

RIPON B v BRIGHOUSE C - DRAWN 10 - 10

27th October 2019

Another season in Division 10 beckons after the disappointment of so narrowly missing out on promotion last year, but we travelled to Ripon with renewed hopes and high expectations. It turned out to be a cracking match, with the C Team narrowly losing the first three rounds but staging a fighting comeback in the last quarter to secure a well-deserved draw.

Although we were in Ripon, we weren't really at the races for the first six boards. Board 7 made game (in both Spades and NT) for East-West on three of the tables, but Les & Paul held their opponents to nine tricks in a Spade game contract, giving us a 13 IMPs advantage. On board 8, both our North-South pairs made their game contracts in Spades but one of the opposition pairs failed to bid to game, and Ann & Val restricted their opponents to nine tricks – another 13 IMP score. We were -1 IMP at the conclusion of the round.

Round 2 began ignominiously with big deficits on the first three boards. Thanks to Ann & Val's opponents not bidding to game on Board 12 we clawed back 9 IMPs, followed by another 12 IMPs on Board 13 where Keith & Edwina were the only pair to find a successful 3NT bid when a Hearts game contract twice failed. But Board 14 was the most productive and spectacular. It made 11 tricks in 4 Hearts for North-South on three tables but Keith & Edwina doubled a competitive bid of 4 Spades from their opponents, who promptly went down by seven tricks, 1700 points and a nett gain of 15 IMPs, thank you very much. Nevertheless we were -3 IMPs on the round.

The third quarter proved to be our worst. The only highlight was Board 24 where Ann & Val were the only East-West pair to bid and make 3NT, providing us with a welcome 11 IMPs. We were however a disappointing -11 IMPs on the round and a cumulative -15 IMPs overall.

Eunice & Brenda were the only East-West pair to bid a slam on Board 26 and, what's more, the only pair to take all 13 tricks, giving us a 13 IMP advantage. More was to follow, as on Board 28 the two North-South pairs (Les & Paul and Keith & Edwina) bid slams in Clubs and made all 13 tricks, when both of our opponents' pairs stayed in game contracts. That board gave us 16 IMPs. Les & Paul prevented their opponents making 3NT on board 31, the only pair not to do so, earning us another 10 IMPs. Other boards went against us but we had earned a profitable 11 IMPs on the round.

Although at the end of the match we were still -4 IMPs overall, it was enough to secure a honourable and creditable 10 -10 draw. A good venue, friendly opponents and a highly competitive match made this into a very enjoyable day. Well done to all the team on a brilliant comeback.

Pair	Boards 1-8	Boards 9-16	Boards 17-24	Boards 25-32	Totals
1. Ann & Val (E-W)	1000	-1710	680	-220	-250
2. Les & Paul (N-S)	-250	490	-1900	1000	-660
3. Eunice & Brenda (E-W)	290	-1710	420	-240	-1240
4. Keith & Edwina (N-S)	-660	3030	-710	310	1970
Totals	380	100	-1510	850	-180

Keith Stones.