

Best defence Award - Thomas Charlsen & Tor-Erik Hoftaniska



Ruff Justice

EW all. Dealer North.

♠ Q74
♥ T3
♦ KJT764
♣ A9

♠ KT5	♠ J863
♥ AQ92	♥ 875
♦ AQ5	♦ 983
♣ JT3	♣ 876

♠ A92
♥ KJ64
♦ 2
♣ KQ542

West	North	East	South
<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Jagger</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	Rdble	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
All Pass			

This was judged to be the best defended hand because the defenders cooperated well to get a big penalty. North did well to redouble rather than bid his six-card diamond suit, and the Premier League winners struggled into 1S, which was not a thing of beauty.

It got uglier when South led his diamond and declarer finessed – rising with the ace would have been -500.. Now North won and returned the four of diamonds, ruffed and South played a club to North who gave South a second diamond ruff. Now South cashed his clubs, Hoftaniska pitching a heart, and played a fourth round, conceding a ruff and discard. West pitched a heart, and North ruffed with the spade queen and now led a heart to dummy. South could win the next spade and give North a heart ruff for three down and +800 to NS. Tom Townsend subsequently pointed out that the defence could have done a trick better! If they take only one diamond ruff, and then North plays his second club. South cashes the clubs, North discarding a heart, and then plays a heart. Declarer finesses, and leads a spade to the jack, but South wins with the ace and plays the king of hearts covered and ruffed. Only now does North give South his second diamond ruff. South cashes the other high heart and then plays any card promoting the queen of spades for four off. Neither Brian Callaghan nor your author found this defence, and it was a few days later that it was discovered.