. Declarer wins any return and carefully cashes ♠ 6, ♥ 10, ♦ A, ♣ A for eleven tricks! **BUT**, declarer cashed dummy's ♠ 6, fatally discarding ♥ 8 from hand, and then finessed ♦ J losing to East's ♦ Q. East cashed ♥ K for a third defensive trick, leaving declarer with ten tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.



### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At another table North declared 3 NT after East overcalled 1 ♥. East led ♥ 3 to West's ♥ J, North following with ♥ 4. West continued with ♥ 6 and declarer played ♥ 8, East winning with ♦ Q. E/W are now ahead of the posse...they have already scored two heart tricks and East is now holding ♥ K52 over declarer's ♥ A10. Declarer could have ensured two heart tricks by winning the first trick with ♥ A. **BUT** now East threw the gift back at declarer when she continued with ♥ K into declarer's ♥ A10. **Sinner** status to **East** who should have known that declarer held ♥ A10! How so? Because at trick one West played ♥ J which denies ♥ 10. Secondly, West played ♥ 6 at trick two... with an original holding of ♥ J106 West might have played ♥ J at trick one (but shouldn't) but with a remaining holding of ♥ 106 West will surely play ♥ 10. So, when West returns ♥ 6 East knows that declarer holds ♥ 10...as well as ♥ A. Declarer could not avoid losing a club trick and so was restricted to ten tricks!

The play to the first three tricks was repeated at two other tables where West's ♥ J won the first trick and declarer also ducked the second heart to East who then handed the trick back by playing a third heart into declarer's ♥ A10. **Sinner** status to **both Easts**.

Four declarers emerged with eleven tricks through a combination of good declare play and less than sterling defense! Could declarer score THREE heart tricks with ♥ A1084 v ♥ 97? They shouldn't be given the opportunity...but at one table they were...but declarer didn't accept the gift! What happened? At this table North opened 1 ♣ and East, holding only two spades, made an inappropriate Takeout Double. East should simply have overcalled 1 ♥. South bid 1 ♠ and North eventually declared 3 NT. East erred by leading ♥ K (should have ♥ KQJx(x) or ♥ KQ10x(x) to lead ♥ K) which was ducked all round. East, who should have switched to a small heart at trick two, continued with ♥ Q, swallowing partner's ♥ J and declarer should have won with ♥ A, leaving her ♥ 108 as winners! **BUT**, declarer had a blank and ducked the second heart and suddenly three heart winners were reduced to two! Declarer played the spades suit to best effect and ended up with eleven tricks when declarer cashed ♥ A at trick 12 and East, holding ♦ Q, ♣ K and looking at dummy with ♣ Q7, had to discard. East chose wrong and declarer scored the last trick with ♦ J! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for ducking the second heart and to **East** for poor bidding and defense!



### Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East also overcalled 1 ♥ and duly led ♥ 3 against North's 3 NT. Declarer beat West's ♥ J with ♥ A and then cashed ♠ K and four more spades while discarding ♣ 95 from hand as East discarded ♥ 52, ♣ 10. [Note: Given East's overcall I would be more inclined to play East for ♣ K and would not have discarded ♣ 95 from my hand. Also, I would not have cashed ♠ 96 at that point in the play because of the pressure it puts on me (North) in terms of discards. Just because you have winners doesn't mean that you have to cash them straight away!!!] Declarer next led ♥ 9, East winning with ♥ Q. East then fatally returned ♦ 2, declarer winning in hand with ♦ J. Declarer continued with ♥ 10 from hand, East winning perforce with ♥ K. East, not at their best in defending this hand, now compounded matters by exiting on ♣ K, declarer winning with her stiff ♣ A. [Note: North's 1 NT rebid showed a strong hand and West, who as soon as dummy hit the table, is known to have little more than two jacks, simply cannot have ♣ A!] But East's play of ♣ K didn't alter the outcome because declarer was winning the last four tricks anyway with ♥ 8, ♦ AK, ♣ A. **BUT**, when declarer discarded ♣ 95 on dummy's long spades and reduced herself to a singleton ♣ A she could have found herself restricted to NINE tricks if East exited on a small club, instead of ♦ 2, after winning with ♥ Q. Now declarer will not get the benefit of a soft trick with ♦ J and can no longer manufacture a second club by leading a small club towards dummy's ♣ Q76. **Declarer** might have emerged with eleven tricks but earns **Sinner** status for her play. **Sinner** status also to **East** who should have realised at trick one that partner held at most two jacks...and one of them was played at trick one!

At another table East also led ♥ 3 after overcalling 1 ♥, West's ♥ J won the trick and West continued with ♥ 6, declarer ducking again as East won with ♥ Q. Now ahead of the posse, East returned the favour to declarer by continuing with ♥ K...Declarer guessed the spade suit correctly and cashed the five tricks in the suit, discarding ♣ 95 from hand as East fatally discarded ♦ 102 as well as ♣ 3. Declarer now cashed ♦ A, felling East's ♦ Q and leaving North's hand 'high' with ♥ 10, ♦ KJ, ♣ A. East could have saved a trick by discarding her two small hearts (she would need TWO entries to have any chance of scoring her fifth heart!) instead of discarding ♦ 102.

### Board 11

South Deals  
None Vul

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

N 5N; NS 5♠; S 4N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +460: N 3N+2

### Saints & Sinners

At the fourth table where declarer emerged with eleven tricks in 3 NT, East, despite overcalling 1 ♥, fatally led ♦ 2, declarer winning in hand with ♦ J. Declarer correctly guessed to play the spade suit for no loser and discarded ♥ 84 from hand on dummy's long spades. Declarer then played a diamond to her ♦ K and then led a club towards dummy's ♣ Q76. East rose with ♣ K and declarer then claimed the remaining tricks. A rewarding outcome for N/S due in part to an unfortunate lead by East, coupled with sensible play by declarer, **Irene Fitzpatrick**, who earns **Saintly** status.

### Making eleven tricks in NT with North as declarer without any help from the defense!

Keen observers will have noted that the list of Makeable Contracts indicates that North can always make eleven tricks in 5 NT whereas South can be held to ten tricks! The play, with North as declarer, is interesting. Assume a heart lead (best for the defense) declarer wins with ♥ A and continues with a small heart to dummy's ♥ 9. East probably does best to win, cash his other heart honour and exits on a heart, declarer discarding ♦ 6, ♣ 6 from dummy. [Note that exiting on a club or diamond gives declarer a soft trick in that suit.] Declarer now plays the spade suit the right way and discards ♣ 95 from hand. Declarer now plays a club to ♣ A and then plays the master heart ♥ 10. At this point declarer holds ♦ KJ5 while dummy holds ♦ A7, ♣ Q. East, who has to discard on ♥ 10 from a holding of ♦ Q102, ♣ K, is SQUEEZED.

Note that local **CBAI Grand Master, Rory Timlin**, is starting a new series of articles devoted to 'Squeeze Play' in the upcoming edition of the **Irish Bridge Journal**. Strongly recommended to all enthusiasts of the game.

## N-S Vul

S 3♥; S 4♣; N 2♥; N 3♣; S 1N; S 2♦; EW 1♠; N 1♦;  
Par +140: S 3♥=

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

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



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

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

4 ♠ by West can be defeated...a trump lead from North. 4 ♠ by East cannot be defeated because South cannot lead a trump without sacrificing his trump trick! In 4 ♠ declarer should NOT play on trumps but rather establish club ruffs by leading a club towards his hand and then rejecting the spade finesse and ruff two clubs in dummy. N/S have a good sacrifice in 5 ♥...if they can bid it!

### Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 1 ♠, South Passed and West jumped to 4 ♠ which was followed by two Passes to South who emerged with the highly unusual bid of 5 ♦. West had no problem Doubling this contract and declarer finished FIVE down which cost N/S -1100 and the loss of a hefty 13.37 Imps. **Sinner** status to **South**.

At two tables East opened 2 ♠ (Weak) and North subsequently contracted 4 ♥. At both tables declarer led a trump from dummy and won with ♥ K (or ♥ Q) and then led the other heart honour, hoping for a 2-2 break, and duly lost two heart tricks to West. Both declarers finished two down.

At a third table South declared 4 ♥ on the highly unusual lead of ♠ 7 from an original holding of ♠ QJ7! East won with ♠ A and switched to ♦ Q, declarer winning with ♦ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ K and continued by finessing ♣ 10 to East's ♣ K. East now made the fatal play of a third spade, declarer ruffing in hand while discarding her losing diamond from dummy. Even though declarer lost two trumps tricks to West she still emerged with nine tricks for one down. **Sinner** status to **East** for giving declarer a ruff and discard.

A spade contract by E/W was declared at the other sixteen tables. At five of these tables East opened a Weak 2 ♠ (or used a multi 2 ♦ or similar bid) and E/W subsequently contracted a spade partscore with three declarers scoring ten tricks while the other two emerged with nine tricks! Perhaps it is difficult for West to envisage game with his 11 hcp but West's shape is good!

At the remaining eleven tables E/W reached 4 ♠ with varying outcomes! Most Easts opened 1 ♠ or 2 ♠. **One East** Passed (**Sinner** status) but subsequently reached 4 ♠ after West opened 1 ♦.

### Board 14

East Deals  
None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 2♠ (Weak) and West jumped to 4♠. South led ♣ 10, North rising with ♣ A and switching to ♠ 3...and declarer erred by playing ♠ 4 from hand. Erred! Why so? Because declarer had taken her eye off the ball! South won with ♠ K and returned a spade declarer winning with dummy's ♠ J. It now required a defensive error to make the contract! Declarer played a diamond to her singleton ♦ Q, South winning with ♦ A. South continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A. Declarer now cashed ♦ K, discarding a club from hand and then led ♦ 10, ruffing in hand with ♠ 8. Declarer now cashed ♣ K, South following with ♣ 2, and continued with ♣ 7, ruffing with dummy's ♠ Q as South played ♣ 9. Declarer, who could now ruff either a heart or a diamond in hand, chose the right suit to lead when she ruffed another diamond rather than a heart!!! Declarer now cashed ♠ A and then, at trick twelve, led ♠ 10. North now holding ♥ K, ♣ Q was forced to discard and chose the wrong one when he discarded ♣ Q leaving declarer's ♣ 6 to score the crucial last trick!

Okay...several interesting things about the play of this hand.

1) declarer erred when he followed with a low spade at trick two. Why? Because when North switched to a trump at trick two declarer should rise with ♠ A and secure two club ruffs in dummy (returning to hand each time via heart ruffs). After winning with ♠ A, declarer can cash ♣ K, ruff a club, cash ♥ A and ruff a heart, ruff another club and then return to hand via second heart ruff. Declarer then plays a trump, drawing the two outstanding trumps. And declarer's fifth club becomes the vital tenth trick.

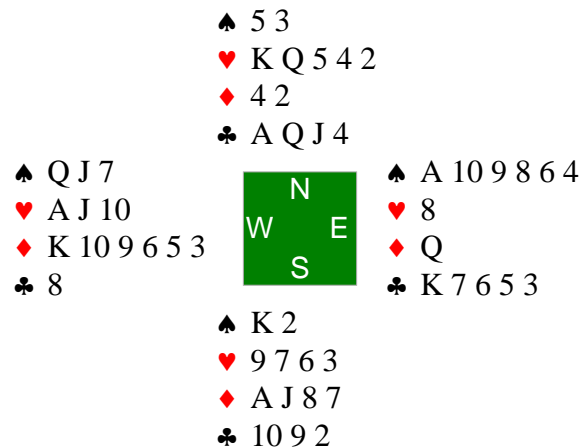
2) as the play transpired towards the end of the hand declarer had a choice of red suits to lead from dummy either of which she could ruff in her hand. Why was it vital that she ruff a diamond and not a heart? Because if she ruffed a heart then North would know with certainty that he could safely discard ♥ K at trick twelve and retain ♣ Q. By ruffing the diamond declarer left a doubt in North's minds as to the identity of declarer's only unknown card...was it a heart or ♣ 6? North can already identify declarer as having started with 6 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 4 clubs...but what is the thirteenth card?

3) North should probably have guessed that East's last card was a club because South followed to the third club trick with ♣ 9. If South held the ♣ 6 he would have played it instead of ♣ 9.

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul



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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table South also led ♣ 10 against East's 4 ♠ (East opened a Weak 2 ♠ and West jumped to 4 ♠). North won with ♣ A and switched to a trump, declarer rising with ♠ A. Declarer can now ruff two clubs in dummy and will emerge with a well earned ten tricks...**BUT**, at trick three declarer played ♠ 4 from hand. Declarer got extremely lucky that South hadn't started with ♠ Kxx in which case South could win with ♠ K and play a third spade and now declarer would get NO club ruffs in dummy. **BUT**, South won the second spade and fortunately, for declarer, didn't have a third one! South continued with ♣ 9 and North erred by playing ♣ J (obviously forgetting that South had led C10 at trick one!). Declarer won with ♣ K and led ♣ 5, ruffing with dummy's ♠ Q as North followed with ♣ 4. Declarer now led a diamond to her ♦ Q and South's ♦ A. South now played a heart to dummy's ♥ A. Declarer next ruffed another diamond with ♠ 8. Declarer now cashed ♠ 10 and ♠ 9 reducing everyone to two cards. North now held ♥ K, ♣ Q. When declarer now played ♠ 6 North had reached the same point as described on the previous page and this North also got it wrong when she discarded ♣ Q leaving declarer's ♣ 6 to win the last trick. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for playing a second trump at trick three instead of ruffing two clubs in dummy! And **Sinner** status also to **North** who should have noted the play of South's clubs!

At another table East opened 1 ♠, West bid 2 ♦, North bid 2 ♥, East bid 2 ♠, South bid 3 ♥ and West closed the auction by jumping to 4 ♠. South led ♥ 7 (correct lead from a holding of ♥ 9763) and declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer correctly continued by playing dummy's ♣ 8, North rising with ♣ A. North, who might have given declarer food for thought by switching to a trump actually tried to cash ♥ K, declarer ruffing with ♠ 4. Declarer made no mistake when he next ruffed a club in dummy, returned to hand with another heart ruff and then ruffed another club with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer now led ♠ Q and finessed when North followed with ♠ 3. South won with ♠ K but declarer conceded a diamond and scored the rest. [Note: Finessing ♠ Q might have caused a problem if South holds a fourth club because then South can win with ♠ K and give partner a club ruff! Conversely, rising with ♠ A could be a problem if North holds ♠ Kxx and can put partner on lead via ♦ A for a club ruff. Note also that if playing MPs rather than IMPs, declarer could be right to take chance finessing ♠ Q hoping North holds ♠ Kx.] **Saintly** status to declarer, **Sean Glynn**, for pursuing the right line of play by ruffing clubs in dummy.

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table South found the highly unorthodox lead of ♦ J! Declarer won in hand with her singleton ♦ Q and then cashed ♠ A and played another spade to South's ♠ K getting a share of luck when North also followed suit! South now switched to a club, North rising with ♣ A. North continued with ♦ 4 and declarer could have easily made the contract by discarding a club, South winning with DA. But declarer now has TWO entries to dummy (♥ A and ♠ Q) to establish dummy's diamonds. **BUT**, declarer ruffed in hand with ♠ 8 and then played a heart to dummy's ♥ A and led ♦ 10 from dummy, discarding a club from hand. South won with ♦ A and should have been rueing her opening lead of ♦ J. South continued with ♥ 6, declarer ruffing in hand. Declarer cashed ♣ K, discarding a heart from dummy and then ruffed a club with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer now cashed dummy's ♦ K and discarded her last club from hand and then claimed the last two tricks with ♠ 109. A lucky make after a very poor opening lead from South. **Sinner** status to **declarer** for not seizing the guaranteed option when North returned a diamond and **also to South** for a very poor choice of opening lead.

At another table East opened 1S and West raised to 4S. South led H9, declarer rising with dummy's HA. Declarer then finessed SQ, losing to South's SK. South now cashed DA, effectively killing the defensive effort. South now switched to C10, North rising with CA. North tried to cash HK, declarer ruffing with S6. Declarer now played C5 from hand, ruffing with dummy's S7. Declarer now cashed DK, discarding C6 from hand. Declarer then ruffed a diamond in hand with S8, ruffed C7 with dummy's SQ and then ruffed a diamond in hand with S9. Declarer then cashed SA10, CK to land ten tricks. **Sinner** status to **North** and **South**, either of whom could have played a second trump which would have killed the contract. Declarer did not play the hand to best effect and put the contract in jeopardy by finessing SQ. Declarer should have played a club to her hand at trick two and could have assured the contract by ruffing two clubs in dummy. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.



### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 2♠, West bid 3♠ and East, with a super 6-5 shape in the black suits, bid 4♠. The play at this table was extremely interesting as it swings from a point where declarer can emerge with eleven tricks to a point where she might have been restricted to nine tricks and ultimately finished with declarer scoring ten tricks!

**Part 1.** South led ♦ 7 (**Note:** It is not recommended to lead AWAY from an ace when defending a suit contract). Declarer won with her singleton ♦ Q and is now well ahead of the posse. In fact the defense can no longer beat the contract! Indeed declarer can actually score ELEVEN tricks in total losing only to South's ♠ K and North's ♣ A! Declarer can play a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then lead a club towards h ♣ K7653. The position of ♣ A will mean that declarer will score a trick with her ♣ K and will also be able to ruff two clubs in dummy. 11 tricks!

**Part 2.** Declarer DID play a heart to dummy's ♥ A **BUT**, then finessed ♠ Q, losing to South's ♠ K. A heart return by South sees declarer ruff in hand and then have to lead a club FROM HAND, South winning and returning a trump. Declarer can now ruff one club in dummy but then must lose two more tricks to North's ♣ AQ. Note that if South plays a spade after winning with ♠ K then declarer can win in dummy and lead a club towards her hand and will thus score ♣ K and a club ruff in dummy and although she will lose two clubs to North she will emerge with 5 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 1 club, 1 club ruff AND 1 long club! **BUT**, after winning with ♠ K, South actually played a heart, declarer ruffing North's ♥ Q. Declarer now made the unusual play of leading ♣ K from hand, North winning with ♣ A. North can now beat the contract by playing a trump thus restricting declarer to one club ruff and ensuring the loss of three clubs. 9 tricks!

**Part 3. BUT**, North failed to find the trump continuation which would have killed the contract and instead made the fatal play of ♦ 2. Declarer seized the lifeline and discarded ♣ 3 from hand as South won with ♦ A. With two trumps still in dummy declarer could not be prevented from establishing dummy's diamonds. Ten tricks.

**Sinner** status to **declarer, South and North**. who all had opportunities to produce a different outcome.

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At one table East opened 1 ♠, West bid 2 ♦, North overcalled 2 ♥, East bid 3 ♣, South bid 3 ♥ and West closed the auction with 4 ♠. South mis-represented her heart holding by leading ♥ 3 suggesting that she held an honour! Declarer won with dummy's ♥ A and played a diamond to ♦ Q in hand, South winning with ♦ A. South continued with ♦ 7 and declarer should have played ♦ 10 (or ♦ 9) from dummy but actually rose with ♦ K. Declarer now played a third diamond ruffing in hand with ♠ 4 as North discarded ♥ 4. Declarer now led ♣ 5, South rising with ♣ 9. South continued with ♥ 6, declarer ruffing North's ♥ Q with ♠ 6. Declarer now ruffed a club with dummy's ♠ 7. Declarer continued with a diamond, ruffing with ♦ 8 as South's ♦ J fell. Declarer led another club and ruffed with dummy's ♠ J. At this point in the play declarer holds ♠ A109, ♣ K while dummy holds ♠ Q, ♥ J, ♦ 96. Declarer led a diamond from dummy and North ruffed with ♠ 3, declarer overruffing with ♠ 9 as South overruffed with ♠ K. **IF** South had started with ♠ K52 then South can continue with a spade drawing dummy's ♠ Q and a spade from declarer, either ♠ A or ♠ 10 and now declarer would be in trouble. If declarer wins with ♠ A and cashes ♠ 10 to draw South's last trump then declarer loses the last trick to North's ♣ A. And if declarer lets ♠ Q win then South, with ♠ 52, will score a trump. The simple, guaranteed, solution is to ruff the diamond with ♠ A and then lead ♣ K and ruff with ♠ Q, Declarer's ♠ 109 will produce another trick, the tenth one.

At the eighth table East opened 2 ♠ (Weak) and West jumped to 4 ♠. South led ♥ 3 (Wrong: this suggests that South holds an honour. Second highest from four small cards is the standard lead from this holding). Declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A and started out on the right trick when she immediately led ♣ 8, North rising with ♣ A. North now tried to cash ♥ K which declarer ruffed with ♠ 4. Declarer then ruffed a club in dummy with ♠ 7 and returned to hand via a heart ruff and proceeded to ruff another club with dummy's ♠ J. Declarer now played a diamond to her ♦ Q, South winning with ♦ A. South continued with ♦ 7, dummy's ♦ K winning as declarer discarded ♣ 7 from hand. Declarer led another diamond from dummy and North ruffed with ♠ 3 as declarer overruffed with ♠ 8. Declarer now led ♣ K and ruffed with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer duly lost a trump to South's ♠ K but emerged with ten tricks. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Marian Walsh** for a safely played hand.

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

And then there were the real **Sinners**...several of them!

At one table East Passed and West opened 1 ♦, North overcalled 1 ♥ and East bid 1 ♠. South bid 2 ♥, West bid 2 ♠, North tried 3 ♥ and East jumped to 4 ♠. South led ♣ 10, North rising with ♣ A. North now switched to ♠ 5, East playing low and South winning with ♠ K. South now cashed ♦ A and continued with ♠ 2. Declarer won the trick with dummy's ♠ J and should have taken a moment to think before making her next play! The contract is now assured as long as diamonds break no worse than 4-2. **BUT**, declarer took off on her own route when she cashed ♥ A and with that play out the window went her contract unless a mis-defense saved her bacon! Declarer next led ♦ K and for some strange reason ruffed it with ♠ 8! Declarer now cashed ♣ K and then ruffed a club with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer next ruffed another diamond but could not avoid losing a trick to North's ♣ Q and so finished one down.

**How the contract should have made:** When declarer won the second trump with dummy's ♠ J all declarer needed to do was cash ♦ K and when both opponents followed the contract was assured. Declarer then ruffs a diamond in hand, ruffs a club in dummy with ♠ Q and ruffs another diamond in hand, South's ♦ J falling. Declarer now plays a heart to dummy's ♥ A and cashes two long diamonds discarding the losing clubs from her hand. Ten tricks made.

**Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have seized the opportunity to make the contract after South cashed ♦ A. **Sinner** status to **South** who prematurely cashed ♦ A which made it possible for declarer to make ten tricks. Playing the second spade, without first cashing ♦ A, defeats the contract.

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East opened 1 ♠, West bid 2 ♦, North overcalled with 2 ♥, East bid 2 ♠, South bid 3 ♥ and West jumped to 4 ♠. South led ♥ 9, declarer rising with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer, with little thought as to where ten tricks would come from, led ♠ Q and finessed to South's ♠ K. South could have killed the contract by playing a second spade but instead continued with a heart to North's ♥ Q which declarer ruffed with ♠ 6. Declarer cashed ♠ A and then played ♦ Q, South winning with ♦ A. South played another heart, declarer ruffing with ♠ 8 and then led a small club South rising with ♣ 10 thereby giving the defense their third trick. This was the position at this point in the play: Dummy held ♠ J, ♦ K10965 while declarer held ♠ 109, ♣ K765. South held ♥ 7, ♦ J87, ♣ 92 while North held ♥ 54, ♦ 2, ♣ AQJ. While I don't normally advocate giving declarer a rough and discard there are times when it is the best play! Look what happens if South leads another heart. Declarer can ruff in dummy with ♠ Q while discarding a club from hand, **BUT**, what does declarer do next? Yes declarer can cash ♦ K, discarding a losing club from hand but then declarer will either lose either 2 clubs or 1 heart and 1 club, or 1 diamond and 1 club. In other words declarer will finish TWO down. **BUT**, South, after winning with ♣ 10, continued with another club and declarer erred by ruffing in dummy with ♠ Q instead of letting it round to her hand where North would rise with ♣ A. Declarer would then be able to win any return in hand and cash ♣ K and then ruff a club in dummy, establishing declarer's long club as a winner and so finish just one down. **BUT**, after declarer ruffed the club with dummy's ♠ Q she subsequently had to concede two clubs to North and so finished TWO down. Sinner status to **declarer** who seemed not to have prepared a plan as to how she could make ten tricks. **Saintly** status to **both defenders, Ann Killeen & Michele Heaslip**, who embarked on a forcing defense albeit that South should probably have continued with a second spade after winning with ♠ K.

**Observation:** Several declarers embarked on the play of this hand by drawing trumps without giving serious thought as to how they might reasonably accumulate ten tricks. The trump finesse looked too inviting to several declarers and that was the rock on which they perished! Even if the trump finesse works, where are declarer's ten tricks coming from?

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

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

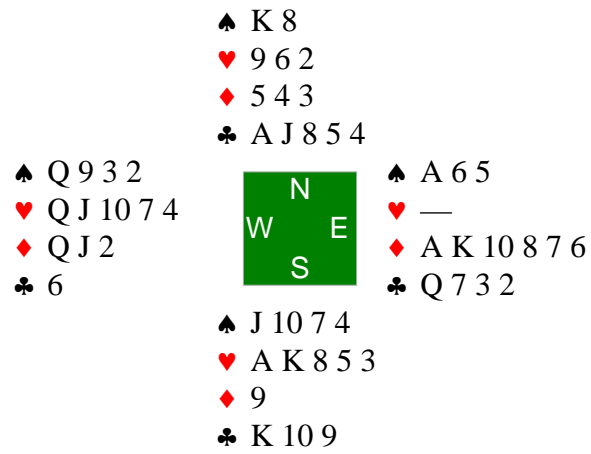
E 4♠; W 3♠; N 3♥; S 2♥; W 1N; EW 1♦; NS 1♣;  
Par -300: N 5♥×-2

### Saints & Sinners

At the last table East declared 4 ♠x.

East opened 2 ♠ (Weak) and North overcalled 3 ♥ after West Passed. South raised to 4 ♥ and West now came to life with 4 ♠ which South Doubled. South led ♥ 7 (correct from ♥ 9763) and declarer rose with dummy's ♥ A. Declarer next finessed ♠ Q to South's ♠ K. South continued with a heart declarer ruffing in hand with ♠ 6. Declarer now played ♦ Q, South winning with ♦ A as North followed with ♦ 4. South could have killed the contract by playing a second spade **BUT**, perhaps hopeful that North had started with a singleton diamond, South returned ♦ 7 instead thus handing declarer the contract on a plate!!! All declarer needs to do is play ♦ 10 (or ♦ 9), ruffing in hand if North produces ♦ J, otherwise discarding a club. Declarer can then SAFELY ruff a diamond in hand thereby leaving dummy's ♦ K106 as winners. Declarer can then play a trump to dummy's ♠ J, drawing the defenders outstanding trumps, and cash ♦ K106, discarding three clubs from hand. Declarer then concedes a club to N/S and subsequently ruffs her last club with dummy's ♠ J. **BUT**, declarer rose with dummy's ♦ K, discarding a club from hand. Declarer now ruffed a diamond in hand with ♠ 8. Declarer now led ♣ K from hand and was still on course for ten tricks as North won with ♣ A and played his second spade. This was the position as that point: Dummy held ♠ J7, ♥ J, ♦ 965 while declarer held ♠ A109, ♣ 765. North held ♠ 5, ♥ K5, ♣ QJ4 and South held ♠ 2, ♥ 97, ♦ J, ♣ 109. So, at this point North leads ♠ 5... All declarer needs to do is win with dummy's ♠ J, ruff a diamond with ♠ 10 and then ruff a club with ♠ 7 and cash ♦ 96, discarding the remaining two clubs in declarer's hand! Ten tricks made and N/S will register a score of +590....**BUT**, declarer played ♠ 9 from hand and followed with ♠ 7 from dummy instead of overtaking with ♠ J, and in that instant the chance to make the contract evaporated! Declarer now ruffed a club with dummy's ♠ J but subsequently lost two clubs to the defense for TWO DOWN! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and a score of -300, a swing of 890, and the loss of -10.47 IMPs.

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



EW 4♦; EW 2♠; N 2♥; EW 1N; NS 2♣; S 1♥; Par -130; EW 3♦+1

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

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

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

**Board 17**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 5♦; N 3♥; NS 4♣; S 2♥; Par +460: NS 3N+2

**Board 20**  
 West Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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

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

**Board 21**

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

NS 4♣; EW 2♠; N 1N; EW 2♦; Par +130: NS 4♣=

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

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

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

### Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

Most N/S pairs should reach 4 ♠ and although eleven tricks can be made most declarers will do well to emerge with ten tricks. Some will score less. And no, declarer does not have to lose three tricks via 2 minor suit aces and a trump! Eleven tricks can be made by double-finessing against West's ♠ Q106. And the South hand can be entered twice via hearts and clubs. Note that if declarer cashes ♠ AK before a diamond has been played then E/W can defeat the contract by West gaining the lead in diamonds, cashing ♠ Q thereby removing ♠ J from dummy and then cashing at least two more diamonds. And if declarer plays three rounds of trumps then the defense can cash FOUR diamond tricks! Safety can be achieved by declarer playing a diamond before playing trumps!

### Saints & Sinners

**Sinner** status to the **South** who who opened 1 ♥ and rebid 2 ♥ over North's 1 ♠ response and then bid 3 NT over North's rebid of 3 ♦. North's 3 ♦ bid promises 5+spades. With 5 diamonds and 4 spades North should bid diamonds first. 3 NT finished 3 down and cost N/S -10.79 IMPs.

At another table South opened 1 ♥ and North responded 1 ♠. East made a Takeout Double showing the minors. South bid 2 ♥ and North bid 3 ♦, surely promising at least 5 spades. South bid 3 NT and ended 2 down.

And one E/W pair surfed on very dangerous waters when they reached the dizzy heights of 5 ♦ a contract that failed by five tricks and resulted in a score of -500. If Doubled it would have been -1400!!! **Sinner** status to both **N/S** and **E/W**. Credit is given to East who made a Takeout Double after South opened 1 ♥ and North responded 1 ♠. E/W did find their diamond fit but unfortunately bid to excess.

Three N/S pairs contracted 2 ♥ with declarers making 8, 9, and 11 tricks respectively! At one of these tables South opened a very top-heavy 2 ♥ (Weak!) ...**Sinner** status to **South** who should have opened 1 ♥. Sinner status to both Easts who bid 2 ♣ instead of making a Takeout Double and thus offering partner a choice of minor suits although at the vulnerability Pass might be the more prudent action!

### Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

Thirteen N/S pairs reached 4♠ with very different outcomes! One declarer emerged with TWELVE tricks. South opened 1♥, North bid 1♠ and East made a Takeout Double. South rebid 2♥, North bid 2♠ and South raised to 3♠ and North bid the spade game. East led ♠7 and West contributed ♠10 as declarer won with ♠K. Declarer cashed ♥Q and then led a club, East rising with ♣A. East continued with ♣2 and declarer rose with dummy's ♣K. Declarer now cashed ♥AK, discarding two diamonds from hand. **BUT**, it was what declarer did next that earned him his twelve tricks....declarer continued with ♥8 and West was fixed as his 'certain' trump trick evaporated! West discarded a club hoping that partner had a second spade as declarer discarded another diamond. When East also discarded a club on the ♥8 the game was up for West. Declarer now led ♥7 from dummy and West ruffed with ♠6, declarer overruffing with ♠9. Declarer now cashed ♠A, felling West's ♠Q. Declarer now played a spade to dummy's ♠J and cashed dummy's ♥5, discarding his remaining diamond from hand. Twelve tricks to declarer for a superbly played hand. **Super Saintly** status to declarer, **Eugene Gath**. So, why didn't declarer cash his second top spade at trick two? 'Table presence', is a hallmark of good players and declarer at this table gave a classic example of it. Declarer probably noted East's Takeout Double and would have placed a spade shortage with East. Declarer backed his hunch and the result was twelve tricks which wasn't matched at any other table. **NOTE:** It requires East to lead a trump to bring about the subsequent sequence of plays! Any other lead will hold declarer to eleven tricks.

At one table East overcalled 2♣ and West raised to 3♣ as North subsequently contracted 4♠. At this table East led ♥2, declarer winning in hand with ♥Q. Declarer now cashed ♠AK and then led ♣3, East rising with ♣A. The contract can now be beaten by THREE tricks! East can play a diamond to West's ♦K who will then cash ♠Q, removing dummy's ♠J. E/W can then cash FOUR diamond tricks. **BUT**, East tamely continued with a heart and declarer won with dummy's ♥A and continued playing hearts from the top, West eventually scoring ♠Q but that was it for the defense. Could East have underled his ♦A after winning with ♣A? West made a FREE bid of 3♣. East can account for ♠AK, ♥AKQ, ♦AJ, ♣AKQJ in the possession of declarer, dummy or East's own hand. So, what does West have for his vulnerable 3♣ bid? Surely he must have ♦K. What a difference it makes... FIVE tricks: 4♠-3 compared to 4♠+1. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have played safe and played a diamond at trick two!

### Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table East also led ♠ 7 after making a Takeout Double over North's 1♠ response to South's opening bid of 1♥. Declarer played ♠ J from dummy and West covered with ♠ Q as declarer won with ♠ A. Declarer now cashed ♠ K, East discarding ♣ 2 and then cashed ♥ Q. Declarer next played ♣ 5, East following with ♣ 7 as declarer played dummy's ♣ J... [Can you see what would happen if West won the trick with ♣ Q? West would cash ♠ 10, removing dummy's last trump and E/W would then cash several diamond tricks. If I was playing the hand I would have risen with dummy's ♣ K...whereas West might have ♣ Q it is much more likely that East has ♣ A!] Anyway, declarer now cashed ♥ AK, discarding ♣ 3 and ♦ 3. Declarer continued by cashing dummy's winning hearts until West ruffed with ♠ 10 and cashed ♦ K. Declarer scored eleven tricks but could have been held to seven if East had risen with ♣ A and played a diamond to West's ♦ K! Remember, this is an IMPs competition. Making a play which might result in declarer scoring an overtrick is worth it if the contract might be defeated! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for not taking a 'safety first' approach by playing a diamond at first opportunity.

At a third table where declarer also emerged with eleven tricks in her 4♠ contract East also led ♠ 7. Declarer played ♠ J from dummy, West covering with ♠ Q as declarer won with ♠ K. At trick two declarer cashed ♠ A and then committed *bridge hari-kiri* when she continued with ♦ 3 from hand... West could win and cash ♠ Q, drawing dummy's remaining trump, and E/W could then cash three more diamond tricks! Declarer was absolutely correct to play on diamonds but should have done it at trick two which would ensure that she could not be prevented from ruffing at least one diamond in dummy and could also discard at least two other diamonds on dummy's ♥ AK. Even if E/W win the first diamond and play a second spade declarer can win and then ruff one diamond with dummy's third trump! **BUT**, when declarer played ♦ 3 from hand at trick four East rose with ♦ J instead of playing low and allowing West to win the trick and draw dummy's last trump. Although East has not helped matters by playing ♦ J, West should have overtaken with ♦ K and cashed ♠ Q and then continued with ♦ 10. **BUT**, East, on lead after winning with ♦ J, now continued with ♥ 6 and declarer won the trick in hand with ♥ Q (Declarer should have cashed ♥ Q after playing ♠ AK). Declarer now ruffed a diamond with ♠ 8 and then cashed ♥ AK, discarding ♣ 53 from hand. Declarer continued with more hearts and discarded two losing diamonds when West failed to ruff in. Eleven tricks to declarer who deserved to make only seven! **Sinner** status to **declarer, East, and West**.



**Board 23**

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

**Saints & Sinners**

At six tables North contracted 4♠, all declarers emerging with ten tricks. Whereas the six scores look the same on the results sheet, the play and defense were far from the same at each table!

At one table South opened 1♥, North bid 1♠, South rebid 2♥ and North now bid 3♦. South converted to 3♠ and North bid 4♠. East cashed her two aces and then continued with a diamond, declarer ruffing with dummy's ♠3. Declarer next played a heart to his ♥Q and ruffed another diamond with ♠8. Declarer now cashed ♣K and continued with ♥A, discarding ♦Q from hand. Declarer duly lost a trump to West and scored a safe ten tricks! **Saintly** status to **Kevin & Mary Moylan** for a well bid sequence to reach 4♠ and to **Kevin** for bringing the contract home safely.

At a second table South opened 1♥ and raised North's 1♠ response to 2♠, promising at least three card support, whereupon North bid 4♠. Another reasonable bidding sequence. South opted to support North's spades because he held three card support and a singleton diamond. If North held only four spades then he can indicate this by next bidding NT thereby giving South the option of reverting to spades if holding four card support. At this table East cashed her two Aces and then continued with ♥2, declarer winning with ♥Q. Declarer cashed ♠AK and then led a club, East rising unnecessarily with ♣Q when ♣KJ clearly visible in dummy... (**Sinner** status to **East**)! Declarer now cashed ♣J, ♥AK, discarding her three losing diamonds. Ten tricks to declarer and **Saintly** status to **John Fahy & Liam Faherty**, for a sensible bidding sequence.

At a third table South opened 1♥, North responded 1♠ and East bid 2♣ instead of making a Takeout Double to show support for both minors. South bid 2♥ and North bid 2♠. South, with 3 card spade support and a singleton diamond and a six card heart suit headed by ♥AK, now made a good bid of 3♠ and North bid 4♠. East cashed ♦A and then switched to ♥10, declarer winning in hand with ♥Q. Declarer cashed ♠AK and then led a club, East rising with ♣A. East continued with a small club and declarer rose with ♣K. Declarer now cashed ♥AK discarding two diamonds from hand and then ruffed ♣J in hand and then ruffed ♦Q with dummy's ♠J and conceded a trump trick to West. Well bid, in particular South's 3♠ bid. **Saintly** status to **Siobhan O'Sullivan & Maura Connolly**.

### Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At a fourth table South opened 1♥, North responded 1♠, South rebid 2♥ and North rebid 3♠ which South raised to 4♠. East led ♥2, declarer winning in hand with ♥Q. Declarer now cashed ♠AK, a potentially dangerous play, in case the player with the third trump can gain the lead and cash ♠Q, denuding dummy of trumps and leaving the defenders to cash three or even four diamond tricks! Safer to play a diamond BEFORE cashing two top trumps. Now the defense cannot prevent declarer from ruffing at least one diamond in dummy and discarding two more on dummy's ♥AK. [Note that in the previously referenced tables a diamond was already played in which case it IS now safe for declarer to cash ♠AK because a diamond can then be ruffed without a defender gaining the lead and drawing dummy's last trump and cashing several diamond tricks!] Declarer now led a club and was lucky when the player that won the trick did not have ♠Q! Note also that ♣AQ could have been sitting over dummy's ♣KJ8 in which case declarer could have lost 1 spade, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs, leaving her FOUR down! Playing a diamond at trick two ensures that declarer cannot fail by more than one trick, i.e. 1 spade, 1 diamond, 2 clubs! IMPs is all about SAFETY!] Upon winning with ♣A, East continued with ♣7, declarer rising with dummy's ♣K. Declarer now cashed ♥A, discarding two losing diamonds from hand and then continued with another heart, West ruffing with ♠Q as declarer discarded another diamond. West then played a diamond to declarer's ♦Q and East's ♦A. Ten tricks made but **Sinner** status to **declarer** for a dangerous line of play.

At a fifth table South opened 1♥, North bid 1♠ and East overcalled 2♣ instead of making a Takeout Double showing support for BOTH minor suits. South now overbid with 3♥, showing a six card suit and 16-18 hcp...Whatever about the former, South certainly lacked the latter...2♥ would have been much more appropriate! North bid 3♠ and South raised to 4♠. East cashed her two minor suit aces and then continued with ♥2, declarer winning in hand with ♥Q. Declarer now cashed ♠A and then ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♠8. Declarer now cashed ♣K and then ♥AK, discarding two diamonds from hand. Declarer duly conceded a spade to West's ♠Q for a safely played hand. **Saintly** status to North, **Carmel Musitano**.

### Board 23

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At a sixth table, South opened 1♥, North responded 1♠, South rebid 2♥ and North rebid 3♠ which South raised to 4♠. East cashed ♦A, ♣A and then continued with ♥2 to declarer's ♥Q. Declarer now cashed ♠AK and then ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♠J. Declarer now cashed ♥AK, discarding ♣5 and ♦6, in that order, as both defenders followed suit. At this stage declarer is still holding ♦Q in hand and could simply have cashed ♣K, discarding the losing diamond and claimed ...but didn't. Perhaps she didn't see this straightforward line. Declarer next led ♥5 from dummy (not ♥8 or ♥7) and I can't help thinking that declarer intended to ruff in hand and if she did then she was going to fail because she now had a losing ♦Q in hand and no way to dispose of it, despite the winning ♣K in dummy, and would also lose a trick to West's ♠Q. **BUT**, West ruffed in with ♠Q and declarer duly discarded ♦Q from hand. I'm not convinced that declarer knew ♥5 was a winner and with West ruffing with ♠Q it means that only one person does know! Hopefully I'm wrong and that declarer did know!

And that brings us to the real Sinners!

At one table South opened 1♥, North responded 1♠, East bid 2♣ (Takeout Double is better as it shows support for both minor suits). South rebid 2♥ and North jumped to 3♠ which South raised to 4♠. East led ♦4 (underleading an Ace against a suit contract is a not normally recommended... declarer might have won with a singleton ♦K!). West won with ♦K and, perhaps worried about dummy's heart suit, switched to a small club, East winning with ♣A. East continued with another club, declarer rising with dummy's ♣K. Declarer now led ♠J (small spade is better in case 4-0 break) as West covered with ♠Q, declarer winning with ♠A and cashing ♠K. Declarer is now safe for ten tricks...she simply needs to ruff a diamond with dummy's ♠8 and then cash dummy's ♥AK, discarding the two remaining diamonds from hand...**BUT**, declarer continued with a third trump, West winning with ♠10. With no trumps left in dummy, West switched to ♦2 and East cashed ♦AJ and declarer finished two down. Indeed if East had not discarded two diamonds the deficit could have been FOUR trick instead of two! **Sinner** status to **declarer** for playing a third trump instead of ruffing a diamond and then discarding more losing diamonds on dummy's ♥AK. **Sinner** status also to **East** for not discarding his useless hearts and retaining valuable diamonds.

### Board 23

South Deals  
Both Vul

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

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

### Saints & Sinners

At another table South opened 1♥, North bid 1♠, South rebid 2♥ and North now bid 3♦. South converted to 3♠ and North bid 4♠. East led ♠ 7 to dummy's ♠ J, West's ♠ Q, declarer winning with ♠ A. Declarer cashed ♥ Q and continued with ♠ K and then made the disastrous play of a third trump, denuding dummy of trumps and leaving declarer exposed in the diamond suit with ♦ Q863 v ♦ 7!!! West won with ♠ 10 and looking at dummy should have realised that, despite North's 3♦ bid, the only hope for defensive tricks lies in the diamond suit! Unfortunately East had discarded a diamond on the third spade instead of throwing a useless heart or a long club! West found the diamond switch when she played ♦ 2 (should have played ♦ 10) but East's earlier diamond discard meant that the defense could only cash three diamonds, leaving declarer two down! **Sinner** status to **declarer** who should have played a diamond at trick three, before cashing her top spades. Declarer would have emerged with ten tricks! **Sinner** status also to **East** for discarding a valuable diamond instead of a useless heart or even a long club

At the third table South opened 1♥, North responded 1♠, East bid 2♣ (Takeout Double is better as it shows support for both minor suits). South rebid 2♥ and North jumped to 3♠ which South raised to 4♠. East led ♠ 7 to dummy's ♠ J, West's ♠ Q, declarer winning with ♠ A. Declarer should now cash ♥ Q and then play a diamond ensuring that declarer can score at least one diamond ruff and discard other losing diamonds on dummy's ♥ AK. **BUT**, declarer failed to unblock ♥ Q and also cashed ♠ K and continued with a third spade to West's ♠ 10, denuding dummy of trumps and leaving declarer very exposed in the diamond suit! West discarded ♣ 2 on the second spade and then unfortunately discarded ♦ 4 on the third spade. [Note that at this table East should preserve ♥ 10xx in case partner holds ♥ Qx with declarer holding ♥ Jx. If that was the layout then declarer could lead ♥ J from hand and rise with dummy's ♥ A, cash ♥ K, and if East had discarded a heart then dummy's ♥ 8753 would become winners! So, East should discard a second club and retain her diamonds and hearts!] Upon winning with ♠ 10 West found the good switch of ♦ 10, declarer rising with ♦ Q as East won with ♦ A. E/W can now cash three MORE diamond tricks if East continues with ♦ J and a third diamond to West's ♦ K10... **BUT**, East blocked the suit when she returned ♦ 5, forcing West, who was unsure who held ♦ J, to win with ♦ K. West returned a diamond to East's ♦ J and that was it for the defense. **Sinner** status to **declarer** and to **East**.

**Board 24**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

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

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