

The first round of our first home match of the season was unfortunately played under duress as confusion reigned as to which way the boards were to be passed, despite what the writer thought were clear instructions at the beginning. It will be made even clearer next time!

We got off to a poor start with a 10-imp deficit on the first round, the worst boards for the home team being nos.1 and 3. On the first neither Chris & Pauline nor Christine & Les made 4H made on the other two tables (-14 imps), and on the other Christine & Les were the only pair to fail in 3NT (-12 imps). We regained 11 imps on Board 7 with +300 for Val & Ann taking 2C 3-off whilst Christine & Les gained +200 the other way for getting 2D 2-off, and 8 imps on Board 5 when Chris & Pauline made 10 tricks in 3S only making 7 tricks on two other tables. The final board of the round saw Val & Ann's opponents being the only pair to bid 3NT instead of 2NT, making nine tricks every time (-6 imps).

We improved considerably in the second round, winning this by 22 imps for a 12-imp half-time lead. We gained 10 imps each on Boards 11 and 12, the former when Christine & Les's opponents were the only pair to bid 6S-1 and the latter when Kate & Paul were the only pair to bid and make 3NT, Val & Ann making nine tricks in 2NT and Christine & Les taking 3NT one off. We lost 9 imps on Board 15 when Chris & Pauline's opponents were the only pair to bid and make 3NT but regained 8 imps on the next board when Chris & Pauline were the only pair to bid and make 3NT, all other pairs settling for part-scores in Clubs.

After a pleasant tea of sandwiches and cakes (could do with more sandwiches and less cakes next time) we had a disastrous round 3, losing this by 41 imps for an overall deficit of 29 imps at the three-quarter stage. The first board of the round was a sign of things to come when Val & Ann were doubled in 5S-3 when the only pair in 4H the other way (Chris & Pauline) went one off (-7 imps). Boards 21-23 defined the round as 11, 8 and 16 imps were lost respectively. These started with Kate & Paul's opponents being the only pair to make game in 3NT when others had gone badly down in both 3NT and 4H, then with Val & Ann not bidding game making 11 or 13 tricks in 4H or 4S, then finally Val & Ann failing to make 5D when 5D and 6D both made 12 tricks and 5C made 13 tricks elsewhere.

For the second successive match, however, the Team played a 'blinder' in the last round to turn things around, winning this by 35 imps for a 6-imp victory overall. The only negative score was -6 imps on Board 25 when Christine & Les were the only pair not to bid game, but we regained these 6 imps three-times over on Boards 26, 27 and 29 with three plus scores on 26 and 29 and Kate & Paul's unique game-score on Board 27. Kate & Paul repeated this feat on the final board for +12 imps and we gained a further 9 imps on Board 28 with three plus scores and a pass-out.

With a much-changed line-up from the first match, including Christine & Les promoted from the C Team and a scratch pairing of Kate & Paul who performed better than anyone, we showed determination and resilience to again snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, this being our second-best-ever result in this division. So well done everyone, let us hope we can keep it up next time.

P.S. When adding up the scores Ilkley actually gained 870 more points than us altogether!

BRIGHOUSE B PAIRS	1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	3rd ROUND	4th ROUND	TOTAL
Chris & Pauline	+490	-650	-1490	+980	-670
Kate & Paul	-410	+700	+1100	+220	+1610
Christine & Les	-200	+110	-1960	+1170	-880
Val & Ann	-810	+840	-240	-720	-930
ILKLEY C PAIRS					
Maureen & John	-490	-840	+1960	-220	+410
Pam & Tish	+410	+650	+240	-1170	+130
Glenda & Diana	+200	-700	+1490	+720	+1710
Anthony & June	+810	-110	-1100	-980	-1380

