

The second weekend of the Camrose, the home internationals, were held at the Metropole Hotel Llandrindrod Wells which had been the site of Wales' first and only success five years earlier. As the hosts for the final weekend Wales fielded two teams, Wales and WBU in order to have a total of six teams and avoid a sit out. This was also the case in 2011 when the WBU team had played a very significant role in the success of Wales by crucially beating England in the final match whilst Wales got the maximum against Northern Ireland to prevail by 5 VP's.

In this years' first weekend in January England won all five matches and had amassed a substantial lead, so much so that the remaining teams were realistically playing for second place. As is always the case the two teams from the home union would play first on Friday evening, with everything so close between second and fifth (Northern Ireland were some way behind) this was likely to be a critical match in deciding the minor places. After this match the two Welsh teams would be doing their best to help each other out.

Board 9 was a useful swing to the WBU when they got involved in the auction and eventually escaped to 2HX. After S erred by leading a top S, the D finesse and two ruffs enabled E to emerge with eight tricks. The regulation lead of a top H would have seen the part score defeated.

Board 9 EW Game Dealer N

♠76
♥964
♦KT7
♣AK742

♠9 ♠AT532
♥J5 ♥AT732
♦QJ964 ♦A8
♣J9653 ♣T

♠KQJ84
♥KQ8
♦532
♣Q8

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	2S-3	E	D2	300		5	-5
2	4	1S=	E	HK		80	-5	5
3	5	2HX=	E	SK		670	-11	11
4	2	2H-1	E	CQ	100		5	-5
5	3	2C-2	N	SA		100	11	-11
6	1	2H-1	E	CQ	100		-5	5

Inside Story Headline

Wales recovered all of those imps +1 on the very next board (see below) when EW played in 5HX= in one room and the Wales NS judged well to take the push to 5S in the other. As is often the case with these distributional hands it wasn't clear whose hand it was so 5S escaped un-doubled.

Board 10 Game All Dealer E

♠Q952
 ♥Q62
 ♦J654
 ♣43

♠JT3
♥854
♦K7
♣QJ962
♠86
♥AKJT973
♦A932
♣-

♠AK74
 ♥-
 ♦QT8
 ♣AKT875

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	4Hx=	E	SA		790	5	-5
2	4	4Hx+I	E	CK		990	-8	8
3	5	5S-2	N	H3		200	12	-12
4	2	4H+I	E	CK		650	8	-8
5	3	5Hx=	E	CK		850	-12	12
6	1	4Hx+I	E	CA		990	-5	5

Wales gained 13 imps on board 13 when one of the WBU pairs was the only one to miss slam. The NS pair for Wales had a simple and effective auction to the best spot IS P 5D P 6D.

Board 13 Game All Dealer N

♠AJT765
 ♥2
 ♦Q8
 ♣AKQ3

♠2
♥JT8643
♦A7
♣J642
♠KQ9843
♥Q975
♦T
♣T5

♠-
 ♥AK
 ♦KJ965432
 ♣987

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	6D=	S	DA	1370		0	0
2	4	6D=	S	C2	1370		0	0
3	5	6D=	S	C3	1370		13	-13
4	2	6D=	S	HJ	1370		0	0
5	3	3NT=	S	HJ	600		-13	13
6	1	6D=	N	HJ	1370		0	0

At half time Wales led the WBU by 24 imps.

In the second half there was only one double digit swing and the WBU recovered 10 imps which translated to a 12.78 – 7.22 VP win to Wales.

In their second match on Saturday morning Wales took on Scotland. On board 3 Wales lost 12 imps defending 4Sx poorly to let it make in one room and 5C undoubled three off in the other.

Board 3 EW Game Dealer S

♠T2
♥-
♦AJT42
♣AQ8732

♠AKJ9743 ♠Q5
♥87543 ♥T62
♦Q ♦K976
♣- ♣KJT4

♠86
♥AKQJ9
♦853
♣965

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	4	4S-2	E	C2	200		14	-14
2	5	4S=	W	DA		620	-15	15
3	6	4Sx=	W	S10		790	-12	12
4	1	5Cx-4	S	SK		800	-14	14
5	2	5Sx-2	W	CA	500		15	-15
6	3	5C-3	N	SK		150	12	-12

The only other double digit swing of the half also went Scotland's way on board 12 when the Scottish N/S pair eschewed their 5-3 spade fit to play in 3NT. The Wales E had a couple of chances to beat this but didn't take them and accurate defence (leading a D early enough) did beat 4S.

Board 12 NS Game Dealer W

♠KQ975
♥QT54
♦84
♣A3

♠64 ♠AJ3
♥8762 ♥K3
♦AQ96 ♦T753
♣QT7 ♣9862

♠T82
♥AJ9
♦KJ2
♣KJ54

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	4	4S-1	N	C2		100	-12	12
2	5	4S-2	S	H7		200	-3	3
3	6	4S-1	N	D7		100	-12	12
4	1	4S=	N	HK	620		12	-12
5	2	4S-1	S	D3		100	3	-3
6	3	3NT=	N	H7	600		12	-12

At half time Wales were trailing 43-17 and in the second half with half the boards flat Wales recovered 10 imps to lose by 16 imps and 6.88 - 13.12.

Board 15 NS Game Dealer S

♠KQ862
♥9
♦K8652
♣T9

♠J
♥AJT6543
♦Q97
♣Q5

♠AT954
♥KQ8
♦A
♣J764

♠73
♥72
♦JT43
♣AK832

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	5	4H+1	W	SK		450	0	0
2	3	4S-2	E	CK	100		11	-11
3	2	4H+1	W	SK		450	-11	11
4	6	4H+1	W	SK		450	0	0
5	1	4H+1	W	SK		450	0	0
6	4	4H+1	W	C10		450	0	0

Saturday afternoon and the opponents were Northern Ireland. Wales were leading the first half by 20 imps until the last two boards. On board 15 (above) the Wales pair had an accident when E bid a natural 4S over W slightly aggressive 4H opening, obviously they thought it was a cue bid in support of H but not according to system. In the other room the Northern Irish bid 3H P 4H all pass so 11 imps away.

The next board and the Northern Irish were the only pair to bid the vulnerable slam so another 13 imps away for a half time score of +32, -36.

Board 16 EW Game Dealer W

♠T97
♥92
♦JT8542
♣KT

♠653
♥AKJ5
♦KQ976
♣8

♠AKQ2
♥T8763
♦3
♣A73

♠J84
♥Q4
♦A
♣QJ96542

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	5	5H+1	E	S4		680	0	0
2	3	4H+2	E	CQ		680	13	-13
3	2	6H=	E	CQ		1430	-13	13
4	6	5H+1	E	CQ		680	0	0
5	1	5H+1	E	CQ		680	0	0
6	4	4H+2	E	CQ		680	0	0

Board 23 Game All Dealer S

♠Q973
♥52
♦954
♣7654

♠A4
♥KT8
♦Q72
♣AKQT3

♠KJT5
♥J64
♦KT83
♣J2

♠862
♥AQ973
♦AJ6
♣98

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	5	3NT+1	W	H5		630	1	-1
2	3	3NT+1	W	H5		630	-14	14
3	2	4H-3	W	C6	300		14	-14
4	6	3NT+2	W	H5		660	0	0
5	1	3NT+2	W	H5		660	-1	1
6	4	3NT+2	E	H5		660	0	0

In the second half it was one of the Northern Irish pairs turns to have an accident, a mix up over puppet led them to play in 4H a 3-3 fit instead of the normal 3NT and that was three off vulnerable and 14 imps to Wales.

Board 5 NS Game Dealer N

♠5
♥KQJ
♦AJ75
♣AJ972

♠T97
♥A8762
♦Q3
♣Q84

♠AQJ842
♥T3
♦T42
♣K3

♠K63
♥954
♦K986
♣T65

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	2	4Sx-1	E	C5	100		2	-2
2	1	3S-1	E	S6	50		-2	2
3	4	4Sx-3	E	D6	500		10	-10
4	3	3S-1	E	S3	50		-10	10
5	6	3NT-2	S	S9		200	-7	7
6	5	3Sx-1	E	S3	100		7	-7

Even at this level accidents can happen, but generally the bridge is of a high standard and mistakes get punished. At the end of the second half the score was +36, -32 the exact opposite of the first half, a tie in imps and 10 – 10 in VP's.

The penultimate match against the Republic of Ireland and crucial for both Welsh teams. The WBU were only about two and a half victory points ahead of the ROI in second with Wales just over eight VP's behind in fourth. The first half was very good for Wales with three double digit swings in whilst only conceding a total of nine imps. The first big swing occurred on board 5 (see above) with Wales defending 4SX -3 and conceding 50 in the other room in 3S-1.

Board 9 EW Game Dealer N

♠653
 ♥K3
 ♦Q743
 ♣JT64

 ♠A9 ♠Q842
 ♥Q7652 ♥A9
 ♦KJ82 ♦A95
 ♣K7 ♣A832

 ♠KJT7
 ♥JT84
 ♦T6
 ♣Q95

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld.	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	2	3NT-1	E	S2	100		12	-12
2	1	3NT=	E	D10		600	-12	12
3	4	3NT-1	E	S10	100		12	-12
4	3	3NT=	E	D10		600	-12	12
5	6	3NT-1	E	S10	100		0	0
6	5	3NT-1	E	S10	100		0	0

The next big swing was on board 9 (above) when the Welsh E took advantage of helpful lead to make 3NT. It was still necessary to read the cards extremely well and eventually S was end-played into leading a S from the K for declarer's game going trick.

On board 12 Wales gained 13 imps playing in 4SX= in one room and 4D-1 in the other. The Welsh S must have been slightly concerned when they bid a natural 2NT in the balancing seat after an intermediate 2C opening had been passed to them and partner had bid 4H transfer to 4S which was doubled by E when it got to them. After a helpful D lead the contract couldn't be beaten. In the other room the Wales EW pair hadn't been involved in the auction until they doubled 3NT when the cards

seemed to be lying poorly for declarer, this was enough to frighten the Irish into re-treating to 4D which was one off.

At half time Wales held a healthy 41 imps lead (+50, -9).



Board 12 NS Game Dealer W

♠KT8432
♥A43
♦432
♣7

♠Q
♥KJ72
♦65
♣KJT432

♠J9765
♥QT9
♦KT9
♣95

♠A
♥865
♦AQJ87
♣AQ86

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	2	4S-2	N	S2		200	-7	7
2	1	2S=	N	C9	110		7	-7
3	4	4Sx=	S	D5	790		13	-13
4	3	4D-1	S	SQ		100	-13	13
5	6	4S-2	N	H10		200	-3	3
6	5	3NT-1	S	C3		100	3	-3

The second half was fairly swingy and even though there were six flat boards ended up a tie at 33 imps each and a useful 16.57 – 3.43 win.

So to the final match against England. England had already won the Camrose and it was to be hoped they would relax in the last match and perhaps not play their best. With the good win against the Republic of Ireland Wales were right back in contention for second, though the WBU were still ahead.

Wales gained 11 imps on board two when the English managed to crash the minor H honours defending 4H to let it make. In the other room the Welsh EW did a lot of bidding (a modern trend) on their combined 14 points escaping for one off in 3D.

Another 12imps on board 5 (see below) in another 4H contract. Wales S took advantage of a slightly favourable D lead, later pinning the 7 to bring home the game which had gone one off in the other room on a passive trump lead.

The English EW did well on board 7 being the only pair to bid the excellent 6D and

Board 5 NS Game Dealer N

♠AQ43
♥AJ96
♦Q8
♣J85

♠T96
♥8743
♦97
♣A932

♠KJ82
♥2
♦KT432
♣KT7

♠75
♥KQTS
♦AJ65
♣Q64

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	3	4H-1	N	H2		100	-12	12
2	6	4H=	N	S2	620		12	-12
3	1	4H=	S	D9	620		12	-12
4	5	3NT=	S	H6	600		12	-12
5	4	4H-1	N	H2		100	-12	12
6	2	4H-1	N	D3		100	-12	12

that was 13imps back to England.

At half time the score was +31, -21, a useful 13imps lead.

Board 7 Game All Dealer S

♠K3
♥J9532
♦QJT
♣A32

♠Q8
♥AKQ6
♦85
♣J8765

♠JT74
♥T84
♦97
♣QT94

♠A9652
♥7
♦AK6432
♣K

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	3	6D=	N	HK	1370		13	-13
2	6	5D+1	S	HA	620		0	0
3	1	5D+1	S	HK	620		-13	13
4	5	4S=	S	HK	620		0	0
5	4	3NT+1	N	H4	630		0	0
6	2	4S=	S	HK	620		0	0

The second half saw seven flat boards with the biggest swing on eight of the nine others being +6 imps when Wales bid a thin making non-vulnerable game not bid by the English. The penultimate board (31) was something more substantial and the only double digit swing of the half.

The bidding went P IC P IH P IS P 2H P P X all pass. What the English S thought

Board 31 NS Game Dealer S

♠AKT7 ♥5 ♦Q983 ♣7542	♠Q94 ♥KJT9864 ♦4 ♣KT
♠J853 ♥7 ♦AK5 ♣AQJ96	♠62 ♥AQ32 ♦JT762 ♣83

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	3	2Hx+1	E	C8		570	-12	12
2	6	4H-2	E	S6	100		0	0
3	1	4H-1	E	DJ	50		12	-12
4	5	4Hx-2	E	S6	300		6	-6
5	4	4H-1	E	DJ	50		-6	6
6	2	4H-2	E	S6	100		0	0

they were doing when they passed the T/O double rather than bidding 3D it's hard to imagine, and when they missed the S ruff that was an overtrick. With the English attempting game in the other room that was 12 imps to Wales and 22 imps in the half (+27, -5). 35 in total for a 15.88 – 4.12 win and England's only defeat in this year's Camrose. This win actually meant Wales had won the second weekend just pipping England.

With the WBU losing to the Republic of Ireland in their last match Wales overtook them for second. Overall a good campaign with both Welsh teams acquitting themselves well.

Barry Jones

