



## Famous Hands

### A FAMOUS WELSH VICTORY

by Lewis Griffin

The date: 10th-11th June 1967; the venue: Llandudno, North Wales; the event: the Home Countries Ladies' Teams Championship for the Lady Milne Cup.

Wales was represented by three pairs: Barbara Figgis and Dorothy Grunnet (North Wales), Connie Greenland and Doris Jones (East Wales), and June Lucas and Leslie Griffin (West Wales). All three pairs were playing in their first Lady Milne. Thinking back, expectations could not have been very high, as England had had a tight grip on the competition for many years, with Scotland the only Celtic country ever to have won.

The countries played, in rotation, two sessions of 16 boards against each other. The net IMP score in each match was converted into Victory Points. By the end of the Saturday night, each team had completed one match and Wales was in the lead. In the first session on the Sunday afternoon, Wales finished their match against England losing 4-2, and Northern Ireland defeated Scotland by the same margin, giving both England and Northern Ireland 7VPs, Wales 6, and Scotland 4. So everything depended on the remaining 16 boards in the last two matches. Wales had a lead of 14 IMPs over Northern Ireland, and England had a slight lead against Scotland. Their captain made it clear to the Welsh team that it was now or never. In fact, the Welsh pairs had a storming session to win by 50 IMPs, translating into 6-0 VPs. Superior technical play earned 12 IMPs on the deal opposite.

At both tables, South played in 4♠, and West led the ♥A, before switching to a trump. Both declarers played two further rounds of trumps, West discarding a small heart. The contract seemed to depend on finding a 3-3 break in one of the minors. For Northern Ireland, South played Ace, King, and another diamond. West won the third round, cashed the ♥K, and continued with another diamond. South ruffed, but eventually had to concede a club for one down.

For Wales, South led her small diamond to East's Jack. West won the heart return and exited with the ♦Q to declarer's King. South cashed the ♦A to give this position:

South ran her trumps, squeezing West in the minor suits. This squeeze could have been prevented if a club had been led either at trick two by West (although it might

	<i>North</i>	Dealer: South
	♠ J 10 6	Game All
	♥ 8 5	
	♦ 9 8 4 3	
	♣ A K 6 2	
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>
♠ 5 2		♠ 8 7 4
♥ A K 2		♥ Q J 9 7 6 4
♦ Q 10 5 2		♦ J 6
♣ Q 10 8 3		♣ J 5
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ A K Q 9 3	
	♥ 10 3	
	♦ A K 7	
	♣ 9 7 4	

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

have been disastrous to lead away from the Queen) or at trick six by East, instead of the heart return.

All now depended on the England-Scotland match. After a disappointing competition this far, the Scottish team played very well to earn a draw. So the final scores were Wales 12 VPs, England 10, Scotland and Northern Ireland 7.

Wales had won at long last.