

## By Tom Townsend

Dealer West

Vulnerability East-West

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

West	North	East	South
pass	1♣	pass	2♠(1)
pass	3♠(2)	pass	4♣(3)
pass	4♦(3)	pass	4♠
pass	5♥(3)	pass	5♠
pass	pass	pass	

- (1) Old-fashioned strong jump shift  
 (2) Might prefer 2NT or 3♦  
 (3) Control-showing (cue-bids)

Contract 5♠ by South  
 Opening Lead ♦7

FROM the Camrose decider in Gormanstown. In terms of sporting excitement, this dragged its feet for three matches. My England team were well clear, and did not expect to be challenged.

How things changed in match four. Scotland shook us up by 87 IMPs to 55, while Wales crushed CBAI 90-30. This closed the gap to three VP or so, with 32 boards to play. England would play Northern Ireland in the deciding round. Wales, whose sole Camrose win came in 2011, would take on Ireland.

The stars for Scotland were Derek Sanders and Gints Freimanis, who played an electric

first half. They fired in two diamond slams, both unbeatable, and were deadly accurate on the bread-and-butter deals. This was Board 16, the last of the set. Sanders, bridge teacher of Edinburgh, began with the obvious 1♣. Freimanis, who played junior bridge for Latvia, responded with an old-school 2♠. It's a good one to have in the bag – when the hand comes up.

Sanders, confident of his partner's spade quality, raised him to 3♠. Two cue-bids ensued, and a sign-off in 4♠. With no heart control, that was all South could do. But North had ace and King in the suit, and went on to 5♥.

Now would South go to slam? Let's consider the logic of the situation. South's 4♠ bid denied heart control, so any advance by North said he had one. His bid of 5♥, actually naming hearts, guaranteed the ♥A. It also denied the ♣A, with which he wouldn't have bypassed a club cue.

South could count seven spade tricks, two diamonds and a heart. But that gave North, who opened the bidding, just a seven-count. To advance to the five-level, he was bound to have some extra winners. So he did, with one to spare. Yet Freimanis signed off, missing out on the high-percentage slam. He made them all on a diamond lead.

A swing for England? Our Espen Erichsen (South) had reached 6♠. No – take a look at the club position. Sam Punch (West) led ace and another, ruffed by Stephen Peterkin (East). Eleven IMPs to Scotland. Par was 6NT by South, protecting the ♣K. Nobody found it.

**Scotland** 5♠ plus two, N/S +510  
**England** 6♠ minus one, N/S -50