

Our first round against our near-neighbours from Bradford (including one wearing blue jeans - shock, horror!) saw several interesting boards culminating in a narrow 3-imp lead for our team.

Ray & Pauline were the only pair to make game on the first board (+7 imps) whilst Kevin & Chris and one opponent made 3NT on the next. Board 3 included game scores made by Ray & Pauline and one opponent, with Kevin & Chris making 11 tricks in 3D and Ingrid & Paul making an expensive sacrifice in 4Sx-3 (-800) when vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents (-12 imps). The next board was our worst of the match with four minus scores including one game score against Ray & Pauline (-14 imps) but 11 imps were regained on Board 5 when Ingrid & Paul were allowed to play in 3H making when both 4S+2 and 5D were on the other way, Kevin & Chris taking +300 for 5Hx-2. A further 8 imps were won on Board 6, mainly because Ray & Pauline defeated an ambitious 3NT-2 vulnerable.

Five of the next eight boards saw game scores made by all pairs, leaving just Boards 12 and 13 of the other three being noteworthy: Board 12 was indeed the only board of the round with larger than a one-imp swing either way, this caused by Kevin & Chris being the only pair to bid 3NT when all others also made nine tricks (+6 imps) and Board 13 finished straight across despite Kevin & Chris doubling 1NT+1 for -380, all other scores being plus. A further 6-imp gain on the round gave us a narrow 9-imp lead at the halfway stage.

After a fine tea round 3 proved decisive with our team winning seven of the eight boards, worth +40 imps for a safe-looking 49-imp lead going into the final round. All pairs made slams on Board 17 but Kevin & Chris were the only pair to make a slam on Board 19, both Ray & Pauline and Val & Ann's opponents going one down with a different lead, the fourth opponent just bidding and making 5D. Ray & Pauline made a costly sacrifice on Board 18 (-500)(-7 imps) but were the only pair to make game on both Boards 21 and 22 (+8 imps each time). Superior cardplay by all our pairs on Board 20 in 2S or 3S contracts gained us another 11 imps and Val & Ann's game score on Board 23 and three small plus scores on Board 24 gained us another 8 imps.

The final round was relatively uneventful but also our worst as only one board was won, and this by only 1 imp, against four losses. Board 26 was the only one with a swing of more than 3 imps, however, as Kevin & Chris were the only pair to fail in 3NT (-12 imps). Both Val & Ann and Ray & Pauline went three off, fortunately not doubled, in ambitious-looking game contracts on Board 27.

The final-round score was -19 imps for a 30-imp overall victory and our second successive 14-6 win, taking us up one place to 2nd in the League table with two matches to play. The scores suggest that all four pairs contributed almost equally to the win, so well done again and thanks in particular to Ingrid for standing in as Captain and Match Secretary for the day.

BRIGHOUSE B PAIRS	1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	3rd ROUND	4th ROUND	TOTAL
Ingrid & Paul	-480	-870	-1280	-610	-3240
Kevin & Chris	+740	+890	+2080	+250	+3960
Val & Ann	-1470	-840	-280	-1140	-3730
Ray & Pauline	+820	+1050	+1300	+570	+3740
BRADFORD D PAIRS					
Alistair & Clive	+480	-1050	+280	-250	-540
Mike & Jill	-740	+870	-1300	+1140	-30
Elaine & Rita	+1470	-890	+1280	-570	+1290
Ana-Maria & Pat	-820	+840	-2080	+610	-1450