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Editor : Dr. Prakash Paranjape

Layout Editor : Bholanath Das

Keyzad Anklesaria and Vidhya Patel Lift the N. K. Gupta Trophy

In a thrilling finish that went right down to the wire, **Keyzad Anklesaria and Vidhya Patel** captured the **N. K. Gupta Trophy for Mixed Pairs**, edging past the long-time leaders **Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani** with a remarkable final-session surge of **37 IMPs**. Their total of **85.85 IMPs** was just enough to leave their challengers, on **72 IMPs**, in second place.

Debabrata Majumder and Kavita Ajmera claimed the **third spot**, while **Subhash Bhavnani and Priya Balasubramanian** finished **fourth**, rounding off a top table that was both competitive and classy.

In the **Silver Category**, the experienced duo of **Sumit Mukherjee and Monica Jajoo** stamped their authority in emphatic style. Their tally of **133.6 IMPs** placed them almost **50 IMPs clear** of their nearest rivals, **Bhaskar Sarkar and Bindiya Judge**. **Anna Gulevich and Andrey Gromov** were close behind in **third** with **90.4 IMPs**, followed by **Sandeep and Marianne Karmarkar** in **fourth** on **55.8 IMPs**.

The **Mixed IMP Pairs Strata** was a close affair, with **Usha Kabra and Gopinath Manna** prevailing narrowly on **80.5 IMPs**, just ahead of **Sarika Mittal and Rajendra Sirohia** on **79 IMPs**. **Bijal Shah and Ranjan Bose** secured **third** with **72.8 IMPs**, and **Shambhu Nath Ghosh and Jesal Dabriwala** completed the leading quartet with **59.6 IMPs**.

The evening concluded on a gracious note, as **Mrs. Kiran Nadar** presented the prizes—her presence adding an extra touch of elegance to an already memorable event.



Keyzad Anklesaria and Vidhya Patel



Sumit Mukherjee and Monica Jajoo

The Swiss league of the Team of Four **GOLD** and **SILVER** events begins today with **58 teams** participating in the **GOLD** and **88 teams** in the **SILVER** category. For the first round, the following matches will be shown on the VU graph.

BBO 1 - Table 3: Diamonds Vs. Mavericks
BBO 2: Table 25: Formidables Vs. I Doctors

Result : Mixed IMP Pairs Gold Final

Pos	No	Players	IMPs	Pos	No	Players	IMPs
1	8	Keyzad Anklesaria Vidhya Patel	85.85	14	13	Hema Deora Abhijit Chakraborty	-6.74
2	11	Pijus Kanti Baroi Savleen Thadani	72	15	9	Uttam Swarup Gupta Vasanti Shah	-10.26
3	21	Debabrata Majumder Kavita Ajmera	53.74	16	4	Mayur Patel Amita Ashvin Raythatha	-10.94
4	24	Subhash Bhavnani Priya Balasubramanian	52.19	17	15	Vinay Mohan Lal ManishaAnand Jamenis	-11.19
5	18	Padmanabhan Sridharan Uma Rajesh	47.13	18	17	Prashanth Kandulakunta B Veenashukla	-15.26
6	12	Kamna Sharma Abhijit Pal	41.11	19	26	Anuradha Krishna Sudhir K Agrawal	-18
7	10	Diana Rakhmani Maxim Semisochenko	39.44	20	2	Rohit Gupta Deepika Mehta	-19.81
8	16	Ramaratnam Venkatesh Anjali Karthikeyan	33.26	21	5	Rajul R Dalal Aparna Sain	-23.66
9	7	Christian Bakke Ratna Tadepalli	32.11	22	20	Alka Jain Tarun Singhala	-35.58
10	6	Lalit Mendiratta Bhavna Naraindas	25.26	23	23	Naveen Kumar Rinku Singh	-40.19
11	3	Pradip Dey Sheetal Bansal	23.42	24	19	Girish R Bijoor Ritu Bagaria	-45.27
12	14	Nikita Kamal Arun Kumar Sinha	18.59	25	22	Sumathi Iyer Srithar R	-62.19
13	1	Sailaja Tahiliani Pradip Ghosh	17.01	26	25	Usha Joshi Birendra Kumar	-136.97

Result : Mixed IMP Pairs Silver Final

Pos	No	Players	IMPs	Pos	No	Players	IMPs
1	116	Sumit Mukherjee Monica Jajoo	133.6	14	125	Bhalchandra G Ogale Aditi Sahastrabuddhe	-12.4
2	113	Bhaskar Sarkar Bindiya Judge	94	15	121	Tatiana Nokhaeva Aleksandr Piatkov	-23.6
3	112	Anna Gulevich Andrey Gromov	90.4	16	120	Paban Agarwal Kalindi Mewar	-25.2
4	111	Marianne Karmarkar Sandeep N Karmarkar	55.8	17	107	Asha Sharma Namit Sharma	-29.7
5	126	Bindiya Naidoo Priya Ranjan Sinha	46	18	101	Ravi Raman Smita Govilkar	-30.2
6	117	Boye Brogeland Richa Shriram	43.8	19	123	T V Ramani Bindiya Kohli	-30.8
7	110	Vipul Jain Urvashi Anand	41.4	20	106	P Narayan Iyer Aparajitha Iyer	-33.2
8	115	Devi Muthu Bhatnagar Rajesh K Jain	22	21	124	Rathindra Nath Kundu Madhur (Daisy) Singh	-37.6
9	109	Meenu Dugal Tanmoy Majumder	21.6	22	108	Bhabesh Saha Alka M Kshirsagar	-46.6
10	104	Madhu Malti Jain Atanu Ganguly	19.86	23	114	Sujata Puranik Rakhra Kunal Jaiswal	-50
11	102	Craig Gower Diana Rosslee	5.2		119	Pallavi Modak Vikram Jain	-50
12	122	Binod Kumar Shaw Ekta Chadha	1.2	25	118	Mohan Jhala Abha Chaturvedi	-51
13	103	Olga Firsova Sergey Orlov	-11.64	26	105	Sekhar K Bandopadhyay Bina Malhotra	-80.4

Result : Mixed IMP Pairs Strata - Session 2

Pos	No	Players	IMPs	Pos	No	Players	IMPs
1	2	Usha Kabra Gopinath Manna	80.5	28	62	Bidyut Kanti Thakur Natasha Timpy Talwar	-4
2	65	Sarika Mittal Rajendra Sirohia	79	29	21	Milind Satishchandra Vartak Jayashree Kanetkar	-4.3
3	5	Bijal Shah Ranjan Bose	72.8	30	43	Kinjal Desai Aman Tyagi	-7.3
4	94	Shambhu Nath Ghosh Jesal Dabriwala	59.6	31	44	Hermione Mathias Gustav Axen	-8.8
5	26	Sejal Shah Bipul Kumar Roy	53.3	32	1	Chanchal Dass Narayan P Vahalia	-12.9
6	42	Bharati Dey Rana Roy	49.4	33	90	Divya Reddy Guru Shankar Sundaram	-14
7	86	Subhash Gupta Puja Batra	44.4	34	67	Raj Kumar Srivastava Sumita Wahi	-14
8	8	Meenal Thakur Kamal Kabra	42.8	35	92	Akhilesh Kumar Saxena Rekha Saxena	-14.3
9	50	Gopika Tandan Arun Jain	40.9	36	29	Bina Birla Aroon Birla	-14.5
10	81	Aditi Jhaveri Biswajit Poddar	39.7	37	24	Kanwal Dhody Anuradha Duggal	-15.5
11	96	Bhanumati Shah Kamal Shah	27	38	45	C M Vasudev Manju Bhasin	-16.3
12	71	Reena Pal Arya Chakraborty	27	39	84	Kishore Sidhwani Neela Deshpande	-16.5
13	51	Parimal Vaikuntlal Vahalia Kalpana Gurjar	26.6	40	69	Sartaj S Alag Reena Singh	-17
14	48	Sadhna Gupta Ambrish Wadera	23.8	41	6	Vidhu Mittal Ratan Lal Sanghi	-19.2
15	41	Poonam Surana Pritam Das	22.7	42	66	Kalpna Varshney Prakash Gupta	-20
16	7	Anushree Jalan Indranath Chatterjee	11.9	43	93	Sunil Bhatia Uma Relan	-23
17	10	Anuradha Bakshi Sowmik Das	10.9	44	46	Ashok K Sinha Vasudha Bakaya	-24.9
18	82	Suman Khanna Ramesh C Khanna	10.6	45	25	Ninochaka Kothari Raionand Bilimoria	-26.4
19	63	Veena Bobb Sukanta Das	9	46	47	Kavita Singhanian Kaushik Mukherjee	-31.3
20	28	Smita Jindal Deepak Ramnani	8.3	47	95	Sumita Dasgupta Santanu Chakraborty	-38.1
21	30	Pradeep R Rath Subhadra P Rath	7.5	48	9	Rumeet Chawla R Anbazhagan	-38.1
22	61	Shiv Shankar Gupta Chhaya Joglekar	6	49	27	Arnab Guha Vrishali Paranjpe	-44.1
23	11	Amarjit Wadhawan Mangalam Punj	5.9	50	31	Neeta Banga A N Sahai	-47.7
24	22	Mini Agarwal Ranga Khadloya	4.3	51	70	R Chandramohan G Pratibha Rao	-60
25	4	Deepa Jacob Prosenjit Manna	-1.2	52	89	Vijay Singh Pushpa Puri	-61.4
26	68	Anuj Kapur Shashi Sareen	-3	53	3	Suresh Senapaty Girija Vijendra	-63.4
27	64	Ramani Menon Jenish Shah	-4	54	49	Ramendra Chowdhury Rashmi Bhanshali	-73.6

Monday Fireworks

The Mixed Pairs elimination began with a Slam. In the Open Room on the Vu graph, Subhash Gupta- Puja Batra were playing against Keyzad Anklesaria and Vidhya Patel. Vidhya held the blockbuster 20 HCP East hand. She opened a strong 1♣ and launched into a Roman Key Card Blackwood after finding the Spade fit. Keyzad showed 1 Key Card with his 5♣ response and Subhash Gupta doubled for lead. With a stiff Club, Vidhya wasn't worried about the Club suit. She proceeded with the King ask 5♦. Holding the trump Queen (♠Q), Keyzad showed his ♦King by bidding 6♦ and Vidhya finished the auction with a 6♠ bid.

D 1	N SUBHASH G ♠ 102 ♥ 43 ♦ J10942 ♣ K1074	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>P</td><td>1♣</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td><td>P</td><td>1♣</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>4NT</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td><td>X</td><td>5♦</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr> <td>6♦</td><td>P</td><td>6♣</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	1♣	P	1♥	P	1♣	P	3♣	P	4NT	P	5♣	X	5♦	P	6♦	P	6♣	P						
W	N	E	S																													
	P	1♣	P																													
1♥	P	1♣	P																													
3♣	P	4NT	P																													
5♣	X	5♦	P																													
6♦	P	6♣	P																													
W Keyzad ♠ KQ93 ♥ 10975 ♦ K65 ♣ J5		E Vidhya Patel ♠ AJ754 ♥ AKQ62 ♦ AQ ♣ 8																														
<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <th>N</th><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <th>S</th><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <th>E</th><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <th>W</th><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr> </table> Pair Score: 280 For 800 de 40		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	6	6	0	0	0	S	6	6	0	0	0	E	7	7	12	12	7	W	7	7	12	12	7	S PUJA BATRA ♠ 86 ♥ J8 ♦ 873 ♣ AQ9632	6♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	6	6	0	0	0																											
S	6	6	0	0	0																											
E	7	7	12	12	7																											
W	7	7	12	12	7																											

Move the minor suit honours slightly, give West ♣K and ♦J, North, ♣AQ, and South, the ♦K, the bidding would have been the same till the 5♦ asking bid and the slam would have failed. As the cards are, the Stiff Club in the East hand is opposite ♣Jx, so the West hand has no wasted values. Still, nothing succeeds like success. Keyzad Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel began with a bang.

Twenty-two Pairs bid the Spade slam, seven preferred 6♥, and one Pair successfully tried 6Nt. Keyzad-Vidhya earned four IMPs for that effort.

In the 'Closed Room' on the Vu Graph, South pre-empted 3♣ on East's 1♠ opening. East-West failed to bid the game. The stored Vu Graph record of a Pair Table ends up saving the name of four players who played the last two boards on that table. It does not give us the names of pairs who played the first round, or for that matter, any earlier rounds. Let us leave the discussion of board one here.

6		N Subhash Gupta ♠ A6 ♥ ♦ J872 ♣ AK108752	W N E S 1♥ 3♣ 3♥ P 4NT P 5♦ P 5♥ P P
W Rohit Gupta ♠ QJ83 ♥ AQJ107 ♦ KQ96 ♣			E Deepika Mehta ♠ K92 ♥ K853 ♦ A54 ♣ QJ3
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 8 3 1 2 3 S 8 3 1 2 3 E 4 9 12 10 10 W 4 10 12 11 10 Par Score: -1100 Par: NS 7xx-5		S Puja Batra ♠ 10754 ♥ 9642 ♦ 103 ♣ 964	5♥ W NS: 0 EW:

The next slammish board of Monday was board number 6. In the 'Open Room' of the Vu Graph, East, Deepika Mehta opened 1♣, West responded 1♥, and Subhash Gupta jumped to 3♣. Note that the opening bid stole North's

Club suit, so a mere 2♣ bid wouldn't have got the Club suit across. That is why, with a 5-loser hand of 12 HCPs, we see a 3♣ bid that might appear as if it is a pre-emptive bid but is not quite so.

Deepika now bid 3♥ to show 4-card support to responder's suit and West jumped to 4Nt to ask Aces. It seems that East-West neither had an exclusion asking bid in their armoury nor did they have RKC. The 5♦ response showed one Ace. That clearly wasn't enough for West to bid a slam. West subsided in 5♥. In the 'Closed Room', East-West reached 6♥ and went down two. Trumps are 4-0 and both the pointed suits break 4-2. Double Dummy, the slam has a play, but single Dummy, it is difficult to find a reasonable line especially because South holds ♥9642, ♥9 being higher than East's second Heart. Only five Pairs were able to bid and make the 6 slam. They were P Narayan Iyer-Aparajitha Iyer, Sujata Puranik Rakhra-Kunal Jaiswal, Alka Jain-Tarun Singhal, Nikita Kamal-Arun Kumar Sinha, and Reena Pal-Arya Chakraborty. They earned 14 IMPs for their effort.

Those who did not bid a slam lost four IMPs while those who bid and went down lost 12 IMPs. The key takeaway from this board is this : It is best to take a conservative view when one opponent pre-empts at a 3 level or higher simply because bad breaks are a little more likely.

The next board in the slam zone was board eight. Diamond King is sitting under the ♦ Ace so there is no way to make 12 tricks without help from North-South. Still, if East-West manage to bid the slam from West hand and North opts to lead the ♦ Ace, twelve tricks can be easily made. Two pairs, Ratna Tadepalli-Christian Bakke and Ramaratnam Venkatesh-Anjali Karthikeyan scored 980. West conducted 6♥ in both cases.

Dir: West
Vul: None

Optimum
NS -450

♠ Q J 10 7 5 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A 7
♣ 10 8 3

♠ K 4
♥ Q J 10 6 3
♦ K 10 8 5
♣ A 6

NORTH
WEST 8 EAST
SOUTH

♠ A 6 3
♥ A K 7
♦ 9 3
♣ Q J 7 4 2

7
13 14
6

♠ 9 8
♥ 9 5 2
♦ Q J 6 4 2
♣ K 9 5

N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	4	3	5	1 4
W	4	3	5	2 4

Board 10 brought up another slam. Puja Batra Opened 1♦ in the second seat and rebid 2♣ on Subhash Gupta's 1♠. The opening itself was enough for Subhash to bid a slam. He waited to hear the rebid just to make sure partner didn't hold extra values. Once the 2♣ rebid limited South hand, Subhash jumped to 6Nt.

10

N SUBHASH G	W N E S
♠ AQJ6	P 1♠ P 1♦
♥ AK5	P 6NT P 2♣
♦ K84	P P
♣ Q42	P
W A SINGH	E D NAGPAL
♠ K109	♠ 87543
♥ 102	♥ J9643
♦ J92	♦ 63
♣ K8763	♣ J
S PUJA BATRA	
♠ 2	
♥ Q87	
♦ AQ1075	
♣ A1095	

Other table: 6♦S-1
NS: Team 1 24 IMPs
EW: Team 2 42 IMPs

6NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

Deepika Nagpal led the ♥6. Subhash won ♥A in the Closed hand and finished Diamonds starting with ♦ Ace and ♦ King. On the last two Diamonds, West discarded two Clubs. Subhash now cashed the ♣A. When ♣J fell on the

first round, he claimed 12 tricks. 6Nt bid and made was worth seven IMPs. Twenty six pairs bid 6Nt whereas five settled in 6♦. Some Pairs also ended up in 6♣ no doubt due to some misunder-standing.



Deepika Mehta and Rohit Gupta

The second session brought up boards that did not have slam written on any of them anywhere. Board 29 in the third session brought up a Diamond slam. Subhash Bhavanani and Priya Balasubramanian found a neat strong-Club bidding sequence to get there. Subhash opened a strong 1♣. Priya responded 1♦ showing 0 to 7 HCP or so and Subhash rebid 1♥. After two rounds of natural bidding, they found the Diamond fit. Subhash's 4♦ was 'Minorwood', asking for Key Cards with Diamonds as trumps. Priya showed 1 key card with her 4♠ reply. That was the ♦ King. That was all Subhash needed for the slam. He tabled the 6♦ bid. South became the Declarer because of the initial 1♦ bid that was merely an HCP-counting bid. West led a Spade. Twelve tricks sailed. The score of +1370 to North-South was worth eleven IMPs. Only 11 tables managed to get there. Twelve tricks were also available in Hearts, but those depended on a successful Heart finesse. In the 'Closed Room' of the Vu Graph, too, North-South were playing a strong Club system. North jumped to 2♥ on the 1♦ response and jumped to 4♥ again after seeing a 3♣ rebid by South. The Diamond suit never got mentioned. North-South lost just five IMPs for failing to bid a slam. That should tell you about the relative difficulty of bidding the slam.

29		N S BHAVNANI ♠ 4 ♥ AKJ1053 ♦ AQ1053 ♣ A		W N E S 1♠ P 1♦ P 1♥ P 2♣ P 2♦ P 3♣ P 4♦ P 4♣ P 6♠ P P																									
W Aroon Birla ♠ J98732 ♥ Q72 ♦ J7 ♣ J9		E Bina Birla ♠ AKQ5 ♥ 86 ♦ 42 ♣ Q10642																											
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT <table> <tr><td>N</td><td>8</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>8</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> Par Score: 1400 Par: EW 6x-5		N	8	12	12	6	7	S	8	12	12	6	7	E	3	0	0	7	0	W	3	0	0	7	0	S PRIYA B ♠ 106 ♥ 94 ♦ K986 ♣ K8753		6♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0	
N	8	12	12	6	7																								
S	8	12	12	6	7																								
E	3	0	0	7	0																								
W	3	0	0	7	0																								

Subhash Bhavnani and Priya Balasubramanian bid yet another slam in the third session. That was against Vijay Singh and Pushpa Puri on board 33.Yet again, it was a strong club bidding sequence. The only difference this time was that the response to the 1♣ opening was a positive one. Priya's 2♣ response showed 8+ HCP and Club suit.

Notice the natural progress of the auction after the first strength-showing bid. 2♠ showed five cards. All the three level bids were natural, showing further values rather than length. 4♣ showed delayed support for Clubs. 4♦ was

Roman Key Card asking bid. 4♥ showed 0 or 3. North has ♠A, ♦A, and ♣King, note. 4♠ was primarily asking for trump Queen and 4Nt denied ♣Queen. Priya Balsubramanian now settled for a small slam. On Board 29 earlier, Priya got to play the 6♦ contract although partner had longer Diamonds. On the present board, she had the length in Clubs, but owing to the strong 1♣ opening, North got to play the 6♣ contract.

33		N S Bhavnani ♠ AQ864 ♥ K95 ♦ AK8 ♣ K10	W N E S 1♣ P 2♣ P 2♣ P 3♣ P 3♦ P 3♥ P 4♣ P 4♦ P 4♥ P 4♠
W Vijay Singh ♠ K1053 ♥ 86432 ♦ 653 ♣ Q		E Pushpa Puri ♠ 97 ♥ Q10 ♦ QJ10974 ♣ J65	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 13 9 11 12 13 S 13 9 11 12 13 E 0 4 2 1 0 W 0 4 2 1 0 Par Score: 1520 Par: NS 7NT	S Priya B ♠ J2 ♥ AJ7 ♦ 2 ♣ A987432	6♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0	

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♣
P	3♦	P	3♥

East led the ♠9. There was nothing to play. Subhash Bhavnani guessed the Trumps right and made 13 tricks. That earned them just five IMPs though. A majority of East-West Pairs bid the slam.



Priya Balasubramanian and Subhash Bhavanani

We will continue to bring you more firework as the events progress.

Keyzad Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel make +37 in the final set and lift the NK Gupta trophy

The fifth and the last session of the Mixed Pairs final started with Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani at the top with 81 IMPs. Keyzad Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel were second with 48.85 IMPs.

42		N LALIT ♠ J ♥ K104 ♦ J10982 ♣ AJ72	W N E S 1NT 2♥ P 1♥ P P P P																										
W PIJUSH ♠ Q64 ♥ Q63 ♦ AKQ ♣ K965			E Savleen ♠ 8732 ♥ J ♦ 764 ♣ Q10843																										
<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>8</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>8</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table> Par Score: 650 Par: NS 4♥+1			♠	♥	♦	NT	N	5	8	11	8	S	5	8	11	8	E	8	4	2	3	W	8	4	2	3	S BHAVNA ♠ AK1095 ♥ A98752 ♦ 53 ♣		
	♠	♥	♦	NT																									
N	5	8	11	8																									
S	5	8	11	8																									
E	8	4	2	3																									
W	8	4	2	3																									
			2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																										

On Board 42, the second board of the set, they were East-West. Bhavna opened 1♥ in the South seat, Pijush overcalled 1Nt holding 16 HCP and Lalit raised to two. Now, with 5620 distribution and a 5-loser hand, Bhavna did not try for a game. 2♥ was the final contract. Pijush led a top Diamond but switched to a Club at trick two. Bhavna discarded a Diamond, cashed top Spades, ruffed a Spade, ruffed a Diamond, and ran a small trump to East's Jack. East Played a Spade. West ruffed, overruffed in Dummy. Declarer had enough trumps to get back to the Closed hand, remove West's last trump and claim 11 tricks. Only five out of 13 North-South Pairs reached the good 4♥ game on this board. Keyzad-Vidhya pair was one of them.

On Board 42, Pijush-Savleen got four IMPs while board 41 was a push board for them. Keyzad-Vidhya lost an IMP on board 41 but gained 8 IMPs when they bid and made 4♥ on board 42. After 42 boards, Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani were still in the lead with a score of +85 IMPs well clear of the second placed Keyzad Anklesaria and Vidhya Patel who were on 55.85 IMPs. P. Sridharan and Uma Rajesh were third with 53.13 IMPs. The rest of the pairs were below 50 IMPs.

In the second round of the fifth session, Christian Bakke-Ratna Tadeipalli were North-South while Abhijit Pal – Kamna Sharma were East-West. On Board 43, the first board of the round, the fate of the 3Nt contract depended on which side it was played from. Abhijit Pal opened 1Nt and became the Declarer. Bakke led a small Spade. With the ♠Q trick in the bag, Abhijit had nine easy tricks with four Hearts, two Spades, and three Clubs. He scored 400 for East-West.



Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani

43		N C BAKKE		Par Score: -430 Par: EW 3NT+1	
		♠K10854 ♥754 ♦J108 ♣96			
W ABHIJIT		W	N	E	S
♠Q2 ♥AJ ♦9764 ♣AKQ105					Pass
		1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
		2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
		Pass	Pass		
		S TADEPALLI		E KAMNAS	
		♠J7 ♥10863 ♦AQ3 ♣J432		♠A963 ♥KQ92 ♦K52 ♣87	
				3NT West	
				0 0	

In the other room, 3Nt was played from the East side. Diana Rakhmani opened 1♣ and jumped to 3♣ on Maxim Semisochenko's 1♥ response. Maxim now bid 3Nt. South led the ♥3. Without the benefit of the ♠Queen trick, the Declarer was reduced to guessing Clubs. Both ♠Q and ♦K were badly placed for the Declarer. He had to get Clubs right. At the table, Maxim won the ♥A and played the Clubs off the top. He could make only eight tricks. North-South scored +50 and earned 10 IMPs.

43		N UTTAM G		Par Score: -430 Par: EW 3NT+1	
		♠K10854 ♥754 ♦J108 ♣96			
W RAKHMANI		W	N	E	S
♠Q2 ♥AJ ♦9764 ♣AKQ105					Pass
		1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
		3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
		Pass	Pass		
		S B SAHA		E SEMISOCHEN	
		♠J7 ♥10863 ♦AQ3 ♣J432		♠A963 ♥KQ92 ♦K52 ♣87	
				3NT East	
				0 0	

Board 44 had a slam written on it. West held 19 HCP opposite East's 15. Abhijit Pal started with a 1♦ opening and splintered to 4♣ on the 1♠ showing four Spades and short Clubs. Kamna Sharma now cuebid 4♥. Abhijit Pal used the RKC, got a 5♠ response that showed trump queen and two Key Cards. On the 5Nt King ask, Kamna bid 6♣ denying a King. Abhijit next bid a slightly hopeful 7♠. Kamna came up with the ♦Q so there was no difficulty whatsoever in making 13 tricks. The lead was a trump. Kamna removed trumps in three rounds, cashed all the red suit winners, cashed the ♣Ace, ruffed a Club, and then claimed. On the other table on Vu graph, Maxim Savisochenko and Diana Rakhmani also reached 7♠ after a 1♣ opening and a somewhat coded bidding sequence. Uttam Gupta and Vasanti Shah were East-West.

44		N C BAKKE		Par Score: -1520 Par: EW 7NT	
		♠J ♥J96432 ♦J852 ♣105			
W ABHIJIT		W	N	E	S
♠AK65 ♥KQ87 ♦AK93 ♣3					Pass
		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
		4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
		4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
		5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
		S TADEPALLI		E KAMNAS	
		♠973 ♥5 ♦1076 ♣K98642		♠Q10842 ♥A10 ♦Q4 ♣AQJ7	
				7♠ East	
				0 0	

Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani played boards 43 and 44 against Keyzad Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel. They failed to bid 7♠ on Board 44. They did bid 6♠ but lost five IMPs on the board. They could have won 8 if they had bid and made seven Spades. On Board 43, Keyzad-Vidhya made 3Nt playing from the West side. That earned them one IMP. At the end of 44 boards, Pijush-Savleen were on +79 IMPs while Keyzad-Vidhya were on 61.85.

Keyzad Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel played the next round against Hema Deora-Abhijit Chakraborty while Pijush-Savleen played against Diana Rakhmani-Maxim Savischenko. For Pijush-Savleen, the round was uneventful. Opponents made 2♠ on board 45 and 4♠ on board 46. Both were push boards.

Keyzad-Vidhya got a bonanza on board 45. They were North-South. They played in 2♠ as most other NS pairs – totally nine out of 13 Pairs - did, however, they were doubled. 2S doubled and made for a score of +670 got them eleven golden IMPs. Board 46 was a push. At the end of 46 boards, with two rounds to go, Pijush-Savleen were on +79 IMPs while Keyzad-Vidhya were on 72.85.

48		N PIJUSH B ♠AK4 ♥KJ7 ♦Q9 ♣KQ943		Par Score: -600 Par: EW 5♦																									
W ABHIJIT P ♠8632 ♥5 ♦A107642 ♣A8		W N E S 2♦ Dbl 3♦ Pass Pass Dbl Pass 4♦ Pass 4♥ Pass Pass Pass		E K SHARMA ♠Q7 ♥AQ984 ♦KJ85 ♣52																									
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT <table> <tr> <td>N</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>5</td><td>11</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>5</td><td>11</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> </table>		N	8	2	5	6	4	S	8	2	5	6	4	E	5	11	8	6	9	W	5	11	8	6	9	S S THADANI ♠J1095 ♥10632 ♦3 ♣J1076		4♥ North 0 0	
N	8	2	5	6	4																								
S	8	2	5	6	4																								
E	5	11	8	6	9																								
W	5	11	8	6	9																								

In the next round, on Board 48, Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani got into some trouble. Abhijit Pal dealt and opened weak 2♦. Pijush doubled, and doubled again in the reopening position when Kamna's 3♦ raise was passed to him. The North hand doesn't have a great shape here nor does it have crisp honours. The ♦Q is wasted and the Kings in the rounded suits could well be less useful than the HCP count suggests. Anyway, Savleen seems to have given much more value to the North hand when she chose to bid 4♦ rather than just bid 3♥ or 3♠ with her weak hand. Pijush now bid 4♥ and played there. Luckily for North-South, Kamna did not double 4♥. It went down four for -200 to North-South. East-West had a Diamond partial going for them so the -200 score did not translate to too much of an IMP loss. They just lost one IMP on the board. They lost one more on Board 47. Their tally, at the end of 48 boards, was +77.

Playing in Diamonds, 10 tricks were easily available for the East-West, and eleventh could be made on a Double-Dummy basis. Say North leads a top Spade and shifts to the ♣King. Declarer can win, finesse Hearts, ruff a Heart, play a Diamond finessing against North's Queen, ruff the fourth Heart with the ♦Ace, and enter Dummy with the ♦King to discard a Club on the fifth Heart.



Diana Rakhmani and Maxim Savichenko

15
NS / S

♠ KQ98
♥ J109
♦ AKJ3
♣ 107

♠ A10
♥ KQ82
♦ Q92
♣ A862

♠ J64
♥ A643
♦ 864
♣ 943

NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

N	6	8	6	8	5
S	6	8	6	8	5
NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	
W	5	5	6	5	8
E	5	5	6	5	8

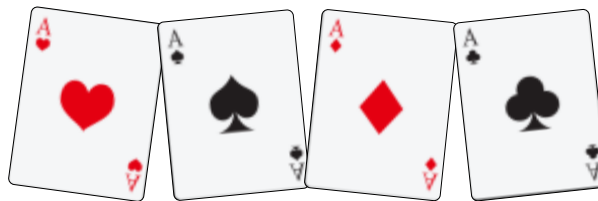
Board number Go!

Keyzad-Vidhya collected four IMPs on board 47 by defending a 1Nt contract well. The 1Nt contract made on seven tables and went down one on three. Keyzad-Vidhya managed to get a par on the board by defeating the contract by two tricks. That earned them four IMPs. Board 48 was a push board for them. With one round to go, Pijush Kanti Baroi and Savleen Thadani were on +77 while Keyzad-Vidhya were on 76.85. A thin fraction of an IMP separated them but the momentum was with Keyzad Anklesaria- Vidhya Patel.



The 22nd **HCL** International Bridge Championship

6th October to 14nd October 2025



Tournament Schedule

Wednesday, Oct 08	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD / SILVER EVENT – SWISS LEAGUE	
	1000 – 1015 Hrs.	Director's Announcements & Draw for Team of Four Gold / Silver Event
	1020 – 1145 Hrs.	Round – 1 (10 Boards)
	1205 – 1330 Hrs.	Round – 2 (10 Boards)
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1555 Hrs.	Round – 3 (10 Boards)
	1615 – 1740 Hrs.	Round – 4 (10 Boards)
	1740 – 1810 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1810 – 1935 Hrs.	Round – 5 (10 Boards)
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
Saturday, Oct 11	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
	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

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

	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
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 Wednesday, October 08, 2025

1020 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-1 (4 Tables)
1205 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-2 (4 Tables)
1430 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-3 (4 Tables)
1615 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-4 (4 Tables)
1810 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-5 (4 Tables)

Daily Bulletins & Results of 22nd HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP @
<https://hcl-bridge.com/bulletin/> & <https://hcl-bridge.com/result/>