

Sunday, December 29

Board 1

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ K Q 10 8 7
♥ J 6 4
♦ K J 4
♣ Q 3

♠ J 6 4
♥ A K Q 9 8 7 2
♦ 9
♣ A J



♠ 9 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A Q 8 7 6
♣ K 10 9 8

♠ A 5
♥ 10 3
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ 7 6 5 4 2

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

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

The Only Realistic Hope

By Larry Cohen

This is another chance to practice the negative double. It is also a hand that can be set in 4♥ with an imaginative defense.

Bidding

RHO seems to have no interest in the minors; he jumps to game in his own suit--showing a good hand in the process.

Play

North leads ♠ K. Partner overtakes with the ♠ A. It appears partner started with ♠ Ax -- so you might as well try to cash a 3rd round of the suit and then consider.

Based on East's jump to 4♥ (not to mention partner's discouraging ♣ 2 or ♣ 7 if you are playing upside down attitude), it was impossible for the defense to have any tricks in the minors. The only hope was a trump

trick. It isn't normal to give ruff-and-sluffs, but here it was the only hope. South had to hope his partner had the ♥ 10 (and would remember to play it!)--and his imagination was rewarded with the uppercut to set up the ♥ J as the setting trick.