



## Newsletter March 2024

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Welcome to the first edition of the relaunched newsletter. We will aim to have three issues per year of about 20 pages each and not to duplicate too much from the WBU website. The focus will be on people and bridge, and photographs of winners are always welcome. If you win an event, then send me a hand and a photo, and it will be published.

This issue covers the main events of the first three months, the two weekends of the Camrose Trophy and the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer. I am typing this on International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, so we will start with the trials for the Lady Milne on which I will be commentating on April 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> on Real Bridge. All are welcome to listen in. The event is in Belfast this year and the top three pairs in the trials were selected, with Maggie Pierce the NPC. There is an initiative to provide training for our ladies which is explained on page 20. The trial results:

Rank	Pair	Names [OVERALL]	Bds	XImpC
1	2	Mia Deschepper & Ceri Pierce	90	119.50
2	3	Jo Copping & Joan Marray	90	76.50
3	4	Gilly Clench & Suzy Lawson	90	20.50
4	1	Andrea Knox & Eve Ewington	90	-6.00
5	5	Helen Houston & Jenny Vaughan	90	-59.00
6	6	Sooz Nesom & Melanie Thomas	90	-151.50



**Ceri Pierce**



**Mia Deschepper**



**Jo Copping**



**Joan Marray**



**Gilly Clench**



**Suzy Lawson**

## Camrose Weekend 1 by Paul Denning, NPC

The Home International Championship, otherwise known as the Camrose Trophy, is held over two weekends in early January and early March. The five countries taking part are Wales, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Five teams do not make for an easy all-play-all format, so the country that hosts the second weekend is allowed to enter a second team, so this year the event included an EBU team. The first weekend this year was held in Newport and was run very smoothly by Ceri Pierce and her team of helpers. The Wales team consisted of Julian Pottage and Tony Ratcliff, John Salisbury and Tim Rees, Dafydd Jones and Adam Dunn with myself as non-playing captain. The English teams have mostly dominated the Camrose over the years and having two English teams participating does not make it very easy for the other four teams.



The standings after the first weekend are:

<b>EBU</b>	<b>69.13 VPs</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>59.83 VPs</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>57.81 VPs</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>47.50 VPs</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>42.94 VPs</b>
<b>N. Ireland</b>	<b>21.79 VPs</b>



**Adam Dunn**



**Dafydd Jones**

This board against the EBU team demonstrated the kind of thing we were up against:

<div> <div> <div>×</div> <div>pas</div> <div>62</div> </div> <div>♠ KJ104</div> </div>		<div> <div>N</div> <div>Tony Ratcliff WAL</div> </div>																				
<div> <div>Bd 20, Dlr W</div> <div>4♥ -1 S</div> </div>	<div> <div>♥ K54</div> <div>♦ A32</div> <div>♣ A64</div> </div>	<div> <div>Other table</div> <div>4♥ = N</div> </div>																				
<div> <div>W</div> <div>Ben Handley-Pritchard EBU</div> </div>		<div> <div>Tom Townsend EBU E</div> </div>																				
<div> <div>♠ 963</div> <div>♥ 72</div> <div>♦ QJ98</div> <div>♣ KQJ5</div> </div>		<div> <div>♠ AQ7</div> <div>♥ Q108</div> <div>♦ 65</div> <div>♣ 98732</div> </div>																				
<div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div> <div>♠ 852</div> <div>♥ AJ963</div> <div>♦ K1074</div> <div>♣ 10</div> </div>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♠	P	2♥	P	2NT	P	3♠	P	4♥	P	P	P			
W	N	E	S																			
P	1♠	P	2♥																			
P	2NT	P	3♠																			
P	4♥	P	P																			
P																						
<div> <div>Julian Pottage WAL S</div> </div>																						

For Wales Julian Pottage played the normal contract of Four Hearts from the South hand. He won the opening club lead, drew trumps in three rounds and played a spade to the jack in dummy. Tom Townsend, sitting East for the EBU team, received a count signal from his partner and could work out that declarer had three spades, so he produced a smooth duck

holding the ace and queen. When the jack of spades won, expecting the spades to lie favourably, a happy declarer crossed to hand with a diamond to lead another spade towards dummy, but was disappointed to see the ten lose to the queen. A diamond from East now knocked out dummy's entry so that the long spade could not be set up resulting in the contract being defeated by one trick. At the other table the same contract was played by North and John Salisbury had a chance to produce the same excellent defence, but he did not have the benefit of being able to see the dummy on his right-hand side so not unreasonably won the first round of spades and the contract made.

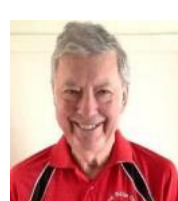
The Camrose is broadcast on RealBridge where an operator sits at each table. They enter every bid made and card played as it happens. For the final sixteen-board set of the weekend they were one operator short so I was asked to help out. As a result I was a very close witness to the following hand in the England v. Ireland match which makes me feel that we all have a chance in this game:

<div> <span>✕</span> <span>pos</span> <span>6/7</span> </div> <div> <span>♠</span> <b>AJ9</b>  <span>♥</span> <b>A6</b>  <span>♦</span> <b>J65</b>  <span>♣</span> <b>Q10973</b> </div> <div> <span>N</span> <b>Frances Hinden ENG</b> </div>		<div> <span>Bd 21, Dlr N</span>  <span>2♠ X-2 N</span> </div> <div> <span>Other table</span>  <span>4♣ = E</span> </div>																
<div> <span>W</span> <b>Mark Moran IRE</b> </div> <div> <span>♠</span> <b>108763</b>  <span>♥</span> <b>K10</b>  <span>♦</span> <b>KQ872</b>  <span>♣</span> <b>2</b> </div>	<div> <span>John Carroll IRE</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div> <span>♠</span> <b>5</b>  <span>♥</span> <b>Q972</b>  <span>♦</span> <b>A94</b>  <span>♣</span> <b>AKJ84</b> </div>																	
<div> <span>0</span>  <span>0</span> </div> <div> <span>&lt;</span> <span>&gt;</span> <span>↺</span> </div> <div> <span>Graham Osborne ENG</span> <span>S</span> </div>	<div> <span>♠</span> <b>KQ42</b>  <span>♥</span> <b>J8543</b>  <span>♦</span> <b>103</b>  <span>♣</span> <b>65</b> </div>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣*</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X*</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣*	1NT	2♣*	X*	2♠	P	P	X	P	P	P
W	N	E	S															
	1♣*	1NT	2♣*															
X*	2♠	P	P															
X	P	P	P															

The bidding needs some explanation. Playing a strong NT, North opened One Club showing at least two cards in the suit and East overcalled One No-trump. The fact that he did not have enough points or a balanced hand did not deter him. South now bid Two Clubs to show both majors. The fact that his side was vulnerable against not and his right-hand opponent had advertised a strong hand did not seem to be a problem. West joined the party by doubling. What this showed I do not know, but he certainly did not have any club values. The bidding finally came to rest in Two Spades doubled played by North. East led a trump won by North who now contemplated what to do next. Perhaps hoping to set up the club suit declarer decided to play the three of clubs away from hand. East looked at this and thought partner for their double of two clubs will surely have some high cards in the suit, so played the four of clubs. Dummy played the five of clubs and West contributed the two of clubs performe.. It took a moment for declarer to realise she had won the trick. Dummy had a big smile on his face. The contract eventually went two off for +500 to Ireland, a good score which could have been much better.

## Camrose Weekend 2 by Paul Lamford

Wales entered the second weekend with some optimism as they had performed creditably (except against England) in the first weekend. The two pairs who were positive on the Butler in the first weekend, Julian Pottage and Tony Ratcliff, Tim Rees and John Salisbury, were justifiably selected and they were added to by Richard Plackett and Mia Deschepper who had performed well in the second weekend of the Premier League, which were the trials.



**Julian Pottage   Tony Ratcliff   Mia Deschepper   Richard Plackett   John Salisbury   Tim Rees**

Wales started slowly, and were down at half-time in their first match against Northern Ireland, but bid one or two games in the second half that should have been beaten, and one or two that could not be beaten but were missed in the other room. This hand showed the discipline that Pottage and Ratcliff apply to their weak twos. Side aces are bad, and so is four cards in the other major. A suit with neither of the top two honours is another flaw.

### Two flaws

Bd 18, Dlr E 4♥ = N W Ian Hamilton		Tony Ratcliff N Other table 5♦ -1 W Ian Lindsay E									
♠ 10 ♥ AKQ85 ♦ J108 ♣ KJ105		♠ 9 ♥ 2 ♦ AKQ9754 ♣ 7632	♠ AK832 ♥ J93 ♦ 62 ♣ Q98								
♠ QJ7654 ♥ 10764 ♦ 3 ♣ A4	0 0 Julian Pottage S	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3♦ P</td> <td>3♥ P</td> <td>P P</td> <td>4♥ P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S	3♦ P	3♥ P	P P	4♥ P
W	N	E	S								
3♦ P	3♥ P	P P	4♥ P								

Julian did not open a weak Two Spades on the South hand. Having four hearts is a major flaw and he turned out to be right. West opened 3D which was a bit wet, and he gave in to Four Hearts. I think West should have "come again" with 4NT, showing secondary clubs. Four Hearts made in some comfort (Tony could have made an overtrick) and that was 11 IMPs to Wales on the way to a win 79-51, or 14.95.

## Find the Lady

The “rookie pair” as they say in the Ryder Cup, included the experienced Richard Plackett who had won many events over the last 12 months. He was playing with his Mixed Teams partner from the forthcoming European Team Championship in Herning, Denmark, Mia Deschepper. In the second match against Scotland he did well on this board:

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface. At the top, North is Richard Plackett and South is Mia Deschepper. The board is 6NT. The cards are as follows:

Player	Spades	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs
North (Richard Plackett)	AK52	K953	AK85	4
South (Mia Deschepper)	QJ1093	Q8	10962	76

The bidding history shows: Bd 19, Dlr S, 6NT= N. The trick count is 0 for both players. The interface also shows a 'Find the Lady' button and a 'Bd 19, Dlr S' button.

South showed six clubs and three hearts with her Two Spade bid, something that is known in London Circles as a Scoltock Adjunct (SAD for short!) and North decided to punt 6NT. This was quite a good contract, as it has twelve tricks if the clubs behave and, as Richard showed, excellent chances when they do not. East led the queen of diamonds and North won and tested the clubs, getting them wrong as expected. East continued diamonds and North won, reaching this position:

♠ AK5  
 ♥ K93  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ none  
  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ none  
 ♣ T8

Now Richard cashed the king of hearts and played a heart to the ace, dropping West's queen. If the queen had not dropped he would still have the chance of the heart-spade squeeze when the same person, presumably West, started with four or more spades and the queen of hearts. It is close and Richard backed his card-reading to bring home the slam. Had East started with a holding of ♥Qxxx, Richard would have gone down. This helped Wales to a 12.6 win over Scotland.

Wales was hammered against England. Almost 20-0 but not quite. Max Boyce would have said we were lucky to get 0.15. They bid back to back Six Club contracts against us.

### Slam Dunk

<div> <span>✕</span> <span>pos</span> <span>6</span> </div>		<div> <span>N</span> David Gold         </div>																	
<div>             Bd 19, Dlr S              5♣+1 W           </div>		<div>             Other table              6♣ = W           </div>																	
<div> <span>W</span> Julian Pottage           </div>		<div> <span>Tony Ratcliff</span> <span>E</span> </div>																	
<div>             ♠ A3              ♥ 10              ♦ AQ107              ♣ AKJ1082           </div>		<div>             ♠ K1042              ♥ K72              ♦ K2              ♣ Q654           </div>																	
<div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> </div> <div> <span>&lt;</span> <span>&gt;</span> <span>↺</span> </div> </div>		<div> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>X</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		W	N	E	S	1♣	2♥	X	4♥	4NT	P	5♣	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																
1♣	2♥	X	4♥																
4NT	P	5♣	P																
P	P																		
<div> <span>Andrew Black</span> <span>S</span> </div>																			
<div>             ♠ 9765              ♥ QJ863              ♦ 964              ♣ 9           </div>																			
<div>             ♠ QJ8              ♥ A954              ♦ J853              ♣ 73           </div>																			

In the other room, Plackett, North, found a 3H overcall (!). East doubled and South raised to 4H. Now Paske thought he had enough for slam and bid 5NT, pick a slam and East chose the cold 6C. In this room, East cannot be faulted for only bidding 5C without any aces.



### An Ogload

<div> <span>✕</span> <span>pos</span> <span>6</span> </div>		<div> <span>N</span> David Gold         </div>																					
<div>             Bd 20, Dlr W              5♥-2 W           </div>		<div>             Other table              6♣ = W           </div>																					
<div> <span>W</span> Julian Pottage           </div>		<div> <span>Tony Ratcliff</span> <span>E</span> </div>																					
<div>             ♠ AK64              ♥ AKQ102              ♦ AK8              ♣ 5           </div>		<div>             ♠ 7              ♥ 74              ♦ 95              ♣ KQJ97642           </div>																					
<div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> </div> <div> <span>&lt;</span> <span>&gt;</span> <span>↺</span> </div> </div>		<div> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♣*</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT*</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		W	N	E	S	2♣*	P	2NT*	P	3♥	P	4♥	P	4♠	P	5♥	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																				
2♣*	P	2NT*	P																				
3♥	P	4♥	P																				
4♠	P	5♥	P																				
P	P																						
<div> <span>Andrew Black</span> <span>S</span> </div>																							
<div>             ♠ Q98532              ♥ J5              ♦ 1062              ♣ A3           </div>																							
<div>             ♠ J10              ♥ 9863              ♦ QJ743              ♣ 108           </div>																							



This was a bigger loss. Julian opened with a strong 2C, and Tony's 2NT showed clubs. Now 3H was natural and I don't like 4H. What do you call an 8-card suit? Trumps, of course, or an ogdoad if you are familiar with Egyptian mythology. I would have bid 5C on the East hand, although it might be difficult to raise to six on West's hand. 5H could have been made, except on a trump lead, but declarer tried to ruff two spades in dummy and went off anyway. This maybe should have made as you need a club trick, five hearts, two diamonds, two spades and one ruff, so you need clubs 2-2.

The match against Ireland started badly with a nasty trump guess:

<div><div><div>×</div><div>DDS</div><div></div></div></div> <div><div>♠ QJ</div><div>♥ J9643</div><div>♦ KJ87</div><div>♣ A7</div></div>	<div><div>N</div><div>Tom Hanlon</div></div> <div><div>Other table</div><div>4♠+1 W</div></div>
<div><div>Bd 1, Dlr N</div><div>4♠-1 E</div></div> <div><div>W Richard Plackett</div><div>♠ AK10872</div><div>♥ 1082</div><div>♦ 93</div><div>♣ J5</div></div>	<div><div>♠ 64</div><div>♥ AKQ5</div><div>♦ A1065</div><div>♣ K104</div></div>
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div></div><div><div>&lt;</div><div>&gt;</div><div></div></div></div></div> <div><div>Conor Boland</div><div>S</div></div>	<div><div>♠ 953</div><div>♥ 7</div><div>♦ Q42</div><div>♣ Q98632</div></div> <div><div><div>W</div><div>N</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div><div><div></div><div>1♥</div><div>1NT</div><div>P</div></div><div><div>4♥*</div><div>P</div><div>4♠</div><div>P</div></div><div><div>P</div><div>P</div><div></div><div></div></div></div>

Conor Boland led the seven of hearts, an obvious singleton, against the normal spade game and Mia put up the ten. North covered with the jack and Mia won and played a spade to the king and North's jack. Now she crossed to the ace of diamonds and took the spade finesse, but North won and gave South a heart ruff for one off. Three declarers played the spades from the top, which is probably wrong as North could easily have a minor-suit queen instead of the queen of spades and restricted choice tells you to play for a singleton.

The "sophisticated" declarers, Tommasini and Macintosh, played the jack of clubs from dummy to the king after the first round of spades, but this was a misplay, as North could easily have QJx in spades when he gives South a heart ruff for one off. Macintosh then played a spade to the eight, but North failed to give his partner a heart ruff. A comedy of errors as the bard might have said. I think Mia's line was right, and the five declarers that made it were wrong.

Sometimes virtue has to be its own reward – a phrase that I thought stemmed from Cicero, but someone with more classical knowledge than I tells me appears in the poems of Ovid.

### Wool Pulled

Medieval fairs were places of wonder and dastardly deeds, where robbers were always on the lookout for victims. Their favourite technique was to pull the victim's hood over his eyes while cutting his purse-strings. Hence the expression to "pull the wool over one's eyes". Mike Bell did that in another gain for the EBU team in the last round against Wales. He hoodwinked East-West – another expression from medieval thieves.

Hand 1, Dlr N  
3NT+1 S

W Tim Rees

♠ 63  
♥ Q8762  
♦ 9654  
♣ 87

Mike Bell S

♠ J95  
♥ 93  
♦ KJ10  
♣ 96432

John Salisbury E

♠ K108742  
♥ AK5  
♦ Q73  
♣ K

W	N	E	S
P	1♠	X	X
P	2♣	X	XX
2♥	P	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P

Tim Rees led the six of hearts and John Salisbury thought that South would have the queen of hearts for his 2NT bid so he won with the ace and continued with a low heart, hoping that South would misguess with ♥Q104. Declarer had little difficulty making ten tricks after this start. I think East has to play his partner for ♥Qxxxx as the only realistic chance of beating the contract. Once you have eliminated the impossible, what remains, however unlikely, must be the truth.

### Strip Club

Hand 8, Dlr W  
6NT-1 S

W Tim Rees

♠ 7  
♥ 9863  
♦ QJ1065  
♣ K86

Mike Bell S

♠ AK104  
♥ AKQJ72  
♦ A2  
♣ 9

John Salisbury E

♠ QJ653  
♥ 54  
♦ 98  
♣ J1032

W	N	E	S
P	2♠*	P	2♦*
P	2♥	P	3♣
P	3♥	P	4NT
P	5♣	P	5♦
P	5♠	P	6NT
P	P	P	P



West led the queen of diamonds and “honest” John Salisbury played the nine under the ace, normal count. How would you play?

The above hand is very interesting and far be it from me to criticise the declarer play of the highest ranked player in the country, but I think that Mike Bell might have made this contract. I would do as he did, and cash the ace of spades, cross to the ten of hearts, and play a spade towards dummy, but when West shows out it is time to put plan B into operation. You cannot afford to duck as you may well need a strip squeeze on West, so you rise, and cash all the hearts, discarding a spade, a diamond and three clubs to reach this ending, after North cashes the last heart.

♠ 104  
♥ none  
♦ 2  
♣ 9

♠ none  
♥ none  
♦ K7  
♣ AQ

Now you know how many spades, East has left, and he should keep one and at least two clubs. If West has kept two diamonds, then you throw him in with the second diamond to lead away from the king of clubs if he has it. If he bares the king of clubs, you have to read it. To defend this ending, West has to “bare” the jack or ten of clubs if he has it as well as baring the king of clubs. Mike took the club finesse, a reasonable line but a failing one.

The battle towards the end was between Wales and Scotland for fourth place. England had won by a comfortable margin, and Ireland were guaranteed third with a match to spare. Wales had an excellent match against a strong EBU team which was neck and neck most of the way through. The final table:

SCORE MATRIX											
Rank			ENGL	EBU	IREL	WALE	SCOT	N IR	Adj	Total VPs	Team
1	ENGLAND	1st WE	-	-20	-60	58	30	62	0	148.44	ENGLAND
		2nd WE	-	16	20	25	44	64	0		
			-	11	1	57	89	45	0		
		VPs	-	21.04	15.57	38.06	35.24	38.53	0		
2	EBU	1st WE	20	-	4	60	0	37	0	127.72	EBU
		2nd WE	-16	-	10	6	24	71	0		
			-11	-	5	-26	-1	41	0		
		VPs	18.96	-	23.81	24.59	24.24	36.12	0		
3	IRELAND	1st WE	60	-4	-	-31	29	5	-0.5	117.19	IRELAND
		2nd WE	-20	-10	-	44	44	31	0		
			-1	-5	-	19	-32	-1	0		
		VPs	24.43	16.19	-	23.24	27.52	26.31	-0.5		
4	WALES	1st WE	-58	-60	31	-	34	15	0	90.38	WALES
		2nd WE	-25	-6	-44	-	0	-11	0		
			-57	26	-19	-	13	39	0		
		VPs	1.94	15.41	16.76	-	28.36	27.91	0		
5	SCOTLAND	1st WE	-30	0	-29	-34	-	69	0	75.68	SCOTLAND
		2nd WE	-44	-22	-44	0	-	0	0		
			-89	11	32	-13	-	0	0		
		VPs	4.76	17.76	12.48	11.64	-	29.04	0		
6	N IRELAND	1st WE	-62	-37	-5	-15	-69	-	-0.5	41.59	N IRELAND
		2nd WE	-64	-71	-31	11	0	-	0		
			-45	-41	1	-39	0	-	0		
		VPs	1.47	3.88	13.69	12.09	10.96	-	-0.5		



The Wales team for the second weekend, (L to R) Tony Ratcliff, Tim Rees, Ceri Pierce (NPC), Mia Deschepper, Richard Plackett, John Salisbury.

Julian Pottage (inset) was the sixth player, who had to leave before the closing ceremony.

### **Ceri Pierce (NPC) adds:**

The team arrived in Manchester on Friday afternoon, ready to do battle. It was the first Camrose for Mia Deschepper, making her debut with Richard Plackett and team mates Tim Rees and John Salisbury, and Julian Pottage and Tony Ratcliff. Like all Camrose events it was tough going, especially against the English who fielded two very strong teams. When the dust settled, Wales finished fourth.

As well as playing for the Camrose Trophy, there are many other side trophies that are available for individual head to head matches – much like the Calcutta Cup in the Six Nations Rugby Tournament. Wales retained two trophies that they had won last year. The Causeway Trophy for the match between Northern Ireland and Wales, and The Patrick Jourdain Trophy for the match between Wales and Scotland. We lost out on The Alan Pierce Cup (Wales v England) and The Cyfeillion Beiriste (no-one knows how to pronounce it) for the CBAI v Wales match. [Seems to be one Welsh word, for friends, and one Irish word, for berries. I learnt on RealBridge that the Scotland-Ireland match is played for the Quaiche Trophy, a good Scrabble word for a Gaelic drinking vessel. - Ed]

For those who have never been involved in Home Internationals, you can view most matches from the comfort of your own home with expert commentary on RealBridge or if you live near the venue, you can come and watch in the Vugraph room (or the bar) with the team captains and other spectators or sit at a table in the Open room and soak up the atmosphere. All are welcome.

..

## The Junior Camrose by Paul Lamford

This event started in 1971 and has been dominated by England who have won 42 times while Scotland have won seven times, with the title being shared by those two countries on two other occasions. None of the other home countries has lifted the trophy. It started as an under 27 event but soon changed to under 26. Wales did well to enter both events this year:

**Junior Camrose:** Sophie Akers & Iolo Williams, Joseph Bentley & James Brindle, Emilia Cadden & Milan Malecki (Floating Pair). NPC: Soozy Nesom

**Peggy Bayer:** James Williams & Jack Baxter, Sarah King, Emilia Cadden & Milan Malecki (Floating Pair). NPC: Soozy Nesom

James Williams and Jack Baxter are first year students in computer science, 19 and 18 respectively. Sarah King is a psychology student and is 19. Emilia Cadden is 21 and studies Japanese and translation. Milan Malecki is 20 and studies Chinese. Joseph Bentley is 23 and is an environmental consultant. Sophie Akers is also 23 and works as a Lab Technician. James Brindle is 20 and is applying for university. Iola Williams is 15 and still at school.

Soozy Nesom (NPC of both teams) is 28 and a PhD student in Economics

An early board was a chance missed:

<div><div><div>✕</div><div>pos</div><div>✍</div></div></div>	<div>♠ J53</div>	<div>N Daniel Winter (ENG)</div>																
<div>Bd 9, Dlr N</div> <div>4♠ = S</div>	<div>♥ 982</div> <div>♦ 8</div> <div>♣ AKQJ108</div>	<div>Other table</div> <div>3♦ = W</div>																
<div>W Joseph Bentley (WAL)</div>		<div>James Brindle (WAL) E</div>																
<div>♠ 102</div> <div>♥ A53</div> <div>♦ AKJ652</div> <div>♣ 72</div>		<div>♠ K4</div> <div>♥ KJ104</div> <div>♦ 973</div> <div>♣ 6543</div>																
<div><div><div><div>0</div><div>0</div></div></div><div><div>&lt;</div><div>&gt;</div><div>↺</div></div></div>	<div>♠ AQ9876</div> <div>♥ Q76</div> <div>♦ Q104</div> <div>♣ 9</div>	<div><table><tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♣*</td><td>P</td><td>1♥*</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>X</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	W	N	E	S		1♣*	P	1♥*	2♦	X	3♦	4♠	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S															
	1♣*	P	1♥*															
2♦	X	3♦	4♠															
P	P	P																
<div>Liam Sanderson (ENG) S</div>																		

South's 1H showed spades, and North's double showed three-card support. South's 4S was reasonable, and the focus turned to West. Joseph led the ace of diamonds and East played the three. The normal method when there is a singleton in dummy is to give suit preference, and I think East should have played the nine. He wants a heart switch, whether his partner has the ace or queen. West needs to underlead the ace of hearts to beat the contract. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, however, and West cashed the ace of hearts after which there was no further defence. Playing a low heart could easily be wrong. If East had KQ doubleton of spades and QJxx in hearts, it would cost the contract, so the signalling is very important.

Hand 15, Dlr S

6♠ = N

W Joseph Bentley (WAL)

N Daniel Winter (ENG)

Other table: 4♠ +2 N

James Brindle (WAL) E

♠ 6

♥ QJ973

♦ 1063

♣ J632

♠ AKQ108

♥ A5

♦ A8

♣ Q1095

♠ J3

♥ K642

♦ QJ9542

♣ K

♠ 97542

♥ 108

♦ K7

♣ A874

Liam Sanderson (ENG) S

W N E S

P 1♠ 3♦ 4♠

5♦ 5♥ P 6♠

P P P

On the above hand, South has a normal raise to 4S and North is too good to just bid 5S over 5D, so he tried 5H, a clear slam-try. South thought he had what was needed, and he turned out to be right, but 6S was rather a lucky contract. Declarer needs four club tricks, and is a bit unlucky with the mirror distribution. The choice was between trying to pin a singleton jack of clubs with West or finding a singleton king of clubs with East. The latter was more likely in view of the weak jump overcall, and this turned out to be the winning and fortuitous line.

Hand 20, Dlr W

4♥ +1 N

W Sophie Akers (WAL)

N Daniel Winter (ENG)

Other table: 3♥ +1 N

Iolo Williams (WAL) E

♠ A10864

♥ —

♦ Q874

♣ K654

♠ K932

♥ A974

♦ KJ105

♣ A

♠ QJ5

♥ Q853

♦ A9

♣ Q982

♠ 7

♥ KJ1062

♦ 632

♣ J1073

Liam Sanderson (ENG) S

W N E S

P 1NT P 2♦

P 2NT P 3♦

P 3♥ P 4♥

P P P

This was a pushy Four Hearts which Daniel Winter reached for England against Wales. East, Iolo, led the queen of spades. West, Sophie, won and returned a low diamond, but declarer guessed correctly to play the ten, and East won and continued with the five of spades to the ten and king. Now the simplest is to draw trumps and repeat the diamond

finesse, but instead Daniel cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club in North. He then cashed the ace of hearts to discover the trumps were 4-0 and finessed the ten of hearts. Now he played a diamond to the jack and repeated the trump finesse to make 11 tricks. The other room only reached 3H, and I must admit that I would not expect to reach game after a strong NT by North.

<div><div><div>✕</div><div>pos</div><div></div></div><div><div>♠ AKJ83</div><div>♥ 6</div><div>♦ J862</div><div>♣ J52</div></div></div>		<div><div>N</div><div>Luca Crone (IRL)</div></div>	
<div><div>Bd 1, Dlr N</div><div>4♥-1 E</div></div>		<div><div>Other table</div><div>3♥ = W</div></div>	
<div><div>W</div><div>Joseph Bentley (WAL)</div></div>		<div><div>James Brindle (WAL)</div><div>E</div></div>	
<div><div>♠ 10652</div><div>♥ KQJ5</div><div>♦ A43</div><div>♣ 98</div></div>		<div><div>♠ 74</div><div>♥ A10984</div><div>♦ K109</div><div>♣ AQ6</div></div>	
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div></div><div><div>&lt;</div><div>&gt;</div><div></div></div></div></div>		<div><div>♠ Q9</div><div>♥ 732</div><div>♦ Q75</div><div>♣ K10743</div></div>	
<div><div>Matthew O'Farrell (IRL)</div><div>S</div></div>		<div><div><div>W</div><div>N</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div><div><div>P</div><div>1♥</div><div>P</div><div>P</div></div><div><div>3♣*</div><div>3♣</div><div>4♥</div><div>P</div></div><div><div>P</div><div>P</div></div></div>	

This was one missed opportunity in the Wales v Ireland match, but very difficult. South led the queen of spades, followed by the nine of spades, and North won to play a third spade. A trump promotion looks unlikely so North would have done better to switch to a club. Declarer ruffed in hand, with South throwing a club, drew two rounds of trumps and now needed to ruff a spade in West before drawing the last trump. Then cashing the fourth trump would effect a guard squeeze without the count on South. In the five card ending, if South keeps Qx in diamonds and KTx in clubs, then declarer can play the ace of diamonds and finesse the ten, endplaying South. If South keeps Qxx in diamonds and KT of clubs, declarer plays the ace and queen of clubs, forcing the defence to open up diamonds when declarer plays for split honours. Instead, declarer took the club finesse and now had a diamond loser.

The Junior Camrose table was again a reasonable result for the inexperienced Welsh team

rank	team													Adj	VP tot
1	 <a href="#">ENGLAND</a>			<a href="#">14.18</a>	<a href="#">7.45</a>	<a href="#">6.72</a>	<a href="#">12.29</a>	<a href="#">18.33</a>	<a href="#">20.00</a>	<a href="#">20.00</a>	<a href="#">19.93</a>	<a href="#">19.34</a>	<a href="#">20.00</a>	-0.50	157.74
2	 <a href="#">IRELAND</a>	<a href="#">5.82</a>	<a href="#">12.55</a>			<a href="#">9.39</a>	<a href="#">19.52</a>	<a href="#">17.59</a>	<a href="#">15.38</a>	<a href="#">9.09</a>	<a href="#">18.77</a>	<a href="#">14.39</a>	<a href="#">17.03</a>	-0.50	139.03
3	 <a href="#">SCOTLAND</a>	<a href="#">13.28</a>	<a href="#">7.71</a>	<a href="#">10.61</a>	<a href="#">0.48</a>			<a href="#">20.00</a>	<a href="#">6.03</a>	<a href="#">10.31</a>	<a href="#">15.00</a>	<a href="#">16.42</a>	<a href="#">17.17</a>	-1.10	115.91
4	 <a href="#">SBU</a>	<a href="#">1.67</a>	<a href="#">0.00</a>	<a href="#">2.41</a>	<a href="#">4.62</a>	<a href="#">0.00</a>	<a href="#">13.97</a>			<a href="#">16.58</a>	<a href="#">10.00</a>	<a href="#">17.59</a>	<a href="#">12.03</a>	-0.50	78.37
5	 <a href="#">WALES</a>	<a href="#">0.00</a>	<a href="#">0.07</a>	<a href="#">10.91</a>	<a href="#">1.23</a>	<a href="#">9.69</a>	<a href="#">5.00</a>	<a href="#">3.42</a>	<a href="#">10.00</a>			<a href="#">11.20</a>	<a href="#">11.48</a>	-1.50	61.50
6	 <a href="#">N. IRELAND</a>	<a href="#">0.66</a>	<a href="#">0.00</a>	<a href="#">5.61</a>	<a href="#">2.97</a>	<a href="#">3.58</a>	<a href="#">2.83</a>	<a href="#">2.41</a>	<a href="#">7.97</a>	<a href="#">8.80</a>	<a href="#">8.52</a>			-0.10	43.25

The England team gets two weekends of training every year, and some of their players are “veterans” of previous Junior Camrose trophies.





The Wales Junior Camrose team (L to R): Joseph Bentley, Sophie Akers, Emilia Cadden, Soozy Nesom (NPC), James Brindle, Iolo Williams and Milan Malecki

## The Peggy Bayer by Paul Lamford

In October 2017, Crystal Palace started the Premiership season with seven consecutive losses, without scoring a goal. A joke floating around the Internet at the time was “Contestants were asked to name a Premiership football team” in the manner of a popular TV program. The only “pointless” answer was Crystal Palace. The Welsh Peggy Bayer team recovered brilliantly from its poor start, having lost its first three matches 20-0, and even beat the much more experienced Scotland team. This was in no small part due to Soozy Nesom, who captained both teams, and her task was to restore morale after the bruising start.

This event, originally for U19 players but now for U21 players started in February 1990 in Cheltenham with a trophy donated by the late Palmer Bayer (also the founder of the Educational Trust for British Bridge) in honour of his wife Peggy. England have dominated the event in which the other home countries have not always raised a team. Scotland have won four times (including the inaugural event) and Ireland once. The youngest-ever

competitor was Claire Evans of Wales who competed aged nine in January 1999 in Dublin. She no longer plays bridge, unfortunately.

The Peggy Bayer event was not broadcast on BBO, so there were no records of the auctions. Wales did very well on the board opposite in their fine win over Scotland:

We don’t have the auction, but we do know that West led a heart against 3NT, fatally as one can see, as that was declarer’s ninth trick. I would have opened 1S on the East hand, and that would have avoided the bad result, although South would have played quietly in 3C.

DLR: E		VUL: All	
♠ J72		♠ AK1083	
♥ 10		♥ 854	
♦ KJ109842		♦ A73	
♣ AJ		♣ 102	
♠ Q954			
♥ KJ762			
♦ Q5			
♣ 83			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">W</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">26</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">E</span> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">S</div> </div> </div>			
♠ 6			
♥ AQ93			
♦ 6			
♣ KQ97654			





The Wales Peggy Bayer Team (L to R) James Williams, Jack Baxter, Sarah King, Emilia Cadden, Soozy Nesom (NPC), James Brindle and Milan Malecki

The final table of the Peggy Bayer was a good recovery for Wales, with the highlight being their success against Scotland:

rank	team							Adj	VP tot
1	ENGLAND		18.77 17.03	18.66 18.33	20.00 17.45	20.00 20.00	20.00 20.00		190.24
2	IRELAND	1.23 2.97		14.80 15.38	20.00 17.17	20.00 20.00	20.00 20.00		151.55
3	SCOTLAND	1.34 1.67	5.20 4.62		20.00 7.97	19.93 20.00	17.31 20.00		118.04
4	WALES	0.00 2.55	0.00 2.83	0.00 12.03		10.91 20.00	8.24 16.73		73.29
5	NIBU	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.07 0.00	9.09 0.00		17.72 10.00		36.88
6	N. IRELAND	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	2.69 0.00	11.76 3.27	2.28 10.00			30.00

## Teltscher Trophy Trials by Paul Lamford

This was very nearly not held, owing to my own incompetence. Gary Jones and I had entered, but then I realised that the Teltscher clashed with my wife's 35<sup>th</sup> Princeton Reunion!

Rank	Pair	Names [OVERALL]	Bds	XImpC	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
1	5	Alan Stephenson & Peter Kaufmann	90	49.5	17	-2	30	5.5	-8	6.5	1	27	-25.5	-2
2	3	John Salisbury & Tim Rees	90	38.5	-9.5	12.5	-10	29	8	-27	8	25	0.5	2
3	1	Steve Jarvis & Nick Forrest	90	7	-7.5	-12.5	40	-5.5	-7.5	-20.5	-8	-2	25.5	5
4	4	Diane Kurbalija & Paul J Denning	90	-4.5	9.5	2	-40	23.5	0.5	27	-1	2	-25	-3
5	6	Simon Gottschalk & Chris Rochelle	90	-31	-17	10.5	10	-23.5	7.5	-6.5	-7	-25	25	-5
6	2	David Birt & Gilly Clench	90	-59.5	7.5	-10.5	-30	-29	-0.5	20.5	7	-27	-0.5	3



Alan Stephenson

The top two pairs clearly merited selection for the Teltscher Trophy, to be held in Edinburgh in May this year, but the selectors had a close decision between the third and fourth pair for the remaining place. With only three tables, there were large swings particularly on slam hands, and they should not be selectors if they did not select. The fourth pair, Diana Kurbalija and Paul Denning, were selected. This does seem correct taking into consideration results in previous events over the last two years, although disappointing for the third pair. Paul, of course, recused himself when selection was discussed.

This board was an example of the swings on even the opening lead, which means that a small difference in IMPs is not significant in a 3-table event:

Dlr: South  
Vul: N/S

Optimum  
EW 450

♠ 10 7 6  
♥ 5 2  
♦ 9 6 5 3 2  
♣ A 8 7

♠ A Q J 9 5 2  
♥ A Q 9 6 3  
♦ 8 4  
♣ - -

NORTH  
15  
SOUTH

♠ - -  
♥ K J 8 7  
♦ K J 7  
♣ K Q J 6 5 2

4  
13 14  
9

♠ K 8 4 3  
♥ 10 4  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ 10 9 4 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	2	5	4	3
W	3	1	5	4	2

The winners played well throughout, but needed a bit of luck. After the start 1S-2C-2H it is best now to play 3H as forcing, but I don't know if they did. North ended up leading the ace of clubs against 6H which was wrong as that is not likely to go away. A diamond would suffice; it might be hard for South to cash the second diamond safely, but the simplest is a trump lead or diamond lead and trump return. When the opponents agree the second suit they bid, this is often the best choice, and here it leaves declarer with too much to do. He will probably take the ruffing club finesse or the ruffing spade finesse, neither of which works.

Alan and Peter did not have it all their own way in the slam zone. On the following a Lightner double asked for a diamond lead, but the winning defence was not found

Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

Optimum  
EW -1400

♠ 10 8 6 5 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ A 10 9 8 7  
♣ 6

♠ Q 9  
♥ J 8 7 3 2  
♦ Q J 6 2  
♣ 9 5

NORTH  
18  
SOUTH

♠ J 3  
♥ 10 9 6 5  
♦ - -  
♣ Q J 10 7 4 3 2

10  
6 4  
20

♠ A K 7 4  
♥ K 4  
♦ K 5 4 3  
♣ A K 8

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	6	1	6	6
S	-	6	1	5	6
E	1	-	-	-	-
W	1	-	-	-	-

East's 3C pre-empt led to North-South reaching 6S which East doubled for an unusual lead, but West led a heart instead of the low diamond that was needed.. -1660 was the result, a "Restoration" after the return of Charles II in May of that year. South might have considered correcting to 6NT with his double club stop, but then there would have been no story to tell.

## Round and About

### North Wales: The Catherine Spalding Teams

- 1 Wyn Williams, David Cartlidge, Tyrone Neydorf, Gareth Morgan 104 (pictured)
- 2 Frank McAleavy, Brian Crawford, Peter Nickson, Jeff Angove 97
- 3= Tony Carsley, Rod Sheard, Andrea Knox, Martin Garvey 89
- 3= Patrick Murphy, Chris Pope, Liz Commins, David Stevenson 89
- 5 Mike Brotherton, Steve Jordan, Doug Colmer, Mark Laming 59
- 6 David Spalding, Mark Spalding, Olwyn Parry, Pat Mulally, Dylan Rees 53
- 7 Jennifer Williams, Paul Smith, Lindsay Hind, Sally Lloyd Davies 34
- 8 Brenda Brown, Jane Wise, Megan Jones, Linda Mountford 31



### Mid Wales

**The Evans Jones Open Pairs was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Leading Results:**

- 1 Diana Harris & Paul Gagne (pictured)
- 2 Pam Woodhouse & Jeff Thomas
- 3 Judith Gethin & Dave Berry
- 4 Lorraine Clarke & Roger Boyle
- 5 Anne Williams & Valerie Fisher



### The WBU National Teams



**This had a disappointing entry but was well run by Sarah Amos and was a great result for the winners ahead of other Camrose and Lady Milne players**

- 1 Tim Barsby & Steve Webb; Glyn Meredith & Jennifer Wardell (pictured) 51.55
- 2 Simon Gottschalk & Trevor Towers; Gilly Clench & David Birt 51.273 Viking Yuen & Fu Cheung; David Bonello & Gillian O'Keeffe
- 4 Gwynn Davis & Susan Ingham; James Brindle & Joseph Bentley 34.4
- 5 Emilia Cadden & James Williams; Milan Malecki & Simon Richards 12.02



The **EWBA Mixed Pairs** in December was a very close fight. Final scores:

- 1 Gwynn Davis & Susan Ingham 63.02 (see North Devon for a picture)
- 2 Simon Gottschalk & Miriam Handren 62.50
- 3 Gilly Clench & David Bird 60.24

The **North Devon Congress Teams** had some Welsh winners.

- 1 Chris Wormleighton & Dave Smith, Gwynn Davis & Susan Ingham 96



Come along and play in

## THE NATIONAL MIXED PAIRS

Gwent Bridge Academy

28th April 2024 at 11am - 2 Sessions  
£50 per pair

To enter please see the WBU Web Site or

email [simonmgottschalk@gmail.com](mailto:simonmgottschalk@gmail.com)

(pictured)

- 2 Eric Cummings & Ceri Pierce,
- Tim Rees & Mia Deschepper 81
- 3 Jim Grant & Sally Anoyrkatis,
- Sam & Venetia Anoyrkatis 72

The **EWBA February** Congress was held at the Gwent Bridge Academy.

### Swiss Pairs

1. Cathy Smith & Andrew Smith 108 VPs
2. TIM BARSBY & STEVE

WEBB 98 VPs

3. Ian Walsh & Stefan Lindfors 94 VPs

### Swiss Teams

1. RICHARD PLACKETT, MIA DESCHEPPER, TONY RATCLIFF, JULIAN POTTAGE 85 VPs (pictured)
2. GWYNN DAVIS, SUE INGHAM, MIKE BEST, DAVE SMITH 83 VPs
3. Richard Lingham, Vivienne Mably, Ann Slee, Graham Hoare 76 VPs



Players in capitals are EWBA members.

The Claret Jug is normally associated with the Open Championship at Golf, the oldest of the majors, but it is also awarded for the best performance in the EWBA over the year.

Because of Covid, it was previously last awarded in 2019-20 but was reinstated for 2023-4 and was won by Martin David and Steve Webb (pictured).

## West Wales



Congratulations to Adrian Trickey & Mrunalini Dewan, winners of the **WWBA Mixed Pairs** competition held at Llanarthne. The event was well run and directed by ATO, Dave Nicklin. The winners in the photo, with the director in the centre.

Scores:

- 1 Adrian Trickey & Mrunalini Dewan 66.59
- 2 Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 60.45
- 3 Tim Dean & Pam Evans 55.45
- 4 Eleanor Price & Bob Alderdice 54.09
- 5 Julie Mllewski & Peter Milewski 51.82
- 6 Glyn Meredith & Jennifer Wardell 49.55

**The Laidlaw Murray**, the WWBA Teams of Four, was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March. 1 Tony Haworth & Kevin Maddox, Mike Best & Simon Richards 134 IMPs. 2 Viking Yuen & Fu Cheung, John Salisbury & Joy Seculer 124 IMPs, 3 Mike Baker & Steve Jarvis, Tim Dean & Peter Milewski 63 IMPs.



The winning team, L to R: Kevin Maddox. Tony Haworth, Simon Richards, Mike Best

### WBU & WEST WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Porthcawl Congress

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Pairs & Teams events**

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**Chief TD & Congress Organiser**

**SARAH AMOS**

**sarahamostd@gmail.com \* 07930 503746**



## Women's Bridge in Wales

A mentoring programme to develop women's bridge in Wales and support female partnerships has started up this month. Once a month, Welsh women pairs will play against each other on RealBridge. Some pairs have mentors who watch them and discuss the boards with them afterwards. The mentors also help with various aspects of the game, such as system, bidding, card play and defence. As well as improving their game and partnership understanding, the aim is to build up players' confidence so they will feel able to take part in women's competitive bridge and eventually enter the Lady Milne trials.



The first session took place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. After the teething problems were resolved, the session ran in a very pleasant way. The next session will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, starting 7pm. These games are not exclusive to mentored pairs. Any women's pair who would like to play but are not interested in mentoring are very welcome.

Women players can also take part in the monthly women's teams training sessions organised by the **European Bridge League, women's division**. Teams play five boards against three different European teams. At the end, one of the top European players comes online to discuss some of the more interesting boards. The previous session's discussion was particularly focussing on carding. If you are interested, you can watch the video here: [EBL - Online Training Session with Giorgia Botta, 13th March, 2024](#).

The next session will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, hosted by David Gold, one of Britain's top players. A **F2F women's weekend** is also in the pipeline for later this year. Hopefully there will be enough interest. Past events like this were particularly successful and enjoyable. If you are interested in taking part in any of these events, please contact Mia Deschepper, WBU women's coordinator for Wales, on [mpdeschepper@yahoo.com](mailto:mpdeschepper@yahoo.com).

Three of the five pairs reached slam on this deal and I could find no fault with North-South's auction, so I had nothing to say as their trainer. 2H was a reverse, totally justified with the 7-5 shape. 3S was a good suit and 4C showed extra length. South judged very well that her king of clubs and ace of diamonds were gold dust.

Of course there were hands bid not as well as that, and those are the ones that

the mentors can work on with their protégés.

On another board, it would take a lot of system to get to the top spot of 6C, and Suzanne Lawson made the practical bid of 6NT. It was almost impossible for South to find the spade lead from the king, into the hand that showed 18-19 balanced, and declarer had time to knock out the ace of hearts for her twelfth trick.



## Premier Grand Masters Pairs

*This was run by the EBU on Real Bridge and was a great success for Paddy Murphy and Mark Roderick. Paddy offers a good report:*



Overall I think we played fairly steadily and had very few system screw-ups - some of the more interesting boards where when things went wrong to be honest as below:

<div> <div>✕</div> <div>pers</div> <div>✍</div> </div> <div>♠ K8</div> <div>N Paddy Murphy</div>	
<div>Bd 7, Dlr S</div> <div>♥ 9862</div> <div>♦ 10762</div> <div>♣ 864</div> <div>W Marc Smith</div> <div>Derek Maggs E</div>	
<div>♠ AQ932</div> <div>♥ 103</div> <div>♦ KJ9</div> <div>♣ KQ9</div> <div>♠ J10</div> <div>♥ A</div> <div>♦ Q854</div> <div>♣ J107532</div>	
<div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> <div>&lt;</div> <div>&gt;</div> <div>↺</div> </div> <div>♠ 7654</div> <div>♥ KQJ754</div> <div>♦ A3</div> <div>♣ A</div> <div>W N E S</div> <div>1♠ P P 2♥</div> <div>X P 2♠ P</div> <div>P P</div> <div>Mark Roderick S</div>	

I think East should bid 3H over 2NT or over 3Dx but, as he said, both passes were great bids from Mark ("an interesting position", he said) as many would bid 3S and chicken out. This resulted in 1100, which we call "sticks and wheels" but our editor thinks a Henry is better, after the seizure of the throne by Henry I in 1100.

<div> <div>✕</div> <div>pers</div> <div>✍</div> </div> <div>♠ 53</div> <div>N Paddy Murphy</div>	
<div>Bd 19, Dlr S</div> <div>♥ —</div> <div>♦ A10876</div> <div>♣ AKQ432</div> <div>W Stefan Lindfors</div> <div>Harry Anoyrkatis E</div>	
<div>♠ AK872</div> <div>♥ KQJ1095</div> <div>♦ —</div> <div>♣ 95</div> <div>♠ 1064</div> <div>♥ A84</div> <div>♦ KQ532</div> <div>♣ 107</div>	
<div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> <div>&lt;</div> <div>&gt;</div> <div>↺</div> </div> <div>♠ QJ9</div> <div>♥ 7632</div> <div>♦ J94</div> <div>♣ J86</div> <div>W N E S</div> <div>1♥ 2♣ 3♣</div> <div>3♠* 4NT X</div> <div>5♥ P P P</div> <div>Mark Roderick S</div>	

## Saturday

Some bad bidding by me (Paddy). I think most were raising 1H initially (although in my defence many of the field are showing five with 1H) But I should bid 3H at least at my second turn. We lost 11 on this even though 4S is a good save

<div> <div>✕</div> <div>pers</div> <div>✍</div> </div> <div>♠ KQ</div> <div>N Paddy Murphy</div>	
<div>Bd 15, Dlr S</div> <div>♥ 1082</div> <div>♦ AJ10873</div> <div>♣ A4</div> <div>W Roger Gibbons</div> <div>Jeremy Dhondy E</div>	
<div>♠ 3</div> <div>♥ 54</div> <div>♦ KQ964</div> <div>♣ Q9753</div> <div>♠ 1097</div> <div>♥ KQJ976</div> <div>♦ 52</div> <div>♣ J6</div>	
<div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> <div>&lt;</div> <div>&gt;</div> <div>↺</div> </div> <div>♠ AJ86542</div> <div>♥ A3</div> <div>♦ —</div> <div>♣ K1082</div> <div>W N E S</div> <div>2NT* X* P P</div> <div>3♦ X* P P</div> <div>P</div> <div>Mark Roderick S</div>	

Aggressive bidding and the opponents misjudged but 5Cx would have been a decent save.

[Perhaps West should make a forcing pass of 5C, clearly forcing at these colours, when East will surely double- Ed]

Hand 1: Paddy Murphy (N) vs Catherine Seale (E). Contract: 6♥+1 S. Score: 6♥+1 S.

North: ♠ A1064, ♥ A109862, ♦ 3, ♣ 64. South: ♠ J87, ♥ 54, ♦ Q64, ♣ KQ1082.

West: Ian Pagan. East: Catherine Seale.

Hand 2: Mark Roderick (W) vs Paddy Murphy (E). Contract: 5♦-2 S. Score: 5♦-2 S.

North: ♠ K2, ♥ KQ73, ♦ AKJ, ♣ AJ93. South: ♠ Q953, ♥ J, ♦ 1098752, ♣ 75.

West: Mark Roderick. East: Paddy Murphy.

A nicely bid slam - bidding 4D over the natural super-accept 4C denied first or second round control in clubs but showed first or second round control in diamonds. 4S convinced Mark we had the goods for Six Hearts. Even 7H is good, just needing to ruff two spades in South.

## Sunday

1D was Precision, 0+ diamonds, and 2D shows a 6-card major (multi-Landy style) and 2H was pass or correct. North-South had problems deciding what to bid and declared 5D when 3NT by north is making

Hand 1: Mike Ash (N) vs Paddy Murphy (E). Contract: 6♥= E. Score: 6♥= E.

North: ♠ 9764, ♥ 5, ♦ 109652, ♣ Q105. South: ♠ AQ82, ♥ KJ83, ♦ A3, ♣ K63.

West: Mark Roderick. East: Paddy Murphy.

Hand 2: Robert Ferrari (W) vs Paddy Murphy (E). Contract: 6♥= E. Score: 6♥= E.

North: ♠ K5, ♥ 1074, ♦ KQJ87, ♣ J74. South: ♠ J103, ♥ AQ962, ♦ 4, ♣ A982.

West: Robert Ferrari. East: Paddy Murphy.

Hand 1: Celia Oram (N) vs Paddy Murphy (E). Contract: 5♦-2 S. Score: 5♦-2 S.

North: ♠ AJ972, ♥ A53, ♦ 732, ♣ K6. South: ♠ K108654, ♥ KJ4, ♦ J, ♣ QJ9.

West: Mark Roderick. East: Paddy Murphy.

Hand 2: Derek Oram (W) vs Paddy Murphy (E). Contract: 6♥= E. Score: 6♥= E.

North: ♠ Q, ♥ 10972, ♦ AKQ986, ♣ 84. South: ♠ 3, ♥ Q86, ♦ 1054, ♣ A107532.

West: Derek Oram. East: Paddy Murphy.

Another nice slam. 2NT showed four-card support and values for 3H+. The opponents' diamond bidding convinced Mark that (for once) my hand might be useful and he checked for aces and bid 6H - missed by three of the six pairs

We were 150 Ximps up going into the last set, which sounds like a lot, but two years ago we played in this and were 100+ up in a similar position and managed to drop to second place. We managed not to blow it this time and won by about 98 Ximps. Final Scores:

1 Paddy Murphy & Mark Roderick	+48.80
2 Clive Owen & John Sansom	+29.20
3 Catherine Seale & Ian Pagan	+13.80