

The Principality Derby 2024 (at Middlesex University Real Tennis Club) on 25th February

The day started badly for Wales as last year's hero Geraint Thomas had insurmountable car trouble and had to withdraw from the fixture. Sealand – already loaning Lord Buckley and Danny Dawson to Wales - took the opportunity to further infiltrate Welsh ranks as Lord Professor Pettiford was asked to accompany Danny in the doubles. And this is how it went...

1. Dual national (Dominican Republic/Sealand) Lord/Lady Chiang, hero of the Sealand transgender community seemed to be succumbing to the hard-hitting Llewelyn-Jones but recovered his poise to take the third set.

Sealand 1-0 Wales

2. Lady Nicholls (Sealand #1) playing unaccustomed singles on her debut, managed to keep in touch with on-loan Lord Buckley but didn't get beyond 4 games in either set. Well played Oliver, like Kenny Chiang a dual national.

Sealand 1-1 Wales

3. Home pro and Sealand skipper Jack Carter (accompanied by Lord Rammers) engaged in a walloping hazard-chase fest with fellow Pro and Sealand President Pettiford and Danny Dawson. Recovering from a terrible start, the scratch Welsh partnership rustled up a few fine rests, but it wasn't enough.

Sealand 2-1 Wales

4. The hero of Warwickshire away, Lord Brutus hit 'ard as ever but was hit harder by Derek Williams. The latter, in fine form, didn't quite manage to knock down the walls but did draw Wales level.

Sealand 2-2 Wales

5. Danny Dawson may be disappointed with the result of the final rubber, but he played well. However, and frankly, Lord Ramjane was in amazing form. Stylish and assured, he romped into an early lead and it never really looked like he would be pegged back. Tension had long since dissipated by the end, and Sealanders everywhere were able to rejoice in wresting the Prince's Racket Trophy from the old 'enemy'.

FINAL SCORE: Sealand 3-2 Wales

Thanks to Middlesex for hosting the match and particularly Jack for marking/organisation with assistance from Kenny Chiang. Thanks to Candida for tidying and slicing cake and various students for hoovering up afterward. Can Wales recover the racket? 23rd February 2025 is the date. Venue TBC. E Mare Libertas & Prynhawn Da.