

Suffolk v Essex – 25 July

After 24 boards, the Suffolk A-team were within striking distance (-5 imps) of victory against a full-strength Essex team containing familiar foes such as Marc Chawner and Paul Spencer. Unfortunately, the final 8 boards proved costly as Suffolk lost a further 28 imps for a 6-14 loss. Nevertheless, this was a creditable performance by a relatively inexperienced Suffolk line-up, and by A-team debutants, May Li and John Gan, in particular.

The Suffolk B-team continued their winning ways with an 11-9 victory despite making their customary slow start (-33 imps after the first stanza!). An impressive final eight boards produced a gain of 32 imps for a 107-100 imp victory. There were solid performances all round plus another excellent card from Cathy Rowland and Din Gudka who were the best performing B-team pair from either county in the cross-imp table.

Last, but by no means least, was the performance of the Suffolk C-team. Zeroes in the 20-0 loss against Northants to heroes by virtue of a 12-8 win on Sunday. Andy Higginson & Chris Kennedy, Richard Evans & John Bloomfield, and Jo Harpur & Dennis Valtisiaris all finished within the top six places in the cross-imp table. Happily, this meant that Bill Bethell was able to mark his debut for the county team with a victory. Thanks in particular to Paul Whetton who has helped us enormously by playing in a 'scratch' partnership for a second time this season.

On the slam theme, Suffolk bid and made 11 small slams and Essex bid and made 10. Just 5/12 pairs found the cold 6S on Board 6. Playing a strong NT, the slam was only bid when South super-accepted North's transfer to spades. Some such as Jeff Orton and John Wilmott took this action and were rewarded with +1430. The South hand contained an attractive 16 count and the super-accept was surely justified.

S J854

H AKJ3

D K87

C A2

It is a bone of contention whether it is *always* correct to super-accept a transfer to a major with 4 trumps. Marty Bergen says "yes". Others are not convinced. See for discussion:

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/superacceptance-of-jacoby-transfers/>

Thanks to everyone who represented Suffolk. Cross-imp results are on the SCBA website:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20210725_2&club=suffolkbridge

Our next match is on Sunday 17TH October v Cambs & Hunts.