

Armed with torches to find our cars after the match, with the outside lights out of action following the recent flooding, we made the short journey to Leeds hoping for a better result than last season's 20-0 thrashing against the higher-ranking Leeds D team.

We took a welcome 18-imp lead in the first round with two decisive boards, nos. 4 and 6. On Board 4 Kevin & Chris took a slight risk by doubling 2D with 11 points each but were amply rewarded with an 800-point penalty, the other scores being +200 by both N-S pairs for getting different contracts down and a pass-out at Kate & George's table (+15 imps). A further 10 imps were gained on Board 6 as Kate & George were the only pair to defeat 4H. Chris & Pauline's -400 for bidding much too high on Board 2 in a classic misfit situation was rescued by three plus scores elsewhere and all four N-S pairs went one off in 6NT on Board 3.

We lost half of our lead on the second round to go into the tea interval at +9 imps. The biggest score of the day was unfortunately for our opponents, 17 imps, on Board 13 (lucky for some!) as both our N-S pairs went down in NT when 4S vulnerable was on. On the other hand superior cardplay saw us gain four plus scores on Board 12 as our N-S pairs made NT contracts not made by our opponents (+11 imps). One pair from each side made 3NT on Board 11 and no pair risked 6S on Board 14, making 12 tricks with just 23 points but Spades AKQ108762, Diamonds A63, Clubs J7 and a void in Hearts opposite Spades 93, Hearts 9632, Diamonds K8 and Clubs AQ983.

After an excellent tea we regained our 18-imp overall lead with a round of violent swings, starting with Board 17 when both our E-W pairs made game defeated by our N-S pairs (+14 imps). A further 8 imps were made on Board 20 as Kate & George were allowed to play in 3C+1 and Val & Ann's opponents sacrificed in 5CX-1 whilst the other two pairs made 4S+1. The next board was expensive as both E-W opponents made 4H whilst Kevin & Chris went one down and Val & Ann stopped in 2NT+1. The latter more than redeemed themselves on Board 23 with the only (vulnerable) game score (+11 imps) but faltered on the last board of the round with 4SX-3 when 2S and 3S had made 10 and 9 tricks elsewhere.

The final round also featured many large swings but proved to be our best round (just) with another 20 imps to the good for a satisfying 38-imp overall victory. On Board 27 Kevin & Chris did well to make 3H with 3S+1 and 2S+2 made the other way (+10 imps) and Kate & George's defeat of 3NT on the next board gained us another 13 imps. Four small plus scores on Board 29 gained us another 10 imps but 9 of these were lost with four small minus scores on Board 31 when both our N-S pairs went for risky 3NT contracts. A further 10 imps were lost on the final board when Chris & Pauline's opponents were the only ones to bid or make 3NT.

All four pairs contributed well to a comfortable win but the best pair on the day were the scratch pairing of Kate & George, so well done to them in particular.

BRIGHOUSE B PAIRS	1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	3rd ROUND	4th ROUND	TOTAL
Chris & Pauline (N-S)	+550	+740	+760	+610	+2660
Kevin & Chris (E-W)	+70	-790	-1450	-700	-2870
Val & Ann (N-S)	+1220	-60	+670	+1280	+3110
Kate & George (E-W)	-400	-1220	+350	-40	-1310
LEEDS E PAIRS					
Mollie & Linda	-550	+790	-670	+40	-390
Henry & Ian	-70	+60	-350	-610	-970
Ron & Leslie	-1220	+1220	-760	+700	-60
Sandra & Gopi	+400	-740	+1450	-1280	-170