

Defensive Opportunity

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TO THE EDITOR:

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

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 9 8 5 3

WEST
♠ K 9 5
♥ K 8 5
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ Q 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 7
♥ A Q J 9 6 2
♦ K J 9 7 6
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ A J 4 3
♥ 10 3
♦ A
♣ A K J 10 6 4

CLOSED ROOM

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Volcker	<i>Fleisher</i>	Bessis	<i>Martel</i>
—	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.