

THE FIELD

We welcome our visitors to the eighth Welsh Invitation Pairs. The field includes one current world Under21 champion (and a member of the silver medal team), a current European champion at U25, two current World Open silver medallists, and, closer to home, current holders of the Gold Cup, Spring Foursomes, Lederer's and Senior Home Internationals. The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are both holding Trials this weekend restricting representation from those countries.

For the first time the holders, Tim Rees & Filip Kurbalija, come from Wales. Each of the five Home Countries has now recorded a win. Every year we have had an international pair from the continent of Europe but none has yet secured the trophy. Can our visitors from France break this spell?

This year, for the first time, we plan to have one table on Sunday showing on bridgebase.com. Please follow instructions from the TD when you are to appear. And please try to keep to the schedule of the other tables.

The beautiful trophy donated by Janet de Botton is not to leave Wales. Photos will be taken at the prize-giving and arrangements will be made for the winners' names to be engraved on it. Of the twelve former winners (Anderson & Greenwood are the only pair to record two wins) nine are present this weekend.

Patrick Jourdain

The Visiting Pairs

Tony Forrester & Artur Malinowski (England)

Tony Forrester won the 1st Welsh Invitation Pairs in 2002 partnering David Mossop. We are delighted to welcome him again with his new partner Artur Malinowski, who is also a former winner, partnering Nick Sandqvist. Forrester, with 38 caps for England in the Camrose, including one this year, is second only to the late John Armstrong (another WIP participant) who had 40. He is current holder of the Lederer and Spring Foursomes. He is the distinguished columnist for the Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph and lives in Hereford with his wife, Diana.

Malinowski was born in Poland, moved to Norway and then England where he is now a fulltime bridge professional. He had one Camrose match with Espen Erichsen before partnering Sandqvist. They won the Welsh Invitation Pairs in 2006, the silver medal at the 2007 European Pairs in Antalya, and were in the England team that last year took the silver medal in the First World Mindsport Games in Beijing. Since then they were in the de Botton team that won the Gold Cup by 1 IMP and took a second bronze medal in the European Mixed Teams. A change in line-up for the England Premier League brings the new pairing to Wales.

Nick Sandqvist & Andrew McIntosh (England)

The change in line-up for Malinowski & Sandqvist also brings Andrew McIntosh to the WIP for the first time. Born in Scotland he partnered Malcolm Cuthbertson for 18 Camrose matches from 1993-9 before moving to London and changing his allegiance to England. He partnered Gunnar Hallberg last year for England. He runs the highly successful Acol Bridge Club in London and was one of the television presenters for this year's Celebrity Grand Slam series on Sky.

Sandqvist represented Sweden at Junior level before moving to London 13 years ago. In addition to last year's silver medal in Beijing and Gold Cup win, and silver in the 2007 European Pairs, and this year's second bronze at the European Mixed Teams, he has previously won the Gold Cup, Crockford's and numerous national titles. He has had seven Camrose appearances for England (three with Artur), and is now a fulltime bridge professional.

Espen Erichsen & Norman Selway (England)

This is the first appearance for these players in the Welsh Invitation Pairs. They are bridge professionals on the Tom Townsend team that has eliminated one of the Welsh seeded teams from the Gold Cup for the second year running. They represented England in this year's Camrose. They are competing in the England Premier League that will determine next year's England Camrose and European team for Ostend.

Erichsen was born in Norway where he represented the country at Junior level, including silver in the 1995 World Junior Pairs, gold at the 1996 European Youth Championships in Cardiff, and silver at the

World Junior Teams the following year. He moved to London in 1997 and married a British girl, Helen. They have two young children. His links to Norway encouraged three married couples, Erichsen, Helness and Brogeland to enter the 2005 European Mixed Teams in Tenerife where they won gold. Erichsen has had one Camrose match with Malinowski. Erichsen is an excellent tennis player and now also enjoys golf.

Selway began bridge at the age of 13 as a rubber bridge player, and only took up duplicate in his 20s. He has won Crockfords three times, the Lederer twice, and the Spring Fours three times. He had many years out of competitive bridge due to a growing family but now has returned to form the partnership with Espen, and compete to represent England. He is also a tennis player, but wisely avoids placing money on any contest with Espen!

Rex Anderson & David Greenwood (Northern Ireland)

Rex Anderson with 95 appearances for Northern Ireland holds the record for most Camrose weekends, well clear of the second-placed player (from Wales). He began partnering his father, Alfie, in the 60's, then a variety of partners before the one with David Greenwood began 17 years ago. They had a five-year "separation" before re-launching their partnership in December 2001. Since then they have not missed a match. Their tally together is 35. They have also represented All-Ireland on three occasions. Rex is a solicitor with a practice in Coleraine.

Greenwood's first Camrose match (of 43) was in 1980 representing England in partnership with Phillip Alder. (Alder was born and bred in Wales but is now America's leading bridge journalist as columnist of the New York Times.) Greenwood then moved to Northern Ireland and partnered his now-wife Diane Sloan. He has written a book on Matchpointed Pairs and is an independent financial adviser living near Belfast.

David Mossop & Gojko Zivkovic (Switzerland)

Mossop was the first winner of the Welsh Invitation Pairs, when he partnered Tony Forrester. He won the Gold Cup in 2000 and 2001 partnering Wales's Tim Rees, who lived nearby in Berkshire. David was Chief Executive of the Perpetual Investment Group. Following the billion pound takeover by Amvescap David moved to Switzerland where he formed the partnership with Gojko Zivkovic. They represented Switzerland at last year's European Championships in Pau and World Championships in Beijing. This year they were in the team that lost the final of the Spring Foursomes by the cruel margin of 1 IMP to Tony Forrester's team.

Pierre Franceschetti & Christophe Grossart (France)

The French Bridge Federation has rewarded these juniors for their achievements in the past year by covering the cost of their participation in the Welsh Invitation Pairs. They recently competed in the First World Youth Congress in Istanbul.

Pierre Franceschetti, 22, was on the French Under 21 team that took the gold medal at last year's World Mindsport Games in Beijing. He was too old for that age group in this year's Europeans in Romania. He lives in the Paris area where he is a student of mathematics. He enjoys a variety of sports and music.

Christophe Grosset, 24, was on the French U26 team that won gold this year in the European championships in Romania. He lives in the Paris area and has graduated in engineering and currently works as a project engineer. His hobbies are soccer and the movies.

David Liggat & Roy Bennett (Scotland)

This pair began their partnership in 2004 for the Istanbul Olympiad. They were on the Scottish team that this year won the Teltscher Trophy for the Senior Home Internationals (ahead of England who became the world champions last weekend in Sao Paulo!). They also represented Scotland last year in the Open in Beijing, and in the Seniors in Pau.

David Liggat has had nine Camrose matches partnering David Frew including their win in 1998/9, and has had one with Liz McGowan. He was a Gold Cup winner in 1981 and has represented Scotland at two Olympiads and three Europeans. He is a retired VAT inspector who is now Secretary of the Scottish Bridge Union. He lives with partner Sheila Bruce in Edinburgh.

Dr. Roy Bennett has had 20 Camrose matches, seven partnering Bill Mitchell and then 12 in a row with Les Steel (including the same trophy win in 1988/9 as his current partner). He won the Gold Cup in

1980 and was on the Scottish Senior team for two Olympiads and two Europeans. He reached the 1990 World Pairs final partnering Les Steel. He lives in Falkirk with wife Barbara.

David Burn (England) & Thomas McCormac (Republic of Ireland)

We are most grateful to these two for filling in when one visiting pair was unable to play. Individually they both have a great talent for humour as well as bridge.

Burn is a popular commentator and writer about bridge and was the presenter on the television series about the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul. He has had nine Camrose matches, partnering David Price (2), Joe Fawcett (1) and Brian Callaghan. He has often been coach to British and English teams including Pau and Beijing last year. He was a computer systems analyst. Now in bridge he is on the de Botton team (the Gold Cup holders) and is often seen at TGR's in London.

Thomas McCormack has had two Camrose matches for the Republic of Ireland in 2003 partnering Padraig O'Briain. Thomas now has a fulltime job teaching bridge in Dublin Schools (Ireland has a "transition" year for 16-year olds with a much more flexible curriculum that allows schools to include bridge in school time). He also works for the CBAI as Schools Development Officer. As coach to their junior teams he was recently in Istanbul for the first World Youth Bridge Congress where he met our French partnership here.

The Home Pairs

Filip Kurbalija & Tim Rees (Wales)

Filip Kurbalija & Tim Rees are the only Welsh pair to have won this event. They have had 22 Camrose matches for Wales. Last year, with Ian Pagan & Chris Jagger as team-mates, they won Britain's toughest Congress event, the Spring Foursomes. This year the pair represented Wales in both Camrose weekends and last year in Pau at the Europeans. Tim lives in Berkshire where he works in Transport Research and is a hockey referee. Tim heads the England Goldpoint Rankings (measuring current performance in nationally-rated tournaments) and Filip the Welsh one. Filip is an accountant for the Welsh European Funding Office as part of the Welsh Assembly. He keeps fit at the same club as his wife Diane and then goes home to watch Nottingham Forest lose and Diane working in the garden.

Mike Tedd & John Salisbury (Wales)

Mike Tedd & John Salisbury have had seven Camrose matches for Wales. They were in the Welsh team for Pau. Both had previous Camrose careers before their jobs and the demands of growing families took them away. John's previous partner 13 years earlier was Robert Upton, and Mike 24 years earlier partnered Patrick Jourdain (they were also in the same 'Varsity match when students together at Cambridge and then the first Senior Home International last year). Mike Tedd has retired as Vice-Principal of Aberystwyth University. He is Website Manager for the Welsh Bridge Union. John has retired from local government in Social Services statistics. He is a Selector for the WBU.

Gary & Dafydd Jones (Wales)

Gary & Dafydd Jones are a father and son pairing that has had ten Camrose matches for Wales, including both this year. Gary, who lives in London, has retired as Director of a public company. He is a keen follower of cricket and rugby. Dafydd worked in London for the American Bank, Lehman Brothers, but cannot be blamed for their collapse (the world's biggest bankruptcy). He has a new job with another major financial institution. He frequently represented Wales as a Junior. He lives in London with his wife, Tessa.

Gary played in the Welsh Senior Team in Istanbul in 2004 (also with Patrick Jourdain & Mike Hirst, when Wales recorded its best result in any World or European event) and Warsaw, and in the Open team at the Commonwealth Nations in Manchester (collecting silver with Dafydd) and in Melbourne. He is on the Invitations Committee for this event.

Pat Shields & Dan McIntosh (Wales)

Pat Shields & Paul Denning have had 12 Camrose matches for Wales, with a 27-year gap after the first! Family reasons prevented Paul playing this weekend, so the Invitations Committee permitted the

partnership with England Junior Dan McIntosh who comes to Swansea University in Wales later this month to study History. The two both live in Gloucestershire and had a good finish in the recent Pairs event in Cwmbran.

Patrick lives in Cheltenham, married with two children, working in a hush-hush job (guess where!) and keeps fit cycling.

Dan, 19, represented England in the World U21 event in Beijing, winning the silver medal. He was also in this year's England Under 21 team in Romania. Originating in Birmingham he now lives in Gloucestershire.

Mark Roderick & Mike Best (Wales)

Mark Roderick & Mike Best have had one Camrose appearance for Wales, in 2007 in Oxford. Mark has represented Wales at Junior level at both bridge (for eight years) and chess. Mark has been a wheel-chair user since his teens. Mike Best has retired from his jobs as a systems analyst and a debt counsellor with the Citizens Advice Bureau, and is now a part-time bridge teacher. His interests outside bridge are painting, sculpture, and the garden.

Peter Goodman & Gay Keaveney (Wales & Ireland)

Peter Goodman has had 47 Camrose matches for Wales. He now works for the Welsh Assembly as computer consultant. Goodman & Thomas represented Wales in both Camrose weekends this year and Pau last year. Adrian is currently on a walking tour with Jim Luck. The Invitations Committee have allowed Gay Keaveney to be temporarily adopted as a "Home" player. Gay is a former winner of the WIP, partnering Rory Timlin. Gay was in the All-Ireland squad for two decades, occasionally as captain. He represented the Republic most recently in 2007 in the Camrose. He is a doctor of chemistry, lives in Galway, and heads the Ireland all-time masterpoint ranking. He runs the Irish Schools Bridge Championships.

Patrick Jourdain & Mike Hirst (Wales)

In the distant past this partnership had eight Camroses for Wales. Patrick still holds the record for most appearances for the Principality and Mike has more than 40. More recently, Patrick has partnered Tony Ratcliff for Wales in two Europeans and Mike Tedd in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Mike has partnered Jim Luck in the Camrose. Both were in the Wales Senior team for the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul, and then in the Warsaw Europeans. Hirst represented Wales this year in the Senior Home Internationals and both were in the Senior team last year, tying with Scotland for second place in the Teltscher Trophy behind England.

Mike Hirst lives in Cardiff with wife Anne. By sheer hard work he has raised his golf handicap from single figures to a bandit-like 17. He supports Cardiff bookies and missed an opportunity to recoup earlier this year when bridge friend Vida Bingham advised him to back her horse in the Grand National (Mon Mome was a runaway winner at 100-1).

Patrick Jourdain is President of the International Bridge Press Association, Principal of the Cardiff School of Bridge, bridge correspondent of the Daily Telegraph and organiser of the Welsh Invitation Pairs. He enjoys tennis and golf which occupy the spare moments outside bridge and has lived in Cardiff since he left University, except for four years in Scotland. He won the Gold Cup in 1976 and the Camrose Trophy representing Scotland the following year.

Roger Penton & Mike Baker (Wales)

This pair is the Selectors' choice. They are partners in the forthcoming Welsh Senior Trials. Mike Baker has had three Camrose matches for Wales. He is married with three children and lives in Pembrokeshire where he works as a laboratory chemist. He has won many national titles in Wales including this event twice in the days when it was the Welsh International Masters Pairs.

His partner Roger Penton had a Camrose Trial for England 43 years ago before work as a computer consultant took him overseas. He returned to Surrey, winning the Brighton Teams in 1974 before family commitments caused him to give up national events for 27 years. Following retirement to Wales six years ago he has rejoined the national scene, this year winning the Senior Pairs in Brighton with a former colleague from Surrey. Roger has two grown up daughters and three grandsons.

Reserves: Paul Gagné & Diana Harris (Wales); Simon Richards & Trevor Towers (Wales)

Standby Pair: Diana Jones & Mary Moore (Wales)

Tournament Director: Ken Richardson Ken was Chief Tournament Director for Wales for some years and has directed all eight of the Welsh Invitation Pairs. He was an electrician in the RAF and lives in Cardiff.

BBO Operators Jonathon Richards and Benjamin Barrett both represented Wales in the European Under21 team in Lido di Jesolo, and Jonathon has been representing Wales in the Schools Home Internationals for several years.

Brochure Layout: Neville Richards, Chief Executive of the Welsh Bridge Union.