

Camrose 2017 biographies - Wales

Richard Plackett and Paul Lamford

Richard is a recently retired investment manager who returned to bridge a couple of years ago having been a Gold Cup winner in 1988. He formed a partnership with Paul Lamford for this year's Welsh Premier League which they won with Paul Denning and Adrian Thomas, guaranteeing them selection for this year's Camrose campaign. Richard played for the Wales Open Team in the recent European Championships in Budapest with Simon Richards.

Paul qualifies to play for Wales having been born in Haverfordwest. This will be Paul's first representative match for Wales having changed allegiance from England with whom he found success in the Chairman's Cup of 2014. Paul has represented Wales at chess in four Olympiads and has also played competitive backgammon at a high level winning the British Championships a couple of times. Paul compiles sports odds designs computer games and has written a dozen books on games including a couple on bridge.

Gary Jones and Tim Rees

Two very experienced Camrose campaigners. Gary was part of the historic first ever Welsh win in 2010 playing with his son Dafydd. Gary was also a member of the all Welsh team that won the Shapiro Spring Fours in the same year, a very good year for Welsh bridge. Gary represented the Wales Open Team in the recent European Championships in Budapest playing with the late, great Patrick Jourdain. Gary and Tim qualified for this year's Camrose campaign by virtue of being runners up in the Welsh Premier League and finishing second in the Butler ranking.

Tim has represented Wales in over twenty Camrose and a number of European Championships in partnership with Filip Kurbalija, including being playing Captain in 2008 in Pau. For a couple of years (2006 and 2008) Tim topped the Gold Point rankings. Tim has won the majority of the major domestic competitions including the Gold Cup twice, Crockfords and the Spring Fours. Tim is the Chairman of the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU.

Paul Denning and Adrian Thomas

Paul was made redundant in 2015 from his job in IT support for EDF but was very soon re-employed as a contractor in virtually the same role. Last year he re-formed a long standing partnership with Adrian Thomas (playing 13 Camrose matches together) winning the Welsh Premier League once again and earning selection. Paul is married to Barbara and still plays tennis competitively in and around his home town of Tewkesbury.

Having made it through his "comeback" last year Adrian surprised himself that he wasn't the weakest link in the team. Adrian and Paul had virtually sewn up top position in the Butler on the first weekend of this year's Welsh Premier League, finishing top, winning again and ensuring selection for this year Camrose.

Adrian plays very little competitive bridge these days spending his retirement working harder than ever running Bridge Holidays; he completed his 100th holiday over last year's Christmas period. Now he has to try to know as much about bridge rules, as today's modern bidding methods. He finds a lot of satisfaction from the teaching that is involved.

Adrian is happily married and living in Dolgellau where he spends his spare time walking, looking for his lost balls on the golf course, and cycling in Snowdonia.

Alan Stephenson NPC

Alan was the non-playing captain for Wales historic first ever Camrose win which happened on home soil in Llandrindrod Wells in 2010. Alan is married to Krista a former Welsh Junior and Lady Milne International, they live near Wrexham. Having taken early retirement a couple of years ago as well as playing bridge and snooker, Alan spends a fair amount of time on the golf course and has been Captain of the Vauxhall Golf Society last year. He tries to get a monthly game with Adrian at the half-way venue of Bala or Ruthin when Bala is too wet!