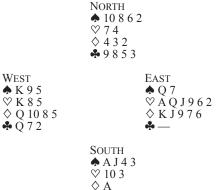
Defensive Opportunity

DAVID J. WEISS Brea, CA

TO THE EDITOR:

This four-spade contract is discussed on pages 28 and 29 of the January 2019 issue:

West dealer East-West vulnerable



• A K J 10 6 4

CLOSED ROOM

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
	Pass	Pass	1 🛇
2 🗭	2 🌣	Pass	4 ♡
4 🛧	Double	(All Pass)	

It was correctly asserted that after a heart lead and a diamond shift, to achieve down only two declarer should have given priority to establishing his side suit. The suggested line was: high club ruffed, heart cashed, diamond ruffed, spade ace, and the other high club. This would have provided a defensive opportunity: After West won the third round of clubs, he could have cashed the spade king and forced with a diamond, leaving declarer stranded with only clubs to play, allowing West a ruff with the spade nine.

After cashing the spade ace, declarer needs to continue with a low club.