

WAKEFIELD D v BRIGHOUSE C – LOST 7 – 13

11TH December 2016

It could have been the after-effects of the previous evening's Brighouse Bridge Club Christmas Party, but a more likely explanation is that we went down to our first defeat of the season simply because we were beaten by a stronger and better team. The Wakefield D Team had earlier this season lost to the Brighouse D Team, but it was a stronger looking team that turned out for this fixture.

Kevin & Barbara, promoted from the D Team, were playing in the C Team for the first time this season and were playing the same hands as our strongest pair of Paul & Ingrid.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Paul & Ingrid	-340	260	1250	-1050	120
2. Alan & Jo	690	710	-1440	480	440
3. Kevin & Barbara	-1110	-1260	-660	-260	-3290
4. Keith & Edwina	200	390	-140	830	1280
Totals	-560	100	-990	0	-1450

We recorded negative scores on all of the first six boards. However board 7 gave us some joy as three of our opponents played in part-game contracts and variously went down by two or three tricks, whilst Pair 1 made 10 tricks in 3 Clubs for a positive score of +12 IMPs. Board 8 gave us a further boost as Pair 2's opponents played in 2 Hearts whilst the other three hands played and made game in 4 Spades (+9 IMPs on the hand). At the end of the first round we were trailing by -10 IMPs.

Round 2 showed an improvement. On three occasions Board 9 made nine tricks in NT for east-west but Pair 2 were the only ones to bid to game. The board gave us a welcome +9 IMPs. Good defence by Pair 1 on board 10 prevented a 3NT attempt as it made on two other tables. Board 16 provided a useful 11 IMPs as Pair 4 got lucky, their opponents failing to bid a slam when it made 13 tricks in both Spades and NTs for everyone else. We had clawed back 5 IMPs on the round, cutting the deficit to -5 IMPs and providing cause for some cautious optimism.

Our hopes were dashed as Round 3 turned out to be our worst round. The first body blow came on board 20 where Pair 2 were doubled in 2 Spades vulnerable and went down by three tricks (-12 IMPs on that board). The balance was restored on board 22 when pair 1 bid and made a slam in 6NT, the only ones to do so (+15 IMPs). However, disaster struck as Boards 23 and 24 left us with -14 and -11 IMPs respectively. The round cost us -24 IMPs, leaving us -29 IMPs down overall and a mountain to climb.

The final round was our best round. The highlight was board 30 where Pair 1, 2 and 3 defeated contracts in 2NT, 1 Spade and 3NT, whilst pair 4 made a part-game contract of 3 Hearts (+9 IMPs on the board). Three other boards produced positive scores for the round to finish with us being +9 IMPs to the good, but unfortunately -20 IMPs down overall. This translates to a 7 – 13 defeat.

An interesting statistic is that the Brighouse C Team played only 54 hands whereas Wakefield played 71 hands, reflecting the aggressive bidding of our opponents. Maybe there's a lesson there.

Keith Stones.