

WELSH INTERNATIONAL NEWS!



Congratulations to Welsh Bridge Union International Richard Plackett (right) and his English Bridge Union friend and partner Espen Erichsen who will be flying the flag for British Bridge when they travel to Memphis, Tennessee for the World Bridge Federation's World Tour Final on the 12th & 13th March 2025 at the Renasant Convention Centre.

Richard and Espen's performance's have kept them near the top of the World Bridge Federation World Bridge Tour rankings in 2023 and 2024 and they have qualified to play in the inaugural 16 pair World Bridge Tour Final in Memphis in March where the world's top pairs will compete for the new Jan Kamras trophy following some fantastic performances during 2024 in major world bridge events.

The following 16 pairs will be competing for the event's *Jan Kamras Trophy*:

Richard Plackett & Espen Erichsen	Antonio Sementa & Alfredo Versace
Sabine Auken & Roy Welland	Kevin Bathurst & John Hurd
Nikos Delimpaltadakis & Vassilis Vroustis	Jérôme Rombaut & Léo Rombaut
Giovanni Donati & Giacomo Percario	Sartaj Hans & Andy Hung
Mikael Rimstedt & Ola Rimstedt	Joe Grue & Brad Moss
Nabil Edgtton & Michael Whibley	Krzysztof Buras & Jacek Pszczola
Martin Fleisher & Chip Martel	Leonardo Cima & Giorgio Duboin
Przemysław Janiszewski & Wojciech Strzemecki	Rajath Shourie & Gavin Wolpert

There will be 15 x 6 board rounds over the two days, broadcast on RealBridge with a 30 minute delay and you can [click here to follow the play](#).

Everyone here at the Welsh Bridge Union wishes all the best for Richard and Espen and Richard and hopefully they will be returning with the trophy in hand!

All you need to know about Richard but were afraid to ask.....! 😊

Richard is a retired investment manager. He represented the British junior team in the 1980's and won the Gold Cup in 1988 before taking a twenty year break from bridge to pursue his investment career. Returning to bridge in 2013, he has represented Wales in every European Championship since then.

His partnership with Espen began during lockdown and they have enjoyed considerable success, winning the Spring Foursomes in 2023 and 2024, the European Winter Games in 2023 (and the BAM in the same tournament in 2024) and the Maarit International Pairs in Norway in 2023. Richard has also won the Tollemache, EBU Two Stars Pairs, Brighton Swiss Pairs and EBU National Point-a-Board teams (twice) since 2022.

Outside Bridge Richard lives with his fiancée Chloe and has two sons Mark and James. His mother Sally aged 90 still plays regularly at the Gwent Bridge Academy.

Richard will be wearing his Wales shirt proudly!