

Best Play Award - Espen Erichsen



Game all. Dealer West.

♠ 5	♠ KQ1087432
♥ 8764	♥ A5
♦ J976	♦ 3
♣ KJ84	♣ Q10
	♠ 96
	♥ KJ32
	♦ 52
	♣ A7653

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Selway</i>
Pass	1NT	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Espen Erichsen showed good card reading on the above hand, and earned his side a double game swing. He opened a strong no-trump and pulled his partner's card-showing double of 4♠ to 5♦. East led a top spade and Espen won, cashed a top diamond and advanced the ten of hearts. East should probably duck this, but Espen would just have continued with a second heart. Instead East won, cashed the top spade, and exited with the ten of clubs. Espen won in dummy and finessed the diamond to land his game. Given that the spades are 8-1, the chance of West having the jack of diamonds has risen to 70%, while the chance of a 3-2 break has dropped to 35%, so his line is twice as good as playing for the drop.

In the other room, North, Allfrey, opened 1♦ and North-South gave in to East's 4♠ overcall, which seems a bit conservative. Robson led a trump, and North won, cashed the king of diamonds, South giving normal count, and then switched to the ten of hearts. East won, drew the two remaining trumps and played the queen of clubs. South won with the ace and played back a diamond, allowing East to claim. Clearly South thought East had to have the queen of diamonds from North's play of the king, but he would have an awkward guess in any case. East could equally be 8-1-2-2 or 8-2-1-2.