

WALES IN THE CAMROSE: EDINBURGH - January 2010

Wales started the new Camrose season with a team which was making its fifth appearance, and its fourth in this Camrose structure. It was Paul Denning & Patrick Shields, Dafydd & Gary Jones, Filip Kurbalija & Tim Rees. The captain – first time for this squad – was John Salisbury (who was playing Camrose matches while the rest of the team were still juniors).

This year the extra team in the event is a team representing the Northern Ireland Bridge Union (NIBU), this organisation being the host for the second weekend of the competition. Allsix tables played the same hands allowing for some fascinating comparisons.

Report covers the matches against [England](#), [Scotland](#), [NIBU](#), [Northern Ireland](#). and [Republic of Ireland](#).

England. The first match was against an English team many of whom had achieved World Champion status as part of the Seniors squad who won the World Championship in Sao Paulo in September last. The Joneses started the match as the only pair of 6 to reach the cold 3N, but the slightly shaky 4H reached by Paterson-Crouch against Denning & Shields also came home for a flat board. On board two, England played in 1N in both rooms. In both cases East-West made 8 tricks, and there were a few interesting points.

T432 953 KJ A975	Q8 AQJ AQ962 QJ8	AK9 K82 T853 K32	East dealt and one sequence was 1N-P-P-X-end. The lead was the S5 and North could tell immediately (from the 12-14 no-trump) that partner had only the SJ in his hand. He inserted the S8 at trick one, since if partner held J9xx this would yield two spade tricks. Declarer scooped up the first trick cheaply and played diamonds. North won the first and pushed back the SQ. Declarer tried another diamond and the DJ was ducked; he used the entry to lead a heart to the king. Now came the SK, CA and CK giving declarer 7 tricks. He exited in hearts and, because he hadn't unblocked in clubs, North had to give a trick to the DT. Without the diamond duck, it would be a brave declarer who didn't cash his DT as the 7th trick – so the overtrick wouldn't happen.
	J765 T764 74 T64		The other room started 1D-P-1S and now North bid 1N. East led out the SA and SK, and then switched to diamonds. This suited North and he ducked the DK hoping for a continuation, but he got the C5 switch! This went to the CQ and CK and back came the C3. To avoid creating an entry to the SJ, West ducked this. Declarer cleared the diamonds but East could play a third club and after the fourth club a heart through set up the HK for the defence's eighth trick. That was +280 in one room and -200 for declarer in the other and Wales were losing by 2 imps.

Wales picked up after that and were leading 20-12 half way through the session and were still ahead when board 13 came along ...

J63 Q32 Q6 AQT32	A52 J9764 J94 95	87 AT8 A3 KJ8764	In the other two matches East-West played this hand in game going off, but not here! For Wales the Joneses bid the North-South cards up to 4S and they were doubled there. The club lead reduced declarer to four trumps and he crossed immediately to the SA to lead out the DJ. He ran this to the DQ and he could not recover. Since he can afford two diamond losers if the HA is onside (and the heart finesse is as good as a diamond finesse), a better choice would be to play diamonds from hand and preserve the SA to lead hearts later.
	KQT94 K5 KT8752 ---		In the other room the bidding started with a Precision-style 2C from East, and a 2D overcall from South. The leap to 5C wasn't enough at this point, for South came back in with a double and North chose to remove this to 5D. After a club lead and a spade to the ace in dummy, again the JD was led out. This time declarer was more constrained. He had to get back to dummy to lead up to the HK at some point, so he couldn't cope with the diamonds 3-1 - his choice was therefore doubleton ace or doubleton queen with the hand which opened the bidding. He chose the former and soon clocked up +750 (it deserved a double, didn't it?). That was 14 imps to England who now took the lead in the match and never relinquished it.

The last hand of the set presented an interesting option.

A872 J973 63 J76	K54 K6 AQ94 AQ43	It was curious on this hand how the obstructive defensive bidding proved very useful in the defence – a plus for being honest when you interfere over the opponent's strong club opening. It started 1C from North and East bid 1D showing two suits of the same rank. After this South showed values and both minors and North ended in 3N. The lead – at all tables in fact – was the SJ to the SQ and SA.
	Q T42 KT72 KT852	With the SJ promising no higher honour, declarer has the SK and there is a clear danger of him running 9 tricks quickly if a spade is returned. West knew his partner had hearts, so he switched to the H3. Declarer – Derek Paterson – made the fine play of the H6. He knew the ace would be offside and that if he rose the hearts would be quickly cashed. When East won the HQ he had a dilemma – whether to play partner for the holding here, or had partner led a small heart from Kxx, in which case to cash four hearts he must underlead the HA. Although he should have trusted partner to lead the top from Kxx, East chose the latter and that was 11 imps slipped by.
		Where East didn't have the chance to show a two suiter (he did at one other table) it was almost inevitable that the SA was followed by the S2 to set up that suit, giving declarer ten tricks.

Wales went into the second half with Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees replacing the Joneses, while England switched out Paterson & Crouch (who had done well – top score on the Butler imps) and brought in Price & Simpson. Board 18 represented a chance missed ...

QT 73 JT983 K875	J5 J842 765 AT43	The bidding started at all tables with 1S from East, over which two Souths bid 1N (and got P-P-2S-end) while the other four doubled. Over X-P-2H only one East repeated his spades. With Wales North-South, two passes followed the 2H and West emerged with a takeout double. Shields redoubled as North to show some values and over 2S, Denning bid an optimistic 4H, passed out.
	K8 AT95 AQ42 Q96	The lead was the DK (expecting diamonds with partner and in fact the only lead to beat the contract) and it looks like declarer has at best a loser in each suit. Stuck in dummy at trick two, he led a heart round to East's queen, and out came the SA and another spade to the SK. The diamond position is clear and the club position is the most favourable. Best play now is the CQ from dummy – can you see declarer making the contract now?
		If West covers the CQ with the CK – it will proceed CA and draw the last two trumps, then a small club from both hands and East wins the CJ and is end played. The ruff and discard allows North to discard his losing diamond, and after unblocking the clubs he is home. Sorry – not found, although perhaps it should have been? Or would you have avoided covering the CQ when it was led? That beats the game.

Next came a chance for Wales to play the same contract in both rooms –

AK4 Q7 A6543 JT5	T K32 Q9872 AQ94	Twice West opened 1D and four times he opened 1N. For Wales it was Tim Rees as West and his 1N continued P-P-X, with the X showing spades and another suit. North chose to defend and started on diamonds. South won two tricks and switched to the C7-CT-CQ-CK. A second club went to the C9 and then back came diamonds. Declarer won the DA and exited in diamonds. North was able to cash his minor winners and exit with the ST. The records suggest declarer missed a winner and cashed out for 6 tricks and -200. Cashing one top spade before giving up the diamonds would have either ended played North to lead from the HK (but see below), or forced him to play a fourth club and squeeze South. [This was how Rex Anderson made 1N as West at another table]
	QJ976 J985 KJ 72	In the other room it started 1D-P-1H and South overcalled 1S which North removed to 1N. Against it was a diamond lead and this time declarer overtook the DJ to clear the suit. West saw discards of two spades, and cashed one top spade before leading the CJ through, covered by the CQ and CK. Another club went to the CT and CA. In the 5 card ending (– K32 – 94), North must exit with the HK to take away the entry to the long club, before cashing the C9. Another miss by Shields. The contract went one off for 6 imps away.

A roller coaster then emerged. The next board was 2S and 4S in each match for 10 imps swings (bad for Wales) , and then came a hand where 2 of the six tables bid 6C missing two aces (to the benefit of Wales). Only experts could! Next hand saw EW in 2H at one table and NS at 3C in the other in all matches – but that turned out to be a flat board all round. The only other sizeable swing was when Wales stopped in 3H while the room bid game which was only a little better than a finesse and two suits breaking, but it made – unlucky. The last board was this and brought 10 imps back for Wales

A53	K4	All six tables played in 3N, usually by the long club hand. On a spade lead the three records show declarer won the SA. played a diamond to the DK (holding), returned to a heart and played another diamond, covering the D9 with the DQ and dropping the DJ. Now 10 tricks. Where the long diamonds played 3N it was a heart lead won by the HA, and RHO rose with the DA on the first round to play hearts through. That solved declarer's problem. The English declarer (we shan't name him) went after clubs and when he lost two club tricks the defence were ahead and he was one off.
A6	K93	
53	KQT876	
AQ9532	64	

Wales had lost that match by 47 imps (9-21) . It was their worse result against England in this format of competition, and their worst start in the Camrose since January 2005.

SCOTLAND : the second match was against Scotland. We had our worst recent result against them in the second match of the March 09 weekend and wanted to do better. There were three slam hands in the first four boards ..

Q6	AT542	J	At love all, only one North opened in first seat (1S). Four tables went clubs from East, hearts from West and at three of them North came in now with 1S. The sixth table started P-1C but then South bid 2C to show diamonds & spades.
	J3		
	K9		
	Q972		
K9872		AQT65	Every East-West pair got as far as 6H, except for Kurbalija-Rees but that wasn't their fault as the opponents had sacrificed in 6S a round earlier. At our other table, South had put the opposition to the test by bidding 5S over West's ace asking bid, but they knew how to show one ace. The decision not to sacrifice over 6H cost 12 imps and Scotland were straight into the lead. This was a swing in each match, with one table in each match sacrificing.
Q765		A	
53		AKJT64	
	K9873		
	4		
	JT8432		
	8		

A	KQ72	With silent opposition three pairs bid the club slam and three didn't. In the Wales-Scotland match both strong hands bid 4N ace asking and one got a 5C response, the other 5D. One was forced into a slam and one wasn't. 11 imps away. The best auction was Price-Simpson for England who bid 1C-1D-1H-1S-3H and then 5C which shows support and extras and then 6C.
AKQ65	84	
8	A953	
AT8643	J95	

--	76	This was flat in 6D in this match, flat in game in another, and it was a slam against a part score in the third. The last was only possible when the oppo failed to bid up to 4S, as they did at three tables! Well bid Kurbalija & Rees.
65	AK987	
AKQ5	9872	
AQT8732	K4	

Quiet hands now appeared until this bidding problem arose : after P-P-1S/2S (three times) or 1C-P-1S (three times) what would you bid with A – AKQT985 – A7 – T73? The winning answer is 3N, since you have nine tricks and they only have three. Everyone bid 4H instead. Three of the four who got to play there went one off, while those who didn't beat 4S by one trick. The par contract was 4S-X, one off.

At the half way mark in this match, Wales were adrift by 22 imps. The hands in the second half weren't interesting to start with. Wales did lose by playing 1N going off in both rooms, and when the Scots bid a slam no-one else bid (and a good slam it was too). Then along came this.

	T AK975 J6 KQT98		Five tables reached 4S and one defended 4H. Over 4S England sacrificed in 5H at the expense of -500. Paul Denning played 4S as East for Wales, after North had opened and South had show some values, including diamonds. South led a heart and North cashed the CK before playing a second heart and then a second club.
AQJ9 42 AQ985 52	97632 Q3 T2 AJ74		
	K54 JT86 K743 63		Declarer won that and tackled diamonds first with a finesse and then the ace and another. North got lazy and discarded, and now a ruff, a spade finesse and another diamond set up the suit and after drawing trumps Wales was home. Ruffing in with the ST would beat the game. Alternatively East can win the CA at trick two and now play diamonds – when the ST comes up he can discard the HQ and make the game anyway. Tim Rees killed that option by being the only declarer of 4 to cash both hearts before playing the CK. Well done, Tim. 12 imps to Wales.

There was some sloppy bridge over the next few boards, and the match finished with Wales losing 10 when the opening lead gave one declarer his ninth trick in 3NT. Hard to complain when the leader only had one 4cd suit. The final score was 34 imps to Scotland and our worst result since 2005. Wales had now scored 19/50 and were only just ahead of the second Northern Ireland team.

NIBU : and this was who we played next – we were determined to improve! An important match – England against Republic of Ireland, was happening at the same time. The first board was interesting across all three matches

	J6 AJT72 8 AQ653		Every table reached 4H by North with silent opposition, and 5 of 6 defenders led the CT round to the CQ and the D8 appeared. Two defenders ducked and three defenders rose. After the DA, Paul Denning deduced that the only defensive tricks were in spades, and switched to SK to beat the contract, as did Colin Simpson.
AQ873 3 JT42 J84	K2 Q98 A976 KT97		
	T954 K654 KQ53 2		When the diamond was ducked, the Northern Ireland declarer ruffed out his clubs (in a slightly dangerous order it must be said) and made 10 tricks. The Welsh declarer made the error of drawing two rounds of trumps first and then unaccountably let the opposition draw a third round. One down for a flat board.

Wales got lucky on board 6 – they were the only team not to go for 800 or more, when the opening balanced 14 count was too weak for a Denning-Shields 1N but fitted every other player and the 19 points sitting over started doubling. Next came a slam-on-a-finesse hand and was bid once in every match and gave a 13 imp swing to each (to Wales' favour). It sure seems that a lot more than half of the 50% slams make in practice.

	KJ J76 J96 JT63		Wales seemed out of step on the next board, with Denning-Shields the only pair not in game. It was a close game, needing an end-play to make it and the Irish timed it just right against Wales, as did Ireland against England (but England failed). Here's how it went.
987642 T QT2 985	AT53 AK9 K87 KQ7		
	Q Q85432 A43 A42		The heart lead was normal and won by the ace. Best choice now was to ruff a heart low and lead a club. When the CK lost to the CA, it became clear that the discard on HK ought to be a club. Declarer won the club return from South, cashed SA and HK and then played CQ and took a club ruff. Now the second spade had an excellent chance of end-playing someone and it duly did. North had to lead from the DJ.

It was very close with England-Ireland, only 5 imps separating them before the last board. Meanwhile Wales were 32 ahead of NIBU. Quite a few extra imps changed hand on the last board, which produced a large penalty for the Joneses when the Irish bid (we'll not say how) to 6H and were doubled; meanwhile England lost 13 imps. Here is the hand.

AT92 AK AT6543 3	J8743	6 J987542 9 K954	The hand was played in hearts at four tables at three different levels (none below game) and doubled once at each level. Only one player made the maximum number of tricks, legitimately. South had a choice of leads but three of the suits left East with the same chance. No-one found the trump lead. Some declarers got in after a minor suit lead and tried to ruff out the diamonds but that failed and led mostly to 9 tricks.

	KQ82		
	AT72		
	KQ5		
	QT63		
	J7		The winning choice is to win, say, the SA at trick one and lead a club. Nothing can stop you ruffing the two losing clubs and then leading off the JH making 11 tricks if there is a singleton H10. Only Douglas Piper for Scotland managed this line.
	QJ86		

In the second half of the match it started quietly but then this awkward hand came along

A85 KQ6 4 QT9642	K4	963 985 KJT865 8	The bidding started with 1H from North at most tables and 3 of the 5 Easts bid a non-vulnerable 3D. Only David Walker for Scotland found the winning double, the others torturing partner with 3S. It was by this means that Wales ended in 4S and NIBU in 3N. Filip Kurbalija started the defence well against 3N with the C8 to the CA, and declarer played spades. Tim won the second and pushed a diamond through but now Filip had to lead into declarer's suits (fatally choosing the D5 when a high diamond beats it). Declarer had many winning routes now but chose yet another. This flattened the board, since the 4S in the other room had no chance after declarer started on clubs and the S4 was over-ruffed by the S6.
	AJT72		
	AQ732		
	3		
	QJT72		
	43		
	9		In the England-Scotland match neither declarer in 3N had much chance to get it right (it is always there) because East had not bid and the wild minor suit distribution was not expected. Maybe a plus for East not bidding?
	AKJ75		

Board thirty was pretty too

A853 542 Q73 987	KQT964	J2 Q876 A AKT652	After the 1C opener from East, only one South leapt directly to 4H (he was favoured by a trump lead and managed 9 tricks). Over the more usual 1H, West doubled to show spades but North bid them first. East continued with 2C and now the patterns diverged with 2 Souths repeating hearts but the other three introducing diamonds.
	--		
	KJ86		
	J43		
	7		
	AKJT93		
	T9542		For Wales Gary Jones was able to support diamonds on the next round and Dafydd competed then with 4D when the oppo bid on. That was the par contract, making on the nose and giving Wales the 5 imps it needed to produce the largest total in the plus column over the weekend, with +111 imps over 32 boards.
	Q		

Northern Ireland : we went into this fourth match a few VPs below average and just ahead of our opposition. Despite big wins against them in earlier years, we had only just beaten this team in last year's two matches. The first half was the lowest scoring stanza up to this point and there was only one double figure swing (to Wales).

Board 6 had swing potential. Three tables played 3N and the opening lead was from K764 - A42 - AJ54 - T6 and (knowing only that dummy has hearts) two led a diamond while only one led a spade to beat the contract. The lead didn't cost Wales as the defence slipped a trick against the better 4H in the other room. Then came this ...

	KJ8		
	AQ63		
	7543		Two pairs sensibly bid these hands up to 3N but at three other tables
	83		diamonds were bid and support for diamonds came at the four level. After
T975		432	that there was no stopping South and that led to four tables in 6D.
KJ97		T8542	
92		KJ6	There wasn't much choice in the play and all declarers (Shields included)
T96		A7	were relieved to find the DT hold and that meant 12 tricks. Flat board in this
	AQ6		match but a swing of 13 imps for the Republic of Ireland and for England in
	--		the other matches.
	AQT8		
	KQJ542		

Next board had potential swings again. Two tables psyched a 1S response to the opening minor with J84 in the suit and a 4 count. This kept the opposition out of their 4-4 spade fit but it was only a spade part-score they could make. Another bidding question came up next : holding QJT76 – K – 6 – KQJ876, which suit do you open? Four times it was 1C and twice 1S. The 1S openers hit the jackpot with an immediate raise from partner, letting them bid game. After 1C it was more difficult but the Joneses got to bid spade twice and then got support and bid game, doubled for +790 against a part score in the other room.

	AK2		
	T4		
	74		The last board of the set was not always handled well. It started with 1S-2C-
	AQ9864		P-P at all six tables and three Wests doubled, three bid 2H. The most
QT9876		J	sensible choice for East after the double, since game is uncertain, was to
AQ52		K63	pass but only two Easts found that and each gained 500. Wales tried the
AJ6		K852	vulnerable 3N at this point and misdefence by North allowed this to make.
--		KJ752	
	543		After 2H Rex Anderson assumed that to be a 5 card suit and raised straight
	J987		to 4H. The diamond lead clarified the position in that suit and declarer could
	QT93		easily now give up one heart and two spades. The other two tables treated
	T3		2H as more suspect and bid around the houses to the failing 3N.

At the end of this set Wales was in the lead by 17 imps. The second half started. There were some small boards and then a system question ...

	KQ875		
	Q6532		
	QT7		Every table started from East with 1N-P and then West transferred into clubs.
	--		When that transfer was 2N (at two tables) then North South were frozen out
J		632	of the auction and 3C made an overtrick. At the others the transfer was 2S,
J94		AK	allowing North to double. At three tables this gave NS the momentum to
K2		AJ84	reach 4S. Over this one table continued to 5C (doubled, one off), another
8765432		QJT9	saw West lead off with the DK to beat 4S by two tricks, but one defender
	AT94		started with a club and that suited declarer rather a lot.
	T87		
	9653		There was a slow double, pulled, in the Wales match and the outcome was a
	AK		committee decision of a split score which led to a 4 imps loss to Wales.

Wales started on a good run now. The one gain which wasn't double figures came when West opened a pre-empt in hearts (four times 2H, twice 3H) and at 5 of the 6 tables the next hand overcalled in spades with A7643-A7-J74-AT2. That felt OK until the third hand turned up with KQJ852 of spades! No contracts made on this deal.

The next hand saw Wales open 3H when everyone else treated the hand as a weak two. The higher level silenced the next hand for a gain of 11 imps when the opponents had a cold slam (not bid by anyone). And then Wales had a little luck

A74	965	The Irish bid (from East) 1N-2S showing 15+ and then 4D which was exactly 3343 and a maximum. Obviously 6D next but the trumps were singleton DJ with North and the heart finesse was wrong, and it went one off. Bid also by the Scots.
J4	AKT	
A963	KQ84	
AQ43	KJ2	

Then came this tight game, bid at 5 of the 6 tables

AQ432	986	The spade suit was in fourth seat and heard both opposition bid first! But after 1S and a raise from partner, he reached game. The defence started clubs. Paul Denning won CA, took a losing spade finesse and won the second club and cashed SA.. Now everyone followed to three diamonds so he could discard dummy's losing club on the fourth. A club ruff was the tenth trick.
2	T854	
KQJ8	A62	
K82	A97	

The penultimate hand in the match was this

5	A	South opened a weak two at all tables (four times a multi-2D) and West came alive. Against Wales the Irish had a mis-understanding over Lebensohl and ended in a 4H contract played by East. The lead was the C9 to North's three winners. Now there is one defence – can you see it? North continues with a third club and South can throw a diamond. This prevents declarer setting up the suit without drawing trumps, and if he does there is no entry to them! Unfortunately, the discard was missed and Wales lost 12 imps.
	985	
	JT2	
	AKT652	
	Q8742	
	AQ4	
	98	
	Q84	
	KJT963	
	732	
KJT6 AK7653 J3	Q4	Others played 3N by East and South had a blind lead. Two Souths led hearts (and 3N made) while one found the C9. What would you have done? A spade works too as North then plays a low club.
	97	

At the end Wales had won by 36 imps and took away 21 VPs, moving them up from fourth place to third place in the table.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND : this was a tough match, one we had only won once in the past eight encounters. The first stanza proved very tight, with only one sizeable swing, coming because 3N was played the other way up and the long heart suit was on lead. It was the lowest scoring stanza (21-9) of the weekend. Board one passed quietly, and on board two the 1N opener (14-16) stole the hand when the next hand didn't bid with 18 hcp, but the 3N reached by Ireland went one off, so that Wales gained 4 imps. A few boards later came this.

K6 KJ9532 KQ73 T	QT8742	The auction started 1H from West and then either 1S or 2H from East (except where one North overcalled 2S, vulnerable). One table stopped out of game (3H by West). For Wales Filip Kurbalija bid 3N over 1H-P-2H and doubled when the Irish sacrificed in 4H. Unfortunately North continued with 4S and 4N from South closed the auction. [In a similar position, for reasons not yet fathomed, the Scots chose the winning 5C option at this point].
	6	
	52	
	7653	
	A953	Against 4N West led a top diamond and continuing diamonds gave declarer nine tricks but that was all he could find. In the other room the Joneses defended 3N with a heart lead. Then came five rounds of clubs in the middle of which declarer tried a diamond to the DJ and DQ. In the end position West had the singleton SK but East worked out to overtake it and lead a diamond through to beat the contract. Well done, Gary. Flat board.
	T74	
	964	
	J84	
	J	
	AQ8	
	AJT8	
	AKQ92	

97654 T65 J9 Q53	J3 AK8742 83 742	AK9 -- AKT64 AK986	This hand proved a challenge in all matches with a weak two opening from North (except where, at green, NI opened 3H). Our match proceeded 2H-X-4H-P-P and now one East chose X and the other 4N. This led to 4S and 5C, both making and only a 1 imp swing. That seemed tame compared to the others ...
	QT2 QJ93 Q752 JT		In the England-NI match, Greenwood chose 5H after 4H-P-P, while after 3H-X-5H-P-P Holland chose 5N. Both resulted in 6C. Playable, but with the diamond finesse offside it couldn't make. The slams went two off (by trying to ruff out the diamonds), while the NIBU who got to 5C in the third match played safely by drawing trumps and giving up a diamond. And then the Scots themselves bid 6S and that was quite hopeless, going three off.

Wales suffered one part-score loss in this set, letting 1N make in both rooms. Then there was a chance

A9 AK3 K63 AKJ54	KT85 75 J T97632	After the opener showed a very strong balanced hand, the weaker hand enquired and found no major. Most (4 out of 5) settled for 3N but the NI responder chose 5C and that got raised to the excellent 6C. One other table reached 6C but that auction must not be shown to children.
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That was about it. The segment ended 12 imps in Wales's favour. One segment to go. The first board was flat and then came

KJ2 2 KJ8764 A87	T85 AKQJT AQT Q5	The auction started P-1D-P-1H-1S-2D and with a 6 card diamond suit opposite, freely rebid, North can count the twelve tricks provide there aren't two quick losers. Shields bid 2S at this point, showed diamond support over 2N, and raised 3N to 4N. This was enough to get 6N from the opener and 13 imps for Wales. Only three tables of the six bid the slam.
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And then came

7 QJ85432 2 8732	98654 KT7 AT8 A9	KT2 A96 K63 QJ65	At both vul, it's not clear how high to open the West hand. Weak two came out as most common (3 times) while 3H was opened twice and one West passed (and remained silent). Over the Welsh 3H, South re-opened with 4D which promised 4 spades as well as diamonds. Tom Hanlon made a few slam noises and the contract was soon 6D. After a club lead declarer played trumps from the top and relied on the spade finesse working. That worked.
	AQJ3 -- QJ9754 KT4		No other table made any slam suggestions and Wales lost 12 imps.

The same Irish pair hit Wales again on the next board, being the only pair to bid a thin game and then, after the DA onside and the 3-2 heart break, guessing the location of the short hearts to make it. That cost 11 imps and the Welsh lead was down to 6 imps. Then Shields forgot the system and chose wrongly in the inferior 4S they reached as a consequence, and that was 13 imps out and the Republic was ahead.

AKQT62 7 Q9852 Q	-- AT832 74 KJ9876	This bidding problem came along. After 1S-P what to respond? Wales chose an invitational 3C and got too high. England chose 2C and stopped in 2S. The Scots bid 1N and North overcalled 2D (cost him 500). Three tables were held to 6 tricks in spades.
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The segment gave 26 imps to the Irish who won the match 17-13. Wales ended the weekend in the same third position it has held since being second in 2006. That's it until March 2010.