

BRIGHOUSE C v LEEDS F - LOST 3 - 17

24th January 2016

The fifth match of the season was an inter-divisional match, with Brighouse C being given the toughest possible fixture against Leeds F, the runaway leaders of Division 10a, who had amassed a total of 75 league points out of a possible 80 points in their previous matches. It was always going to be a difficult match, and so it proved.

The pairs were:

1. Christine & Les
2. Jo & Alan
3. Keith & Edwina
4. Judith & Eunice

In the first round, board 2 gave us an early boost as Pair 2 and Pair 4 both made 3NT, whilst Pair 1 and Pair 3 defended well to restrict both sets of opponents to only 7 tricks – 980 points in the bag straight away. The only other board to give us a significant points advantage was board 5, where Pair 2 were the only ones to bid and make 4 Hearts. The biggest blow was a failure to bid slams in Hearts on board 6, when both opposition pairs had bid and made them. At the end of the round, we were 11 IMPs in deficit.

The second round was only marginally better as we recorded a loss of -10 IMPs. On board 13 Pair 3 managed to push their opponents up to 5 Clubs when only 10 tricks were possible, giving a positive score on that board of 250 points. The only other noteworthy point was on board 16 when Pair 3 again put up a successful defence to restrict a 2NT contract to 6 tricks for another positive board score. At the halfway point, Brighouse C Team were a cumulative 21 Imps in deficit.

The afternoon tea failed to refresh the team, and round 3 saw us lose another 13 IMPs. We did however manage to score 610 points on board 18, thanks largely to Pair 3 who were the only ones to bid and make game in 4 Hearts. Board 23 was also a lucrative board, where Pair 3 got lucky as their opponents were the only ones not to bid a slam in No Trumps on a hand that made 13 tricks. That mistake by the opposition rewarded us with 720 points. Nevertheless the cumulative score was gradually slipping away and now stood at -34 IMPs.

Things now got exponentially worse as possibly the team's lack of fitness began to take its toll. Board 27 was remarkable as our opponents variously made game in 5 Diamonds (by West), 4 Spades (by South) and 3 No Trumps (by West), whilst pair 1 retrieved the situation slightly by making a good sacrifice and going down by one trick in 5 Hearts! That board saw us lose a disastrous 1270 points. Another failure to bid slams in No Trumps on board 30, with both opposition pairs seizing the opportunity, also cost us dear (-1000 points). A loss of 35 IMPs on the round gave a final cumulative score of -69 IMPs and a disappointing 17-3 defeat.

Keith Stones.