

## BRIGHOUSE C v HALIFAX C - WON 11 – 9

13<sup>TH</sup> November 2016

This was a fluctuating game which saw the Brighouse Team get off to a horrendous start, more than recover with a storming second round, share a fairly even third round and once again crash badly in the fourth round. The final score of +7 IMPs was a little too close for comfort.

The C Team welcomed Paul Needham & Mike Rigg who played as the first pair. Despite not receiving their fair share of the top cards, and thus playing in a contract only 12 times, Paul & Mike nevertheless proved to be the mainstays of the team.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Paul & Mike	-210	1350	-1880	-830	-1570
2. Alan & Jo	110	920	2380	110	3520
3. Doreen & Eunice	-850	590	-2550	-1440	-4250
4. Keith & Edwina	-240	610	2350	430	3150
Totals	-1190	3470	300	-1730	850

The first round was a disaster. On board 2, Pairs 1 and 3 both bid a slam in spades and went down by one trick, whereas our opponents both satisfied themselves with game contracts and comfortably made them (1040 points down). We retrieved most of those points on board 3 when all four tables were in a North-South contract of 3NT, Pairs 2 and 4 making 10 tricks and both opposition pairs failing to make the contract (1010 points up). However, with only one other small positive score on the first eight boards, we finished the round with a score of -28 IMPs.

The second round could not have been more different as only one board yielded a negative score. The most productive was board 15, where Pair 1 were doubled in 4 Diamonds and made 10 tricks. On the same board, Pair 2 took a 3NT contract down by four tricks, providing 1420 points on that board. Pairs 1 and 3 both defended well on board 10, preventing two game contracts in hearts, whilst Pairs 2 and 4 made their less-ambitious contracts of 1NT and 3 Spades. Similarly Pairs 1, 3 and 4 prevented their opponents making contracts on board 14, whilst Pair 2 made theirs. We scored 3740 points on the round – a massive +56 IMPs. We went into the half-time break leading by 28 IMPs.

Only 7 IMPs separated the two teams in the third round. The highlight was Board 17 which should have been a flat board on a contract of 4 Spades, but Pair 1's opponents failed to bid to game and Pair 2 were doubled and received a nice bonus of 590 points. The overall lead increased to +35 IMPs.

The final round was as much of a disaster as the first. We went down by 28 IMPs and there are no boards worthy of commentary.

Despite the final score of +7 IMPs, and an 11 – 9 victory, the poor finish left us with a feeling of disappointment. Perhaps being disappointed with a win illustrates how far the C Team have improved over the last 12 months.

Keith Stones.