

Bermuda Regional, January, 1982

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul



♠ K
♥ 5 4
♦ A K 10 9 6
♣ A J 9 7 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥!
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	?
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	?

First replace the question marks by your bid, then read below.

NEVER GIVE UP HOPE

by Sam Smith

In Monday evening's side game, I found myself declarer in a 4-2 fit missing the ace and king. The contract was 4 ♥ doubled . . . and redoubled! How could this happen? Read on.

Our opponents arrived at our table very late and politely asked us to proceed with the bidding as fast as possible because they had just received a warning. I thought I had five hearts before I sorted my hand, and quickly bid 1 ♥. But, as you can see, I had five diamonds, not five hearts. This was the deal:

Board 23
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A Q 8 2
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ J 8
♣ K 4 3

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

♠ K
♥ 5 4
♦ A K 10 9 6
♣ A J 9 7 6

As I said, I opened 1 ♥ and partner responded 1 ♠. After some thought, I realized it was unlikely this hand would ever be played in a minor, so I bid 1 NT, hoping against hope partner would pass. Unfortunately, she had far too much to pass -- she leaped to 4 ♥. West doubled, and partner redoubled. After considerable thought (and sweat), I decided there was no way out of this nightmare, so I passed. But when dummy came down, I saw a ray of hope. If hearts split 4-3, just maybe . . .

The opening lead of the ♣ Q went to the ace, and when I led a heart toward dummy, West ducked. I came back to my hand with the ♠ K and led another heart. West took this and led another heart. I took a high spade and led a diamond to the 10 and West's queen. West drew dummy's last trump, but all suits were under control and I made the rest of the tricks. Here we have an unusual twist -- a happy ending to a bridge nightmare.