

HCL 22nd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

DAILY BULLETIN

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Editor : Dr. Prakash Paranjape

Layout Editor : Bholanath Das

EA Teams Lead After Five Gruelling Rounds

Five demanding rounds of Swiss Bridge concluded yesterday evening, setting the stage for a tense finish in the **GOLD category**. In a field rich with talent, the two **EA teams** have surged ahead — **EA Bridge** (Koushik Mukerjee, Priya Ranjan Sinha, Badal Das, Shibnath De Sarkar, and Pranab Bardhan) lead the table with **79.31 VPs**, a commanding six VP margin. Close behind are their stablemates, **Express Avenue** (Wojciech Gawel, Przemyslaw Janiszewski, Piotr Marcinowski, and Kamil Nowak), representing Poland, on **73.73 VPs**.

Dhampur Sugar Mills (69.21) and **Mohota** (69.13) occupy the next two spots, with **Deep Finesse** (68.68), **Mavericks** (68.51), **OLIMP** (68.01), and **Bridgescanner** (67.29) completing the top eight. Among other prominent names, **Formidables** are ninth on **65.32 VPs**, **WHAM**, last year's champions, are 11th with **63.89 VPs**, while **Shourie**, last year's runners-up, stand 16th with **57.30 VPs**.

Five more rounds remain before the top sixteen teams advance to the **quarterfinals**. A total of **58 teams** are contesting the GOLD event.

In the **SILVER category**, **Ashok Bedi** lead convincingly with **86.13 VPs**, followed by **ERNIS** (77.71), **Dazzle** (71.38), and **Chefs Table** (69.14). **Unbalanced** (67.62), **Savvy Acers** (65.71), **Gladiators** (65.49), and **Ranjan** (64.97) complete the top eight from a field of **88 teams**.

Tomorrow's **VU Graph** matches for Round 1 will feature:

BBO1 - Express Avenue Vs. Mohota
BBO2 - WHAM vs Monica Jajoo





Mrs. Kiran Nadar to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

A moment of pride for the entire Indian bridge fraternity — **Mr. Debashis Roy**, Secretary of the **Bridge Federation of India (BFI)**, has announced that **Mrs. Kiran Nadar** has been nominated for the **Lifetime Achievement Award in Bridge**. The honour will be presented during the **Winter Nationals in Kolkata, December 2025**.

Few figures have contributed as deeply and as consistently to the game in India as Mrs. Nadar. A distinguished player in her own right, she has represented India at numerous international events and has long been one of the most respected voices in the bridge community.

Beyond the table, her role as a **patron and promoter** has been transformative. Through her encouragement, support, and vision, many players—young and seasoned alike—have found opportunities to play, learn, and excel on the national and world stage. Her unwavering belief in bridge as a sport of intellect and grace has helped bring it into wider public recognition.

This honour, then, is not merely an award but an acknowledgment of a lifelong relationship with the game — marked by excellence, generosity, and quiet leadership.

A richly deserved tribute to a true ambassador of Indian bridge.

GOLD TEAMS RESULT AFTER 5 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	11	EA Bridge	79.31	30	10	Tricolor Titans	48.5
2	3	Express Avenue	73.73	31	23	Dassbridge	48.49
3	35	Dhampur Sugar Mills	69.21	32	51	Proyas	48.29
4	7	Mohota	69.13	33	50	I Doctors	48
5	32	Deep Finesse	68.68	34	14	Bangur Cement	47.62
6	6	Mavericks	68.51	35	30	The Finessers	47.15
7	15	OLIMP	68.01	36	38	Carpe Diem	46.8
8	19	Bridgescanner	67.29	37	54	Amanora	46.67
9	49	Formidables	65.32	38	2	Boldplay	46.64
10	40	Team Tolani	64.46	39	53	Pals	45.67
11	26	WHAM	63.89	40	34	EISK	45.05
12	22	Monica Jajoo	63.07	41	17	Doubles	43.5
13	31	TVS Mobility	61.49	42	41	Vedic	43.32
14	46	Omega	59.01	43	33	Juthika	43.11
15	13	Dass Bridge Gold	58.4	44	1	Magnum	43.03
16	48	Shourie	57.3	45	45	Spot Cards	40.3
17	27	Poddar	57.02	46	43	Capa India	40.29
18	5	Diamonds	55.66	47	42	Arun Jain	39.57
19	21	Shri Radhey	55.42	48	16	Guptopadesam	39.15
20	24	Samadhan	54.49	49	4	Alchemy	38.47
21	18	Delhi Blues	54.46	50	57	Kind	38.08
22	58	EHAA	52.9	51	37	Hemant Jalan	37.14
23	36	Nilachakra	51.9	52	12	Natureville	36.82
24	44	Lake My Love	51.55	53	39	Dr Sanghi	33.65
25	29	Texan Aces	51.14	54	20	Kal Aaj Aur Kal	31.57
26	55	Tornatae	51.03	55	25	55555	30.16
27	47	Pravaha	51.02	56	8	AMPA	25.5
28	56	Sarlafibers	49.84	57	52	Diamond IV	20.89
29	9	Kosmos	48.7	58	28	Mix N Match	18.52

SILVER TEAMS RESULT AFTER 5 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score	Place	ID	Players	Score
1	13	Ashok Bedi	86.13	45	67	Trick And Trump	51.35
2	23	ERNIS	77.71	46	18	ABPI	49.47
3	77	Dazzle	71.38	47	8	Nagpur VI	49.04
4	76	Chefs Table	69.14	48	82	Unique	49.03
5	12	Unbalanced	67.62	49	69	Royal Bridge Club	47.99
6	81	Savvy Acers	65.71	50	22	Red Soil	47.92
7	63	Gladiators	65.49	51	84	Dilip Atha Iv	47.89
8	45	Ranjan	64.97	52	53	RX100	47.34
9	1	Dharmayodha	64.84	53	32	Sunny 99	47.23
10	57	Animesh	64.1	54	10	Samras	47.04
11	6	Oriental	64.07	55	66	Super Lucky	46.46
12	70	Hopeful Six	62.91	56	83	Laxmi	46.26
13	75	Vanquished	62.69	57	34	Sangam 4	46.18
14	4	Hyderabad Blue	61.37	58	21	Quest	46.14
15	16	Gobind	61.12	59	24	Ahilya	45.93
16	54	The Squad	61.08	60	74	Navigators	44.55
17	60	Vibgyor	60.86	61	29	Anirban Mitra	44.35
18	79	Tapoban	60.58	62	73	Jhontu	44.24
19	64	Aspire	60.02	63	3	Sahyadri	43.49
20	41	Shib Shakti	59.99	64	52	Crazy 6	43.22
21	55	Mahabir	59.62	65	48	Four Aces	42.61
22	72	Setu	58.35	66	37	Hakuna Matata	42.42
23	38	Borivali Sports Club	58.27	67	58	Royals	42.32
24	11	Team Kabra	58.25	68	85	Guns And Roses	42.3
25	27	Chennai	57.98	69	17	B.R.C	41.78
26	25	Spartans	57.61	70	31	Hounds	41.53
27	71	Confluence	57.59	71	86	Andromeda	41.15
28	30	PACK	57.18	72	78	Rcbc Pune	40.5
29	51	Hello	56.51	73	62	Raha	37.43
30	44	Ratnagiri Alfonso	56.09	74	65	Four Heart Bihar	35.46
31	9	Deepadhaar	55.9	75	36	Rhino Assam	35.36
32	87	Team Vibrant	55.27	76	7	BS2TAJS4	34.75
33	20	Challengers	55.11	77	28	Mixed Bag	34.36
34	43	Baba Taraknath	54.96	78	5	Tapan Sen IV	33.97
35	40	Rkpt Union	54.86	79	14	Jay Mahakal	32.88
36	49	Tulip	54.61	80	88	Dehradun	32.63
37	68	Bridge Lovers	53.84	81	15	Chilled Champ	30.39
38	33	Vande Bharat	53.63	82	46	Cutting Edge	29.14
39	59	Mind Crusaders	53.55	83	2	Kobi Shekhar	28.76
40	26	Marudhara	53.54	84	50	Ea Bridge B	27.52
41	42	Tarams	53.33	85	80	Usha Kiran	26.63
42	35	WE R SIX	52.95	86	39	Ace Of Spade	25.55
43	19	Group Popular	52.76	87	61	Everest	24.73
44	56	Miracle	52.67	88	47	Bridge Doctors	18.5

D		N MAXIM		W N E S																																	
1		♠ ♥ ♦ 65 ♣ AK		1♥ P 2♥ P P 2♣ 3♥ P P P																																	
W AMI ZAMIR		♥9 ♣6 ♦10		E MAXIM																																	
♠ ♥ ♦ J9 ♣ QJ10				♠ J ♥ ♦ 7 ♣ 87																																	
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table>			♠	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	7	10	8	9	S	6	7	10	8	9	E	7	6	3	5	3	W	7	6	3	5	3	S DIANA		Select cards to play for all 4 players			
	♠	♦	♥	♠	NT																																
N	6	7	10	8	9																																
S	6	7	10	8	9																																
E	7	6	3	5	3																																
W	7	6	3	5	3																																
Par Score: 420 Par: NS 4♥		♠ ♥ ♦ A ♣ 953		3♥ N NS: 5 EW: 3																																	

Declarer wins the ♦ King in the hand and rattles of trumps discarding the ♦ Ten from the Dummy. This would be the last four card position with West yet to discard. If West discards a Diamond, Declarer cashes the ♦ A and gets back to the Closed hand with a top Club to enjoy the good Diamond. If West discards a Club, Declarer begins by cashing the ♣ AK. Dummy would have the last two winners with the ♦ Ace and the ♣ 9.

D		N KEYZAD		W N E S																															
1		♠ K54 ♥ J9643 ♦ K65 ♣ AK		1♥ P 3♦ P 4♥ P P																															
W PIATKOV A				E TATIANA N																															
♠ A10 ♥ 82 ♦ QJ984 ♣ QJ102				♠ J9732 ♥ AQ ♦ 72 ♣ 8764																															
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table>			♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	6	7	10	8	9	S	6	7	10	8	9	E	7	6	3	5	3	W	7	6	3	5	3	S BROGELAND			
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																														
N	6	7	10	8	9																														
S	6	7	10	8	9																														
E	7	6	3	5	3																														
W	7	6	3	5	3																														
Par Score: 420 Par: NS 4♥		♠ Q86 ♥ K1075 ♦ A103 ♣ 953		4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0																															

In the other room Brogeland-Keyzad reached 4♥ when Brogeland employed a good Bergen raise to respond to Keyzad's 1♥ opening. Keyzad rebid 4♥ and made the contract with a neat endplay.

♣ 7 was led. Keyzad won and advanced a Trump. Tatiana won the ♥ A and played back the ♥ Q. Keyzad won ♥ K in Dummy, cashed the remaining top Club in the North hand, went to the table with the ♦ A, ruffed a Club, cashed the ♦ K, and exited with a Diamond. West was now on lead in this position. West had to either lead away from the ♠ Ace or give a ruff and sluff. Mavericks won six IMPs for that effort. Running Scores: Mavericks 6, Diamonds 0.

D	N KEYZAD		W N E S																								
1	♠ K54 ♥ J3 ♦ ♣		1♥ P 3♦ P																								
W PIATKOV A		E TATIANA N																									
♠ A10 ♥ ♦ Q9 ♣ 2		♠ J973 ♥ ♦ ♣ 8																									
<table><tr><td>♠</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>♠</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>♠</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>♠</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table> Par Score: 420 Par: NS 4♥		♠	6	7	10	8	9	♠	6	7	10	8	9	♠	7	6	3	5	3	♠	7	6	3	5	3	S BROGELAND	
♠	6	7	10	8	9																						
♠	6	7	10	8	9																						
♠	7	6	3	5	3																						
♠	7	6	3	5	3																						
		♠ Q86 ♥ 107 ♦ ♣																									
		4♥ N NS: 6 EW: 2																									

In the other match on the Vu Graph, Rajeshwar Tewari – Sumit Mukherjee played in 3♥. Tewari missed the squeeze. He made only nine tricks. In the other room, Shrikant Tembey-Yogesh Shah bid 4♥. Shrikant Tembey brought it home with the same endplay that Keyzad employed. That was worth seven IMPs.

On 18 out of 58 tables in the GOLD category, 4♥ was bid and made. On 15 other tables, the Declarer was able to make 10 tricks. On 8 tables, Declarer could make only nine tricks playing in a Heart partial. On six tables, Declarers failed in 4♥.

Team Diamonds won three IMPs on Board 2. Toledano opened 1Nt in the Open Room showing 10-12 HCP and Ami Zamir jumped to 3Nt. Diana Rakhmani led the ♥K. Toledano won, cleared ♣AQ discovering the bad break. He next went to Dummy with a top Diamond, cashed ♣King, and conceded a Club to South. Diana now cashed all her Hearts and pushed a Spade for two more tricks. Down three was the result. +150 to North-South.

2[♠]		N MAXIM ♠ AQ864 ♥ 9 ♦ Q108743 ♣ 9	W N E S 1NT P 3NT P P P																														
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ K10 ♥ 83 ♦ AK2 ♣ K108654		E Toledano ♠ J32 ♥ A7652 ♦ J96 ♣ AQ																															
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr></table> Par Score: -120 Par: EW 2NT		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	4	6	6	8	4	S	4	6	6	8	4	E	8	6	7	4	8	W	8	7	7	4	8	S DIANA ♠ 975 ♥ KQJ104 ♦ 5 ♣ J732	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0	
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
N	4	6	6	8	4																												
S	4	6	6	8	4																												
E	8	6	7	4	8																												
W	8	7	7	4	8																												

In the Open Room, Tatiana dealt and opened 1♥. West responded 2♣ and North bid 2♥ to show Spades and Diamonds. South now had a difficult bid, but there was little option other than 2♠. Brogeland took that option. West's 3Nt Closed the auction. Keyzad led a small Spade. Declarer won, cleared Clubs, and went to Dummy with a top Diamond to concede the fourth Club to South whereupon North-South cashed four Spade tricks. That was all they made so that contract went down one for 50 to NS. Running Scores: Mavericks 6, Diamonds 3.

2[♠]		N KEYZAD ♠ AQ864 ♥ 9 ♦ Q108743 ♣ 9	<table><tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table>	W	N	E	S			1♥	P	2♣	2♥	P	2♠	3NT	P	P	P														
W	N	E	S																														
		1♥	P																														
2♣	2♥	P	2♠																														
3NT	P	P	P																														
W PIATKOV A ♠ K10 ♥ 83 ♦ AK2 ♣ K108654			E Tatiana ♠ J32 ♥ A7652 ♦ J96 ♣ AQ																														
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	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
N	4	6	6	8	4																												
S	4	6	6	8	4																												
E	8	6	7	4	8																												
W	8	7	7	4	8																												

On Board 3, Both Wests opened 1♦. Maxim overcalled 2♣ in the Open Room while Keyzad doubled. In the Open Room, Toledano doubled 2♣ and Diana raised to 3♣ buying the contract. East led the Diamond 5. Ami Zamir won ♦A and switched to ♥J. In due course, East-West collected five tricks for a score of 50.

3 D		N MAXIM ♠ KJ54 ♥ K72 ♦ K ♣ AJ1094	W N E S 1♦ 2♣ X 3♣ P P P
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ 1082 ♥ QJ ♦ AQ7632 ♣ K8		E TOLEDANO ♠ A97 ♥ A10984 ♦ 8 ♣ 632	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 8 4 5 6 5 S 8 4 5 6 5 E 5 7 7 5 5 W 5 7 7 5 5 Par Score: 90 Par: NS 2♣		S DIANA ♠ Q63 ♥ 653 ♦ J1094 ♣ Q75	3♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

3 D		N KEYZAD ♠ KJ54 ♥ K72 ♦ K ♣ J1094	W N E S 1♦ X 1♥ P P 2♦ P P
W PIATKOV A ♠ 1082 ♥ QJ ♦ AQ7632 ♣ K8		E Tatiana ♠ A97 ♥ A10984 ♦ 85 ♣ 632	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 8 4 5 6 5 S 8 4 5 6 5 E 5 7 7 5 5 W 5 7 7 5 5 Par Score: 90 Par: NS 2♣		S BROGELAND ♠ Q63 ♥ 653 ♦ J1094 ♣ Q75	2♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0

In the Closed room, Tatiana bid 1♥ over Keyzad's double, Piatkov reverted to 2♦ and played there. Keyzad had a difficult lead problem. Had he led a Spade, the contract could have been defeated. The Spade lead takes away a useful entry from the Table. Declarer has to lose two tricks each in ♠, ♦, and ♣. Keyzad chose to lead the ♣A and continued Clubs. Declarer won, dropped the ♦King, ran a Heart for finesse and eventually discarded both his losing Spades on Dummy's Hearts. Defence only got ♣A and two Trumps. Declarer made 10 tricks for a score of 130 to East-West. Team Diamonds earned two IMPs as a result. Running Scores: Mavericks 6, Diamonds 5. On balance, a Spade lead does seem like a better option than the lead of the ♣A, however, such post facto choice often gets coloured by the result rather than some first principles argument in favour of it, so we have to be careful about making that kind of judgement.

Board four seemed like a flat board from the Open Room. East-West had a leisurely auction to a 4♠ game. West Opened a strong 1♣, East showed four Spades with a 1♥ response, West bid his Heart suit and raised Spades next. When West was unable to cue-bid 4♦ at his next turn, the auction subsided in a 4♠ game. East-West scores +650.

4 D		N MAXIM ♠ 1053 ♥ 743 ♦ 65 ♣ Q10976	W N E S 1♣ P 1♥ P 2♥ P 2♣ P 3♣ P 4♣ P 4♥ P 4♣ P
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ KJ92 ♥ AKJ952 ♦ Q10 ♣ A		E Toledano ♠ AQ76 ♥ 108 ♦ 98 ♣ KJ832	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 2 6 1 0 1 S 2 6 1 0 1 E 9 6 11 11 6 W 9 6 11 11 6 Par Score: -650 Par: EW 4♦+1, 4♥+1		S DIANA ♠ 84 ♥ Q6 ♦ KJ7432 ♣ 54	4♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

4 D		N KEYZAD ♠ 1053 ♥ 743 ♦ 65 ♣ Q10976	W N E S 1♣ P 1♠ 3♦ X P P P
W PIATKOV A ♠ KJ92 ♥ KJ952 ♦ Q10 ♣ A		E TATIANA N ♠ AQ76 ♥ 108 ♦ 98 ♣ KJ832	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 2 6 1 0 1 S 2 6 1 0 1 E 9 6 11 11 6 W 9 6 11 11 6 Par Score: -650 Par: EW 4♦+1, 4♥+1		S BROGELAND ♠ 84 ♥ Q6 ♦ AKJ7432 ♣ 54	3♦ X NS: 0 EW: 0

In the Closed Room, the auction took an interesting turn when Brogeland pre-empted 3♦ on East's 1♠ response and Piatkov doubled. Undoubtedly, he intended it as something other than a penalty double. Tatiana seems to have thought it was a penalty double.

Be that as it may, East-West had sufficient defensive tricks in the side suits to defeat the contract. West began with a top Heart, cashed another, cashed the ♣Ace, and shifted, well, what would you have shifted to?

D 4		N KEYZAD ♠ 10 ♥ 7 ♦ 65 ♣ Q109	W N E S 1♣ P 1♣ 3♦ X P P P																								
W PIATKOV A ♠ J9 ♥ J92 ♦ Q10 ♣		E TATIANA N ♠ Q7 ♥ ♦ 98 ♣ J3																									
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT <table><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>11</td><td>11</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>11</td><td>11</td><td>6</td></tr></table> Par Score: -650 Par: EW 4+1, 4+1		N	2	6	1	0	1	S	2	6	1	0	1	E	9	6	11	11	6	W	9	6	11	11	6	S BROGELAND ♠ ♥ ♦ AKJ7432 ♣	Select cards to play for all 4 players 3x S NS: 0 EW: 6
N	2	6	1	0	1																						
S	2	6	1	0	1																						
E	9	6	11	11	6																						
W	9	6	11	11	6																						

For best defence, East-West had to cash two Spade winners and the ♣K ending in the East hand. East can then push a third Club in the following position. West's ♦Queen now gets a promotion fetching 800 for East-West.

At the table, Piatkov shifted to a small Spade. Tatiana won and backed another Spade anxious to book the setting trick ASAP. She did get the ♣K in the end, however, they missed the chance to secure a promotion for West's ♦Queen. They scored 500 to the score of 650 in the other room and lost four IMPs. Running Scores: Mavericks 10, Diamonds 5.

Board five was perhaps the swingiest board in the set. It offered a potential for a swing in favour of either side. In the Closed room, it was a tepid fayre though. Boye Brogeland opened 1♠, Piatkov doubled, and East-West found their Heart fit soon. North-South pushed them to 4♥, a contract that didn't have much chance. Brogeland led the ♠K. Declarer won, cashed ♥A, and played another Heart. Brogeland won ♥K and switched to ♦Q. Tatiana won ♦Ace and removed last trump. She had to lose two Diamonds and the ♣Ace more. That was 100 to NS.

D 5	N MAXIM ♠ 43 ♥ 9 ♦ K10983 ♣ J10653	W N E S P 1NT 2♦ 3♦ P 4♥ X P 4♠ X P P P																														
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ 2 ♥ Q7543 ♦ A42 ♣ KQ98	E TOLEDANO ♠ AJ75 ♥ A1086 ♦ 765 ♣ 4																															
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table> Par Score: -140 Par: EW 3♥		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	7	7	4	8	5	S	7	7	4	8	5	E	6	6	9	5	7	W	6	5	9	5	6	S DIANA ♠ KQ10986 ♥ KJ2 ♦ QJ ♣ A7	4♦x N NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	7	7	4	8	5																											
S	7	7	4	8	5																											
E	6	6	9	5	7																											
W	6	5	9	5	6																											

D 5		N KEYZAD ♠ 43 ♥ 9 ♦ K10983 ♣ J10653		W N E S P P 2♥ 2♠ X 3♥ 3♠ 4♥ P																									
W PIATKOV A ♠ 2 ♥ Q7543 ♦ A42 ♣ KQ98		E TATIANA N ♠ AJ75 ♥ A1086 ♦ 765 ♣ 42																											
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT <table><tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table> Par Score: -140 Par: EW 3♥		N	7	7	4	8	5	S	7	7	4	8	5	E	6	6	9	5	7	W	6	5	9	5	6	S BROGELAND ♠ Q10986 ♥ KJ2 ♦ QJ ♣ A7			
N	7	7	4	8	5																								
S	7	7	4	8	5																								
E	6	6	9	5	7																								
W	6	5	9	5	6																								
				4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0																									

In the Open Room. Toledano had another chance to pull out their 10-12 1Nt opening sword from the scabbard. North-South seemed to have had a tough time negotiating it on this board. South bid 2♦ showing a single suit and Ami Zamir bid 3♦, transfer to Hearts. Toledano now jumped to 4♥ giving Diana Rakhmani a bidding headache. With 16 HCP comprising of a lot of soft values, she could well have decided to pass, but she chose to double for takeout. North-South were on the same page for the meaning of that double. Maxim took out to 4♠ and Toledano doubled. North-South were now looking at a -500 score against a 140 partial, at a phantom sacrifice, so to say, although they seem to have bid it on strength.

The play offered an opportunity for a reverse swing, to borrow a terminology from Cricket. Toledano led the ♣2. Maxim won ♣A in Dummy and tabled the ♦Jack. Ami Zamir could well have allowed this to pass, but he flew up with the ♦Ace. Note that South was the Dummy in the Open Room, so Zamir could see the ♦QJ on the table. He had no reason to worry about losing the ♦Ace trick.

That trick now left the Declarer with a crucial entry to the Closed hand. Zamir next cashed ♣K and shifted to a Trump with a view to cutting down possible ruffs in the Closed hand. Toledano won and played back another Spade. This was an opportunity for the Declarer. If Maxim had played ♠T (or 9, or 8), he would have made the rest of the tricks by discarding all of Dummy's Hearts on Diamonds. He thought quite long about it, but decided to go up with the ♠K. He had to lose two more tricks for a score of -500. Team Diamonds lost 12 IMPs on the board. Running Scores: Mavericks 22, Diamonds 5.

Board six was a push board. Board seven saw some action. In the Open Room, Diana opened 1♠, Maxim responded 1Nt and East-West holding 13 and 11 HCP respectively, found no suitable route to get into the auction. 1Nt became the final contract. East led the ♣3 but East-West didn't manage to find their best defence. Two of their Diamond honours crashed in on trick so that contract went two down for 200 to East-West.

7 D		N MAXIM ♠ 976 ♥ KJ96 ♦ J954 ♣ 106	W N E S P 1NT P 1♠ P P
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ 42 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ73 ♣ AQ754		E TOLEDANO ♠ J85 ♥ A1083 ♦ A ♣ KJ92	♣3
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 2 6 6 7 4 S 2 6 6 7 4 E 10 6 6 6 8 W 10 6 6 6 8 Par Score: -130 Par: EW 2♠+2	S DIANA ♠ AKQ103 ♥ Q75 ♦ 10862 ♣ 8	1NT N NS: 0 EW: 0	

7 D		N KEYZAD ♠ 76 ♥ KJ96 ♦ J954 ♣ 106	W N E S 2♣ 2♣ X 1NT 3♦ P 5♣ P P P
W PIATKOV A ♠ 42 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ73 ♣ AQ754	♠9	E TATIANA N ♠ J85 ♥ A1083 ♦ A ♣ KJ932	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 2 6 6 7 4 S 2 6 6 7 4 E 10 6 6 6 8 W 10 6 6 6 8 Par Score: -130 Par: EW 2♠+2	S BROGELAND ♠ AKQ103 ♥ Q75 ♦ 10862 ♣ 8	5♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0	

In the Closed Room, Boye Brogeland started with a 1Nt opening. Convention Cards are not easily available so we don't have the precise information of what that opening meant. West's 2♣ overcall suggests it is just a suit showing overcall. Once West got into the auction, East had to follow. East-West ended up in 5♣. With wasted Diamond values opposite a stiff Ace, 5♣ had two Spades and one Heart loser. The contract went down one for a score of 100 to North-South. Mavericks got seven more IMPs on the board. Running Scores: Mavericks 29, Diamonds 5.



Team Diamonds earned one IMP on board 8 and lost one on board 9 to make it 30-6. The last board wasn't a push board. On both the tables, the opening was 2♦, a multi showing a weak hand and length in some Major. In the Open Room, Maxim took the scientific route by responding 2NT. Diana rebid 3♠ to show a weak hand with six Spades and North bowed to the wishes of science, taking the part-score as a fate accompli.

10 D	N MAXIM ♠ AKJ ♥ KJ9532 ♦ Q75 ♣ 7	W N E S P 2NT P 2♦ P P P 3♣
W AMI ZAMIR ♠ 3 ♥ Q108 ♦ KJ82 ♣ KQJ82		E TOLEDANO ♠ 864 ♥ A6 ♦ A10963 ♣ 1093
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N339117 S339117 E99426 W99426 Par Score: 650 Par: NS 5+	S DIANA ♠ Q109752 ♥ 74 ♦ 4 ♣ A654	3♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

10♦		N KEYZAD ♠ AKJ ♥ KJ9532 ♦ Q75 ♣ 7	W N E S 3♣ 4♣ P 2♦ P P P 4♣																														
W PIATKOV A ♠ 3 ♥ Q108 ♦ KJ82 ♣ QJ82	♣K		E TATIANA N ♠ 864 ♥ A6 ♦ A10963 ♣ 1093																														
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr></table> Par Score: 650 Par: NS 5+		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	3	3	9	11	7	S	3	3	9	11	7	E	9	9	4	2	6	W	9	9	4	2	6	S BROGELAND ♠ Q109752 ♥ 74 ♦ 4 ♣ A654	4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0	
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																												
N	3	3	9	11	7																												
S	3	3	9	11	7																												
E	9	9	4	2	6																												
W	9	9	4	2	6																												

In the Closed room, Piatkov overcalled 3♣ with his KQJxx holding. Opposite an unpassed partner, that doesn't quite seem like a good idea but then that wasn't the main point in the deal. Keyzad is not the one to believe in too much of science. He chose to bid 4♣ asking partner to bid his Major suit at a game level, judging, no doubt that West's Club overcall precluded much Club strength with South. That turned out to be a winning bid. ♣ was led. Brogeland won ♣A and played a Heart to the Jack. East won, cashed the ♦ Ace, and played another Diamond. Brogeland now painstakingly crossruffed his way to 10 tricks. That was a game-swing of 10 IMPs in favour of Mavericks. Final Score :Mavericks 40, Diamonds 6.

In the GOLD category, game was bid and made at twenty nine (29) tables. It went down on a few tables. Very few tables played in a Heart or a Spade partial.

Please also note. There is a Diamond IV team, too, in the GOLD category. Diamond IV is an all-Indian team while the Diamonds team mentioned in this article is an all-foreigners team playing under the World Bridge Federation flag.

This swing could have been avoided in many ways. For one, in the Open Room, East could have raised 2Nt to three instead of bidding 4♥. With a 4333 shape and 14 HCP opposite an opening and a 2Nt rebid, 3Nt had a decent chance. It should rate as being more likely to succeed given the lack of AKA in two minor suits. Secondly, the Declarer in the Open Room must have had a moment of lapse after winning the ♥Queen. If South started with ♥KT8, surely, South would have played the ♥8 first time. The repeated Heart finesse wasn't really needed if you think about it. In the Closed Room, West could afford it because he was in a No-trump contract. In the Open Room, he could ill-afford it as the danger of an adverse ruff lurked in the corner. Deep Finesse earned 10 IMPs on the deal.

Board 15 produced a small swing with both teams producing a result that was much below the Double Dummy Par of the deal. In both the rooms, North opened 1♠ in the third position and East overcalled 2Nt to show both minors. Both South players doubled. The auctions differed after that. Shubham opted to bid 3♦ and got to play there. He got the lead of ♥K. He made no mistake in the play ruffing the lead in the Dummy and beginning with a **small Club** ruff. He next played a trump to Dummy's Ace. North's King appeared. A Club ruff, ♠K, and another Club ruff followed. He soon claimed 13 tricks, the par on the deal.

15

D

N

JITU

♠ QJ1075

♥ Q54

♦ K

♣ 742

W

N

E

S

P

1♠

2NT

X

3♦

P

P

P

W

SHUBHAM

♠ A962

♥ 109762

♦ Q865

♣

♥K

E

ARVIND

♠ K4

♥

♦ AJ1093

♣ AJ8653

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	3	0	7	6	5
S	3	0	7	6	5
E	9	13	6	7	8
W	9	13	6	7	8

Par Score: -1440

Par: EW 7♦

S

RAJESH

♠ 83

♥ AJ83

♦ 742

♣ KQ109

3♦ W

NS: 0 EW: 0



Rajesh A Dalal



Jitendra J Solani

In the Closed Room, Jayendu bid 4♦ and Janak Shah raised to five. South chose to double. The . South chose to double. The lead was the same as in the Open Room. Jayendu ruffed, cashed the ♣Ace a questionable move that placed the Declarer in a troublesome position later in the play. A Spade to ♠K and a Club ruff followed, and a Heart ruff and another Club ruff with the ♦Queen came next. There wasn't much difference between the ♦Q and the ♦8 at this point though. Venkatesh overruffed and played another Heart.



Ramaratnam Venkatesh



Jayendu Shantilal Patel

15		N VENKATESH		W N E S	
		♠ QJ1075		P 1♣ 2NT X	
		♥ KQ54		4♦ P 5♦ X	
		♦ K		P P P	
		♣ 742			
W JAYENDU P				E JANAK SHAH	
♠ A962				♠ K4	
♥ 109762				♥	
♦ Q865				♦ AJ1093	
				♣ AJ8653	
		S DR MUKUND			
		♠ 83			
		♥ AJ83			
		♦ 742			
		♣ KQ109		5♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0	



Janak Shah



Mukund Jagannathan

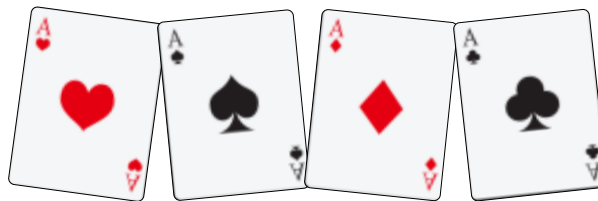
Jayendu ruffed reaching the following position.

15		N VENKATESH		W N E S	
		♠ J1075		P 1♣ 2NT X	
		♥ Q		4♦ P 5♦ X	
		♦		P P P	
		♣			
W JAYENDU P				E JANAK SHAH	
♠ A96		♥ 5		♠ 4	
♥ 10		♥ 9		♥	
♦ 8		♦ 10		♦ AJ	
		♥ J		♣ J8	
		S DR MUKUND			
		♠ 8			
		♥ A			
		♦ 742		5♦ W NS: 1 EW: 7	
		♣			

South now held more trumps than either of East or West. To score the contract, Jayendu need to use Clubs as trump substitutes to pull one of South's trumps. Jayendu had a decent count of the hand by now, however, he opted to cash a trump. South was now ahead in tempo. South got two more tricks and the contract went down one. Dr. Mukund Jagannath's Venus was in the exalted house today. Team Tolani thus earned seven IMPs on a deal that had much higher potential. The final score of the match was 18-15 in favour of Deep Finesse.

The 22nd **HCL** International Bridge Championship

6th October to 14nd October 2025



Tournament Schedule

Thursday, Oct 09	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD / SILVER EVENTS – SWISS LEAGUE Continues	
	1000 – 1125 Hrs.	Round – 6 (10 Boards)
	1145 – 1310 Hrs.	Round – 7 (10 Boards)
	1310 – 1410 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1410 – 1535 Hrs.	Round – 8 (10 Boards)
	1555 – 1720 Hrs.	Round – 9 (10 Boards)
	1720 – 1750 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1750 – 1915 Hrs.	Round – 10 (10 Boards)
	1930 - 2000 Hrs.	Captain's Meeting for TOP 16 qualifying teams of the GOLD & SILVER event for PRE-QF KO.
Friday, Oct 10	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO Pre-QFs (4 * 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 1 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO QFs (4 * 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
Saturday, Oct 11	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 2 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	MP PAIRS STRATA II – (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)	
	1100 – 1400 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1400 – 1500 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1500 – 1815 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1930 Hrs. Onwards	Cocktails & Dinner (Hosted by HCL)
	2015 – 2045 Hrs.	Draw of Lots for ProAm Tournament

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

Sunday, Oct 12	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO SFs (4 * 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 3 & IMP PAIRS – ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session – 3
Monday, Oct 13	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – Final (4*14 Boards) & Play-off (3*14 Boards)	
	0900 – 1100 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1115 – 1315 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1600 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1615 – 1815 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – FINAL (GOLD & SILVER) - Barometer Scoring	
	0930 – 1315 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2
	IMP PAIRS – FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)	
	1000 – 1330 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2
	IMP PAIRS STRATA (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1330 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1730 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1830 Hrs. onwards	Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony
Tuesday, Oct 14	PRO-AM PAIRS TOURNAMENT (IMP Scoring) – Maximum 54 Boards)	
	0930 – 1315 Hrs.	Session – 1 (28 Boards)
	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1730 Hrs.	Session – 2 (26 Boards)
	1800 Hrs. onwards	Prize Distribution

BBO Schedule for Thursday, October 09, 2025

1000 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-6 (2 Matches)
1145 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-7 (2 Matches)
1410 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-8 (2 Matches)
1555 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-9 (2 Matches)
1750 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-10 (2 Matches)

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