

## DONCASTER E v BRIGHOUSE C - LOST 6 – 14

29th October 2017

The extra hour in bed did not work in our favour as the Brighouse C Team got off to a sluggish start in our first match in Division 9 following our promotion last season.

In the first round, game contracts were only biddable on two boards and we came out of those with parity. The other seven boards were in part-game contracts and overall we came off second best. An uninspiring and unremarkable round saw us down by -14 IMPs.

Things were to get worse before they got better. The first four boards in the second round provided a massive swing to our opponents as we lost 37 IMPs. The least said about those, the better. A small recovery on boards 13 to 15 was wiped out by a poor board 16 where every pair managed a minus score. Generally there was no discernible pattern to the contracts, making it difficult to identify any learning points. A score of -39 IMPs at the end of the round meant that we were now -53 IMPs down in the match at half time.

A good third round by Alan & Jo was the foundation of a mini recovery. Board 17 provided 10 IMPs as east-west were in game contracts on all four tables, but Mike & Brenda denied their opponents by one trick. Board 22 made ten or eleven tricks in spades but one of our opposition pairs failed to bid game (another 10 IMPs). A further 10 IMPs were gained on board 23, mainly as a result of Alan & Jo restricting their opponents to five tricks when in 3 Hearts. We had clawed back 17 IMPs over the round, leaving the overall score at -36 IMPs.

The fourth round proved to be the tightest of them all, with Mike & Brenda scoring well. It started with a superb board 25, which was remarkable because our north-south pairs made 10 and 12 tricks (Mike & Brenda) in spades, whilst our east-west pairs made 10 and 12 tricks (Derek & Eunice) in hearts! The only downside was that Keith & Edwina only bid as far as 3 Spades, otherwise we would have made more than our 18 IMPs score on that one board. Nevertheless a poor score on board 31 where we lost -13 IMPs solely because one of our opposition pairs were the only ones to bid a slam, meant we finished the round only +2 IMPs in profit.

It was a tough battle against a decent team, and the final score of -34 IMPs translated into a 6 – 14 defeat. Onwards and upwards!

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Keith & Edwina (N/S)	-140	200	-220	500	340
2. Alan & Jo (E/W)	-1210	-580	1240	-100	-650
3. Mike Brenda (N/S)	780	-670	-440	2020	1690
4. Derek & Eunice (E/W)	-90	-970	240	-1330	-2150
Totals	-660	2020	820	1090	-770

Keith Stones.