

# WALES IN THE CAMROSE: LLANDRINDOD WELLS – January 2014

## MATCH TWO

After the first match it was the Republic of Ireland at the bottom of the table, having been heavily defeated by Scotland, and the other four teams were right in the middle.

**WALES & SCOTLAND.** There has been close competition between these two teams in the time since we moved away from 90-board weekend matches. In those 9 years, Scotland has triumphed five times to Wales four times and taken home the Jourdain Trophy. Last year it was one match each but the better win by Scotland left them with the trophy. Wales started this match with the experienced Salisbury & Tedd playing with Kurbalija & Shields.

The first stanza – 16 boards – had only one slam hand but still enough swings. Ireland came out from bottom of the table to score 65-12 against England, which wasn't a bad recovery. Wales started badly against Scotland but recovered later. N Ireland and EBU were neck and neck, the latter 7imps ahead at the end. The first hand gave game swings in two matches ...

--		After a 1H opener and a spade overcall (twice 2S ☺) all Easts ended in 4S and all got the H7 lead <sup>1</sup> . All but one covered and failing to cover proved fatal when the second heart had to be ruffed. Not immediately fatal but when a top trump innocently came at trick three then a trump promotion was inevitable when North won the DA. Two declarers had an easy time with the HA at trick two and the others all got a club return. No South managed to duck and the ace won trick two. The two declarers who continued with the SK and the CJ and a club ruff were now heading for defeat, but Dave Kendrick snatched success back; he led the DK and it was correctly ducked but North rose on the next diamond when he needed to let his partner win it to play a heart. Ian Lindsay failed to tackle diamonds at that point, ran out of trumps, and drifted one off. For Scotland, Derek Sanders had played the SA at trick three and not the SK and that left his contract impregnable. Gains for Scotland and England out of this.
AQT962		
A75		
T854		
A652	KQJ87	
KJ83	4	
KJ6	9432	
A7	QJ3	
	T943	
	75	
	QT8	
	K962	

A few boards later the spotlight shone on South as declarer

J94		No Trump ranges came into play here and two pairs stopped out of game with 16 opposite 8, but three bid 4S and one bid 3N. In that latter contract, after a club lead to the king and ace, Paul Fegarty had little choice but to play for five spade tricks and his SJ at trick two was spectacularly successful. Against 4S there were two diamond leads while John Carroll led the HA and then switched a diamond. East won the ace and at two tables returned a heart and took a ruff. He got off lead with a diamond and declarer next saw the ST drop under the ace. One declarer cashed the king, losing a fourth trick to the SQ, while the other crossed to dummy and ran the SJ.
KJT92		
KQ7		
AQ		
T	Q732	
AQ865	3	
T852	A64	
K87	J9543	
	AK865	In fact neither quite got the optimal line – which after the hearts show up to be 5-1 is to start spades by leading the SJ and running it. The tables show that in these circumstances the odds on any specific 1-4 break are the same as the odds on a 0-5 break and better than any specific 2-3 break. There are 5 better odds combinations when you want to run SJ, and 5 lesser odds combinations when you want to cash the AK.
	74	
	J93	
	T62	

And when the HA entry was lost at trick one? Did that lose out? No - that was the defence which ended up taking 5 tricks, for 4S-2. Don't ask how!

<sup>1</sup> Of the 10/160 occurrences of the same contract by the same hand over the weekend there were only two where all led the same suit.

It's worth noting one unfortunate incident for England, when after a start of 1D-1H they bid up to 3N and the hand sitting over the hearts had AQT94 of the suit and chanced a double for the lead. With spare values and a decent heart stop (KJ73) Brian Senior redoubled and they stood it and led a heart. That lost to the queen but at trick two the opposition switched to clubs through declarer's doubleton king, and wrapped up 5 tricks in that suit to beat 3N by two tricks. The defence could have been smarter and taken it three off, but when every other table let a club round to the CK at trick one, it make little difference. This was the biggest single contribution to the Irish win over England.

At the end of the stanza two matches were quite close but England had received rather a hammering. They brought in Ben Green and John Holland but Ireland kept their top four in play. The second stanza of this match was the lowest scoring stanza so far – just one slam hand, and it had no double figure swings. The most interesting hand to bid was this.

	QJ5 T964 AK9862 ---	With North as dealer the bidding started 1D-1S-2S at all tables except where some innovations alongside the Polish Club allowed the Irish to bid 1D-1S-2D with the last bid promising four hearts. They weren't the only ones able to find their heart fit as for England Ben Green continued with 3H and his partner raised. Curtis & Fegarty also found it for the EBU when the forcing 2N continuation from South got a 3H response, which was immediately raised to the six level.
98 KQ JT53 JT632	T76 532 Q7 KQ974	
	AK432 AJ87 4 A65	It's an excellent slam to be in (if you know you have the H9), and 6S isn't bad either but no-one had any reason not to finesse twice in hearts and that was one off. Those in 6S suffered a similar fate and by stopping in game, Scotland and N Ireland both collected 11 imps.

The biggest swing in the stanza revolved around which game to choose with KQ2 – 7 – AQ8642 – AK8. Partner had opened a pre-empt in hearts (four chose 2H, two chose 3H) and those who went for the heart game – which was the two opposite a 3H opener plus England and Ireland – were successful, while 3N went three off at two tables. The Scottish and EBU teams lost out when the opener with 4 – KJT8642 – J3 – J76 did not insist on playing in that suit.

The set also featured a number of very tight 3N contracts, successful too ...

AT54 AJ9 Q9 A543	J96 T7 KJ873 Q97	After a weak 2H (or multi for some) the strong balanced hand overcalled 2N and was raised to game. The hearts lay well, as did the clubs – but even then it was partner of opener who got squeezed on the second and third hearts and had to give away a trick. Game for EBU and N Ireland, making it a flat board after all.
---------------------------	---------------------------	---

and

65 AK7 QT754 A75	Q832 J AJ8 QT962	After a 1D (twice 1N, once 1C) opener next hand bids 2S (weak) and partner stretches to 2N. Scotland raised to 3N and Ian Sime for Scotland was blessed with a spade lead which was ducked (reasonably as leader might have had a doubleton) and that cut off the spade suit and with minors lying well he had 9 tricks. Ducking the spade allows 11 tricks for declarer while winning trick one makes 4 tricks of a difference. Sad for Wales.
---------------------------	---------------------------	---

After the dust had settled, and applying the new VP scales, we had a win for Ireland with 18.21 VPs, for Scotland with 11.86 VPs and by Northern Ireland with 11.07 VPs. When this was added to the first match Scotland were well clear of the rest of the field.

---

END OF MATCH TWO

---