



Best-played hand Award - Gunnar Hallberg

Near Miss

Love all. Dealer North.

♠ 63	♠ AQ82	♠ KJ4
♥ T963	♥ J7	♥ A84
♦ QJ75	♦ 832	♦ AK6
♣ 962	♣ T854	♣ AK73
	♠ T975	
	♥ KQ52	
	♦ T94	
	♣ QJ	

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Stockdale</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Slight difference in range led to different contracts on the above deal. Hallberg opened 2C and over Holland's 2H – showing 0-3, traditionally with 0 controls – his 2NT rebid showed 22-24. Holland had enough to bid Stayman and raise to 3NT. A major suit lead would have made life easy for him, but South did well to lead the ten of diamonds and East won with the king and ducked a club. Another diamond came back and Gunnar won in East, cashed the top clubs and the remaining diamonds pitching the club from East. He was pretty sure that South was 4-4-3-2 now, so played a heart to the eight. South exited with a heart, and Gunnar won and threw South in with another heart. However, North had the ace of spades, so she could win a spade and cash the winning club for one off. Had South had the ace of spades instead of North, Gunnar would have been home. Good play and great defence from the two rising women stars.