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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

30th November 2011

Dealer : West Vul : Both	NORTH ♠ 6 5 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 10 9 5 2	
WEST ♠ K 10 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ K Q J 8 5 ♣ J 7 3		EAST ♠ 8 7 4 2 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ Void
	SOUTH ♠ A Q J 9 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 10 ♣ A Q 8 6 4	

South	West	North	East
	1 Diamond	1 Heart*	4 Diamond
4 Spade	All Pass		
* Heart and a longer suit			

Opening lead: King of ♦

East's pre-emptive raise to four diamonds made life difficult for South. Would a double be for takeout? If so, in which suits? South decided that the safest choice was to bid his good five-card spade suit, and he ended in a reasonable spot. West led the king of diamonds, taken in dummy with the ace as East followed with the deuce. A spade to the queen lost to the king. A club shift now would have sunk the contract. If you presume that declarer cannot have three hearts (he would surely have bid four hearts, the known eight-card fit, rather than speculate on spades, some sort of case can be made for shifting to a club and giving partner two club ruffs. East would have been able to ruff two clubs to go with a trick in each major and set the contract. Unfortunately West tried to cash a diamond, and the game sailed home

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