

BARNSLEY B v BRIGHOUSE C - DRAWN 10 – 10

4TH December 2016

After a disappointing first round the Brighouse C team mounted a determined fightback, winning the last three rounds to claim a honourable draw in a very close contest at Barnsley Bridge Club.

Edwina pluckily passed a late fitness test to take her place at Table 4. Two of the pairs (Pairs 1 and 2) had not played together before, but both of these pairs were the best performers on the day.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Kate & Eunice	190	630	750	870	2440
2. Doreen & Geoff	-1400	110	640	-410	-1060
3. Alan & Jo	-100	450	-520	630	460
4. Keith & Edwina	420	-1020	-410	-1150	-2160
Totals	-890	170	460	-60	-320

The only board that gave us any real joy in the first round was board 2, where 3 Hearts by South and 3 Diamonds by West both made the contracts for Pairs 1 and 4 respectively, whilst Pair 3 defended well as their opponents went down by three tricks in 3NT (+7 IMPS on that board). Two more boards gave us a measly 1 IMP each, but left the team trailing on -17 IMPS at the end of the round.

The fightback began in the second round with board 11 providing a +10 IMPS haul as both Pairs 1 and 3 prevented their opponents making 4 Hearts, whilst Pairs 2 and 3 settled for making contracts in the less-ambitious 1NT and 2 Hearts. Board 13 was equally productive, mainly because Pair 2's opponents played in 3 Diamonds when everyone else was in 3NT. Similarly, on board 14, pair 1's opponents played in 3 diamonds when 3NT was clearly the proper contract. Pair 1 defended well on board 15 to prevent their opponents making 1NT when it had made on the other three tables. These small margins gave us a +5 IMP score on the round and reduced the overall deficit to -12 IMPS.

We continued chipping away in round 3. On board 23, Pair 1 made 12 tricks in 5 Diamonds and pair 3 made 12 tricks in 4 Spades, aided and abetted by both opposition pairs who also made 12 tricks in Spades but failed to bid to game (+13 IMPS). Our opponents also handed us a +9 IMPS bonus on board 24 when Pair 1's opponents were in the wrong contract of 2 Spades when it was played in 4 Hearts on the other three tables and made comfortably. Over the round we had pulled back another +7 IMPS.

The final round began with a productive +11 IMPS on board 25, due largely to Pair 3 doubling their opponents' bid of 5 Clubs (vulnerable), taking them down by two tricks (500 pts). Another very positive score came on board 28 when Pairs 1 and 3 made game contracts in Clubs and Pair 2's opponents failed to bid or make a game contract. The round finished with the C Team gaining another IMP back, leaving the overall score as -4 IMPS, which nevertheless translates into a commendable 10-10 draw.

This was a good team performance in the circumstances and leaves the team in a healthy position in the Division 10 league table.

Keith Stones.