

Best Defended Hand Award - Simon Gillis



The best defended hand featured a slight risk by East, who relied on his partner having the nine of trumps, and in South not finding a winning line. This was a bit of a gamble, as declarer was Espen Erichsen, but Simon Gillis was prepared to take the chance.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Game all. Dealer South. | | | |
| | | | ♠ Q83 |
| | | | ♥ AK10873 |
| | | | ♦ 10 |
| | | | ♣ Q108 |
| | ♠ 92 | | ♠ J106 |
| | ♥ 642 | | ♥ Q9 |
| | ♦ J9852 | | ♦ A73 |
| | ♣ K73 | | ♣ A9642 |
| | | ♠ AK754 | |
| | | ♥ J5 | |
| | | ♦ KQ64 | |
| | | ♣ J5 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Hallberg</i> | <i>Selway</i> | <i>Gillis</i> | <i>Erichsen</i> |
| | | | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2 ♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

The defenders did well to start with three rounds of clubs. Espen Erichsen threw a diamond on the third round. He might have done better to throw a heart, play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, relying on both majors to break 3-2. He always needs a 3-2 trump break anyway, so this is probably the best line. Winning with the queen of clubs, he led a diamond off the dummy, and Simon Gillis, pictured receiving his award from Tony Priday, rose with the ace of diamonds to play a fourth round of clubs, which Gunnar ruffed with the nine. Now declarer could have got home by running the eight of spades, but why should he do that when he will succeed if the remaining trumps are 2-2?