

Our host golf club had its course closed for our first home match of the season, such was the wet and windy weather, ideal you might say for being inside playing bridge.

We got off to an excellent start with a 31-imp lead on the first round, with five plus scores and only one minus. Chris & Pauline made 6C on Board 2 with all other pairs in 3NT, all making 13 tricks (+9 imps). Board 3 saw our only reverse as Kate & Brian's opponents were the only pair to see the potential game score in 5C, other pairs taking small penalties from 4S or 3S going one off, or stopping in 4C (-12 imps). Kate & Brian pushed their opponents into 5S going one off on the next board when 4H made the other way, although only bid twice on three tables (+7 imps) whilst two game scores in 3NT by Chris & Pauline and Paul & Ingrid against 4S one off and 1H making 10 on Board 5 gained us another 12 imps. Kate & Brian earned us another 9 imps on Board 8 with the only game score (4H).

Nearly all the good work from the first round was undone in the second, however, with only two plus scores and five minuses for a 27-imp deficit on the round and a slender 4-imp halfway lead. Kate & Brian were the only pair to go down in game on Board 10 (-12 imps) and the only pair to concede game on the next board as no other N-S pairs saw the potential 4S game, all stopping in 3S or 2S making 11. Kate & Brian went two off in 4S, including a revoke, on Board 13 (only -8 imps as one opponent failed to bid or make 4S) but gained us 11 imps on Board 15 with the only slam bid (6S). They unfortunately found the wrong contract of 4S instead of 3NT on Board 16, costing 14 imps.

The third round was almost even with four boards to each team, resulting in a small gain of 3 imps and an overall lead of 7 imps. Kate & Brian and one opponent bid slams on the first board, surprisingly not bid by Val & Ann or the other opponent when 7H, 6S and 6NT were all makeable. Chris & Pauline made a risky 3NT on the next board for +400 with Paul & Ingrid making 300 for 3C-3 from their opponents, but unfortunately a kamikaze 4CX-3 from Kate & Brian cost us 800 and -7 imps overall. Board 21 was our best of the day with Val & Ann and Kate & Brian making 3NT, Chris & Pauline's opponents failing to bid it & Paul & Ingrid getting their opponents one off (+15 imps). This was nearly balanced by Board 23, however, as Chris & Pauline's opponents were the only ones to find the correct contract of 4S, all other pairs going three off in 4H.

After a much-improved tea we won five of the last eight boards to add 20 more imps for a 27-imp victory overall. This was despite a calamitous Board 28 when both Chris & Pauline and Paul & Ingrid went one off in 6C missing two aces, which could have been avoided by judicious use of 4C Gerber, providing 4NT is then a sign-off bid (-16 imps). Val & Ann starred with the only 3NT game scores on Boards 27 and 30 (+8 and +7 imps) and superior card play by all our pairs on the final board for four plus scores (+10 imps) sealed the comfortable victory.

In a match where all four pairs had their moments Val & Ann were the most consistent and Kate & Brian the least, but thanks to all for another good result. For our opponents the captain and his partner had a particularly difficult afternoon, so perhaps he will think twice about pairing a Sheffield Wednesday season-ticket holder with a Sheffield United supporter next time!

BRIGHOUSE B PAIRS	1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	3rd ROUND	4th ROUND	TOTAL
Chris & Pauline	+2150	-1480	-190	-730	-250
Kate & Brian	-310	-160	-850	+420	-900
Paul & Ingrid	+1190	-1460	+1750	-420	+1060
Val & Ann	-1720	+1490	-420	+870	+220
BEAUCHIEF B PAIRS					
Brian & Roy	-2150	-1490	-1750	-420	-5810
Irene & Bruno	+310	+1480	+420	+420	+2630
Darren & Pat	-1190	+160	+190	-870	-1710
Steph & Barbara	+1720	+1460	+850	+730	+4760

