

County Match Report-Match3 Suffolk

North

♠ K96

♥ K32

♦ 5

♣ 1098764

West

♠ 862

♥ Void

♦ QJ976

♣ QJ532

East

♠ QJ53

♥ Q109764

♦ A42

♣ Void

South

♠ A104

♥ AJ85

♦ K1083

♣ AK

East South West North

1H* X** Pass 2C

Pass 1NT***Pass 3NT

Pass Pass Pass

Lead 7 of Diamonds

*Some would open a weak two

** Too good for 1NT

*** 19-21

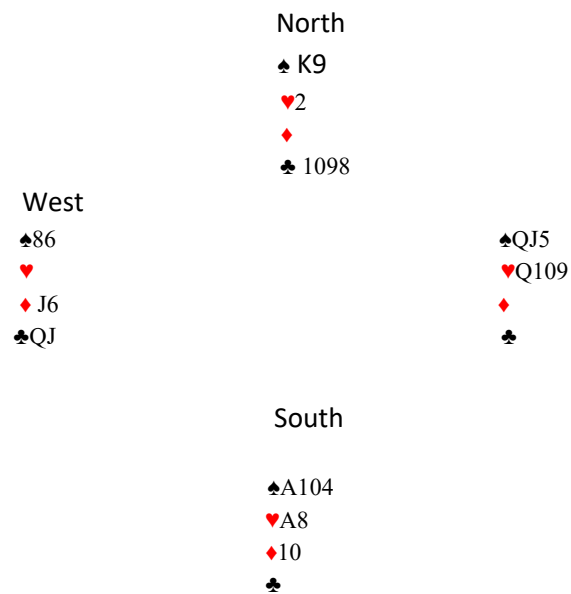
Sunday saw our third county match of the season with all three teams winning and winning well keeping up our great start to the season. The A team now sits second in their division while the B and C teams are leading the way in theirs. Well done to all. If only the selector's play could be as good as the rest of the squad. At this rate I'll be a non playing selector soon. 😊

The above hand was a slightly pushy game but a missed opportunity for a good swing in. West led a small diamond. The textbook may say the queen from this holding with East ducking but then there would be no story. East won the ace and returned a diamond. I finessed the eight losing to the nine and discarded a spade from dummy. West then played a top diamond clearing the suit.

Are you sitting comfortably and waiting for my error? If you are you have already missed it! 😊 I have eight tricks (assuming the heart finesse) and really don't need all those clubs. One more trick is enough, so a club discard is far better than a spade...look what happens.

I tried the top club finding the bad news and there was no way of a ninth in that suit without West getting in. It had to be some form of end play on East for the ninth trick, I cashed the other club and I played a heart

to dummy and finessed the heart. East, who must have the QJ of spades for their opening had to keep three so this was the ending. ..



I played ace and another heart, East winning and cashing a heart. East then had to play spades as intended ..but arrgh! they found an excellent small switch. My 9 won in dummy but the suit was blocked and there was no way to untangle all three spades. Well done to the defence to spot exiting with a small one (an honour allows me to win in dummy and finesse back) but silly of me not to keep three in dummy for this ending 😞. Well done again to the rest of the team.

Rob Miller