

Four Queens

E/W vul. Dealer East.

	♠ AJ7	
	♥ K94	
	♦ AK1093	
	♣ A8	
♠ Q5		♠ 962
♥ 762		♥ QJ85
♦ 654		♦ Q72
♣ Q9642		♣ 1053
	♠ K10843	
	♥ A103	
	♦ J8	
	♣ KJ7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2D
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Neither Nicola Smith nor Sally Brock look old enough to have won World Championships a quarter of a century apart, but the excellent programme confirmed their successes in 1981, 1985 and 2008. They needed all their experience to break this seemingly impregnable slam by Thomas Charlsen. North's 2C was an artificial game force and 2NT showed a three-card spade raise. This was followed by Key Card Blackwood to reach the good slam. Nicola led the six of hearts, consistent with her actual holding, but also consistent with J76, J876 or J8762. Sally defended well by putting in the queen when dummy played low, and Charlsen took his normal line in spades of low to the ace, followed by running the jack, so that he could pick up Q(9)xx with East. Nicola won and continued with the seven of hearts, and Charlsen decided to believe Sally. At this point he had no idea that diamonds could be established with one ruff. When he put in the nine of hearts it was all over, and an unbeatable slam had been taken off. Some commentators on Bridge Base thought Nicola would not lead from the jack of hearts against a slam, but when you look you will see that the defenders have all four queens, so they might be pushed to find a safe lead. They had to lead some suit after all, and Jxx(x) might well have been the least evil. This defence earned Nicola and Sally the best defended hand. As Tony Priday said at the closing ceremony, "Never trust a woman!"