



17TH HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

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GOLD TEAMS

An East European Final

Team K1 Plus (Bulgaria) Vs Team Russia

Reigning champions South Sweden fade out. Going into the final set K1 Plus led by a thin margin of 8 Imps over Don Julio from Iceland. The last set saw the Icelanders thaw out to concede 45 Imps. Team Russia, were trailing by 4 Imps against reigning champions South Sweden at the half way stage. However, they zoomed off the blocks, post lunch, and never looked back to hammer South Sweden by 100 Imps.

SILVER TEAMS

Team Pradeep Vs ICSA Group

After a disastrous morning I-Doctors rallied post lunch, but eventually caved in to lose by 10 Imps.

PAIRS

The MP Pairs has bifurcated into 2 events - Gold and Silver. The top 26 qualified Pairs play the top flight Pairs Finals - **Gold** while ranks 27 to 52 play the Finals of Flight B - **Silver**.

IMP Pairs : A healthy 84 Pairs get to play a whole bunch of more bridge today.

THE POT OF GOLD

	GOLD TEAMS	SILVER TEAMS	OPEN PAIRS
Winner	30 Lakhs	12 Lakhs	10 Lakhs
Runner-up	15 Lakhs	7.2 Lakhs	7.5 Lakhs
Third	7.5 Lakhs	3.6 Lakhs	6 Lakhs
Fourth	6 Lakhs	2.4 Lakhs	4 Lakhs
	Upto 20th Place	Upto 20th Place	Upto 16th Place

Please note its in Rupees not in USD.

Don't you wish.....



So Long - Farewell



Laurie Kelso (CTD)

I hope you have all enjoyed the 17th HCL International Championships and, as part of my last contribution to the Daily Bulletin I wish everyone a safe homeward journey. I would also like to thank you (the players) for creating a great atmosphere and for contributing to the success of these Championships. I personally will take home fond memories of both the tournament and the new friends I have made. Some of you, I am confident, I will see again at some future event, possibly even in a different part of the world, but until then I bid you all 'adieu'.

Since these Championships will soon draw to a close, I must also acknowledge and thank a number of particular individuals who have contributed significantly to the success of the tournament, as well as assisting me greatly on a personal level.

Besides myself, there were 12 other TDs attending to each and every problem that arose at the table, as well as ensuring the sessions ran to time: M.B.V. Subrahmanyam, Pranab (Ranju) Bhattacharya, V K Sharma, Sanjay Chakraborty, P Narsinga Rao, K.S. Swaminathan, C. Sathish Kumar, D Roy Choudhury, B G Daxindas, P. Vahalia, Paresh Gupta and Avinash Chitale.

Then we have the Scoring and Technological Staff, which handle not only the production of the results but everything else associated with the tournament's electronic presentation (in all its various forms) to the rest of the world. This tournament would be very different without the group headed up by Sudhir Aggarwal and Srinivasan Iyengar, with the assistance of Prithvi Singh, Kaustubh Deodhar and Gajendra Singh.

There are also many, many others who have contributed their services (some on a volunteer basis) to do all the other necessary jobs. These include the Board Dealers, the Bulletin Staff, the Administration Staff, the BBO Operators and the Caddies.

Of course I cannot forget the Head of Operations who is one of the most important cogs in the whole organization, namely that 'pocket dynamo' Mr T C Pant. T.C. holds the reins and calls the shots over nearly every on-site organizational aspect of this event.

Lastly I must acknowledge and thank Mrs Kiran Nadar and Mr Subhash Gupta for their kind invitation earlier this year for me to become part of this great event.

The Blue Pencil

Goodbye Is Just Another Word

Another HCL tournament done and dusted. Yet another feather in their cap. In terms of infrastructure, arrangements and hospitality, with comfort bordering on luxury, the HCL Championship is way ahead of the pack, not only nationally, but also in the world. And the largest or thereabouts Prize Monies, is the cherry 🍒 on top.



Having said that, one cannot help but reflect on the progressive changes this year. The primary one, from an Editors point of view, is the efficient on-call photographers throughout.; not just for the inauguration and prize ceremony. HCL has raised the bar. A much needed upgradation in infrastructure and logistics. An in house photographer will become an essential cog in any future tournament machinery. Kudos!

The other big ticket addition to this tournament is the coming on board of one of the worlds finest bridge writers and analysts, Mark Horton. This is a first. Mark has been covering the matches from England, getting up in the wee hours before sunrise. His passion is phenomenal. Thank you Mark . And a big Thank you to Subhash Gupta, the Organizing Secretary of this tournament, who was instrumental in getting Mark Horton on the team.

Being summer holidays in August, most circuit players and pros, in Europe and the U.S.A, take their annual break in August, leading to a reduction in foreign top level teams this year. Maybe next year..?

These championships also saw a huge Bangladesh contingent of 5 teams, all smartly turned out in their green and yellow attire. UAE also came to the party, with 9 ex- pat Dubai ladies participating here.

Yet another first is getting a WBF senior Director, Australian, Laurie Kelso as the CTD. The gentle giant is a welcome addition.

With advances in technology and infrastructure, the days of a one man show are fast becoming passe and redundant. Delegation ,an age old management mantra,has begun to enter mainstream bridge organisation. That positive change was visible in these Championships, and it is welcome

One cannot help but appreciate the guys instrumental in not only setting it up, but ensuring that this tournament is a grand success. We doff our hats to Subhash Gupta, T.C.Pant, Sudhir Aggarwal, Srinivasan Iyengar and their battery of support systems. A job well done, gentlemen!

As the curtain drops on yet another successful edition of the HCL Championships, it's time to pack our bags and head back to real life. The bridge honeymoon was a tad short. C'est la vie !

See you later.

Cheers!



Dr. Subir Roy - Editor

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE

Came across these gentleman discussing bridge in a local dialect. The man with the turban caught my eye. Asked them as to where they were from. They said they have come from a neighbouring village, **Johri** in District Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh, and that **they are all farmers**. Shades of Ravidpura, They told me they have built their own bridge club, a wall less structure, with their own hands. And showed me videos of how they built the hut. They congregate there thrice a week to play bridge, taking a break from ploughing and tilling the land.

One of them (Navin Kumar) travels over 40 kms by bicycle to get his fix of bridge, thrice a week!

Sons Of The Soil



Yaspal Singh, Dhiraj Kumar, Navin Kumar, Monu Kumar

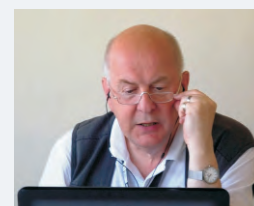
The Johri Village Bridge Club



Bridge Evening At The Club



Russia Vs South Sweden K1 Plus Vs Don Julio



The semifinals featured Team Russia v South Sweden and KI Plus against Don Julio. I was planning to cover both matches, but a computer glitch meant I had to wait to get all the details.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ J964		♠ K832
	♥ Q1065		♥ K
	♦ J3		♦ Q942
	♣ A97		♣ K1064
♠ A75		♠ Q10	
♥ A87432		♥ J9	
♦ A108		♦ K765	
♣ 5		♣ QJ832	

Open Room : NS - K1 Plus

West	North	East	South
Sigurjonsson	Stefanov	Krantz	Gunev
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♠4 and declarer took South's queen with the ace and played a club. When the king held he unblocked the ♥K and played the ♦Q, covered by the king and ace. He continued with two rounds of hearts and North won, cashed the ♥Q and exited with the ♣A. Declarer ruffed and played the ♦10, North winning with the jack. When North played a third club declarer pitched a spade from dummy, cashed the ♦8 and could cross to the ♠K to cash the ♦9.

As you will have spotted, North must exit with a spade, removing the vital entry to dummy. Put that down to South's play at trick one.

Closed Room : NS - Don Julio

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rotaru	Nanev	Nistor
—	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♣3 and when North put in the nine East decided to duck - both strange looking plays. North continued with the ♣7 and declarer put up the king, unblocked the ♥K, played a spade to the ace and two rounds of hearts. North won and exited with a spade. Declarer won with the king and exited with a spade, North winning, cashing his tricks and exiting with a diamond. Declarer might have got that wrong to go two down which cost 11 IMPs.

Open Room : NS - South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠6 and declarer took South's ten with the ace and played a club, North going up with the ace and returning the ♣9. Declarer won with dummy's king, pitching a spade, unblocked the ♥K and played the ♦Q, covered by the king and ace. Two rounds of hearts confirmed that there were three red suit losers, -50.

Closed Room : NS - Russia

West	North	East	South
Bjerregaard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣Q and North took the ace and returned the nine. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played a heart to the king, and advanced the ♦Q. When that held he played a diamond to the ace, cashed the ♠A, the ♥A and then played a spade, emerging with nine tricks, +140 and 5 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ AJ4		♠ K2
	♥ QJ983		♥ 764
	♦ K4		♦ A1092
	♣ 1075		♣ AQ96
♠ Q10976		♠ 853	
♥ 5		♥ AK102	
♦ QJ865		♦ 73	
♣ K2		♣ J843	

Open Room : NS - South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
—	—	1NT*	Pass
2♥*	Dble	2♠*	3♥
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass
1NT	12-15		
2♥	- Transfer		

East's 2♠ was alerted - perhaps because it did not guarantee three spades. When West introduced his second suit East did not hesitate to bid game - despite her near minimum she

held great cards for partner. On this layout declarer was not hard pressed to secure eleven tricks, +400.

Closed Room : NS - Russia

West	North	East	South
Bjerregaard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Diamonds were never in the picture at this table.

North led the ♥Q and continued the suit and declarer ruffed, played the ♦Q covered and taken by dummy's ace. When both defenders followed to the diamond ten declarer left trumps alone, cashing three clubs, ruffing a heart and exiting with a diamond. That ensured nine tricks, +140, but 6 IMPs were lost.

On Board 3 the South players were looking at ♠Q10932 ♥84 ♦A932 ♣86. All of them opened, either 2♠ or 2♦. Partner held ♠AKJ764 ♥AJ10 ♦- ♣AKQJ and they all reached 7♠ - Rotaru and Gower simply jumping there immediately.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ Q1094	
	♥ K5	
	♦ QJ109	
	♣ K86	
♠ 876		♠ KJ2
♥ QJ1073		♥ 64
♦ A7		♦ 542
♣ Q74		♣ A9532
	♠ A53	
	♥ A982	
	♦ K863	
	♣ J10	

Open Room : NS - K1 Plus

West	North	East	South
Sigurjonsson	Stefanov	Krantz	Gunev
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♦9, West winning and exiting with the ♦7. Declarer won with dummy's ten and played the ♠Q for the king and ace. A spade to the nine saw East win and play a heart and when declarer put in the eight West won with the ten and exited with the ♣4. When declarer played dummy's six he was home, +600.

Closed Room : NS - Don Julio

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rotaru	Nanev	Nistor
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥J, taken by dummy's king and the ♠Q was covered by the king and ace. East won the next spade and played a heart and West won with the ten and switched to the ♣4. When declarer played dummy's six East followed with the five. When declarer played a diamond West went in with the ace and tabled the ♣Q and that was two down, -100 and 13 IMPs.

Open Room : NS - South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

Declarer won the heart lead with dummy's king and played the ♠Q covered by the king and ace. A diamond to the nine was followed by the ♠10 and when that held declarer played a third spade, East winning and exiting with a heart. Declarer won and played the ♣J covered all round and East played back a trump, declarer claiming ten tricks, +130.

Closed Room : NS - Russia

West	North	East	South
Bjerregaard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South followed the principle that an opening bid facing an opening bid should ensure that game is reached. West led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's king and ran the ♦9 to West's ace. To be sure of defeating the game West needs to switch to a club, but if you can find that, you are better man than I am! West exited with a diamond and declarer won with dummy's ten and played the ♠Q, covered by the king and ace, and played two more rounds of spades, East winning and exiting with a diamond. Declarer won with the king and played the ♣J. When West followed with the seven, declarer went up with dummy's king - and down went the contract. East won, returned a club and the defenders cashed their club tricks. That looks like three down and 10 IMPs to me, but the BBO record showed it as -400 and 11 IMPs.



Aron Aptekar - South Sweden

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q763		
♥ 108		
♦ AQ54		
♣ Q92		
♠ J5	♠ K984	
♥ AJ4	♥ 962	
♦ 9762	♦ 1083	
♣ KJ63	♣ 1074	
	♠ A102	
	♥ KQ753	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ A85	

Open Room : NS - South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♦7 and declarer took East's ten with the jack and played a spade for the five, queen and king. He won the diamond return with the king and played the ♥3, West going in with the jack and exiting with the ♣J. When dummy's queen held declarer cashed dummy's diamonds and played a heart to the king, emerging with ten tricks, +430.

Closed Room : NS - Russia

West	North	East	South
Bjerregaard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣6 and declarer played low from dummy, taking East's ten with the ace and unblocking the diamonds before playing a spade to the queen and king. West took the club return with the king and exited with the three, declarer winning with dummy's queen and cashing two diamonds pitching hearts. When a spade to the ten lost to the jack West cashed his winners for +50 and 10 IMPs.



Julius Sigurjonsson - Don Julio

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q1095		
♥ K3		
♦ AQJ54		
♣ 97		
♠ K863	♠ AJ74	
♥ Q8	♥ 7542	
♦ 98	♦ K63	
♣ QJ1054	♣ 32	
	♠ 2	
	♥ AJ1096	
	♦ 1072	
	♣ AK86	

Open Room : NS - South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ xyz - game forcing

West led the ♣Q, declarer won with ♣A and played a diamond to the queen. When it held he ducked a spade and West won with the six and returned the ♦9. Naturally declarer played low from dummy and East won and gave her partner a diamond ruff. Declarer ruffed the spade return, cashed the ♣K and ruffed a club with the ♥3. East could overruff that and exit with a trump ensuring two down.-200.

Closed Room : NS - Russia

West	North	East	South
Bjerregaard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

After an identical start East won trick two with the ♦K and switched to the ♠4, West winning and returning the ♣10. Declarer won and ran the ♥J. When it held he crossed to the ♥K, ruffed a spade, drew trumps and claimed, +650 and 13 IMPs.

KI Plus led 21-15, while South Sweden were ahead 38-24.



Greg Gower - South Sweden

FORTHCOMING BRIDGE TOURNAMENTS 2019 - 2020

WBF
 BFI
 International

Month	Dates	Tournament Name	Status
Aug	20 - 29 Aug	6th World Open Youth Bridge Championship, Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
	24 Aug	8th Corporate Bridge Championship sponsored by Shree Cement at Mumbai	Confirmed.
	24 - 25 Aug	TVS R. Ratnam Memorial Swiss Pairs Tournament, Chennai	Confirmed
	22 Aug - 01 Sep	47th Grand Prix of Warsaw Warsaw, Poland www.pzbs.pl	
Sep	04 - 08 Sep	Inter State Bridge Championship, Banaras Club, Varanasi	Confirmed
	06-14 Sep	58th International Festival, Pula, Croatia www.pulabridgefestival.com	
	11 - 19 Sep	Australian Summer Nationals, Sydney	
	13 - 22 Sep	Guernsey Congress Guernsey, Channel Is. www.ebu.co.uk	
	14 - 16 Sep	All India Secunderabad Club Bridge Championship, Secunderabad	Confirmed
	14 - 28 Sep	44th World Bridge Team Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl, National Mixed Teams & 12th Transnational Open Teams at Wuhan International Convention Centre, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China	www.worldbridge.org
	27 - 29 Sep	Tolly Club Tournament, Kolkata	Confirmed
Oct	19 - 22 Oct	Kr. Murli Manohar National Masters Bridge Tournament, Gurgaon	Confirmed
Nov	07 - 10 Nov	Nainital Tournament	Confirmed.
	28 Nov - 08 Dec	ACBL Fall NABC, San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Dec	1st or 2nd Week	61st Winter National Bridge Championship, Kolkata	Proposed
Jan	9 – 12 Jan	Maharaja Yeshwant Rao National Bridge Championship (Kayani Teams & Holkar IMP Pairs), Yeshwant Club, Indore	Proposed
	24 – 26 Jan	Willingdon Sports Club, Annual Swiss Pairs Tournament, Mumbai	Confirmed
Feb	01 - 03 Feb	10th FNCC All India Open Bridge Championships at Film Nagar Cultural Center, Filmnagar, Hyderabad. Proposed	
	07 - 9 Feb	34th Seth Shrinivas Lohia Memorial All India Bridge Tournament, Ganges Club, Kanpur	Confirmed
	2nd Week (12-18 Feb)	Blocked for Indian Selection Trials	BFI
	21 - 23 Feb	Singhania Invitational Pairs, Kamla Club, Kanpur	Confirmed
	27 - 29 Feb & 1 Mar	Delhi Gymkhana Club Tournament, New Delhi	Confirmed

(Based on information received through e-mails from organizers and BFI and other World bridge sites. Those interested to participate in any tournament should contact the tournament organizers for confirmation before planning the trip & booking their tickets). You should also check at www.bfi.net.in for confirmed dates.

Gold Semi Finals

A Killing defence and squeeze

An interesting deal in session one where 2NT went -1 in one room on killing defence and 3NT made in the other on a squeeze.

The Russian team executed a brilliant defence to take down this seemingly innocuous contract of 2NT

Board 5. Dealer North. NSVul.

	♠ QT94		
	♥ K5		
	♦ QJT9		
	♣ K86		
♠ 876		♠ KJ2	
♥ QJ1073		♥ 64	
♦ A7		♦ 542	
♣ Q74		♣ A9532	
	♠ A53		
	♥ A982		
	♦ K863		
	♣ J10		

The bidding went

Closed Room : NS - Don Julio

West	North	East	South
Vladimir	Lulian	Ivan	Radu
Mihov	Rotaru	Nanev	Nistor
---	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

1. Seems to be forward going since 1 NT would be virtually a sign off

West led his Heart Jack. We have no way of knowing whether this was a cunning lead concealing the queen or not.

Declarer won in Dummy and contemplated his chances. While one can see three tricks in diamonds 2 in hearts, and one in spades before the hearts are cleared, where does one find the other two tricks?

Nistor tried the queen of spades which was covered by the king and Ace and created his seventh trick. East duly backed a heart which Nistor correctly ducked to create a heart tenace in his hand. West now shifted to a small club which declarer had to perform win in hand with the club 10. Now it seemed that all he had to do was to clear the diamond suit and claim 8 tricks.

According he led a small diamond from his hand. Unfortunately for him, East had other ideas. Hopping up with the Ace, he now played his club queen, pinning declarer's 10 and getting 4 more tricks for 2 down and plus 200.

In the other room, Team K1+ ended up in 3NT. But, after the heart queen lead, the declarer first elected to clear the diamonds. The Don Julio West did not have time to sense the club situation and therefore, he passively backed another diamond. Now declarer made the spade play and, when East played back a heart, ducked it to West.

West now shifted to a club, but but it was too late. With declarer to play his last diamond this was the situation.

	♠ T 4		
	♥		
	♦ Q		
	♣ K8		
♠ 6		♠ 2	
♥ J7		♥	
♦		♦	
♣ Q7		♣ A953	
	♠ 3		
	♥ A9		
	♦ K		
	♣ J		

West was caught in a funny sort of (pseudo) squeeze. If he pitched a club, he would not be able to push the club queen through. If he pitched a heart, he would set up declarer's hearts. He therefore elected to pitch a spade. That revealed the spade situation and declarer scored his game with 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club for + 600 and 13 Imps to team K1 Plus.



Rossen Gunev - Team K1 Plus

The Multi Two Diamond

The Multi two diamond convention is one that can throw a spanner in the works of most club level players which is why it is not allowed in the ACBL. However, the convention can sometimes throw even players of the first water off their game was displayed on this hand. In this match, the K1 Plus Pair of Julian Stefanov and Rossen Goner were using this convention. These are two deals in the second session where the bid acted like a double edged sword.

Gold Semi Finals

Board 17 : Dealer N – None

	♠ 874		♠ Q3
	♥ J6		♥ A109753
	♦ AT972		♦ Q53
	♣ 754		♣ 32
♠ AT95		♠ KJ62	
♥ KQ42		♥ 8	
♦ J64		♦ K8	
♣ Q9		♣ AKJ1086	

In one room, the bidding went.

Closed Room NS Don Julio

West	North	East	South
Rossen	Lulian	Julian	Radu
Gunev	Rotaru	Stefanov	Nistor
–	P	2♦ ¹	3♣
3♥	All Pass		

1. Multi

East West can make only 7 tricks and go two down for -100. In the other room, East opened a weak two and North found himself declaring in 5♣ double after this auction.

Open Room NS K 1 Plus

West	North	East	South
Julio	Vladimir	Corey	Ivan
Sigorsson	Mihov	Krantz	Nanev
–	Pass	2♥	3♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Declarer required a lot to score his contract. He first had to guess the spade queen. After that he needed Clubs 2-2 and Diamonds 3-3, but he got both of them and scored a doubled contract for +11 imps.



Julian Stefanov - Team Don Julio

The multi bid can also work against the users of the convention as the following deal amply demonstrates.

Board 22 : Dealer E – EW Vul

	♠ AK9543		♠ QJ2
	♥ 5		♥ KJ9872
	♦ 63		♦ 7
	♣ KJ85		♣ Q94
♠ 876		♠ 10	
♥		♥ AQ10643	
♦ A9852		♦ KQJ10	
♣ A1032		♣ 76	

Closed Room NS Don Julio

West	North	East	South
Rossen	Lulian	Julian	Radu
Gunev	Rotaru	Stefanov	Nistor
–	–	2♦ ¹	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

1. Multi

South bid his suit assuming East had spades and preferred the suit contract on that basis. East possibly did not double because he did not want them to run to spades. The contract of course has no chance and went down 3 for 150.

But more drama was to take place in the other room where the heart suit was known to be with East

Open Room NS K 1 Plus

West	North	East	South
Julio	Vladimir	Corey	Ivan
Sigorsson	Mihov	Krantz	Nanev
–	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
Dbl	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

At the table, 3♦ was alerted, but we don't know what it meant. West had a natural double of 5♦ and East figured the distribution was wild and declarer would have considerable difficulties making his contract. East West engineered a cross ruff among themselves and then threw declarer in with the last trump thereby ensuring 3 club tricks for +800 and 12 imps to team Don Julio

Opening Light!

Dave Galt, a leading US Player, and author of "Teach yourself Visually Bridge", was commenting on some of the tournament matches on BBO yesterday. In the course of his

Gold Semi Finals

commentary, he remarked; "In the old days, 26 HCP gave you a shot at game. These days, if the partnership holds 26 cards, that may be good enough for game"

This hand embodies that principle where both sides opened extremely light and reached game. However, one chose the path less travelled and paid for his choice. This was the board :

Board 5 : Dealer N– NS Vul

<p style="text-align: center;">♠</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 1098542</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ A543</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ AQ3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1096</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ AQ3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ 87</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ 8765</p>
<p>♠ 8543</p> <p>♥ K7</p> <p>♦ QJT92</p> <p>♣ 94</p>	<p>♠ AKJ72</p> <p>♥ J6</p> <p>♦ K6</p> <p>♣ KJ102</p>

In one room, the bidding went.

Open Room NS South Sweden

West	North	East	South
Alexander	Craig	Andrey	Alon
Dubin	Gower	Gromov	Apteker
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

North upvalued his hand to open 1♥ figuring he would pipe down later. The game does not have anything in the play with declarer having to concede the top three hearts. In the other room, however, the bidding went differently



Vadim Kholomeev - Team Russia

Closed Room NS Team Russia

West	North	East	South
Sven	Yury	Anders	Vadim
Bjerregard	Khiuppenen	Morath	Kholomeev
---	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Russian North, like his counterpart opened light. However, he chose to rate his hand a bit higher and bid a new suit propelling South into 3NT. North, at this stage, may have figured that 9 tricks may be a tad easier than 10 tricks and opted to pass.

West led the queen of diamonds which declarer ducked. He then won the club shift in his hand, and played the heart jack. West won with the heart King and played another club leading to this situation with the lead in dummy

<p style="text-align: center;">♠</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 109854</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ A54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ Q</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1096</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ AQ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ 87</p>
<p>♠ 8543</p> <p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ JT92</p> <p>♣</p>	<p>♠ AKJ72</p> <p>♥ 6</p> <p>♦ K</p> <p>♣ KJ</p>

At this stage, the hand can be made (double dummy of course) by cashing both clubs, the diamond king, the spade ace and then throwing East in with a heart. He can cash his other heart but must lead away from his queen of spades.

Declarer, however omitted to cash the fourth club leaving East with an exit card and had to concede -1 and 12 imps.



When Partner Trumps Your Ace

DIRECTOR PLEASE



MEET THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Standing L - R : K S Swaminathan, B G Daxindas, Avinash Chitale, C Satish Kumar, D Roy Chowdhury, P Narsingha Rao, V K Sharma, P Vahalia, Sanjay Chakraborty, Paresh Gupta
Sitting L - R : MBV Subharamanyam, **CTD Laurie Kelso**, T C Pant, Pranab Bhattacharya

Freeze Frame - The Kodachrome Moments

If one thing had to stand out in these Championships, it is the on call photographers, **Eeshant Singh and Sachin Choudhary**, the two photographers, who have done a superb job. This HCL Championship has added a new dimension to media ,especially the Bulletin, thanks to the on-tap availability of these two gentlemen. And they were spot on, getting superb candid, catching and gathering people, especially teams, to come together at one spot and time; which is a logistical nightmare, considering how involved people get in the game. They have delivered on all fronts, after the initial teething problems, like shooting against black backgrounds, “noise” as they call it.

HCL has set a new standard, which will hopefully be followed in future, in all the marquee tournaments. Oh what comfort of not having to rush to the BBO rooms, hurriedly freeze frame players on your mobile, (irrespective of how many mega pixels Apple or Samsung sells you), try to get random shots, and get the flavor, do the editing of the pics and yet hurry back to do prepare the Bulletin for the next day. The days of Jack-of-all-trades days are hopefully over. Now one can focus on our raison d'etre. Thanks Eeshant and Sachin and HCL.

The Photoshop



The photo takeouters - Eeshant Singh & Sachin Chaudhury

GOLD

K1 Plus

Finals

Russia



L - R : Ivan Nanev, Rossen Gunev, Marta Nikolava, Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov (Not in pic,)



L - R : Vadim Kholomeev, Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Yury Khiuppenen, Dmitry Rogov, Aleksandr Dubinin

Don Julio

3/4 Place

South Sweden



L - R : Lulian Rotaru, Radu Nistor, Julius Sigurjonsson, Corey Krantz, Raluca Elena Dobrescu (Not in Pic.)



L - R : Sven-Are Bjerregard, Alon Apteker, Anders Morath, Craig Gower

MP PAIRS FINALISTS - GOLD

Rank	Pair	MPs	%	Rank	Pair	MPs	%
1	Sumit Mukherjee & Debabrata Majumder	1231.5	65.16	14	Luc Tijssen & Veri Kiljan	1054.2	55.78
2	Bhabesh Saha & Shambhu Nath Ghosh	1139.9	60.31	15	Dipak K Poddar & Jitendra J Solani	1054.1	55.77
3	Sandeep Thakral & Jaggy B Shivdasani	1133.5	59.98	16	Rajeshwar Tewari & Keyzad Anklesaria	1053.1	55.72
4	N R Kirubakaramoorthy & Uttam Swarup Gupta	1112.6	58.87	17	Ambrish Wadera & Sunil Kumar Sinha	1046.9	55.39
5	Pranab Bardhan & Shibnath De Sarkar	1108.5	58.65	18	Rana Roy & Biswajit Poddar	1045.1	55.30
6	Basant K & Anurag Mohota	1102.7	58.34	19	R G Bhiwandkar & R Sridharan	1041.3	55.10
7	G Venkatesh & Anil P Padhye	1091.1	57.73	20	Raju Tolani & Ajay P Khare	1035.0	54.76
8	Ashok Kumar Goel & K R Venkataraman	1085.2	57.42	21	Joyjit Sensarma & Natasha Khandheria	1034.1	54.72
9	Ramaratnam Krishnan & Jyotindra M Shah	1083.5	57.33	22	Sapan Desai & Animesh Raj	1031.5	54.58
10	Arun Kumar Sinha & S M Moin	1076.5	56.96	23	Sayantan Kushari & Sagnik Roy	1028.9	54.44
11	Archie R D Sequeira & Ian Concessio	1068.5	56.53	24	Soumya Das & Anindya Bhattacharya	1020.7	54.00
12	Badal Das & Partho Sarathi Mukherjee	1060.6	56.12	25	Kingshuk Bhattacharya & R Sreekrishnan	1017.3	53.83
13	Ravi Raman & Subhash Bhavnani	1054.6	55.80	26	Amar Nath Banerjee & Raghunath P Tripathi	1017.1	53.82

SILVER

Pradeep

Finals

ICSA Group



L - R : Rajendra Sirohia, Goutam Pore, Pradeep Goenka, Binod Kumar Shaw, Sukalyan Sarkar , Pijus Kanti Baroi



L - R : Afshar Majeed, V Ramkumar, Kannan Krishnamurthy, S Vijayraghavan, G Rajagopal, Sandeep Dang,

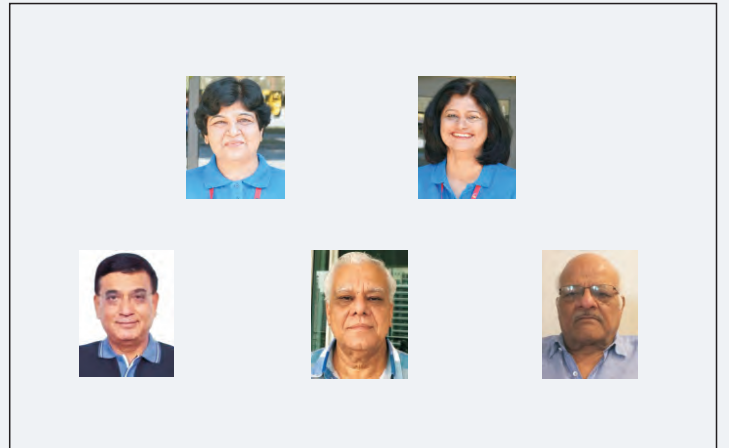
I-Doctors

3/4 Place

Hope N Prey



L - R : Deven Doshi, Rajul Dalal, Gurmit Singh Chadha, Shrikant Tembey, Ashok Bhavnani,



L - R : Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Mukesh Shivdasani, Sunil Bhatia, Vijay K Goenka

MP PAIRS FINALISTS - SILVER

Rank	Pair	MPs	%	Rank	Pair	MPs	%
27	Girish Hirode & Darshan Patel	1010.8	53.48	40	Manas Mukherjee & Alok Daga	959.3	50.76
28	Debasish Ray & Pritish Kushari	1006.9	53.27	41	Ranjan Bose & Sibopriya Ghosh	954.9	50.53
29	Anal B Shah & Subhash A Dhakras	1000.7	52.94	42	Hansa Narasimhan & Carlos Pellegrini	953.1	50.43
30	Biplab Kumar Das & Biswarup Biswas	999.2	52.87	43	Abhijit Chakraborty & Satyabrata Mukherjee	950.0	50.26
31	Ramaratnam Venkatesh & Arvind Srinivasan	997.2	52.76	44	Namit Sharma & Alok Kumar	944.9	50.00
32	Tusher Bedi & Gopinath Manna	994.5	52.62	45	A K Mishra & Lyn Nazareth	942.4	49.86
33	Koushik Mukherjee & Nirmal Kumar Jain	994.1	52.60	46	Ron Smith & Benedicte Cronier	941.1	49.80
34	Arun M Bapat & Maneesh Bahuguna	992.2	52.50	47	Sanjit Dey & Bhaskar Kumar Ganguly	940.5	49.76
35	Sukamal Das & Pranab Roy	979.6	51.83	48	Peeracha Suriya & Somchai Rungsathit	933.4	49.39
36	Vibhas Todi & Satyabrata Lahiri	977.7	51.73	49	K Divakara Reddy & Mohan Gurunath S	933.4	49.38
37	Philippe Cronier & Giorgio Duboin	976.4	51.66	50	Rajendra Gokhale & Arun Bahulkar	932.0	49.31
38	Indranil Chakraborty & Bhaskar Sarkar	972.1	51.44	51	Ayan Chatterjee & Sabyasachi Sadhukhan	931.9	49.31
39	Suresh Ranjan Bhattacharyya & Uday Ghoshal	969.9	51.32	52	Anindra Kumar Sarkar & Souvik Kar	927.2	49.06

SEMI FINAL RESULTS - GOLD

Table : 1

Team	Sess 1	Sess 2	Tot	Sess 3	Tot	Sess 4	Total
Q K1 Plus (4.5 C/O)	21	40	61	28	89	65	158.5
Don Julio	15	18	33	48	81	20	101

K1 Plus

Ivan Nanev, Vladimir Mihov, Rossen Gunev, Julian Stefanov, Marta Nikolava

Don Julio

Corey Krantz, Julius Sigurjonsson, Radu Nistor, Raluca Elena Dobrescu, Lulian Rotaru

Table : 2

Team	Sess 1	Sess 2	Tot	Sess 3	Tot	Sess 4	Total
South Sweden	38	22	60	15	75	10	85
Q Team Russia	24	32	56	63	119	66	185

South Sweden

Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Sven-Are Bjerregard, Anders Morath

Team Russia

Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Dmitry Rogov, Aleksandr Dubinin, Yury Khiuppenen, Vadim Kholomeev

SEMI FINAL RESULTS - SILVER

Table : 1

Team	Sess 1	Sess 2	Tot	Sess 3	Tot	Sess 4	Total
I-Doctors (6 C/O)	13	3	16	31	47	50	103
Q Pradeep	42	37	79	13	92	21	113

I-Doctors

Rajul R Dalal, Ashok Bhavnani, Deven Doshi, Gurmit Singh Chadha, Shrikant B Tembey

Pradeep

Sukalyan Sarkar, Rajendra Sirohia, Goutam Pore, Binod Kumar Shaw, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Pradeep Goenka

Table : 2

Team	Sess 1	Sess 2	Tot	Sess 3	Tot	Sess 4	Total
Q ICSA Group	37	8	45	31	76	41	117
Hope N Prey (12 C/O)	15	32	47	3	50	8	70

ICSA Group

S Vijayraghavan, Sandeep Dang, Afshar Majeed, V Ramkumar, Kannan Krishnamurthy, G Rajagopal

Hope N Prey

Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Mukesh Shivdasani, Sunil Bhatia, Vijay K Goenka

Finals

GOLD

K1 Plus	Vs	Team Russia
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SILVER

Pradeep	Vs	ICSA Group
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IMP PAIRS ELIMINATION (84 Pairs Qualify)

Rank	Pair	IMPs	Rank	Pair	IMPs
1	Avijit Sarkar & Ram Avatar Agrawal	141	46	M S Ramaswamy & Avi Y Medhekar	42
2	Md Asifur Rahman Chowdhury & Md. Zahid Hossain	135	47	Hema Deora & Subrata Saha	42
3	Sowmik Das & Mrinal Kanti Mukherjee	121	48	Rathindra Nath Kundu & Amit Chakraborty	40
4	Partha Banerjee & Biswadip Roy	112	49	S M Patnaik & Saila Ranjan Das	40
5	Samir Basak & Ravi Goenka	110	50	Anupam Rai & P K Joel	40
6	Moss Wylie & Glenn Coutts	108	51	Deepak Santra & Aniruddha Bhattacharya	39
7	Prakash & Anirudh Eswaran	102	52	Basudeb Bhattacharya & Chandra Shekhar Majumdar	39
8	Subhasis & Tapan Kumar Roy	98	53	Moloy Kumar Mondal & Santanu Choudhury	38
9	Partha Sarathi Mukherjee & Prasanta Bera	87	54	Somnath Mitra & Apurba Bhattacharjee	38
10	Daniel Vikor & Ashis Malhotra	81	55	S Ganapathy & S Ganesan	38
11	Shankar Lal Sharma & Suresh Adina	79	56	Amiya Ranjan Das & Siddhartha Ghosh	38
12	D V Majumder & D M Mehta	78	57	Indranath Chatterjee & Chandan Choudhury	37
13	Pradeep Anand & Vijayanand Singh	76	58	Sandeep N Karmarkar & S K Iyengar	37
14	Prakash G Hegde & Rajeev Gulavani	74	59	Sudhir K Agrawal & A K Sinha	37
15	Subir Majumdar & Milind P. Athavale	74	60	Soham Sarkar & Suraj Das	37
16	R P Shivhare & Ratan Lal Sanghi	74	61	Ran Vijay Kumar Singh & Sajal Mandilwar	36
17	Md Sahajahan & Amiya Mandal	72	62	Arup Kumar Hudait & Animesh Majumder	34
18	Ravindra Amritkar & P K Das	68	63	Arnab Ghosh & Amitava Banerjee	34
19	C M Kulkarni & K Durgadas	66	64	Hari Shankar Bajoria & Ravi Saberwal	34
20	Swetadri Saha & Krishna Das Chakraborty	65	65	Pramod S Joshi & C P Deshpande	34
21	Atulya Sood & Lalit Kumar Gupta	62	66	Arabinda Roy & Paban Agarwal	34
22	Sameer Roy & Arun J Puranik	59.2	67	R K Nagpal & Bhau Rao Lade	33
23	Abhirup Ghosh & Pradip Dey	58	68	T K Roy Chowdhury & Ashim Kumar Ghosh	32
24	Rajib Ray & Saurav Basak	56	69	Sanat Kumar Saha & Ajay Kumar Bagadia	32
25	Sujit Sadhak & Sanjib Majumdar	56	70	Dipankar Acharjee & Dhruva Dey	32
26	Montu Mukherjee & R Roy	55	71	Prosenjit Manna & Shantanu Roy	31
27	Mahamudul Hasan Sumon & Pranta Sarker	55	72	V N Puri & Ajay Tankha	30
28	Priya Ranjan Sinha & Bindiya Naidoo	55	73	Prakash Bhandari & Ramkrishna Majumder	30
29	Joy Narayan Roy & Debashis Bose	54	74	Sanat Banerjee & Bamapada Dhibar	29
30	Keshav Sakharam Samant & Vinay Desai	53	75	Tanmoy Majumder & Dilip Mukherjee	29
31	Satish G Diwanji & K V Vahalia	52	76	Vallapa Svangsopakul & Asdang Riamsree	29
32	Probhat Kumar Roy & Tapas Chandra Bose	51	77	Vikas Taralekar & Narayanan Shankar	29
33	Swapan Some & Sankar Narayan Ghosh	51	78	D D Gulhati & Uday Shankar Roy	28
34	Finton Lewis & Dinesh C Biswas	50	79	Asim Saha & Biswasanti Bhattacharya	26
35	Sukumar Koyal & Ram Chandra Kayal	49	80=	Pradeep Govil & S S Bhargava	26
36	Aritra Bhattacharya & Joyrup Mullick	49	80=	Md Alaaddin & Hasan Al Banna	26
37	Atanu Ganguly & Tanmay Chatterjee	49	82	Moti N & Sheelu N Thadani	25
38	Rakesh Nanda & B S Gupta	48	83	D Sudhanand & A Balaram	25
39	Tapas Kumar Adhikary & Alok Kumar Mandal	47	84	Sailaja Tahiliani & Dilip Coelho	24
40	Amarjit Wadhawan & Sekhar K Bandopadhyay	46	85	Subhajit Choudhury & Avik Roy	24
41	Andrey Purushottam & Jitesh Agrawal	45	86	P Narayan Iyer & R N Subramaniam	24
42	Goutam Mukherjee & Dipak Kumar Paul	44	87	Bharati Dey & Vasanti Shah	23
43	Sujit Kumar Ghosh & Bhubanjit Shaw	44	88	Kamalesh Gupta & Wrik Chakraborty	22
44	Anand W Golwalkar & Abhay Todankar	43	89	Sudipta Ray & Ashim Harh	22
45	Pinaki Ghosh & Atanu Bhadra	43	90	Dheeraj Kumar & Monu Kumar Anchar	22

VOTE OF THANKS

GREAT EVENT

The 17th HCL International Bridge Championship has been a great event. The organizers can be proud of the standard of performance showed by the technical & organizing team in making this event a great success. With an experienced staff in all positions, the technical level of the tournament has equaled the level shown at World level events. With on line registration of entries in all events, instant results being available on the web site and nicely displayed at the venue for the benefit of players & officials, it was a nice show of technology.



T C Pant

Our special thanks to Mr. Laurie Kelso, the Chief Tournament Director of this event, under whose guidance the tournament ran without any problems. His guidance to the directors & technical team was superb and the Indian director's team has gained a lot from his advices.

I want to thank all the staff –Technical Operation team, the Tournament Directors, the Scoring team, the BBO Operation team, Daily Bulletin team, Dealing team and the team of caddies for a great performance. Each one of you made utmost efforts to make this event successful. It was an honor and pleasure to work with you all. I would also like to thank the complete HCL team, which took care of our daily administrative & financial needs. The Marriott Hotel staff is to be complemented for providing excellent support for smooth conduct of the tournament.

I also want to thank all the participants, although they provided the TD's an interesting collection of rulings but they also showed a fine attitude of sportsmanship, accepting the rulings as given, with a gentle approach towards their opponents and even to their partners.

Many thanks to the sponsors for this lovely tournament, which has brought India laurels from world bridge fraternity.

Today being the last day of the tournament, I take this opportunity to thank all the participants, officials & the Organizers for their co-operation in making these Championships a great Success. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL. I wish you all a safe journey home. See you all again next year.

T. C. Pant
Head of Operations

The 17th *HCL* International Bridge Championship
05th August to 10th August 2019

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

AUGUST 10, 2019 SATURDAY

TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT Final & Play-off (4 * 14 Boards)		OPEN MP PAIRS – FINAL Barometer Scoring	
Session – 1	0900 – 1100 Hrs.	Session - 1	0930 – 1300 Hrs.
Session – 2	1115 – 1315 Hrs.	Lunch Break	1300 – 1400 Hrs.
Lunch Break	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Session - 2	1400 – 1745 Hrs.
Session – 3	1400 – 1600 Hrs.		
Session – 4	1610 – 1810 Hrs.		
IMP PAIRS – FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)		IMP PAIRS STRATA - II (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)	
Session - 1	1000 – 1330 Hrs.	Session - 1	1030 – 1330 Hrs.
Lunch Break	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break	1330 – 1430 Hrs.
Session - 2	1430 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2	1430 – 1730 Hrs.

1830 Hrs. onwards Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony

***HCL* - KYA BAAT HAI!**



A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words! Need We Say More ?

BBO SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY AUG 10, 2019

10.00 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Finals	Session - 1 (4 Tables)
12.15 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Finals	Session - 2 (4 Tables)
15.15 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Finals	Session - 3 (4 Tables)
17.45 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Finals	Session - 4 (4 Tables)