



**Newsletter August 2024**  
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## **Forget Cagney and Lacey. The WBU has Piercey and Knoxy!**



Ceri Pierce is the CEO – or Chief Administrator – of the Welsh Bridge Union – tasked with carrying out the substantial day to day administration. She was born in Treforest, Pontypridd a long, long time ago. Her claim to fame is that Tom Jones babysat for her as a child and also taught her to play 'The Happy Wanderer' on the piano!

Ceri latterly lived in Leicester where she learned bridge in order to join in with the family conversation when she visited home. She returned to Wales in 1994 where she played bridge at Cardiff Bridge Club and in a few Lady Milnes until after having three children (Nick, Pete and Abbie) when she gave up for about 15 years.

Ceri now lives in Somerset – 25 miles away from Cardiff as the crow flies, but 70 miles as the car goes, but regularly comes back to play in Cardiff Bridge Club and in national Welsh events.

Sidekick Andrea Knox is the current President of the Welsh Bridge Union, having been elected in June 2024. She is a Solicitor and Licensed Insolvency Practitioner by day and runs her own niche commercial law firm in North Wales, having moved there in 2006 after a career at Allen and Overy in London and Hong Kong and then as a Partner at Pinsent Masons. Her claims to fame commercially include acting for Robert Maxwell's Trustee in Bankruptcy and advice regarding Enron.

Andrea has the misfortune of being born English and doesn't understand rugby but we can't have everything! She is best described as a better lawyer than a bridge player.... Notwithstanding this she has managed three Lady Milne appearances to date, two with Sarah Amos and one with Joan Marray. She is a regular player in the ACBL Nationals in the USA and Canada with husband Martin Garvey (a former Camrose winner) and they live on a farm in Llandudno overlooking the Irish sea with their four collies.

As a mother, sadly she was unable to interest her two children in learning bridge but hopes to make up for this oversight by attempting to recruit new players (and her eldest grandson!) during her time as President.

Ceri and Andrea are keen to chat to WBU Members to get feedback and ideas and they run monthly Forums on Zoom – for the next dates please see the WBU website.

So remember the next time you witness crimes against bridge or crimes against partner at the bridge table you know the Dynamic Duo to call.....!!

# The Lady Milne 2024 by Paul Lamford



Dublin was the host for this year's Lady Milne. and I hope the team had the chance to visit the Guinness Storehouse in St James's Gate. The Irish are very hospitable, and I look forward to my next trip there to have some more black gold. Wales had a strong team for this event and were hopeful of challenging for the trophy. Teetotallers can instead visit the beautiful marble altar reredos at St John's Lane Church opposite.



x  ♠ 92 Bd 3, Dlr S *6♠-1 E		N Nevena Senior (ENG) Other table 5♠ = W
W Suzi Lawson (WAL) ♠ QJ106 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ ♣ KJ1074	♥ Q1085 ♦ J64 ♣ 9652	E Gilly Clench (WAL) ♠ K8543 ♥ A3 ♦ K10975 ♣ Q
0 0 < >	♠ A7 ♥ J9642 ♦ 832 ♣ A83	W N E S P P P P 1♣ P 1♠ P 3♠ P 4♣ P 4♦ P 4♥ P 5♣ P 5♦ P 5♥ P 6♠ P P P
Anne Rosen (ENG) S		

## The Old Black

If Guinness is nicknamed black gold, then Blackwood is often referred to as The Old Black. Not the Old Black Magic, a song by Frank Sinatra, also sung by Bob Dylan and Rod Stewart. And Neil Young's guitar is famously called The Old Black as well. Like Blackwood, it has been modified many times. Roman Keycard Blackwood was an early modification, with Exclusion Blackwood, Six-Ace Blackwood and even Void Inclusion Keycard Blackwood being added. Any form of Blackwood would have avoided an early swing against Wales against England. At some point or other Suzy or Gilly might

have used Blackwood, but they were unlucky to be off two aces, and the Irish, against CBAI, also played in slam, one off.

## Black Gold

Continuing the same theme, Gilly Clench made an excellent bid to gain back nine IMPs on this hand. Jon Cooke and Paul Barden eulogised over the auction. South's 3H bid was about as wet as Francis Pym, the Abergavenny born author of the *Politics of Consent*. This gave EW room to bid game. 5C was an excellent bid judging that the king of spades and seventh club were black gold. I guess the singleton heart and ace of diamonds were red gold, a mix of gold and copper. There was nothing to the play.

x   ♠ Q3 Bd 10, Dlr E 5♣ = E		N Nevena Senior (ENG) Other table 4♥X-1 N
W Suzi Lawson (WAL) ♠ A8742 ♥ 93 ♦ 98 ♣ KJ82	♥ AKQ652 ♦ J1075 ♣ Q	E Gilly Clench (WAL) ♠ K9 ♥ 8 ♦ A32 ♣ A1097543
0 0 < >	♠ J1065 ♥ J1074 ♦ KQ64 ♣ 6	W N E S P P 1♣ P 1♠ 2♥ 3♣ 3♥ 4♣ P 5♣ P P P
Anne Rosen (ENG) S		

Bd 22, Dir E  
 4♥ = S  
 W Sally Anoyrkatis (ENG)  
 ♠ A9743  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ K9852  
 ♣ 9  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ AJ92  
 ♦ A10764  
 ♣ AK4  
 N Mia Deschepper (WAL)  
 Other table  
 4♥ -1 S  
 Venetia Anoyrkatis (ENG) E  
 ♠ K1052  
 ♥ Q104  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ 108753  
 ♠ QJ8  
 ♥ K753  
 ♦ J3  
 ♣ QJ62  
 W N E S  
 1♠ X 3♠ 4♥  
 P P P P  
 Ceri Pierce (WAL) S

### Second Hand High

We are taught when we learn the game that we play low with the second hand, but that advice needed to be ignored on this hand. West led the nine of clubs, and declarer, Ceri Pierce, led a spade from dummy. East had the opportunity to go in with the king of spades and give her partner a club ruff. When she did not, declarer was able to draw two rounds of trumps and ruff two spades in dummy, making three trumps, four clubs, one diamond and two ruffs. In the other room, Anne Rosen won the same lead and played a heart to the king and finessed the heart, Gilly won as East and now needed to play a spade to beat it by force. She exited with a heart, and

declarer ducked a diamond, but East now played a spade to her partner's ace and Suzy did well to play another diamond, when Anne Rosen rose with the ace she could no longer make it. Wales lost a big swing when a weak jump overcall, vulnerable, on ♠ Kxx ♥ ATxxxx ♦ 109x ♣ xx was punished to the tune of 1100, called a Henry after the claim of the throne in that year by Henry I.



rk	name	team	nbrds	IMPtot
1	Gilly Clench	WALES	112	84.2
=	Suzi Lawson	WALES	112	84.2
3	Sally Brock	ENGLAND	96	66.6
=	Maggie Knottenbelt	ENGLAND	96	66.6
5	Teresa Rigney	IRELAND	128	76.4
=	Siobhan Part	IRELAND	128	76.4
7	Samantha Punch	SCOTLAND	128	66.8
=	Anne Symons	SCOTLAND	128	66.8
9	Nevena Senior	ENGLAND	112	48.2
=	Anne Rosen	ENGLAND	112	48.2

The "find" of the tournament was Suzy Lawson (right) in a fairly new partnership with Gilly Clench (above) and they topped the Butler ahead of six times World Champion Sally Brock.



The final table shows how close it was:

rank	team	♠	♥	♦	♣	Adj	VP tot
1	ENGLAND	♠	9.78	14.24	7.58	20.00	64.89
2	IRELAND	10.22	♥	5.76	16.90	12.95	60.51
3	WALES	5.76	14.24	♦	6.22	18.69	59.15
4	SCOTLAND	12.42	3.10	13.78	♣	10.44	56.31
5	CBAI	0.00	7.05	1.31	9.56	♠	33.55
6	N. IRELAND	6.71	5.32	5.76	3.43	4.37	25.59



## WBU Mixed Pairs by Mike Best



Suzy Lawson (left in the picture) followed on from her fine result in the Lady Milne by winning the WBU Mixed Pairs in partnership with Mike Best (right) on 28<sup>th</sup> April. This was an interesting board with comments by Mike Best.

### Board 3

Dir: South Vul: E/W	♠ A J 7 6 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ K Q	Optimum NS 1520																																	
♠ 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ 5 ♣ J 6 4 3 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>WEST</td><td>NORTH</td><td>EAST</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="font-size: 2em;">3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>SOUTH</td><td></td></tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST		3			SOUTH		♠ 10 9 5 3 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ Q 9 8 6 2 ♣ 9																								
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W	-	-	-	-	-																														

Unsophisticated? If you like. This was pairs. This was a mixed field. This was time-limited.

Suzy opened 2NT, 20-22. Finding no major fit I should not take a fortnight agonizing about a possible grand but rather leave time for the play, so I chose 6NT.

I show the dummy after a spade lead, saying 'no-one is to cluck-cluck', After the diamond finesse wins, neither minor breaks and eleven tricks are taken. Four spades, three diamonds, three clubs and the ace of hearts. Suzy leads towards the king-jack of hearts and says to an inscrutable West 'I know you have the queen, I know you have the queen'. But she (rightly, early in the day) rose with the king for an average board, rather than greedily going for the overtrick. Had East held the queen of hearts, she would have a diamond to cash.

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Tops	Score %	Master Points
1	7	Mike Best & Suzy Lawson	494.22	846	58.42	60
2	16	Joy Seculer & John Salisbury	488.56	846	57.75	54
3	19	Adrian Trickey & Mrunalini Dewan	466.44	846	55.13	48
4	12	Simon Gottschalk & Helen Houston	463.44	846	54.78	42
5=	15	Tim Rees & Ceri Pierce	461.56	846	54.56	33
5=	17	Gilly Clench & Simon Richards	461.56	846	54.56	33
7	13	Martin Joseph & Veronica Burrows	457.44	846	54.07	24
8	20	Gwynn Davis & Susan Ingham	450.44	846	53.24	18

On we go like batsmen patiently accruing a score, waiting for worse balls to hit for six. There were.

A very strong field and a great result – Ed. Top eight shown.

## The Welsh Teams of Eight by Paul Lamford

1	1	Penarth Red	Glyn Meredith & Jennifer Wardell John Salisbury & Tim Rees Simon Brindle & Adrian Trickey Tony Ratcliff & Trish Tracey	63.15	4	108
2	4	Penarth Green	Tony Campbell & Justin Cooper Paul Lamford & Stefanie Rohan Tim Barsby & Jenny Vaughan Joy Seculer & Mrunalini Dewan	51.33	3	72
3	3	Cardiff Black	David McAndrew & Margaret Pierce Ceri Pierce & Simon Richards Mike Best & David Birt Simon Lee & Liz Atkinson	46.15	2	36



The winning team Penarth Red

I write with sadness as Glyn Meredith, deservedly in the winning team here, passed away recently. He is top left in the picture. Glyn had no problem with the hand opposite and was one of only two declarers to make 3NT. The auction was 1D-1S-2C-2D-2NT-3NT and I led a spade as West (a heart would have defeated the contract if East puts in the nine).

Glyn won with the king and played a club to the ten at trick two, with Stefanie Rohan ducking smoothly, and he then cleared the clubs and made four clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and a spade. +600 and 9 IMPs to the winning Penarth Team in their local derby. At least EW had the consolation of still finishing top of the Cross Imps.

Dir: North Vul: N/S	♠ K Q J 5 3 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 6 4 2	Optimum N 3N +400																																							
♠ A 9 6 4 2 ♥ J 7 5 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 8 5	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>NORTH</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>21</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		NORTH		W	21	E	E		S	S			♠ 10 8 7 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ K J 7 6 ♣ K Q 9																											
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## 2024 European Championship *by Paul Lamford*

Wales bravely entered both the Open Teams and the Mixed Teams at the European Championship in Billund, Denmark, and the latter took away some of the Principality's best players so it was always going to be a struggle. The Welsh team was Julian Pottage, Tony Ratcliff, Paul Lamford, Gary Jones, Alan Stephenson and Peter Kaufmann. Many of Europe's minnows had not entered and there were no easy matches against Liechtenstein and Luxembourg as there often are in European football qualifiers.

We finished 30<sup>th</sup>, which sounds ok, except that only 30 teams entered. We did win some matches and had a great time with Danish hospitality very good. I generally felt that we failed in two main areas. Bidding preparation was one. We faced a range of usually natural or precision-style systems but we sometimes had not discussed a particular bid, such as a 2C overcall of 1C on one occasion. However, other teams also had poor auctions. Take this 11 IMP loss in the match against Sweden:

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.			
♠ J T 7 6 3 2			
♥ 2			
♦ 8 3			
♣ K J 3 2			
♠ 9			♠ A 5 4
♥ A K Q 7 6 4			♥ J T 9 5
3			♦ K 9 7
♦ A Q T 4 2			♣ A 9 8
♣ -			
			♠ K Q 8
			♥ 8
			♦ J 6 5
			♣ Q T 7 6 5 4

Looking at the excellent results site showed that 11 of the 30 pairs missed this easy grand, which was a push at 1010 in Netherlands v France, surprisingly. In our match, East opened a weak NT, and it should have been plain-sailing. We bid 1NT-2D\*-2H-3D-3S\*-4C\*-(Double)-Redouble-4D-4H-6H which was a bit feeble. I think 5C instead of 6H would have allowed East to show the king of diamonds and then grand is easy.

How would you play this hand in 4S by East after the defence start with two rounds of hearts, dummy ruffing the second round?

♠ A T 8 7			♠ Q J 5 2
♥ 6			♥ 5 4
♦ A Q J 3			♦ K T 9 4
♣ K 6 5 4			♣ A 9 7

A number of declarers, including me, went off. The winning line is to lead a low spade from the ace and if they duck to continue with a spade to the ten, even though South shows out. If North wins the second spade and plays a heart, dummy ruffs while East discards a losing club. You lose two spade tricks but make the contract. North had K9xx in spades, so you lose control if you part with the ace of spades prematurely.

We had some bad luck as well. In the Wales v Italy match the opponents had their bidding boots on for this hand:

**Board 27. Dealer South. None Vulnerable.**

	♠ A Q		
	♥ A 7 2		
	♦ T 8 6 5 4		
	♣ A 9 7		
♠ K J 9 7 4 3	<div style="background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 8 5	
♥ 4		♥ Q T 6 5 3	
♦ A K J 7 3		♦ Q 9 2	
♣ 2		♣ 6 5 3	
	♠ T 6 2		
	♥ K J 9 8		
	♦ -		
	♣ K Q J T 8 4		

Two Italians, Donati and Pescario, had the following auction as NS against Pottage and Ratcliff:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣
3♦	x	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With the majors so favourably placed, there was nothing to the play, but they were the only pair to bid this grand. The other room played quietly in 3NT. At least they right-sided it as South cannot make it on a diamond lead.

Try this defensive problem:


	<div style="background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>
	♠ Q T 6 5 2
	♥ Q T 3
	♦ T 3
	♣ Q 7 5
♠ 8	
♥ 9 5	
♦ K J 7 6 5 4	
♣ A 8 6 2	

The auction, with North dealer at Game All was, uncontested, 1C-1S\*-1NT-2H\*-3NT. 1S showed diamonds, 1NT was 15-17, and 2H was a general force. You lead the five of spades to partner's king and declarer's three. Partner returns the nine of spades. North plays the jack and you win the queen. Over to you?

On the last hand, you have to switch to a heart as partner has the ace and can play another one before the diamonds are set up. Declarer had S AJxx H AJx D Qx C Kxx.

The Danes thrashed us 20-0, which was not very hospitable. They bid an excellent slam here:


**Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.**

	♠ K Q T 6 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A Q 4 2 ♣ Q J 4	
♠ 9 8 7 4 ♥ A J T 6 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ A K		♠ A ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ K J 9 6 3 ♣ 8 7 3
	♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ T 8 7 ♣ T 9 6 5 2	

The auction was 1H-(dble)-2NT\*-3D\*-3H-4C-4S-5C-6H, all natural except 3D which showed a shortage. The other room did not explore the hand fully and subsided in 4H. This was a common feature of the event. The opponents often bid minimum values slams when the hands fitted well. By the end we had to say that it was good bidding rather than good luck.

We were one of only two pairs to concede 880, a rare score, on this board:

**Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.**

	♠ J T 9 7 6 ♥ Q T 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣ J 9 5	
♠ A 8 5 4 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K J 6 5 ♣ T 8		♠ K Q ♥ J 9 4 3 ♦ A T 2 ♣ A K 7 4
	♠ - ♥ A K 8 7 5 ♦ Q 9 7 3 ♣ Q 6 3 2	

Two Spades was 8-11 and the question is whether to bid on the South hand. I chose to do so and there was no recovery as 5Hx would have been 1100. I doubled, but East redoubled in the pass out seat to notch up an easy +880. This was very dangerous, as West could easily have had two hearts, but I guess the odds were in his favour.

The Welsh book of slam bidding was thinner than the English book of rugby skills at this event, and we had the ignominy of playing in 7NT off an ace. That was my fault although there were plenty of mistakes all round. Julian and Tony were the best pair and played well most of the time.



## Roy Holmes



Martyn Whitby offers a tribute to Roy who has died at the age of 101: My sadly missed Monty Bridge Club partner Roy Holmes always boasted of his mathematical prowess to his daughters as evidenced by a school prize presented to him on speech day by none other than the Duke of Windsor. Forward some several years and Roy is a Flying Officer posted to the Bahamas. One off duty afternoon Roy and a fellow airman are playing a round of golf when they become aware of a very lively and noisy group of people and dogs behind them. This ensemble were rapidly gaining ground on Roy and his partner when the apparent leader of the party asked Roy if he would mind letting them play through. The gentleman making the request was as it happened the Duke of Windsor, now of course the Governor General of the Bahamas. Roy willingly obliged but was seen to be most put out by the fact that the Duke failed to remember him!

## Herbie Rowley

Herbie represented Mid Wales in the WBU President's Cup several times, having the honour of being in the winning team twice.

Brian Thomas was a regular partner:

Herbie has been a loyal friend and mentor for many years at club and regional level. I believe that his years as a sports master was the basis for his attitude to the mantra of bridge. That is "KNOW THE RULES AND OBEY THEM". A gentleman of the game who is sadly missed.

Alan Screen recalls: Over the last few years he attended all our Mid Wales Competitions driving the 60 miles (or so) before transferring to his motorised chariot. He always wore a smile!"

I believe he served two terms as President. I'm also told that he was one of the founder members of the Cardigan Bridge Club.



## Glyn Meredith



Sarah Amos remembers their partnership: Bridge was a huge presence in his life, but when Glyn retired, he was able to devote a lot more time to the game without work getting in the way. Glyn moved to Cardiff in 2022 and we started to play regularly at the club soon after. He was a kind and forgiving partner who was always happy to embrace new system tweaks, though not always to remember them! Glyn was an enthusiastic Congress player of both pairs and teams and he thoroughly enjoyed playing on Real Bridge in the EBU Green point events in which he was very successful, though not so much when playing with me! He also continued to represent Cornwall in the Western League and other County level events and he became Chair of Cardiff Bridge Club in 2023. Glyn was a Life Master and ranked a king on the EBU NGS scheme but he will be remembered chiefly for his ready smile, friendliness and gentlemanly table manners.

## WBU announce the appointment of its Chief Tournament Director



We are delighted to announce the well deserved appointment of Sarah Amos as our WBU Chief TD. Most of you will be familiar with Sarah from her years of directing WBU events and know her friendly and approachable manner and familiar “How can I help?” introduction no matter what drama has occurred at the table!

For those few of you that may not know Sarah well, let us introduce you! Sarah began her TD career in Wales over 35 years ago – quite an achievement for a 21 year old! – and she still runs many Welsh events. Sarah subsequently joined the EBU TD panel and was promoted to the elite few on the National EBU TD Panel. She also successfully completed the European Bridge League Workshop in Belfast just before lockdown in 2020.

Sarah is very involved in TD training at all levels, from Club through area to National and recently rewrote a version of the training courses so that the majority of the content can be delivered online allowing face to face training to concentrate on teaching TDs how to deal with rulings at the table. Sarah has represented Wales internationally in two Lady Milne Competitions in 2019 and 2020 but sadly the stress of playing with her partner and great friend (EI-Presidente) must have proved more than even a seasoned TD could bear and Sarah decided she preferred to stick to directing!!

Sarah lives in Pontypridd and has two beautiful daughters, Ruth who lives and works in Shetland and Rachel who many of you may know and who teaches bridge online and will make a very fine Tournament Director one day!

Welcome Sarah – the WBU really looks forward to working with you!

**WBU & WEST WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**  
**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Porthcawl Congress**  
*Incorporating*  
**Porthcawl Winter Holiday Congress**



**SEABANK HOTEL, PORTHCAWL, CF36 3LU**  
1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

**Chief TD & Congress Organiser**  
**SARAH AMOS**  
**sarahamostd@gmail.com \* 07930 503746**

## Mid Wales News

### King Arthur Pairs

Mike Tedd & John Salisbury  
Diana Harris & Paul Gagne  
Dave Berry & Keith Shuttleworth  
Elenid Thomas & Lorraine Clarke  
Pamela Woodhouse & Jeff Thomas  
Kay Taylor & Peter Smith

### June 3rd - 6th

#### Mid Wales Simultaneous Pairs:

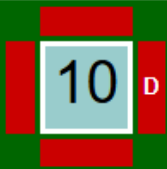
Jeremy Dawes & Alan Screen (Monty)  
Brian King & Andrew  
Phillips (Aberaeron)  
Tony Davies & Belinda Davies (Radnor)  
David Moore & Alistair Moulden  
(Radnor)  
Cath England & John Thacker (Monty)  
Elizabeth Thorneycroft & Sue  
Thompson (Radnor)

**Next Event: 15th September @ Pant-y-Dwr: Open Pairs**

## North Wales (courtesy of Bob Pitts)

Congratulations to Liz Commins, Simon Edwards, Paddy Murphy and David Stevenson who were part of the six player team that won the Welsh inter-area competition for the Perry Shield. This is the first time North Wales have won the event since 2002,

They outbid their opponents on this hand:

	<b>N North</b> ♠ 2 ♥ AQ743 ♦ Q ♣ AQJ985	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>6♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	1NT	4♣	4NT	P	5♣	P	6♣	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S																		
			P	1NT																		
	4♣	4NT	P	5♣																		
P	6♣	P	P																			
P																						
<b>W West</b> ♠ AQJ9854 ♥ 6 ♦ K8432 ♣	<b>E East</b> ♠ 763 ♥ 109852 ♦ 105 ♣ 1064																					
<b>S South</b> ♠ K10 ♥ KJ ♦ AJ976 ♣ K732	6♣ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																					

Paddy overcalled South's 1NT (15-17) with 4♣. North bid 4NT (showing two places to play) and South erred by bidding 5♦. North tried 5♥ and South should correct to 6♣, but it's not easy. 5♥ went two off. Team-mates Barry Wennell and Wyn Williams did very well to reach 6♣ in the other room on the auction shown.

## Welsh Women's League

September 2024 – June 2025

Teams of 4

About 1 match/month, F2F or online,  
To be organised by the players when it suits them



Entry fee: £32 per team  
(this includes free access to RealBridge)

Entry date: by 25th August

For further info or to enter your team, contact:  
Mia Deschepper on [mpdeschepper@yahoo.com](mailto:mpdeschepper@yahoo.com)




If you would like to take part, but don't have a partner or teammates, contact Mia asap



## The European Mixed Teams (with permission of Brian Senior)

We will look at the Wales v Israel match from the European Mixed Teams. There was no swing on either of the first two boards in the match, but then came a major one, created by a different choice of games by the E/W pairs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 3 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ A Q 8 7 4 3 ♣ 10 8		♠ 8 4 ♥ A J 10 6 3 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 7 3 2
♠ A K 10 ♥ K 8 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ A Q J 5 4	♠ J 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ K 9 ♣ 9 6	

Both Souths opened a multi 2D (and both Wests overcalled 2NT). East transferred to hearts, West duly completed the transfer, and now East's next bid decided the board. For Israel, Ron Pachtman went on with 3NT to offer a choice of games and, looking at a very secure spade holding and only two hearts, it seemed natural for Adi Asulin to opt for 3NT. Alas, Richard Plackett led a low diamond and the defence cashed six of those for a swift two down and -200.

West	North	East	South
Pierce	Bareket	Rees	Saada
—	—	—	2♦*
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For Wales, Tim Rees raised 3H to 4H. Ilan Bareket led the queen of spades, Ceri Pierce winning the ace. She played the king of hearts followed by a heart to the ten and queen. Nathalie Saada played king and another diamond. Had Bareket continued with a third round, Pierce would have had to decide whether to play for hearts three-three, ruffing high, or playing North for an original four-card holding and ruffing low. But Bareket switched to his

West	North	East	South
Asulin	Plackett	Pachtman	Deschepper
—	—	—	2♦*
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass


remaining spade, so Pierce was not put to the test. She could win, cross to the king of clubs, and draw trumps, claiming the rest for +620 and 13 IMPs to Wales.



Mia Deschepper and Richard Plackett against Israel in the European Mixed Teams



Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 7 6 5 4		
	♥ 9 4		
	♦ K 9 8 7 6 5 2		
	♣ —		
♠ A K 9 ♥ Q 8 7 6 3 ♦ A J ♣ 10 7 6		♠ Q J 8 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A K Q 4 3	
	♠ 10 3 2		
	♥ K J 10		
	♦ 10 4		
	♣ J 9 8 5 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Pierce</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Saada</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Plackett</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>	<i>Deschepper</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

A later board was a slam swing. Asulin opened 1NT and Pachtman used Stayman then showed clubs, and Asulin was able to show the fifth heart. That was all Pachtman needed. I don't know if 4C was a psychic cue-bid or just a systemic way of agreeing hearts, but he continued with Keycard over Asulin's 4H sign-off, and bid 6NT on finding two key-cards plus the heart queen.

Plackett led the nine of diamonds round to declarer's jack, and Asulin led a club to the ace then switched her attention to hearts on seeing the five-nil club split. When she played ace and another heart Deschepper won her king, and now the three-two split meant four heart tricks and 12 tricks in all for +990.

It looks as though declarer needed the diamond lead to give the twelfth trick. I didn't like it when I first saw it, and with 20-20 hindsight I would have led a spade from the North hand. However, perhaps the defence had missed another possibility to defeat the slam? Witness the action in the other room, where Pierce's 3C response to five-card Stayman showed a five-card major and 3D

asked which one. The Welsh E/W also bid to slam, but preferred to play 6H. Bareket led a spade, which Pierce won in hand with the ace. She played ace and another heart, and Saada followed with the jack then ten, and Pierce ducked, playing for king-doubleton in the North hand. That meant two trump losers.

The question is, might Asulin have gone wrong in 6NT had Deschepper also ducked the second heart smoothly? Six Hearts still had a third loser, so should always be defeated even if declarer gets the hearts right. Down two for -100 meant 14 IMPs to Israel, but Wales still earned the moral victory, by 26-25 IMPs, or 10.31-9.69 VPs.

How should this heart combination be played? Well, there is restricted choice to consider. If South started with ♥J109, he could have played his cards in a variety of orders, while with ♥KJ9 he would have had fewer options. If declarer believes that South is good enough to always duck the second round when holding the king, this restricted choice tips the balance in favour of putting up the queen. Of course, the more likely declarer feels it is that South would win the king if he held it, the more likely it is that he doesn't hold it, and at some point ducking becomes the odds play.

Wales finished fourteenth never really threatening the top eight. They were always in with a chance of the top eight but a series of small wins or losses meant they had too much to do.

If you want to read the full article, it is in the excellent bulletin at [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org). The medals were won by Israel, France and Italy.

## Senior Camrose 2024 by Paul Lamford

Wales performed well in this event, although they never really challenged the top two. The final table:

19th May 2024							
Senior Camrose 2024 Final Scores							
<a href="#">Ranking</a> <a href="#">Scorecards</a> <a href="#">Travellers</a> <a href="#">Hands</a>							
Pos	Team	Team	Players	Matches			Total VPs
1	2	England	Roger Bryant, Nick Smith David Kendrick, Trevor Ward	14.39	*	16.68 8.53 14.24 11.47	65.31
			Kay Preddy, Norman Selway				
2	5	Scotland	Barnet Shenkin, Brian Spears Iain Sime, Derek Diamond	18.53	5.76	14.54 15.76 *	10.22 64.81
			Brian Short, Alan Goodman				
3	6	Wales	Paul Denning, Diane Kurbalija Peter Kaufman, Alan Stephenson	16.24	8.53	14.54 9.78 9.78 *	58.87
			Tim Rees, John Salisbury				
4	3	SBU	Harry Smith, Roy Bennett David Shenkin, Charles Outred	9.78	3.32	* 16.68 5.46 5.46	40.70
			Vi Outred, Martin Diamond				
5	4	Ireland	Peter Goodman, Terry Walsh Pat Barry, David Terry	9.78	11.47	3.32 * 4.24 10.22	39.03
			Gay Keaveney, Enda Glynn				
6	1	Northern Ireland	Robin Burns, Hastings Campbell Ian Hamilton, Anne Fitzpatrick	*	5.61	10.22 10.22 1.47 3.76	31.28
			Harold Curran, Ian Lindsay				

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface. At the top, it indicates a score of 62 and a card ♠ J8. The board is labeled 'Bd 23, Dlr S' with a contract of 4♥ = S. The interface is divided into four quadrants representing the players' hands:

- North (N):** ♠ J8, ♥ 10532, ♦ K964, ♣ AKQ
- West (W):** ♠ K10, ♥ J84, ♦ 1075, ♣ J8542
- East (E):** ♠ 9732, ♥ K9, ♦ AQ83, ♣ 1063
- South (S):** ♠ AQ654, ♥ AQ76, ♦ J2, ♣ 97

Player names are shown in colored boxes: Paul Denning (N), Barnet Shenkin (W), Brian Spears (E), and Diane Kurbalija (S). A 'Travellers' window shows 'Other table' with a score of 4♥ -1 S. A 'Scorecard' window shows a 4♥ contract with a score of 1-0 in both directions.

An interesting hand was the one opposite.

This was a tricky 4H. In the other room Tim Rees and John Salisbury defended it well. on the same auction. Tim led the four of clubs and Derek Diamond, won, cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the king of clubs, discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs and then ran the jack of spades. Now Tim won with the king. He played a diamond to king and ace and East accurately switched back to spades. Declarer could no longer make it. He guessed to play a low heart to John's king, but another spade promoted the jack of hearts.

Diane did better. She played three rounds of clubs immediately, pitching a diamond. Now she ran the jack of spades. Barnet Shenkin, West won and switched to a diamond to East's queen and another diamond, but Diane ruffed, played the ace of spades and another spade. West discarded, but she ruffed and finessed the queen of hearts. Then she cashed the ace of hearts and continued spades from the top to make her contract.

A very exciting and high-scoring match against Scotland ended 64-65, with three slam swings on the last three boards. Sadly Scotland scored two of them. In the last round, England did just enough to pip Scotland for the trophy, while Wales had a good win to cement third place. Tim Rees and John Salisbury were the mainstays of the team, and finished second in the Butler behind Ward and Kendrick. The top eight rankings:

Pos	Team	Pair	Average	Total	Bds
1	England	Trevor Ward & David Kendrick	+0.84	+473 / 560	112
2	Wales	Tim Rees & John Salisbury	+0.57	+320 / 560	112
3	Scotland	Brian Spears & Barnet Shenkin	+0.50	+281 / 560	112
4	Northern Ireland	Hastings Campbell & Ian Hamilton	+0.49	+276 / 560	112
5	Scotland	Iain Sime & Derek Diamond	+0.30	+167 / 560	112
6	Ireland	Terry Walsh & Peter Goodman	+0.28	+158 / 560	112
7	Scotland	Brian Short & Alan Goodman	+0.21	+100 / 480	96
8	Wales	Peter Kaufmann & Alan Stephenson	+0.19	+106.0 / 560	112

## Calendar

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
01 Sep 24	ONLINE CLUBS	WBU SIMS - JUNIOR FUND RAISER
24 Aug 24	ONLINE	OLIVER COWAN SWISS PAIRS
29 Aug 24	ZOOM	WBU FOCUS GROUP 11.00
08 Sep 24	CARDIFF B.C.	EWBA STAN BERGER PAIRS
15 Sep 24	PANT-Y-DWR	MWBA PAIRS
15 Sep 24	LLANARTHNE	WWBA SWISS PAIRS
28 Sep 24	ONLINE	OLIVER COWAN SWISS PAIRS
26-29 Sep 24	GWENT ACADEMY	PREMIER LEAGUE 1
06 Oct 24	CARDIFF B.C.	EWBA PATRICK JORDAIN TEAMS
13 Oct 24	TUMBLE	WWBA VINCE BEVAN PAIRS
19-20 Oct 24	GWENT ACADEMY	PREMIER LEAGUE 2
26 Oct 24	ONLINE	OLIVER COWAN SWISS PAIRS
1-3 Nov 24	SEABANK	PORTHCAWL CONGRESS
23 Nov 24	ONLINE	OLIVER COWAN SWISS PAIRS
08 Dec 24	CARDIFF B.C.	EWBA - MIXED PAIRS
17 Jul 24	ONLINE	CAMBRIA CLOSING DATE
17 Jul 05	ONLINE	WELSH CUP/CAMBRIA CLOSING DATE
3-5 Jan 25	SCOTLAND	CAMROSE
12 Jan 25	CARDIFF B.C.	HIRST-KIRBALIJA TEAMS
18 Jan 24	ONLINE	CAMBRIA CLOSING DATE
18-19 Jan 25	CARDIFF B.C.	LADY MILNE TRIAL (PAIRS)
1-2 Feb 25	CARDIFF B.C.	TELTSCHER TRIAL (PAIRS)
8-9 Feb 2025*	GWENT ACADEMY	EWBA FEBRUARY CONGRESS
14-16 Feb 25	NEWPORT HOLIDAY INN	JUNIOR CAMROSE

\* provisional



## East Wales

The EWBA held its AGM/Arthur James Pairs/Beatus Cup on 12th May. 21 pairs took part of which 10 were eligible for the Beatus Cup for players ranked Regional Master or below. This is hopefully a good sign for the future.



The winners of the Beatus Cup were Janet Cunnington and Darren Bellamy (photo above) who were placed second overall. 3rd place David Smith & Brian Harden. 4th place Mia Deschepper & Richard Plackett.

Next season's Area Competitions will open with the Stan Berger GP PAIRS on 8th September followed a month later by the Patrick Jourdain GP Teams on 6th October. Both events are being held at Cardiff BC.

The Champion of Champions was won by Gwynn Davis and Dave Smith (photo right) from Helen Houston and Joseph Bentley, followed by Tony Haworth and Mike Best.

There was a poor turnout for the Spickett, won by Ceri Pierce and Mia Deschepper, Helen Houston and Jenny Vaughan, Debbie Richards and Sophie Cunningham in a "Labour Landslide".



The winners of the Arthur James Cup were Chris Rochelle & Simon Gottschalk. (photo above).





## Online Bridge by Liz Atkinson

There is a thriving online league which is great fun and free. Three divisions with promotion and relegation last about four or five months and the 2024 Spring Results are to hand. Mike Tedd has won the event seven times, and his team of Tedd, Salisbury, Pottage, Ratcliff, Lamford and G.Jones triumphed again in season 11. Gilly Clench had another good result following on from her top spot in the Lady Milne and she will grace the top division next season in September. Teams are of four players, but there are no restrictions on the number in your squad.

### Geoff Evans Online League: Results Session 11

Division 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	Total VP's	Position
1	Mike Tedd		12	7	10	20	15	64	1
2	Dafydd Jones	8		16	15	13	5	57	2
3	Maggie Pierce	13	4		5	13	7	42	5
4	Mark Roderick	10	5	15		1	20	51	3
5	Richard Plackett	0	7	7	19		17	50	4
6	Steve Jarvis	5	15	13	0	3		36	6

Division 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total VP's	Position
1	Gilly Clench		19	8	19	16	4	20	86	1
2	Mike Best	1		6	17	14	16	14	68	3
3	Andrea Knox	12	14		3	14	4	11	58	4
4	David Smith	1	3	17		0	3	19	43	6
5	Jennifer Wardell	4	6	6	20		8	4	48	5
6	Liz Atkinson	16	4	16	17	12		9	74	2
7	Richard Stevenson	0	6	9	1	16	11		43	6

Division 3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total VP's	Position
1	Pauline Chapman		6	7	10	9	18	1	51	5
2	Barry Wennell	16		18	0	17	20	17	88	1
3	Julie Milewski	13	2		15	17	19	15	81	2
4	Lee Collier	10	20	5		13	2	9	59	4
5	Lavinia Thomas	11	3	3	7		12	2	38	6
6	Margaret Harrop	2	0	1	18	8		4	33	7
7	Linda Pinnock	19	3	5	11	18	16		72	3

There was an amazing match in the First Division between Plackett and Pierce, which Plackett led by 43 after 12 boards at half-time but Pierce fought back to win by 15! Joy Blakey's lead of the ace of clubs on this hand against Thomas and Denning, followed by a "joyful" club ruff, did no harm! And I do like the 1NT opener, 12-14 balanced.

6 D	N irvblak	W N E S
	♠ 9653 ♥ 2 ♦ KQ108753 ♣ 9	P 1NT X 4♦ 4♥ 5♦ 6♥ P P P
W carrot	E sadnorth	
♠ KQ107 ♥ AQ8754 ♦ ♣ KQ7	♠ A2 ♥ KJ1093 ♦ 62 ♣ 8532	
S joyful		
♠ J84 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ94 ♣ AJ1064		6♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

If you want to enter a team in September then send an email to [liz\\_atkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:liz_atkinson@btinternet.com)



# Strictly Come Teaching



**On Saturday 25 January 2025 at 7pm GMT, the Welsh Bridge Union is holding its First Annual 'Strictly Come Teaching' Competition on Real Bridge – please join us!**

▶ It is for partnerships consisting of a player who would genuinely still describe themselves as a learner/beginner and their PRO – any bridge teacher or experienced player to waltz them round the tables! *This will be a 'best-behaviour-ever-at-bridge' event!*

▶ We will play 16 Boards with 8 minutes per board to allow time for initial introductions, exchanging pleasantries and thinking what to do! Please dress for the occasion (black tie/evening dress encouraged!) For health & safety reasons, no stilettos, no transfer responses to 1 Club and no 2 Diamond Multi!

▶ Trophy to the best scoring pair and surprise prizes to the best dressed pair and the friendliest pair! The lovely Sarah Amos is Directing! To save red faces, the top half of the field results will be published on the WBU website with other players listed as 'Chorus'!

**Please email Andrea Knox, WBU President: [andrea.knox@knoxcommercial.co.uk](mailto:andrea.knox@knoxcommercial.co.uk) or tel. +44 (0)7958 611282 to enter.** Entry is free – it will be paid for by the WBU President – but donations from entrants are invited please towards Welsh Junior Bridge to fund our WBU Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Teams



*Please pass on the word to any Bridge Teachers and learners you know!*

