

BRADFORD D v BRIGHOUSE C - WON 12 – 8

23RD October 2016

The opening fixture of the new season saw us playing away against a Bradford D team that turned out to be the proverbial game of two halves. The Brighouse C team were quickly out of the traps, gaining +45 IMPs advantage at the interval, but thereafter faded badly as the Bradford team fought back strongly, pulling back 34 IMPs. The Brighouse Team held on for a final victory margin of +11 IMPs.

The C Team welcomed Ingrid & Gordon who were making their debuts for the C Team and playing as the second pair.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Les & Christine	520	-350	-40	1890	2020
2. Ingrid & Gordon	-630	860	350	-1900	-1320
3. Keith & Edwina	3070	-100	-1860	880	1990
4. Alan & Jo	-1610	1020	710	-2500	-2380
Totals	1350	1430	-840	-1630	310

In the first round, the first four boards were lost, but on board 5 Edwina quickly put a different perspective on things by doubling an attempted bid of 5D and got them down by four tricks, vulnerable, 1100 points to Brighouse. On board 7, Pair 3 were the only ones to bid and make game and on board 8 one opposition pair failed to bid game against Pair 2. Those two boards gave us another 890 points and the C Team finished the round 1350 points to the good and with a +18 IMPs advantage.

The second round was even more productive. Board 10 was the most profitable due to Pair 1 defending well and preventing their opponents from making 3NT when all other pairs had done so. The second most profitable board of the round was board 15 when Pair 3's opponents failed to bid to game in Hearts. These small margins enabled the C Team to finish the round with 1430 points advantage (+27 IMPs) and reach the interval with a sizeable lead of +45 IMPs.

The home team must have put something in the tea, because round 3 saw the tide turn. Only three boards saw a positive result. Pair 2 were the only ones to bid and make 4S on board 17 and Pair 1 were the only ones to bid and make 3NT on board 21. Board 24 was a disaster when the Queen of Doubling (aka Edwina) had the tables turned on her and went down by 3 tricks doubled. Seven IMPs were lost on the round.

The slide continued into the fourth round, when there was not a lot went the way of the C Team as we lost 1630 points (-27 IMPS). It is difficult to put a positive slant on this round.

However, this was a very creditable performance from the whole team and the win was well deserved on the first half performance alone.

Keith Stones.