

To the Editor:

Inspired by Jim Patrick's "Non-Stock Options" (BW, Sept. 2013), I have been seeking opportunities to deflect declarer from a line of play destined to succeed. One came up recently.

South's 2NT had been alerted as "good-bad", so I as West chose a slightly aggressive 3S call to deprive him of an opportunity to clarify. Undaunted, North took a shot at 3NT. I led the diamond queen. East, John Swanson, took the ace and returned the diamond nine. Declarer, Ed Davis, won the king and played the club seven. I was ready! Hoping declarer had ♣J7 and the heart ace rather than the spade ace, I put up the queen. And the cards were just as I had envisioned them. Declarer would be forced to win the second round of clubs in hand and play me for the spade ace. Thanks, Jim!

NORTH

♠K5
♥85
♦85
♣AK98643

WEST

♠QJ72
♥J72
♦QJ104
♣Q10

Neither vulnerable

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠*	2NT**	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 4 spades

** good-bad

Unfortunately, life did not imitate art. After a slight pause, declarer played a second high club from dummy and claimed. What happened to my brilliancy?

We had talked too much. Declarer could not know precisely where our high cards were, but he knew my distribution. He knew I had exactly four spades and no more than four diamonds. If I had been dealt a singleton club, then I would have had at least four hearts, and would have responded in that suit.

NORTH

♠K5

♥85
♦85
♣AK98643

WEST
♠QJ72
♥J72
♦QJ104
♣Q10

EAST
♠A863
♥KQ94
♦A93
♣52

SOUTH
♠1094
♥A1063
♦K762
♣J7