

## BRIGHOUSE C v WAKEFIELD D - LOST 5 – 15

**3rd December 2017**

After only three matches of the league season, and three defeats, not surprisingly we find ourselves anchored at the foot of the Division 9 table and in a serious relegation battle.

For the first time this season we got off to decent start. Board 1 made game in Hearts on all tables but Alan & Jo's opponents failed to bid it. Board 2 likewise looked like it made game in Hearts, but this time Ann & Kate's opponents failed to bid it; and Keith & Edwina made a successful sacrifice in 4 Spades, going down by three tricks. More positive scores on three other boards resulted in an advantage of +7 IMPs at the end of the first round.

It proved to be a false dawn, as we proceeded to suffer our worst round of the whole season. Seven boards were lost, three of them quite heavily. The only one to provide a positive score was board 14 where Neil & George and Alan & Jo successfully defended 4 Hearts game contracts; and Ann & Kate and Keith & Edwina settled for and made part-contracts (10 IMPs on that board). A loss of -41 IMPs on the round was a heavy blow to our earlier hopes.

Round 3 was close with not many obvious opportunities for game contracts. However, Neil & George were the only pair on either team to find and make game contracts on boards 18 and 20, and Ann & Kate made a game contract in Diamonds on board 23. A deficit of -4 IMPs on the round left us -38 IMPs overall.

The hoped-for comeback in the final round failed to materialise. The generally small swings on all the boards seemed to cancel each other out and an uninspiring set of boards left us another -6 IMPs in deficit, for a disappointing -44 IMPs overall and a 5 - 15 defeat.

The detailed analysis shows that Wakefield made 20 games compared to our 17. They also defended better, defeating our game attempts on 15 occasions (whereas we only defeated them in 10 of their game contracts).

Neil & George deserve a special mention as the most successful pair, with a superb score and managing to achieve a positive score on all four rounds.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Neil & George	450	970	50	1870	3340
2. Ann & Kate	-220	-1380	330	-1940	-3210
3. Alan & Jo	440	-320	-630	710	200
4. Keith & Edwina	-680	-1200	-130	-1020	-3030
Totals	-10	-1930	-380	-380	-2700

Keith Stones.