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South Deals ♠ 7 6 4 2
 N-S Vul ♥ 10 7 4 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ K Q J 4

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

♠ K Q
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ A 10 5 4 3
 ♣ A 7 6

West	North	East	South
			1 N
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	
4 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♣ 3			

A Fine Feeling of Triumph When It's Least Expected

by Alan Truscott

Tournament bridge players, en masse, are well-provided with sad stories: How they bid a splendid slam that nobody else reached, and were defeated by a 5-0 trump split; or how they played correctly but ran into the one distribution that was due to gain for the obvious but inferior line of play.

The saddest stories of all are the fixes: The opponents have done something foolish, but the gods have smiled on them and the bottom score they deserved turns into a top.

The finest fix reported so far in 1982 comes from the recent Bermuda regional tournament where the sufferers were the East-West players in the diagram. North-South were a pickup partnership and had agreed to play transfer bids.

Response is a Mystery

This means that a response of two diamonds to one no-trump shows five or more hearts, so it's hard to imagine why North bid two diamonds. Perhaps he had the diamond jack mixed in with his hearts, or perhaps he just did not understand the convention.

South would normally bid two hearts in this situation, but his no-trump was a maximum, using

♠ 7		N		♠ —
♥ 10 4		W	E	♥ K Q J 5
♦ —		S		♦ —
♣ K				♣ —

♠ J		N		♠ —
♥ 8 3		W	E	♥ A 9
♦ K		S		♦ 10 5
♣ —				♣ —

the 15-17 variety, and he chose to jump to three hearts. North accepted the invitation, still not realizing that his hearts were rather less than his partner expected.

The declarer, one **Sam Smith**, was distinctly disappointed by the dummy. He was in a poor contract, but he did not give up hope. He won the club lead in dummy and played a spade to the king.

West took the spade ace and played another club, which was again won in dummy. South led to his diamond ace, cashed his spade winner, and ruffed a diamond. He ruffed a spade, cashed the club ace successfully, and ruffed another diamond.

The position was now this:

(see diagram above)

When the last spade was led from dummy, East ruffed with the trump jack, and South discarded. The heart king was led and won with the ace, and when Smith ruffed a diamond with the heart 10, he was assured of a tenth trick and his contract.

East and West were left in a state of shock, muttering, "Fix, fix, fix."

Sam was always the gentleman. When this deal appeared in the tournament bulletin, it concluded:

"Nicely bid, partner," said SAM SMITH.