

We knew that this was likely to be a difficult match against the unbeaten league leaders, so perhaps a narrow defeat was not too bad a result.

We started with 5 minuses and 3 plusses on the first round, the largest minus being on Board 1 when some clever bidding by Chris & Pauline's opponents found the making 5D when all other pairs failed in 3NT (-11 imps). Poor scores were also recorded on Boards 3 and 5 (-7 & -9 imps) but Board 7 was by far our best board of the whole match, when both Chris & Pauline and Ray & Terry's opponents made 4S+2, Kate & Mike's opponents bid the erroneous 5D-4 and Paul & Ingrid took full advantage of their opponents bidding a risky sacrifice in 5HX-4 for +1100 our way (+17 imps!!). So a 12-imp deficit to take into the second round, despite a total team score of +230 on the round!

In the second round we also had a small overall team plus, of 170, but again a minus on imp scoring, this time of only 1 imp, to go into the interval at -13 imps. We again had 5 minuses and 3 plusses, starting badly with Ray & Terry's opponents being the only ones to risk 3NT (making with difficulty) when Paul & Ingrid went 2 off in 5D and both other pairs stopped in 3D (-13 imps). Another 11 imps were lost on the next board when Chris & Pauline tried a hopeless 3NT-4, but three good scores on Boards 13-15 of +12, +11 and +12 imps almost brought us up to parity on the round. This included four positive scores on Board 13, Paul & Ingrid being the only pair to make game on Board 14 and they and Chris & Pauline being the only pairs to make game on Board 15.

After the usual hearty hot home meal, which was much appreciated by all, we made a distinct improvement in the third round, winning this by 20 imps to take a small overall lead of 7 imps. This time we had 5 plusses and only 2 minuses, our best board being no. 23 when Ray & Terry were the only pair to bid and make 4S (+10 imps). Our worst board was no. 22, when Chris & Pauline's opponents were the only pair to bid and make a vulnerable 6H, only making on a successful KH finesse, when their teammates, playing against Paul & Ingrid, bizarrely only bid to 3H+4 (-8 imps). Boards 17 and 20 were also successful for our team with +6 and +7 imps on low-scoring hands.

Unfortunately our small advantage was overturned on the last round despite 4 plus boards and 4 minuses, the minuses including a disastrous 2SX= against Ray & Terry (-13 imps), the second successive match in which one pair has made this mistake. We also lost 10 imps when the same pair overbid to 5S-1 on Board 27 (with 8 Spades opposite a void) and another 10 imps on Board 30 when Chris & Pauline failed to make 3NT. Paul & Ingrid gleaned a small +5 imps for us on the final board by doubling the 5DX-4 sacrifice against the making 4S the other way. The net result was -24 imps on the last round for an overall deficit of 17 imps (8-12).

Paul & Ingrid and Kate & Mike had a very successful afternoon, but unfortunately their efforts were not sufficiently supported by their teammates on this occasion. We are now just one point above the relegation zone, so need to get a good result in our next match against the bottom team.

BRIGHOUSE B PAIR	1 st ROUND	2 nd ROUND	3 rd ROUND	4 th ROUND	TOTAL
Ray & Terry	-1970	-410	+1320	-1580	-2640
Chris & Pauline	+400	-580	-710	+10	-880
Kate & Mike	+70	+430	+340	-950	-110
Paul & Ingrid	+1730	+730	-120	+1050	+3390
BRIGHOUSE B PAIR	SLAMS MADE /	CONCEDED	GAMES MADE /	CONCEDED	-240
Ray & Terry	0	0	3	9	
Chris & Pauline	0	1	5	4	
Kate & Mike	0	0	4	4	
Paul & Ingrid	1 (1100 penalty)	0	8	2	

