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DEFENSE PLAY QUIZ - April 2014 - original - [Here](#)
 Our thanks to MrBridge
 By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :West Vul :	NORTH ♠ 107532 ♥ 109 ♦ AK953 ♣ 7	
WEST ♠ 4 ♥ A42 ♦ 10874 ♣ J8543	Deal 3	EAST ♠ AQJ98 ♥ 75 ♦ QJ6 ♣ Q102
	SOUTH ♠ K6 ♥ KQJ863 ♦ 2 ♣ AK96	

East	South	West	North
1 Spade	X	Pass	2 Diamond
Pass	2 Heart	Pass	3 Heart
Pass	4 Heart	All Pass	

You lead the ♠4. Partner wins with the ♠A and returns the ♠9. You ruff South's ♠K. How do you continue?

Since declarer is presumably out of spades, you should not be thinking about a second ruff for yourself. You might wonder whether partner could be void in diamonds or hold the ♠A.

The clue here is that the ♠9 cannot be either the highest or the lowest spade that partner had remaining. Assuming that partner is on the same wavelength, playing one of the minors will achieve little. Instead, you should cut out possible club ruffs in dummy by playing ace and another trump.

Dealer :North Vul :	NORTH ♠ J973 ♥ KQ6 ♦ K1072 ♣ A7	
WEST ♠ 4 ♥ 742 ♦ J864 ♣ 108543	Deal 4	EAST ♠ AK1082 ♥ 9 ♦ Q95 ♣ KJ62
	SOUTH ♠ Q65 ♥ AJ10853 ♦ A3 ♣ Q0	

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 NT	2 Spade
3 Heart	Pass	4 Heart	All Pass

You lead the ♠4. Partner wins with the ♠K and returns the ♠2. You ruff as South follows low. How do you continue?

You read the ♠2 as a low spade, asking for a club switch. You have hopefully developed the habit of trusting your partner by now. Although you can see the ♠A but not the ♦A in dummy, you should do as partner has asked. Switch to a club. Partner has done all the hard work, keeping the boss spade and then signalling for clubs.

If you failed to switch to a club, declarer could set up a spade for a club discard.