

Best Bid Award – Zia Mahmood & Fredrik Bjornlund

Brian Callaghan remembers playing 5NT as pick a slam many moons ago, and this convention worked well on the following hand in which Zia and his Swedish partner, Fredrik Bjornlund (picture below against the Bulgarians), won the best-bid hand:



Game all. Dealer West.

♠ AQ
♥ AKQJ652
♦ 3
♣ Q52

♠ 104
♥ 10943
♦ KQ876
♣ A10

♠ 853
♥ 87
♦ J952
♣ 9864

♠ KJ9762
♥ none
♦ A104
♣ KJ73

West	North	East	South
<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Bjornlund</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdble
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

This table was the only one to reach Six Hearts – Hinden and Osborne had a good auction to the inferior but very reasonable Six Spades. Where North opened something showing a good 4♥ bid, that is where he played. Fredrik's 2♣ showed a very good hand. Zia bid spades and clubs naturally, while Fredrik showed a minimum with hearts. Zia still judged to move, and when North showed delayed spade support, he asked Fredrik to pick a slam with 5NT. North settled on his pretty solid heart suit, and declarer was able to claim when neither rounded suit proved to be 5-1.