

# WALES IN THE CAMROSE: LLANDRINDOD WELLS – January 2014

## MATCH FOUR

Wales needed to pick itself up at this point – it had lost three matches and the last by an enormous amount. Today it was two English teams to play. First the EBU team.

**WALES & EBU.** We started, as on the previous morning, with Salisbury & Tedd alongside Kurbalija & Shields. The first stanza was a very interesting set of boards, even without the five hands on which slam can be made (of which 3 are worth bidding and two just lucky). Here are some ....

6543	J8	After it started 1D-X-XX, Wales overbid a little to 3N. The doubler led a top spade from AK2 and his partner's S7 (presumably low to encourage) didn't give a clear message, so he switched to a heart which ran to the HQ. The game can now be made by the counter-intuitive choice of overtaking a top club, to give two entries to dummy and allow two diamond finesses and 5 diamond tricks. Wales failed to take this opportunity.
Q5	A862	
AQJT2	874	
KQ	A863	

This was followed by another 3N, this time bid at five tables not just one.

	K75	Four tables opened 1N as North in second seat and the other two opened 1H. Over 1N each South used Stayman and all Wests, as passed hands, found a double. In all but one case NS ploughed on to 3N and got a club lead – and duly won the CK. It was now imperative to get the diamonds right and, deducing a 5-3 club break, three of the relevant declarers went straight for DA and running the DJ; it's close, with the vacant spaces giving Qxx onside the edge at 23.5% over the Qx offside at 20.6%. Curiously nobody tested the spades – if you discover the spades are 5-1 the other way, or infer they are 4-2 the other way, then your play should change. Curious also was the one table with no hint to lead a club, where East led a spade. Now the correct play in diamonds is to play for the drop and when he did this Greer Mackenzie's contract was doomed, and that cost him the game. Silence can sometimes pay unexpectedly.
	KJ64	
	AJ7	
	K53	
QJ6	842	
9832	AT75	
8	Q43	
AQT97	J82	
	AT93	
	Q	
	KT9652	
	64	

Two boards later came this monster

	83	Everyone started as East with 1D and all but one (who doubled) found the 2C overcall. Over 2C four Wests made a negative double and one passed. Over the Double, all four Norths bid 3H which didn't work out well as the fit jump in South's void discouraged that player. If you are expecting East-West to bid their spade fit, then you'll have to go to 5C as North and the heart suit might be irrelevant. But maybe you need to bid 5H over 5D. The result was that South bid as far only as 5C, which made an overtrick except when Filip Kurbalija bid 5D over that and his partner had no choice but to make game as East (nice for Wales). They also bid to 5D after much competition at the table which started 1C-X, and South then heard his partner repeat his heart suit with 5H. What could South do but run to 6C, and this gave a very lucky 12 imps to Northern Ireland.
	QT9863	
	K	
	KT97	
QJ542	T6	
AJ5	K742	
T54	AQJ7632	
82	--	
	AK97	
	--	
	98	
	AQJ6543	

The penultimate hand of the set was a good bidding exercise for North South

<p>-- AK765 T753 KJ76</p>	<p>AT73 QJ8 AKQJ T2</p>	<p>Everyone opened 1H, over which only one response was 1S, one was a 2C balanced or clubs, and the other four bid diamonds. Actually one of those diamond bids was a transfer showing heart support and that Irish pair stopped in 4H. The natural 2D of Iain Sime and John Holland got 3S in response and they bid easily to 6D (so flat in their match). The game forcing 3D of Greer Mackenzie got supported but he got chicken and kept putting his partner back to hearts. This failed when he mis-guessed the clubs. The 1S responses and the 2C response both ended in 4H, which did at least make.</p>
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At the half way mark, Wales had the lead for a change, by 27 mps over EBU. Meanwhile Scotland were 21 ahead of England and the North were 13 ahead of the Republic. For the second stanza, Wales gave Salisbury & Tedd a rest and brought in Roderick & Towers. The hands continued to be interesting with only 2 occurrences in the 16 boards of the same contract at all tables. Early up was this board ...

<p>AKQ4 JT322 8732 6</p>	<p>3 A9 KQJT965 Q52  J9872 Q8 A K9873  T65 K7654 4 AJT4</p>	<p>After West passed, every North opened 1D, and five of the six Easts overcalled with 1S. This got a negative double from South and West showed a spade raise. North always continued with diamonds – but the three tables which raised directly to 4S had forced North into bidding game. The other auctions allowed 3D or 4D and ended in 4S - all three going off.</p> <p>But was pushing them into 5D a good idea? Only David Greenwood proved it was. The inevitable spade lead was won by West, and with limited prospects in hearts and confidence declarer had a singleton spade, he switched to the C6. When Rex got in with the DA he gave him a ruff to beat the contract. Surprisingly, two other declarers failed to find the switch.</p>
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This hand proved too difficult for many ....

<p>KJ96532 63 86 A7</p>	<p>Q4 AK942 J9753 9  T J87 AQT2 JT652  A87 QT5 K4 KQ843</p>	<p>All tables opened 1N as South and five tables overcalled in spades. Three of the Norths continued with transfers (an increasingly popular treatment) and in the end there were four Souths declarer in 4H. Played by North the ST led to instant defeat when declarer ducked in dummy and suffered a ruff. Played by South there was a spade lead once, and CA once – and both of those gave declarer enough of a start to allow the contract to be made. With the D8 lead at the other two tables, the play proceeded DA and a spade switch – and both declarers ducked to go off quickly. In fact the contract can be made if they win the SA and declarer goes for a cross ruff – which needs safe ruffing of clubs in dummy and the HJ onside to be able to ruff diamonds in hand. Not impossible, but a surprise that no-one tried.</p>
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A favourite toy came out a few boards later – something some had been waiting for, for well over a year! It was a 3N opening showing a solid major and the hand opposite was AK43 – 9 – KJ2 – AKJ97; this was an easy 6H bid and this slam was an easy make. The three (!) times the solid hearts were opened 4H in first seat, at love all, it went pass-pass-pass. A better evaluation came with the single 1H opener, which got to the more awkward 6N but survived when the lead took a finesse for declarer.

The last board of this set was a small hand – but quite interesting to play ...

QJ5  
A97  
K43  
K872

KT842  
J865  
A  
Q95

97  
KT42  
QJ9  
AJT4

A63  
Q3  
T87652  
63

Two Wests opened in first seat; one partner bid game as soon as the heart fit was found, while the other bid 1N and then got to double South's 2D for penalties. At the other tables, twice South got to play 2D, but once West's 2H pushed him to 3D, and another West's 3H pushed her to 4D. We'll just look at 2D by North (reached via a puppet 2C from South after North had shown a weak NT hand). The spade lead went to the SK and a spade came back. Next was DA and a spade ruff and East exited with the DQ; declarer had wasted the D2 at trick three and now relied on the CA being onside, so that was one down.

But the contract was still cold after winning DK. All you have to do is run the trumps and squeeze East down to four cards, and then throw the hand in. Is it possible? It is – what you need to do is realise that if anyone had a five card heart suit they wouldn't have let you play in 2D, so the shapes must be 5413 opposite 2434. Also, with the CA, West would have had an opening bid. So that must be offside. So what other choices have you but to run the trumps? Easy game this.

And so the fourth match came to an end. EBU had come back against Wales but Wales still had its first win – by all of 2 imps. England pulled back a little against Scotland but the latter won by 10 imps overall, and finally Northern Ireland continued their domination of the South and ended the match 20 imps ahead. The VP tables now read Scotland on 53 against Ireland on 50, and Northern Ireland had crept to above average, leaving EBU and then England and then Wales at the bottom of the table.

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END OF MATCH FOUR

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