

Our final match of the season was actually played away at Doncaster as the clash with Mothers' Day prevented us from using our golf club home venue. It was a 'Clash of the Titans' as both teams were joint top and knowing that the winner would take the Div. 7 trophy, the loser also most likely to be promoted.

We started poorly with an 11-imp deficit on the first round, despite a 12-imp gain on the first board when Chris & Pauline were lucky to make 3NT, Paul & Ingrid going one off, one opposition pair astonishingly bidding 6NT-4 and the other opponent bidding 5C-2 with eight Clubs AQ1097432 opposite a void and 23 HCP between them. Only one pair from each side bid the making game on the next board but Paul & Ingrid were the only pair not to bid game on Board 4 (-10 imps). The other decisive board was no. 5 with Paul & Ingrid's opponents finding 5D+1, Derek & Ray going two off in 5H and Chris & Pauline and Val & Ann's opponents sacrificing in 4S-2 and 4S-1 (-13 imps).

Round 2 was by far our best with a 28-imp comeback for a 17-imp halftime lead. The first two boards yielded 13 and 12 imps respectively as first Chris & Pauline then Derek & Ray defeated game contracts made everywhere else. Chris & Pauline made the only slam of the match in 6D when all other pairs settled for 5D+2 on Board 14 (+10 imps) and Derek & Ray took advantage of a bidding misunderstanding on Board 13 making 2DX+2 (580) which more than cancelled out three minus scores elsewhere (+6 imps). The only poor board was no. 15 (-7 imps) with two negatives and two pass-outs.

After a fine tea of sandwiches, salad and cakes we added a further 5 imps on Round 3 despite our worst board of the match, Board 20, with both our E-W pairs failing in 3NT made by both opponents (-16 imps). Val & Ann gained us 13 imps on Board 18 with the only making 3NT and we took a small positive from Board 17 despite Derek & Ray's 6H-3 as Paul & Ingrid made 4SX the other way. Val & Ann and Paul & Ingrid's opponents were the only ones to make game in 3NT on Board 22, both other pairs going one off in 5-level contracts, and on the next board Derek & Ray and Chris & Pauline's opponents were the only pairs bidding and making 3NT.

We increased our winning margin by 3 imps on the final round for a 25-imp or 13-7 victory, the Division 7 trophy and promotion back to Division 6. Board 27 saw Val & Ann allowed to sacrifice in 4H-2 with 5D making elsewhere (+8 imps) but a costly sacrifice by Derek & Ray of 5HX-4 against 5D making the other way on Board 30 lost us 9 imps. They atoned by making game on Board 28, however, alongside one opposing pair.

Chris & Pauline and, by a lesser margin, Derek & Ray, were our best pairs on the day, but more importantly, congratulations to all who contributed to this excellent season with six wins and just one defeat and a nice round total of 100 points altogether. So back to Division 6 and, hopefully, we can hold our own there next time, which will largely depend on the strength of teams we can field.

BRIGHOUSE B PAIRS	1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	3rd ROUND	4th ROUND	TOTAL
Chris & Pauline	+780	+830	-40	-380	+1190
Derek & Ray	-430	+1170	-350	+180	+570
Paul & Ingrid	-410	-190	+40	-20	-580
Val & Ann	-640	-60	+50	+300	-350
DONCASTER C PAIRS					
Julian & Vince	-780	-1170	-40	-300	-2290
Peter & Frank	+430	+190	-50	+380	+950
Sue & Chris	+410	+60	+40	-180	+330
Marz & Vitek	+640	-830	+350	+20	+180

