

After promotion last season we faced our first ever match in Div. 5, but came up short of the new standard now required of us in this division.

This did not reveal itself in the first round, however, as honours were almost even with a 2-imp advantage overall. This round contained both our best board and our worst board of the match, the former when Ray & Terry's opponents bid 6H-2 on Board 5 with all other pairs staying in 4H (+13 imps), the latter when both our E-W pairs failed in a difficult 4H when both opposition pairs made on Board 7 (-17 imps). Neil & George did well to make a difficult 3NT on Board 3, unfortunately for only +2 imps as the other three scores were in minus. Board 4 was also of interest as all four pairs failed to bid a slam when 7NT, 7C and 6D were all makeable with two long, running minor suits.

Round 2 saw reality begin to bite as we lost this by 30 imps for a 28-imp half-time deficit. Board 11 almost deserves a paragraph all to itself although there was no swing either way, with Chris & Pauline making 6NT, Kate & Mike's opponents making 6H, Neil & George's opponents going one off in 7H and Ray & Terry being pushed into 7NT-1 by an outrageous bid of 7S by their opponents, with only 5 points between them, thus changing a potential +2000 into -50! Enough said!

Boards 16 and 13 were our worst of the round with two game scores by Bradford against a part-score and a minus (3NT should go off with best defence) on Board 16 and two part-scores on Board 13 (-15 and -14 imps). We regained 10 imps on Board 15 when Neil & George were the only pair to bid and make 3NT but lost 8 imps and 6 imps on Boards 9 and 12 respectively, the latter with a lucky 3NT bid by Kate & Mike's opponents with insufficient points but it happens to make.

After a fine tea of Sainsbury's sandwiches and excellent homemade cakes, we almost rallied in the third round with four plus scores and only two minus scores, but unfortunately the two minus scores were -11 on Board 19 and -12 on Board 23, resulting in a further -5 imps on the round for -33 overall. Board 19 showed our naivety in not bidding game on either table when 4H made on every table, whilst Board 23 saw just one of our pairs failing to make 3NT. We regained 7 imps on Board 18 when Neil & George were the only pair not to risk 3NT, going two off, and another 7 imps on Board 22 when both Bradford pairs overstretched themselves into 4H-2 or -3.

We failed to rally again in the final round, losing this by 20 imps for a 53-imp overall defeat. The most disappointing boards were nos. 29 and 32 with four minus scores on each. This time it was our E-W pairs who overstretched themselves into 4H-1 or -2 on the former, with a golden opportunity to regain valuable imps not taken on the latter when Chris & Pauline were foolishly doubled in 2S vulnerable, which should have made for +670, but went one off for -200, that one trick costing us 18 imps as a potential +7 imps became -11 imps.

The Bradford team bid better than us, played the contracts better and defended better, so deserved their large win. Neil & George were our only pair who came up to the standard required, so well done to you two! If we are to establish ourselves in this division we need to bid more game contracts, defend better and eradicate the naivety which displayed itself on certain occasions. Here's hoping!

BRIGHOUSE B PAIR	1 st ROUND	2 nd ROUND	3 rd ROUND	4 th ROUND	TOTAL
Neil & George (N-S)	-470	+1670	+20	+430	+1650
Ray & Terry (E-W)	+750	-2020	+180	-490	-1580
Kate & Mike (N-S)	-760	-840	-940	-1140	-3680
Chris & Pauline (E-W)	-40	-920	+270	+100	<u>-590</u>
BRIGHOUSE B PAIR	SLAMS MADE /	CONCEDED	GAMES MADE /	CONCEDED	-4200
Neil & George (N-S)	0	0	9	5	
Ray & Terry (E-W)	0	0	5	8	
Kate & Mike (N-S)	0	1	5	9	
Chris & Pauline (E-W)	1	0	4	7	

