

# WALES IN THE CAMROSE: MANCHESTER – March 2014

## MATCH FOUR

The fight for the Camrose Trophy was now in full flight with England in the lead only 10 VPs ahead of Scotland who were fifth, and there were 40 more VPs on offer. Wales started off the day with Filip & Patrick in one room, and Laura & Mike in the other; meanwhile Cairra rested her most experienced pair (David & Rex).

**WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND.** We started the match with two losses of which this was the more interesting deal.

KT2 Q86532 9 K84		Three tables started with 1N from South and a transfer into hearts, 2D-2H. At this point two of the three Wests doubled (takeout). The pass by West led to Wales playing in 2H, one double got a 3H invite (declined by the Scottish South) while the third table saw North redouble and Andy Robson was soon in 4H as South. The other three tables ended twice by North playing 4H, and once with South playing 3N. The part scores made easily, and so did 3N because West – who led a diamond initially round to the jack – could set up his suit but was then squeezed on the run of the clubs.
J765 A AK862 Q97	9843 JT74 T54 J6	Where South played 4H there was the significant advantage of a top diamond lead but it wasn't home yet! The QJ of diamond would allow the losing club to go from dummy, but there was still the question of how many trumps to lose. Andy Robson diagnosed well – after that double of 2H – that LHO had points and was short in hearts, so he led a small heart away from his king when he broached the suit and that got him ten tricks. Northern Ireland played 4H as North and failed to duck the D5 lead in dummy, so the jack lost to the king and Mike Close switched a spade. Declarer ruffed a diamond to get to hand and led a heart to the HT, HK and HA. He won the next spade and lost to the HJ. At this point it looks like a club loser for declarer but when the majors suit winners are cashed West gets squeezed in the minors, and that is what happened to let Greer Mackenzie make 10 tricks; it takes a club switch when in with the HJ to break up the squeeze. This cost Wales 10imps. The other winners on the hand were EBU and England.
AQ K9 QJ73 AT532		

This monster hand came up a few boards later

K3 2 AKQT9742 AK	Q976 963 3 Q9762	Kurbalija & Shields bid competently up to 5D as did three other tables. The diamonds were 4-0 and that had to go off. Only at one table did fourth hand take advantage of the favourable vulnerability to try 2H after 2C-P-2D, and this struck gold in a way – partner has a massive fit and happily bids 5H over 5D, but that too goes one off and you lose a little. The sixth table was Northern Ireland who bid these hands to 5N; you would expect this to be at a great cost to them but with the normal contract also going off, they were very lucky, and this only brought in 3imps for Wales.
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There were two slam hands in this set, one in either direction. On the first only Hinden & Osborne reached 6S for EBU, while on the second everyone bid the cold 7N except for Kurbalija & Shields who had a Blackwood mix up and stopped in 6D.

We lost another double figure swing straight after this when the North were the only country to alight in 3N holding KQ doubleton opposite singleton T in the opponent's suit, and just the right running tricks outside. Wales played 5C two off as did the Republic of Ireland (on identical auctions), while three tables took either advance or unnecessary sacrifices and got penalised. As often happens, a part score hand then provided some interesting play issues.

Q863  
KT8  
J3  
Q953

This was played in 1N by West except where Wales played in 2N. Everyone made 7 tricks but only one declarer made it by force. The lead was a spade at five tables; the club lead to the jack by Scotland gave EBU an easy time but elsewhere it was SA and a second spade. All but one ducked that and won the third spade. Two declarers now tried a club and would have gone down if North had risen but both Norths ducked and with diamonds delivering two tricks those declarers had seven tricks.

KT2  
AJ6  
Q86  
AK82

J95  
9753  
KT74  
J6

The other three tables tried the DQ after the SK. That held and now a second diamond went to the DJ and DK; Wales took this which allowed a late dummy entry to the H9 and that was declarer's seventh trick. Against England Hugh McGann did better by ducking the DK but Tony Forrester had a counter to that. He had been the one person not to duck at trick two, so he now had a spade left and could exit in spades. When North won and cashed his long spade, he found whatever he did he would in due course be end played. Nice one, Tony.

A74  
Q42  
A952  
T74

After that set of boards Wales & Northern Ireland had exchanged exactly twice as many imps as had Ireland and England, and they had mostly gone to the North who were now 30 ahead – the best result that have had against Wales over 16 boards in sixteen occurrences of this format. EBU had a decent lead over Scotland and there was only 3 imps separating Ireland and England. John Salisbury & Mike Tedd came in now to replace Filip & Patrick. The first board was totally flat but the swings started off on the next board ...

AKQT5  
J9  
KT932  
A

J63  
AK63  
AQ5  
Q65

8  
T874  
J7  
KJT932

With North-South only vulnerable, four of the six Easts opened this hand 3C and now it all depended on West. Two recognised the poor fit and passed while two tried 3S; over 3S David Bakhshi tried 3N while a nameless Irishman cue bid (?) with 4H pushing his partner into 4S. That didn't look to cost much until the pair defending 3N managed to crash their heart honours (H2 led to HK, then HA saw an unblock) and allow 3N to make. England gained 10 imps over Ireland for that.

9742  
Q52  
864  
874

But where West passed 3C, what was North to do? Both candidates bid 3N here and it went P-P-X. It was clearly in trouble and our Welsh hero signalled this to partner but partner had nowhere to run. So Wales played in 3N-XX going for -2200, while Scotland played 3N-X for -1100. When the other tables in those two matches saw East pass in first seat and the bidding in both stopped in 2D, there was a huge swing to EBU and to N Ireland.

This curious hand came up next

Q7643  
972  
J62  
K6

K95  
KQT  
T94  
AQ87

J82  
8654  
K53  
JT5

The three tables where South opened 1N saw a transfer and a 2S contract, while the others ended with South in 1N. Against 1N three Wests led a three card suit and now the contract – down on a club lead – was cold and declarer made it.

Against 2S the defence started once with HK then DT, once with D9, and once with HK followed by ace and another club. Giving the entry to dummy means Scotland could play to the ST while the others all led SA and another. In fact these give equal odds for the necessary four tricks and in a way both work. After Graham Osborne won the SK he continued with a third club which was ruffed. Now after a diamond finesse, declarer cashed the SA, DA and played a third diamond. The defence switched to hearts, ducked once, and now in with the HA declarer has to choose between playing his losing heart, losing club, or winning diamond. Dummy had Q7 of spades and a losing heart. Declarer played too quickly pushing out his winner but now West could ruff in, aiming for a trump promotion. Declarer throws the losing heart but now the fourth club sets up the SJ. Declarer needed to play his losing club at trick ten ditching dummy's heart, and now he can ruff the heart and draw the last two trumps. A bit counter intuitive, but if you think through the play, logic gets you there.

AT  
AJ3  
AQ87  
9432

Finally we must report Wales' biggest success (possibly of the weekend) when they made game in both rooms on this hand

<p>QJT843 2 J K7652</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Mike Close played this in 4H as West, having opened 1N and with silent opposition. He won the diamond lead in hand but mistakenly led out the HJ next. It lost to the queen but when the next diamond went to the KQ and wasn't ruffed he knew the trump position. He led out the CQ and this was covered (an error), making dummy good apart from trumps. But the pips were such that he could force out the HT and HA and later use the H6 to draw the last trump and then cash his clubs. An excellent +420.</p>
<p>A75 J87 KQ42 Q43</p>	<p>K9654 A83 AT98</p>	<p>In the other room, Mike Tedd ended in 4S-X by North over a 4H bid by the opposition. He had the lead of a heart and he put in the queen which held; he could now discard a diamond on the HA and next he led the CJ. When this wasn't covered he ran it to the ace, and could no longer be beaten, making 11 tricks when East failed to play trumps. David Gold for England had been in the same place but when the CJ wasn't covered he rose with the CK. Tommy Garvey found the necessary trump switch at this point to put England one off. At the third table with this contract Tom Townsend covered the CJ giving declarer no chance.</p>
<p>K96 AQT3 T9765 J</p>		

Two slam hands again in this set; the first was a very flat 6N with a combined 34 count, bid by everyone. The other was a pretty good 6S reached by half the field (but not by Wales who lost 13 imps as a result). This set ended with even more imps for Northern Ireland, 31 this time to let them win the match by over 18-2 in VPs and give Wales its worst match score of the weekend. At the top it was still England but EBU had gained and were less than a VP behind. Northern Ireland were just 4 behind that but it was no longer possible for the Republic or Scotland to catch England.

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END OF MATCH FOUR

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