

Scylla and Charybdis

NS Vul. Dealer North.

♠ KQ109	
♥ 106	
♦ A86	
♣ QJ84	
♠ J75	♠ A42
♥ AJ8	♥ Q4
♦ 73	♦ KQ952
♣ AK1076	♣ 952
♠ 863	
♥ K97532	
♦ J104	
♣ 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Smith</i>
	1♣*	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass



Two declarers reached the reasonable contract of 3NT here. Joe Fawcett reached it from the East hand on the lead of the jack of diamonds, and he could have made it more easily by playing on diamonds. Hugh McGann faced the more testing lead of the king of spades from Sally Brock, and, when he ducked, she continued with the queen to take out the entry from dummy. Now McGann, who knew North had a weak NT type hand, played a club to the king and ducked a club to North. Sally Brock did the best she could by continuing spades, but McGann won, finessed the heart and then cashed the ace, and played a diamond. North could win and cash the spade, but now she had the unenviable choice of the rock of leading a diamond, which resurrects the dummy, or the whirlpool of leading a club, allowing West to enjoy the club suit. Nine classy tricks. Fawcett reached a similar position but the prize went to McGann who had faced a much more challenging defence.