

YORK E v BRIGHOUSE C - LOST 5 -15

6th December 2015

The Brighouse C Team suffered our first setback of the season by going down to a York team that were the strongest we have faced this year. The damage was done in a disastrous first eight boards where we went behind by -35 IMPs. The last three rounds were hard-fought but we were unable to recover and finished on -45 IMPs with a losing score of 5 – 15.

The pairs were:

1. Christine & Les
2. Keith & Edwina
3. Kevin & Barbara
4. Alan & Jo

For the second match running we got off to a very slow start. Board 7 was the only one of the first eight boards that yielded a positive score, where Pair 2 were the only ones to bid and make game in 3NT. Both our opponents' pairs were in 3 Clubs and both failed to make the contract. The other boards do not merit any mention whatsoever and perhaps it's best to leave all four pairs to consider those boards in the privacy of their own homes. We were a disappointing 35 IMPs down at the end of the round.

The second round saw us regain some ground with +4 IMPS overall. Board 12 was the most profitable, largely as a result of Pair 3 doubling an ambitious 5 Hearts bid by their opponents, taking them down by two tricks and gaining 500 points. On board 15, Pair 2 were the only ones to take ten tricks in 4 Hearts. At half time the overall score was -31 IMPs.

A remarkable board 22 provided the highlight not only of the third round but the whole afternoon. That one board gave us a superb haul of 1570 points. Pairs 2 and 4 both bid 4 Spades, with Pair 2 making 10 tricks (620 points) and Pair 4 making 11 tricks (650 points). Pair 1's opponents were inexplicably in a 4 Clubs contract going down by two tricks, and Pair 3's opponents were in 3 No Trumps going down by one trick. That board saved the round but nevertheless we still found ourselves down by another 2 IMPS. The score therefore stood at -33 IMPs after three rounds.

We felt we were still in with a chance of recovering something from the match as we began the fourth round. Unfortunately we were thwarted by a bizarre set of boards. Out of the eight boards (played 32 times) only two managed to make a game contract, one by each team. Special mention must go to Pair 3 who amazingly bid and made 3NT on Board 32 – a board that was so evenly distributed it was passed out one occasion. A deficit of -12 IMPs on the round meant the overall score finished at -45 IMPs.

Pair 1 performed consistently well throughout the match and were the only pair to finish with a positive score. Overall it may have been a disappointing result but hopefully no more than a blip on the team's progress.

Keith Stones.