

# WALES IN THE CAMROSE: EDINBURGH – January 2015

## MATCH TWO

We continue now with Wales lying second in the Camrose table for 2015, having just beaten England by a small margin. The team is still without Tim Rees, but Paul Denning who is present as NPC will play the first set in this match with Gary Jones, allowing a certain pair a late breakfast.

**WALES & SCOTLAND.** Wales picked up the Jourdain trophy the last time these teams met but not the year before. It has always been a closely fought game.

The first interesting decision was on board two; you are vulnerable against not and you hear 1N-P-P and are looking at void – KQT952 – K2 – KQJ73. All five players bid hearts and it got passed out : the three who bid game earned a swing, while the 2H bid and the 3H bid failed to get the job done. Partner has spades, of course, and the AJ there serve no use to you, but the DQ and 2-2 in your suits works fine when both those suits break evenly and the HJ is doubleton.

Brock & Meyers nearly scored a goal for England a few boards later when they had this ...

|      |      |  |
|------|------|--|
| AKQ8 | J732 | After a 1C opener from the 17-count and a 1D overcall, it went 1S-P-3D (showing a good raise)-X and Barry judged well now to bid 3N. After three top diamonds he just needed to find the HQ, which was a much better position to be in than the three declarers in 4S. He cashed out the hearts but the man with Q984 of hearts craftily threw two of them away, after which Barry finessed into him and that meant only 8 tricks. |
| KJT  | A72  |  |
| 854  | QT6  |  |
| A97  | J43  |  |

It was disappointing that more people didn't manage to make this game ...

|       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
|       | 96    | With silent opponents, East-West were able to bid up to 4H (or in one case 3N and in one case 6H) and all tables had a top diamond led. It was necessary to win at trick one in the slam, but two other declarers also won at trick one.   |
|       | Q96   |  |
|       | KQT65 | Winning the DA in 3N meant it all depended on finding the HQ and when that failed the contract was off – but ducking the diamond and winning the third allows a heart finesse into the safe hand and even if it loses the CA might be well placed. So perhaps 3N should have been made.  |
|       | 753   |  |
| AQ42  |       | In 4H, winning DA at trick one was followed by CK, but the defence could cash the diamonds and leave declarer to guess the hearts (wrongly, of course). When the DA was ducked and the second diamond won, Ireland tried two top trumps and then ran spades but the HQ could ruff in and cash. It was only Scotland and England who made their game, winning the second diamond and knocking out the CA for a diamond discard before playing trumps. |
| AJ754 | K73   |  |
| 983   | KT3   |  |
| 2     | A42   |  |
|       | KQJ4  |  |
|       | JT85  |  |
|       | 82    |  |
|       | J7    |  |
|       | AT986 |  |

Leads are always a problem and against 4H only one person went for a top spade from KQT74 – T4 – T9863 – 9 and they gave Patrick Jourdain this problem ...

|       |      |  |
|-------|------|--|
| A6    | 983  | Patrick won the spade and ran HJ after which two more spades were played. He ruffed in and drew trumps and cashed his diamonds, before leading C7 towards his clubs. He could now duck this to the C9 and end play opening leader. In practice the CJ went in and he won this with the ace (insurance against singleton king), crossed back to dummy and led another high club. When the CT was played it was easy to set up the C8 as his tenth winner. |
| QJ983 | K752 |  |
| A7    | K5   |  |
| AQ82  | 7653 |  |

At the end of the first stanza Wales were 13 imps up against Scotland, Ireland were 32 up against NIBU and England were a whopping 53 up against Northern Ireland.

This fourth set of boards had a better share of big hands with five slam hands (although one was bid nowhere). The first was bid at one table in each of three matches, and so produced three double figure swings. It was down to whether A943 – QT952 – AK7 – A would drive to slam after partner with a weak NT hand showed three card heart support and a medium hand. Partner's hand was quite suitable but slam depends on two 5-3 fits breaking well (so about a 50-50 slam) and they both did. Gains to Ireland, Wales and N Ireland. In fact Ireland earned the gain in another way – the first in hand pre-empt (at green) with Q2 – 43 – 864 – Q87632 making it rather more difficult for the opposition to bid the slam.

On the next board a slightly better slam (6H depending approximately on one 3-2 break and another 3-3/4-2 break) was bid and made by NIBU and by England. Wales had a mix up to end in 5D but got away with it after the Scottish defence avoided the first few traps but then slipped. Winners this time were Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Three boards later the strength was in the other direction and only the Scots missed this slam, although (only) they were slightly inconvenienced by a 1S overcall by the fourth hand after 1C-P-1D. They played in 3N while everyone else found the 4-4 heart fit. This was the best slam so far, depending roughly on a trump suit of Q762 – AJ94 behaving well enough (only one loser). The only gain was to Wales this time.

The fourth slam to be bid was only bid in the Scotland-Wales match; three tables settled in 3N but the Irish, Scots and Welsh explored the diamond slam. Ireland stopped out but the others reached the slam and both got a heart lead ...

|  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>8<br/>AQ2<br/>KT83<br/>AKJT3<br/>KQT73<br/>T876<br/>2<br/>Q98</p> | <p>962<br/>KJ4<br/>Q654<br/>765</p> | <p>The Scots started the North-South auction with 1C-1S-2D-3D at which point opener tried 3N. The Welsh started the auction 1C-1D-3S and now responder tried 3N. In both cases the other hand continued and they ended in 6D, but played by different hands. As you can see the heart lead had a very different effect, establishing a trick for Scotland, after which John Salisbury guessed the diamonds wrong and had to go off.</p> <p>For England Iain Sime won the HQ and also played a diamond to the ace and then led the DJ. He let this run and Patrick Jourdain found the necessary diamond return and declarer was doomed. Rising with the DK when West shows out, crossing to the SA and finessing in clubs would have made the contract. East can ruff club winners but gets over-ruffed. A narrow escape for Wales. Flat board all round.</p> |
| <p>AJ54<br/>953<br/>AJ97<br/>42</p>                                  |                                     |  |

And the last chance came on the next board -

|                                     |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>AQJ9754<br/>82<br/>Q43<br/>5</p> | <p>K<br/>AQ<br/>KJ972<br/>AQ732</p> | <p>After a pass it went 3S-P-4S-end at all 6 tables (a very unusual occurrence). Each match saw one table lead a club and one lead a diamond, the 96543 of hearts not looking attractive. So slam rolled home.</p> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|

The only other serious swing in our match was when an ill-judged lead against 3N let it make and gave 11 imps. The one other serious swing in England-N.Ireland was a mix up by the most experienced Camrose pair we have who ended in 6D-3 (but I didn't count that as a slam hand!). The Ireland-NIBU match produced rather more swings (who would be surprised!). When the smoke cleared Ireland had produced a 19-1 win while Wales collected 18-2 and England collected 17-3. Wales were still second but now Ireland was the team ahead of them.

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END OF MATCH TWO

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