

County Match Report-Match2 Cambridgeshire

North

♠ K83

♥ AJ
♦ J743
♣ Q1053

West

♠ 762
♥ Q86
♦ 10985
♣ 982

East

♠ QJ94
♥ K1095
♦ K62
♣ A4

South

♠ A105
♥ 7243
♦ AQ
♣ KJ76

East South West North

1C* 1NT** Pass 3NT

Pass Pass Pass

Lead 6Hearts

1C=2+ (5Card Majors strong no trump)

1NT=15/17 Liked its hand!

Sunday saw our second county match of the season with all three teams winning against a strong Cambridgeshire team, well done 😊

There were slams a plenty, but the above hand caught my eye as declarer played it very well....sadly against myself and India 😞

After a straightforward if rather aggressive auction, particularly by South, I decided, as partner didn't have to have clubs, to look elsewhere for the lead. Often on 1N-3N auctions a major is best as the opposition haven't looked for a fit, so i picked my better one, hearts.

Declarer finessed and India returned the five, unblocking the queen is best on this hand but I didn't know I could afford to so I played low. Declarer played a club and India won and played a heart to my Queen I exited with a diamond (a spade is better but doesn't matter here) and declarer paused for thought. He had eight tricks (3 clubs, 2diamonds, 2spades and 1heart). He could gamble on a very lucky diamond or spade position but why not exit with the fourth heart first, overtricks don't matter at teams and it may 'rectify the count' for a squeeze just look what happens...

India won the heart and exited with the jack of spades to hopefully fool declarer as to where the queen was, but they had other ideas..., declarer cashed their diamond ace and clubs leaving this position...

	North	
	♠ K83	
	♥	
	♦ J	
	♣ 10	
West		
♠ 762		♠ QJ9
♥		♥
♦		♦ K
♣ 9		♣
	South	
	♠ A105	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ 7	

India could do nothing on the last club. Discard a diamond and the jack was good, discard a spade and the spades were good. This is known as a show out squeeze as you don't even need to count at the end, just watch which winner is discarded.

Very well played and well-done team for winning despite the opposition playing at this standard.

Rob Miller