

HARROGATE E v BRIGHOUSE C – LOST 3 – 17

28th January 2018

It's all doom and gloom in the Brighouse C Team. After another resounding defeat we are now standing on the relegation trapdoor, awaiting our fate. Our only hope of a reprieve is two unlikely barnstorming displays in the last two matches of the season.

Things didn't go well from the start. We suffered a deficit of -26 IMPs on the first round of boards, though there was a glimmer of hope on boards 2 and 3. Four positive scores on board 2 gave us +9 IMPs, and a successful game bid of 3NT by Mike & Brenda on board 3 when all other pairs only made 8 tricks gave us +10 IMPs.

The second round proved to be our purple patch. The most lucrative hand was on board 13 where Keith & Edwina defeated a 3NT bid by two tricks when game was made on all the other tables (+13 IMPs). Derek & Eunice similarly defeated a 4 Spade contract on board 14 which would have made in Hearts (+7 IMPs). Round 2 yielded +22 IMPs in total and we were back in the game having cut the deficit to only -4 IMPs.

Our high spirits at the tea break were short-lived, as normal service was soon to be resumed. Not a single board in round 3 gave us a positive score. Four particularly disastrous boards meant we achieved a score of -45 IMPs on the round and the storm clouds gathered once again - down by -49 IMPs overall. Oh, dear.

A second comeback in the last round was never on the cards (pun entirely intended) as we only managed positive scores on the last two boards. Even then, board 31 was courtesy of one pair of over-ambitious (or over-confident by this time?) opponents who bid to game in Hearts but it only made nine tricks on all four tables (+5 IMPs). On board 32, both Keith & Edwina and Mike & Brenda managed to defeat the opponents' part-game contracts (+6 IMPs). Another deficit of -23 IMPs on the round saw us -72 IMPs down in the match.

Unlike previous matches this season we didn't get the impression that the opposition pairs were particularly strong, so where did it all go wrong? Well, as a team, we only played 58 hands as declarer whereas the opposition played 70 hands. Perhaps we need to be more competitive in the bidding. Also, we only successfully made 23 game contracts, whereas our opponents made 27 of them. Improve our defence, perhaps?

Never mind, we can always look forward to a derby match next year against our good friends in the Brighouse D Team (provided, of course, they don't get promoted).

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Keith & Edwina	330	-120	180	-470	-80
2. Mike & Brenda	-480	450	-1830	-440	-2300
3. Alan & Jo	-640	-270	560	-80	-430
4. Derek & Eunice	-830	1190	-1070	-150	-860
Totals	-1620	1250	-2160	-1140	-3670

Keith Stones.