



# HCL 22<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

## DAILY BULLETIN

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Editor : Dr. Prakash Paranjape

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## OLIMP score over Shourie; Monica Jajoo edge past Mavericks

The **Quarter-Finals** of the 22nd **HCL International Bridge Championship** produced their fair share of drama, tension, and brilliance. In the **GOLD** category, two matches went right down to the wire, keeping spectators on the edge of their seats.

**OLIMP** began their match against **Shourie** in dazzling form, storming through the first set 61–2. But Shourie, never a side to wilt under pressure, clawed back magnificently in the third set to erase most of that lead. The final stanza featured a flurry of fascinating boards—two of which are covered in this bulletin. In the end, OLIMP held their nerve to prevail by **138–134**, and book their spot in the semifinals.

**WHAM** and **Dhampur Sugar Mills** were evenly poised after two sets, but from there, the defending champions clicked into overdrive. A commanding performance in the final two sets saw **WHAM** pull clear for a **182–87** victory.

**EA Bridge** displayed trademark control in their **124–89** win over **Texan Aces**, never letting the match slip out of their grasp. The duel between **Mavericks** and **Monica Jajoo** was the thriller of the round, with fortunes swinging from board to board. In the end, **Monica Jajoo** edged home by the slimmest of margins—**112.33–110**—on the very last deal.

In the **SILVER** category, **Nagpur VI** overcame **Ranjan** 106–102 in a contest that stayed close throughout. **Ashok Bedi** outclassed **Chefs Table** 162–117, **Hyderabad Blues** dominated **Gladiators** 129–70, and **ERNIS** swept past **Team Kabra** 149–89 to complete the semifinal lineup.

Meanwhile, in the Matchpoint Pairs, Wojciech Gawel and Piotr Marcinowski continued their fine run, topping the second elimination with 64.91%. Boguslaw Gierulski–Jerzy Skrzypczak (64.21%) and Rajeshwar Tewari–Sumit Mukherjee (63.5%) followed close behind. The third elimination will be played tomorrow.

In the **MP Strata Pairs**, **Kamal Mukherjee–Alok Daga (65.23%)** led the field, ahead of **M. K. Halder – Amitava Banerjee (61.78%)**, who took the runner-up spot.

The championship now enters its defining phase. The margins have narrowed, the tension has risen—and as every player knows, from here on, every card will count.

**BBO 1: OLIMP VS. MONICA JAJOO**  
**BBO 2: WHAM VS. EA BRIDGE**

## GOLD TEAMS KO QUARTER FINAL RESULT

| Table | Team                | C-O  | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | Total  |
|-------|---------------------|------|----|----|----|----|--------|
| 1     | OLIMP               |      | 61 | 28 | 4  | 45 | 138    |
|       | SHOURIE             |      | 2  | 27 | 63 | 42 | 134    |
| 2     | WHAM                |      | 24 | 42 | 40 | 76 | 182    |
|       | DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS |      | 23 | 32 | 12 | 20 | 87     |
| 3     | EA BRIDGE           |      | 47 | 15 | 38 | 24 | 124    |
|       | TEXAN ACES          |      | 6  | 37 | 27 | 19 | 89     |
| 4     | MAVERICKS           |      | 29 | 33 | 28 | 20 | 110    |
|       | MONICA JAJOO        | 1.33 | 27 | 46 | 13 | 25 | 112.33 |

## GOLD TEAMS KO SEMI FINALS

| Table | Team  | Vs | Team         |
|-------|-------|----|--------------|
| 1     | OLIMP | Vs | MONICA JAJOO |
| 2     | WHAM  | Vs | EA BRIDGE    |

## SILVER TEAMS KO QUARTER FINAL RESULT

| Table | Team           | C-O | S 1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | Total |
|-------|----------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| 5     | RANJAN         |     | 31  | 28 | 24 | 19 | 102   |
|       | NAGPUR VI      |     | 25  | 8  | 44 | 29 | 106   |
| 6     | ASHOK BEDI     |     | 28  | 63 | 63 | 38 | 162   |
|       | CHEFS TABLE    |     | 13  | 25 | 31 | 18 | 117   |
| 7     | HYDERABAD BLUE |     | 35  | 43 | 6  | 45 | 129   |
|       | GLADIATORS     |     | 25  | 7  | 28 | 10 | 70    |
| 8     | ERNIS          |     | 45  | 40 | 25 | 39 | 149   |
|       | TEAM KABRA     |     | 23  | 24 | 24 | 18 | 89    |

## SILVER TEAMS KO SEMI FINALS

| Table | Team       | Vs | Team           |
|-------|------------|----|----------------|
| 1     | NAGPUR VI  | Vs | ERNIS          |
| 2     | ASHOK BEDI | Vs | HYDERABAD BLUE |

# Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                    | Match Points | Score % | Pos | No  | Players                                   | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 1   | 108 | Wojciech Gawel<br>Piotr Marcinowski        | 4977.1       | 64.91   | 25  | 47  | Debasish Ray<br>Amar Nath Banerjee        | 4337.6       |         | 56.57       |
| 2   | 127 | Boguslaw Gierulski<br>Jerzy Skrzypczak     | 4923.3       | 64.21   | 26  | 63  | Joyjit Sensarma<br>Hemant Lall            | 4279.4       |         | 55.81       |
| 3   | 14  | Rajeshwar Tewari<br>Sumit Mukherjee        | 4869         | 63.5    | 27  | 123 | Gopika Tandan<br>Arun Jain                | 4277         |         | 55.78       |
| 4   | 37  | Mithun Mukherjee<br>Soumya Das             | 4700.5       | 61.3    | 28  | 54  | Hasibul Hasan<br>Sukanta Das              | 4275.3       |         | 55.76       |
| 5   | 87  | S M Moin<br>Arun Kumar Sinha               | 4629.6       | 60.38   | 29  | 79  | Janak Shah<br>Jayendu Shantilal Patel     | 4269.5       |         | 55.68       |
| 6   | 19  | Wrik Chakraborty<br>Ramprosad Das          | 4607.5       | 60.09   | 30  | 61  | Darshan Patel<br>Girish Hirode            | 4249.6       |         | 55.42       |
| 7   | 48  | Subhash Gupta<br>Sandeep Thakral           | 4567.6       | 59.57   | 31  | 147 | Maneesh Bahuguna<br>Prakash G Hegde       | 4247.4       |         | 55.39       |
| 8   | 105 | Aloke Kumar Sadhu<br>Rajendra Sirohia      | 4563.2       | 59.51   | 32  | 74  | Girish Kumar<br>Naveen Kumar              | 4238.7       |         | 55.28       |
| 9   | 95  | Bhabesh Saha<br>Prasun Kumar Mukherjee     | 4547.7       | 59.31   | 33  | 25  | Rajeev Khandelwal<br>Himani Khandelwal    | 4237.6       |         | 55.26       |
| 10  | 6   | Diana Rakhmani<br>Maxim Semisochenko       | 4546.4       | 59.29   | 34  | 98  | Joydip Mukherjee<br>Jagadish Chandra Bala | 4229         |         | 55.15       |
| 11  | 62  | Satish Diwanji<br>B Daxindas               | 4534.1       | 59.13   | 35  | 69  | Satyabrata Lahiri<br>Vibhas Todi          | 4194.7       |         | 54.7        |
| 12  | 17  | Pijus Kanti Baroi<br>Kannan Krishnamurthy  | 4517.5       | 58.91   | 36  | 91  | Shambhu Nath Ghosh<br>Biswajit Poddar     | 4189.1       |         | 54.63       |
| 13  | 16  | Pinaki Prasad Khan<br>Satyabrata Mukherjee | 4502.3       | 58.72   | 37  | 24  | Sampath Srinivasan<br>Nitin I Shirole     | 4169.6       |         | 54.38       |
| 14  | 8   | Peiyush Jain<br>S K Iyengar                | 4495.3       | 58.62   | 38  | 67  | DK Tewari<br>PC Gupta                     | 4167.3       |         | 54.35       |
| 15  | 23  | Animesh Raj<br>Jaggy Shivdasani            | 4484.9       | 58.49   | 39  | 32  | Prosenjit Manna<br>Bhaskar Sarkar         | 4166.5       |         | 54.34       |
| 16  | 78  | Samir Basak<br>Shankar Acharya             | 4462.6       | 58.2    | 40  | 66  | Anurag Mohota<br>Basant K Mohota          | 4152         |         | 54.15       |
| 17  | 31  | Sandeep N Karmarkar<br>Marianne Karmarkar  | 4439.9       | 57.9    | 41  | 128 | Ashantha De Mel<br>Uttam Swarup Gupta     | 4146         |         | 54.07       |
| 18  | 89  | Gurmit Singh Chadha<br>Rajul R Dalal       | 4431.5       | 57.79   | 42  | 73  | Somesh Bhattacharya<br>Joy Narayan        | 4143.3       |         | 54.03       |
| 19  | 149 | Diego Brenner<br>Paul D Hackett            | 4416.4       | 57.59   | 43  | 137 | R G Bhiwandkar<br>Subhash A Dhakras       | 4136.5       |         | 53.94       |
| 20  | 145 | R Sridharan<br>Vijay R Phatarphekar        | 4384.7       | 57.18   | 44  | 72  | Souvik Kar<br>Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee   | 4122.3       |         | 53.76       |
| 21  | 42  | Rajesh A Dalal<br>Jitendra J Solani        | 4370.2       | 56.99   | 45  | 13  | Biswajit Mahata<br>Subhas Mahato          | 4120.9       |         | 53.74       |
| 22  | 148 | Sapan Desai<br>Debabrata Majumdar          | 4364.7       | 56.92   | 46  | 71  | Anant Vikram Somani<br>Rajesh Somani      | 4101.9       |         | 53.49       |
| 23  | 131 | Abhijit Chakraborty<br>Rana Roy            | 4363.2       | 56.9    | 47  | 115 | J Pratihari<br>I Khan                     | 4087.1       |         | 53.3        |
| 24  | 143 | P Sudhakar Rao<br>Nirmal Kumar Jain        | 4350.5       | 56.74   | 48  | 119 | Vivek Bhand<br>Vikrant Mehta              | 4078.2       |         | 53.18       |

# Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                    | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps | Pos | No  | Players                                     | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 49  | 142 | Cameron Roger Cotton<br>Ajit M Pai         | 4072.2       | 53.11   |             | 73  | 99  | Tapas Das<br>Gautam Chattopadhyay           | 3894.1       | 50.78   |             |
| 50  | 34  | Joyrup Mullick<br>Pranab Roy               | 4071.6       | 53.1    |             | 74  | 94  | Rahul Shetty<br>Mahesh Rohera               | 3892.6       | 50.76   |             |
| 51  | 139 | Saptarshi Chanda<br>Animesh Majumder       | 4057.2       | 52.91   |             | 75  | 55  | N Periasamy<br>B Seenivasagan               | 3882         | 50.63   |             |
| 52  | 111 | Swapan Some<br>Biswadip Roy                | 4056.4       | 52.9    |             | 76  | 77  | Debashis Bhadra<br>Dibyendu Shee            | 3881         | 50.61   |             |
| 53  | 1   | Anil Vijaywargiya<br>Ajit B Chakradeo      | 4050.7       | 52.83   |             | 77  | 4   | Vinay Mohan Lal<br>Avijit Sarkar            | 3878.8       | 50.58   |             |
| 54  | 38  | Mrinal Kanti Mukherjee<br>Sowmik Das       | 4049.3       | 52.81   |             | 78  | 5   | Stanley Nazareth<br>Vinay Sharma            | 3873.6       | 50.52   |             |
| 55  | 155 | Mohan P Damle<br>Vinayak Bhikaji Mulye     | 4046.4       | 52.77   |             | 79  | 106 | Ajoy Sonak<br>Chunni Lal Arora              | 3872.8       | 50.51   |             |
| 56  | 65  | Subrata Chakraborty<br>Ajoy Saha           | 4041.1       | 52.7    |             | 80  | 3   | Vytautas Vainikonis<br>Olanski Wojciech     | 3870.5       | 50.48   |             |
| 57  | 157 | Swapan Sardar<br>Sumit Saha                | 4036         | 52.63   |             | 81  | 152 | Subhransu Patnaik<br>Sanjay Kumar Sondhi    | 3861.4       | 50.36   |             |
| 58  | 2   | Bharat Rao<br>Himanshu Joshi               | 4033.4       | 52.6    |             | 82  | 53  | Kingshuk Bhattacharya<br>Moloy Kumar Mondal | 3844.6       | 50.14   |             |
| 59  | 138 | Samar Kumar Maity<br>Raju Mitra            | 4026         | 52.5    |             | 83  | 75  | Subhajit Choudhury<br>Pradip Dey            | 3843.7       | 50.13   |             |
| 60  | 109 | Mukund Jagannathan<br>Ramaratnam Venkatesh | 4015.7       | 52.37   |             | 84  | 136 | Ramkrishna Majumder<br>Ayan Chatterjee      | 3823.4       | 49.86   |             |
| 61  | 96  | Arya Chakraborty<br>Subir Majumdar         | 4014.7       | 52.36   |             | 85  | 133 | Sanjay Kundu<br>Pradip Mondal               | 3808.9       | 49.67   |             |
| 62  | 101 | Craig Gower<br>Diana Rosslee               | 4007.7       | 52.27   |             | 86  | 132 | Subhash Bhavnani<br>T V Ramani              | 3808.8       | 49.67   |             |
| 63  | 43  | U V Athavale<br>V Ravichandran             | 3985.6       | 51.98   |             | 87  | 125 | Ramaratnam Krishnan<br>Rasika Karunatilake  | 3808.4       | 49.67   |             |
| 64  | 68  | Anal B Shah<br>Jesal Dabriwala             | 3982.4       | 51.93   |             | 88  | 154 | Gopinath Manna<br>Sandip Datta              | 3804.4       | 49.61   |             |
| 65  | 12  | Kaustabh Nandi<br>Sagnik Roy               | 3978.1       | 51.88   |             | 89  | 64  | Pradeep Anand Singh<br>Vijayanand Singh     | 3803.3       | 49.6    |             |
| 66  | 51  | Souvik Saha<br>Sandip Gharai               | 3968.9       | 51.76   |             | 90  | 107 | Atul Dashputre<br>Hemant Pande              | 3790.7       | 49.43   |             |
| 67  | 104 | Dipak K Poddar<br>Namit Sharma             | 3967.5       | 51.74   |             | 91  | 121 | Hasmukh Vidja<br>Ravindra Amritkar          | 3780.1       | 49.3    |             |
| 68  | 57  | Anand W Golwalkar<br>Shailander Kumar      | 3950.9       | 51.52   |             | 92  | 35  | A C Srivastava<br>Roshan Sahay              | 3763.3       | 49.08   |             |
| 69  | 93  | Girish R Bijoor<br>K Durgadas              | 3934.7       | 51.31   |             | 93  | 44  | N Sudhakar Babu<br>Rajendran Ramesh         | 3760         | 49.03   |             |
| 70  | 7   | Tatiana Nokhaeva<br>Aleksandr Piatkov      | 3929.3       | 51.24   |             | 94  | 141 | Sharad Kumar<br>Sanjay Shrivastava          | 3758.7       | 49.02   |             |
| 71  | 122 | Saurav Sil<br>Biplab Dawn                  | 3916.8       | 51.08   |             | 95  | 92  | Pabitra Majumder<br>Mithun Biswas           | 3756.1       | 48.98   |             |
| 72  | 28  | Arvind Vaidya<br>Shubham Acharya           | 3915.1       | 51.06   |             | 96  | 82  | Sayantan Konar<br>Sanjib Majumdar           | 3753.3       | 48.95   |             |

# Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                       | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps | Pos | No  | Players                                               | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 97  | 76  | Kumar Venkataraman<br>Pradeep Deshpande       |              | 3749.5  | 48.9        | 121 | 156 | Pradeep Govil<br>S K Sharma                           |              | 3506.4  | 45.73       |
| 98  | 117 | Tapan Kumar Roy1<br>Tarun Manna               |              | 3745.9  | 48.85       | 122 | 97  | A S Venkatesh<br>Asokan Pitchai                       |              | 3505.7  | 45.72       |
| 99  | 112 | Partha Pritam Pal<br>Mehedi Hasan             |              | 3735.6  | 48.72       | 123 | 26  | Bholanath Dash<br>Sarveswar Bhattacharya              |              | 3486.8  | 45.47       |
| 100 | 46  | R Sreekrishnan<br>Afshar Majeed               |              | 3726.7  | 48.6        | 124 | 124 | N B Shinde<br>Sriram Bhikaji Khanolkar                |              | 3471.9  | 45.28       |
| 101 | 84  | Khaled Hassan<br>Ahmed Alruwayeh              |              | 3715.9  | 48.46       | 125 | 83  | Bijal Shah<br>Sejal Shah                              |              | 3444.5  | 44.92       |
| 102 | 21  | Sourendra Coomer Dutt<br>Raghunath P Tripathi |              | 3705.3  | 48.32       | 126 | 159 | Deepak Srivastava<br>Manish Dixit                     |              | 3426.3  | 44.68       |
| 103 | 59  | Asit Baran Chakraborty<br>Sagar Bhuia         |              | 3697.1  | 48.21       | 127 | 118 | Sachin Shrikrishna Joshi<br>Chintamani Bhikaji Damale |              | 3403.2  | 44.38       |
| 104 | 114 | Goutam Mukherjee<br>Tirthankar Sengupta       |              | 3676.5  | 47.95       | 128 | 102 | Dipak Kumar Paul<br>Alok Kumar Mandal                 |              | 3374.9  | 44.01       |
| 105 | 153 | Anil Sud<br>Deoki Nandan Sinha                |              | 3674.4  | 47.92       | 129 | 85  | Kailash Agarwal<br>Abhay Todankar                     |              | 3346.7  | 43.64       |
| 106 | 126 | Ramendra Chowdhury<br>Ranjan Bose             |              | 3667.3  | 47.83       | 130 | 9   | P Narayan Iyer<br>Aparajitha Iyer                     |              | 3328.2  | 43.4        |
| 107 | 158 | Sunil Das<br>Bhola Nath Ghosh                 |              | 3662.9  | 47.77       | 131 | 45  | Hemant Purkar<br>Chandrashekhar V Kekre               |              | 3310.4  | 43.17       |
| 108 | 151 | Hazur Singh Dhariwal<br>S S Bhullar           |              | 3658.7  | 47.71       | 132 | 135 | M K Bhargava<br>Rajendra Kumar                        |              | 3283.5  | 42.82       |
| 109 | 58  | Anil Mondal<br>Pratap Chandra Ghosh           |              | 3650    | 47.6        | 133 | 52  | Subrata Sarkar<br>Debabrata Ray                       |              | 3274    | 42.7        |
| 110 | 88  | B P S Pai<br>Raj Madnani                      |              | 3644.3  | 47.53       | 134 | 113 | Anup Kumar Mahajan<br>Hemkanti Talukdar               |              | 3271.1  | 42.66       |
| 111 | 129 | A S Gupta<br>V Krishnan                       |              | 3633.1  | 47.38       | 135 | 36  | Pankaj P Chaudharl<br>Pintu Sao                       |              | 3262.4  | 42.55       |
| 112 | 33  | Rajendra V Mekal<br>Gaurav Rajwade            |              | 3624.6  | 47.27       | 136 | 49  | J K Bhosale<br>P D Joshi                              |              | 3229    | 42.11       |
| 113 | 39  | Bipul Kumar Roy<br>Amar Kumar Bose            |              | 3618.7  | 47.19       | 137 | 56  | Uday Ghoshal<br>Saurendranath Chakrabarti             |              | 3226.7  | 42.08       |
| 114 | 144 | Abhishek Mitra<br>Gautam Chatterjee           |              | 3612.2  | 47.11       | 138 | 29  | R K Pradhan<br>Sankarsan Behera                       |              | 3172.6  | 41.37       |
| 115 | 103 | R Chandramohan<br>R N Subramaniam             |              | 3608.1  | 47.05       | 139 | 15  | Satchidananda Nayak<br>D N Behera                     |              | 3165.5  | 41.28       |
| 116 | 41  | Pandu Chedalavada<br>Srinivas Kachibhatla     |              | 3600.8  | 46.96       | 140 | 11  | Prakash Achar<br>V M Gupta                            |              | 3161    | 41.22       |
| 117 | 86  | Madhav A Kshirsagar<br>Kanad V Javahire       |              | 3545.6  | 46.24       | 141 | 146 | Kumares Ghosh<br>Sumit Santra                         |              | 3129.1  | 40.81       |
| 118 | 116 | C P Agarwal<br>Mukul Goel                     |              | 3536.9  | 46.12       | 142 | 81  | Prabir Das<br>Bapi Das                                |              | 3090.9  | 40.31       |
| 119 | 22  | Aman Tyagi<br>Kinjal Desai                    |              | 3530.2  | 46.04       | 143 | 27  | C Sathish Kumar<br>S Srinivasan                       |              | 2635    | 34.36       |
| 120 | 134 | Hatinder Panwar<br>Atulya Sood                |              | 3519.7  | 45.9        |     |     |                                                       |              |         |             |

# ProAm Pairs Draw

Sanjit Dey -Rahul Khambete  
Binod Kumar Shaw - Sejal Shah  
Jerzy Skrzypczak - Bindiya Judge  
Wojciech Gawel - Petar Ljubicic  
Piotr Marcinowski - Mukund Jagannathan  
Olanski Wojciech - Subrata Sadhukhan  
Vytautas Vainikonis - Suresh Senapaty  
Tor Eivind Grude - Santanu Chakraborty  
Subhash Gupta - Anshul Singhal  
Sayantan Kushari - Prasad V Keni  
Sandeep Thakral - Arjun Sawhny  
Rajeshwar Tewari - Ayan Mondal  
Paul Hackett - Kannan Krishnamurthy  
Mike Brown - S Vijayraghavan  
Michael Whibley - J K Bhosale  
Debabrata Majumder - Sailaja Tahiliani  
Keyzad Anklesaria - N Sudhakar Babu  
Kaustabh Nandi - Arun Kumar Sinha  
Jaggy Shivdasani - Anal B Shah  
Hemant Lall - Ramprosad Das  
Christian BAKKE - Maneesh Bahuguna  
Ami Zamir - Pijus Kanti Baroi  
Kiran Nadar - B. Satyanarayana  
Monica Jajoo - Sumit Mukherjee  
Richa Shriram - Boye Brogeland  
Subodh Maskara - Oren Toledano

# Results : Matchpoint Strata Pairs - Session 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                          | Match Points | Score % | Pos | No  | Players                                      | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 1   | 85  | Kamal Krishna Mukherjee<br>Alok Daga             | 4362.7       | 65.23   | 27  | 61  | Sukalyan Sarkar<br>Ashim Chandra Karmakar    | 3705.8       | 55.41   |             |
| 2   | 209 | M K Halder<br>Amitava Banerjee                   | 4131.5       | 61.78   | 28  | 90  | Prabir Kumar Thakur<br>Srithar R             | 3696.7       | 55.27   |             |
| 3   | 242 | J B Sengupta<br>Prakash Bhandari                 | 4116.1       | 61.55   | 29  | 5   | Kunal Jaiswal<br>Sujata Puranik Rakhra       | 3687.3       | 55.13   |             |
| 4   | 226 | Kishore Das<br>Debobrata Mondal                  | 4072.2       | 60.89   | 30  | 187 | Gourav Biswas<br>Pulak Panji                 | 3638.9       | 54.41   |             |
| 5   | 270 | Yatindra Sahae<br>Gustav Axen                    | 4055.8       | 60.64   | 31  | 45  | Sailaja Tahiliani<br>Pradip Ghosh            | 3624.1       | 54.19   |             |
| 6   | 231 | Prithviraj Ghosh<br>Kalyan Kumar Roy             | 3995.4       | 59.74   | 32  | 167 | Rana Chakraborty<br>Kajal Chandra Das        | 3620.6       | 54.14   |             |
| 7   | 122 | Kamna Sharma<br>Abhijit Pal                      | 3993         | 59.7    | 33  | 149 | Amit Nangpal<br>Indrajit Sensarma            | 3619.1       | 54.11   |             |
| 8   | 129 | Anupam Ghosh<br>Tapas Kumar Chaudhuri            | 3977.4       | 59.47   | 34  | 87  | Ashok K Sinha<br>Mini Agarwal                | 3604.5       | 53.89   |             |
| 9   | 29  | Prasanta Bera<br>Vivekananda Ghosh               | 3970         | 59.36   | 35  | 185 | Sudhir Arya<br>Pulak Murarka                 | 3598.4       | 53.8    |             |
| 10  | 43  | Yogesh B Shah<br>Shrikant B Tembey               | 3969.6       | 59.35   | 36  | 183 | Shantanu Rastogi<br>Tribhuvan Prasad Khare   | 3591.5       | 53.7    |             |
| 11  | 131 | Bhanumati Shah<br>Kamal Shah                     | 3966         | 59.3    | 37  | 248 | Amit Pal<br>Swarup Ghosh                     | 3581.9       | 53.56   |             |
| 12  | 27  | Amol Deshmukh<br>V Chandrasekhar                 | 3878.3       | 57.99   | 38  | 7   | Asim Saha<br>Smita Govilkar                  | 3575.3       | 53.46   |             |
| 13  | 266 | Amarjit Wadhawan<br>Nikita Kamal                 | 3777.1       | 56.48   | 39  | 265 | Jenish Shah<br>Milind Panandikar             | 3575         | 53.45   |             |
| 14  | 162 | K K Sabherwal<br>Arun Jain                       | 3777         | 56.47   | 40  | 141 | Pritam Das<br>Anindra Kumar Sarkar           | 3572.7       | 53.42   |             |
| 15  | 106 | Mathew Chandy<br>Soham Sarkar                    | 3759.7       | 56.22   | 41  | 262 | Atanu Ganguly<br>Suren Mewar                 | 3556.6       | 53.18   |             |
| 16  | 208 | Sanjay Amist<br>Deepak Kothiwal                  | 3758.7       | 56.2    | 42  | 83  | Amitava Mukherjee<br>Pradip Gupta            | 3553         | 53.12   |             |
| 17  | 44  | Rupa Bakeri<br>Aparna Sain                       | 3755.6       | 56.15   | 43  | 188 | Swetadri Saha<br>Krishna Das Chakraborty     | 3545.3       | 53.01   |             |
| 18  | 22  | Sisir Kumar Banerjee<br>Protap Bandyopadhyay     | 3755.4       | 56.15   | 44  | 210 | Parimal N Shah<br>Amitabh Raturi             | 3542.8       | 52.97   |             |
| 19  | 130 | M J R Vasudevan<br>M Vasanth Pai                 | 3755         | 56.15   | 45  | 67  | Aritra Bhattacharya<br>Pradyut Bhattacharjee | 3542.4       | 52.97   |             |
| 20  | 206 | Ratan Lal Sanghi<br>Sunil Kumar Sinha            | 3738.6       | 55.9    | 46  | 71  | Md Sahajahan<br>Santanu Das                  | 3542.1       | 52.96   |             |
| 21  | 66  | Subramanian Karuppannan<br>Guru Shankar Sundaram | 3738.3       | 55.9    | 47  | 145 | Ranjan Bhattacharjee<br>Tapan Kumar Roy1     | 3537.1       | 52.89   |             |
| 22  | 47  | Prakash Gupta<br>Dilip Mistry                    | 3733.6       | 55.83   | 48  | 245 | Uma Rajesh<br>S Vijayraghavan                | 3536.7       | 52.88   |             |
| 23  | 111 | Soumitra Chakraborty<br>Mrityunjay Dey           | 3727.3       | 55.73   | 49  | 147 | Asvin Ganger<br>Kausar Hasan Syed            | 3529.9       | 52.78   |             |
| 24  | 102 | Chanchal Dass<br>Saswata Ballav                  | 3725.2       | 55.7    | 50  | 182 | R N Kundu<br>Anirudh Ghosh                   | 3525         | 52.71   |             |
| 25  | 241 | Rajendra Ray<br>Arnab Ghosh                      | 3718.2       | 55.6    | 51  | 189 | A K Patwardhan<br>Madhav K Agashe            | 3519.2       | 52.62   |             |
| 26  | 23  | Ram Pal Rehan<br>Vinai Kumar Gupta               | 3711.3       | 55.49   | 52  | 201 | Savleen Thadani<br>Rahul Khambete            | 3517.7       | 52.6    |             |

# Results : Matchpoint Strata Pairs - Session 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                      | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 53  | 184 | Chandan Chowdhury<br>Sanjay Raha             | 3513.3       | 52.53   |             |
| 54  | 10  | Edward Perera<br>Romesh Bandaranaike         | 3510.7       | 52.49   |             |
| 55  | 228 | Biswajit Mukherjee<br>Samir Bhattacharya     | 3506.1       | 52.42   |             |
| 56  | 28  | Sunil Misra<br>S K Gautam                    | 3503.7       | 52.39   |             |
| 57  | 50  | Ajit Mukherjee<br>Gautam Aich                | 3498.1       | 52.3    |             |
| 58  | 170 | Sudeep Saha<br>Aloke Kumar Sardar            | 3484.3       | 52.1    |             |
| 59  | 143 | Kalpna Gurjar<br>Vidhya Patel                | 3467.1       | 51.84   |             |
| 60  | 222 | Suchet Dhar<br>Ashim Kumar Ghosh             | 3458.9       | 51.72   |             |
| 61  | 81  | Tapan Kumar Roy1<br>Shyama Prasad Banerjee   | 3454.6       | 51.65   |             |
| 62  | 31  | Subir Kumar Chaudhuri<br>Kishore Kanti Roy   | 3453.5       | 51.64   |             |
| 63  | 2   | Tutun Banerjee<br>Arijit Chattaraj           | 3449.2       | 51.57   |             |
| 64  | 251 | Sundar Shekar Polavaram<br>Vijay Ramchandran | 3435.1       | 51.36   |             |
| 65  | 181 | Dilip Kumar Borpuzari<br>Shekhar Banerjee    | 3431.2       | 51.3    |             |
| 66  | 190 | Md. Shahidul Islam<br>Shathi Rangan Dey      | 3431.1       | 51.3    |             |
| 67  | 169 | Abha Chaturvedi<br>Mohan Jhala               | 3427.5       | 51.25   |             |
| 68  | 1   | Ashis Malhotra<br>Hemant K Jalan             | 3426.7       | 51.24   |             |
| 69  | 9   | Arabinda Kumar Mishra<br>V Ravindran         | 3419.2       | 51.12   |             |
| 70  | 104 | Wilson Menezes<br>Thakur Hingorani           | 3411.6       | 51.01   |             |
| 71  | 144 | Tonmoy Ghosh<br>Suraj Das                    | 3404.1       | 50.9    |             |
| 72  | 142 | Priyotosh Sarkar<br>Jayanta Dutta            | 3402.5       | 50.88   |             |
| 73  | 48  | Manoj Das<br>Kedar Nath Shaw                 | 3402         | 50.87   |             |
| 74  | 25  | V A Phapunkar<br>Girish Mujumdar             | 3387.7       | 50.65   |             |
| 75  | 125 | Bhalchandra G Ogale<br>Prasanna M Bhide      | 3370.8       | 50.4    |             |
| 76  | 91  | Puneet Gangal<br>Ibrat Khan                  | 3370.2       | 50.39   |             |
| 77  | 267 | Pramod Ranjan Das<br>Suvasish Dasgupta       | 3370         | 50.39   |             |
| 78  | 203 | Ramesh Kumar<br>Panchanan Kar                | 3366.7       | 50.34   |             |

| Pos | No  | Players                                     | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 79  | 243 | Smita Jindal<br>Velupillai Balakumar        | 3360.7       | 50.25   |             |
| 80  | 63  | Arnab Guha<br>Bijon Kumar Mondal            | 3358.5       | 50.22   |             |
| 81  | 105 | Tapas Kumar Roy<br>Bijit Datta              | 3357.5       | 50.2    |             |
| 82  | 101 | Santi Ranjan Dutta<br>Tapan Kr Bhattacharya | 3355.7       | 50.18   |             |
| 83  | 269 | Prasanta Dutta<br>Prabir Kumar Paul         | 3354.7       | 50.16   |             |
| 84  | 3   | Paban Agarwal<br>Kalindi Mewar              | 3346.4       | 50.04   |             |
| 85  | 103 | R Anbazhagan<br>Sarika Mittal               | 3339.8       | 49.94   |             |
| 86  | 4   | Deepak Malhotra<br>Deepika Mehta            | 3338.6       | 49.92   |             |
| 87  | 62  | Suman Sengupta<br>Shouvik Das               | 3327.4       | 49.75   |             |
| 88  | 207 | Nirav Patel<br>D V Ravi                     | 3320.7       | 49.65   |             |
| 89  | 127 | Rajat Dutta<br>Cera Fernando                | 3318.9       | 49.62   |             |
| 90  | 108 | S K Sharma<br>Jitendra Pandey               | 3318.1       | 49.61   |             |
| 91  | 205 | Alka Jain<br>Devi Muthu Bhatnagar           | 3310.9       | 49.51   |             |
| 92  | 230 | Prithvi Raj<br>P K Bandhu                   | 3310         | 49.49   |             |
| 93  | 164 | Rohit Rai Tandon<br>Aakash Sharma           | 3309.4       | 49.48   |             |
| 94  | 227 | Raj Kumar Srivastava<br>Arjun Srivastava    | 3289.3       | 49.18   |             |
| 95  | 41  | Vijay Deshpande<br>Vrinda Jhunjhunwala      | 3287.1       | 49.15   |             |
| 96  | 110 | Asis Tosh<br>Shiba Prasad Samaddar          | 3284.2       | 49.11   |             |
| 97  | 26  | Netai Pada Kabiraj<br>Achintya Halder       | 3283.5       | 49.1    |             |
| 98  | 163 | Ratna Tedapali<br>Subhrajit Mukherjee       | 3283.2       | 49.09   |             |
| 99  | 86  | Daljeet Marwah<br>Kalpna Varshney           | 3273.7       | 48.95   |             |
| 100 | 211 | Jyotirmoy Dey<br>Ajoy Baruah                | 3267.6       | 48.86   |             |
| 101 | 150 | G P Agarwal<br>Anil Kumar Upadhyay          | 3261.6       | 48.77   |             |
| 102 | 21  | Anukul Mandal<br>Ambrish Wadera             | 3252.4       | 48.63   |             |
| 103 | 128 | Ravi Kaul<br>Vasanti Shah                   | 3247.2       | 48.55   |             |
| 104 | 223 | Umesh Ram<br>J P Singh                      | 3231.2       | 48.31   |             |

# Results : Matchpoint Strata Pairs - Session 2

| Pos | No  | Players                                      | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps | Pos | No  | Players                                              | Match Points | Score % | Session Mps |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| 105 | 88  | Bhalender Singh Nayyar<br>Bubbles Bawa       |              | 3204.1  | 47.91       | 131 | 165 | Anjali Malhotra<br>Vijay Kumar                       |              | 2964.4  | 44.32       |
| 106 | 202 | Ravi Raman<br>Ivan Alphonso                  |              | 3201.1  | 47.86       | 132 | 107 | Joy Saikia<br>Gautam Sarma                           |              | 2957.9  | 44.23       |
| 107 | 146 | Shibashish Barik<br>Debashis Majumdar        |              | 3198.7  | 47.83       | 133 | 168 | Amol Athawale<br>A L Sancheti                        |              | 2935.8  | 43.9        |
| 108 | 166 | Ashok Dugar<br>Rajesh Kumar Kabu             |              | 3198.6  | 47.83       | 134 | 24  | Ashok Kumar Sinha<br>Manjeet Sodhi                   |              | 2927.9  | 43.78       |
| 109 | 225 | Sunandan Thakur<br>Rakesh Kr Govil           |              | 3177.2  | 47.51       | 135 | 161 | Pradip Kumar Sen Sharma<br>Kalyan Roy Chowdhury      |              | 2920    | 43.66       |
| 110 | 70  | Sudipta Adhikary<br>Babhrubahan Bose         |              | 3145    | 47.02       | 136 | 268 | Tapas Das 1<br>Subrata Chatterjee                    |              | 2898.6  | 43.34       |
| 111 | 263 | Sanat Roy<br>Sumit Bhattacharjee             |              | 3143.2  | 47          | 137 | 124 | A K Guha<br>Bidyut Goswami                           |              | 2889.9  | 43.21       |
| 112 | 65  | Prasanta Basu Ray<br>Asim Sarkar             |              | 3132    | 46.83       | 138 | 271 | H L Tripathi<br>Sunil Kumar                          |              | 2879.5  | 43.06       |
| 113 | 151 | Hari Narayan<br>Balai Paul                   |              | 3131    | 46.81       | 139 | 249 | Usha Joshi<br>Birendra Kumar                         |              | 2826.6  | 42.26       |
| 114 | 186 | Ranga Khadloya<br>Ajit Saldhana              |              | 3127.7  | 46.77       | 140 | 148 | Asit Kumar Bandopadhyaya<br>Bijan Kumar Bandopadhyay |              | 2811.5  | 42.04       |
| 115 | 69  | Ramesh Srinivas<br>Deepak Pramanik           |              | 3124.5  | 46.72       | 141 | 246 | Aroon Birla<br>R P Shivhare                          |              | 2805.2  | 41.94       |
| 116 | 82  | Vivekanand Patki<br>Ashish Nandanwar         |              | 3112.7  | 46.54       | 142 | 6   | Anushree Jalan<br>Indranath Chatterjee               |              | 2787.6  | 41.68       |
| 117 | 51  | Rajendra Prasad Misra<br>Vijay Singh         |              | 3103.7  | 46.41       | 143 | 123 | Subrata Sadhukhan<br>Sumathi Iyer                    |              | 2785.6  | 41.65       |
| 118 | 126 | Shankar Chatterjee<br>Rakesh Bagga           |              | 3058.7  | 45.73       | 144 | 68  | Tapan Kr Sen<br>Sanjay Banerjee                      |              | 2784.5  | 41.63       |
| 119 | 244 | Deepa Jacob<br>Pallab Sinha Roy              |              | 3058.3  | 45.73       | 145 | 224 | Pradeep R Rathi<br>Subhadra P Rathi                  |              | 2707.2  | 40.48       |
| 120 | 221 | Koushik Mukherjee1<br>Sajal Banerjee         |              | 3045.5  | 45.54       | 146 | 30  | Arup Kumar Hudait<br>Prosenjit Roy Sarkar            |              | 2661.5  | 39.8        |
| 121 | 42  | Suresh Senapaty<br>H Anjaneya Swamy          |              | 3040.1  | 45.46       | 147 | 11  | Maheswar Pradhan<br>A Martand Rao                    |              | 2659.5  | 39.77       |
| 122 | 64  | Dilip Kr Sarma<br>Dharma Narayan Bordoloi    |              | 3035.8  | 45.39       | 148 | 8   | Nag Bhusan Rao<br>Rabindra Kumar Singh               |              | 2608.8  | 39.01       |
| 123 | 204 | Arup Lodh<br>Gautam Kumar Chanda             |              | 3035    | 45.38       | 149 | 84  | Nirmal Raja<br>Mohan Nair                            |              | 2606.7  | 38.98       |
| 124 | 49  | Gopi Kant Tiwari<br>Sudhir Kumar Agrawal     |              | 3012.4  | 45.04       | 150 | 112 | Rakesh Ranjan<br>S K Verma                           |              | 2590    | 38.73       |
| 125 | 247 | M Gopal<br>Sudhir Iyer                       |              | 3009.4  | 45          | 151 | 264 | M Venkatesan<br>C K Madheswaran                      |              | 2580.7  | 38.59       |
| 126 | 261 | Subashish Gope<br>Devangshu Datta            |              | 3005.8  | 44.94       | 152 | 171 | Preeti Jhalani<br>Abani Baruah                       |              | 2572.3  | 38.46       |
| 127 | 46  | Sunil Desai<br>Yogeshwar Banavali            |              | 3003.2  | 44.9        | 153 | 109 | A N Sahai<br>Sanjiv Sahay                            |              | 2534.7  | 37.9        |
| 128 | 229 | Sanat Kumar Saha<br>Shyama Prasad Chatterjee |              | 2991.7  | 44.73       | 154 | 250 | Jaya Bhandari<br>Rama Khanna                         |              | 2484.5  | 37.15       |
| 129 | 191 | Somnath Mitra<br>Braja Gopal Dey             |              | 2983.1  | 44.6        | 155 | 121 | Jignesh Parikh<br>Saurabh Dalal                      |              | 2470.9  | 36.95       |
| 130 | 89  | Deepak Ramnani<br>K P Baskaran               |              | 2982.8  | 44.6        |     |     |                                                      |              |         |             |

## Atmanirbhar Monica Jajoo team through to the Semi-Finals

Two Quarter-Final matches in the GOLD category went to the wire. We have covered part of the OLIMP vs Shourie match in a separate article. OLIMP won 138-134. Monica Jajoo team (Monica Jajoo, Sukamal Das, Binod Shaw, Sanjit Dey, Kaustubh Bendre, and Sayanta Kushari) vs. Mavericks (NPC Anal Shah, Subodh Maskara, Boye Brogeland, Keyzad Anklesaria, Ami Zamir, Oren Toledano, and Aniruddha Bhattacharya) was the other.

Monica Jajoo trailed Mavericks 87.33-90 at the end of the third set. Mavericks added a big chunk to that slender lead when Sanjit-Binod failed to bid 7♥ on Board 15. In the Closed room, Toledano's 6♣ reply seems to have shown a Club void with two Key Cards. That was all West needed for a Grand Slam after a ♥ fit was found.

|                       |  |           |  |                  |  |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|--|------------------|--|
| 15                    |  | N KEYZAD  |  | W N E S          |  |
|                       |  | ♠ J7652   |  | 1♥ P 3♠ P        |  |
|                       |  | ♥ K8764   |  | 4NT P 5♥ P       |  |
|                       |  | ♦ 86      |  | 5NT P 6♥ P       |  |
|                       |  |           |  | P P              |  |
| W SANJIT              |  | ♥6        |  | E BINOD          |  |
| ♠ K3                  |  |           |  | ♠ AQ4            |  |
| ♥ KQ10942             |  |           |  | ♥ AJ85           |  |
| ♦ A                   |  |           |  | ♦ J109532        |  |
| ♣ AQ109               |  |           |  | ♣                |  |
|                       |  | S BOYE    |  |                  |  |
|                       |  | ♠ 1098    |  |                  |  |
|                       |  | ♥ 73      |  |                  |  |
|                       |  | ♦ Q       |  |                  |  |
|                       |  | ♣ KJ75432 |  |                  |  |
| Other table: 7♥E=     |  |           |  | 6♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0 |  |
| NS: MAVERICKS 90 IMPs |  |           |  |                  |  |
| EW: MONICA 87 IMPs    |  |           |  |                  |  |

|                       |  |              |  |            |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|--|------------|--|
| 15                    |  | N SAYANTAN   |  | W N E S    |  |
| D                     |  | ♠ J7652      |  | 1♠ P 2♥ P  |  |
|                       |  | ♥ 6          |  | 2NT P 3♥ P |  |
|                       |  | ♦ K8764      |  | 3NT P 4♠ P |  |
|                       |  | ♣ 86         |  | 4NT P 6♠ P |  |
|                       |  |              |  | 7♥ P P P   |  |
| W AMI ZAMIR           |  |              |  | E TOLEDANO |  |
| ♠ K3                  |  |              |  | ♠ AQ4      |  |
| ♥ KQ10942             |  |              |  | ♥ AJ85     |  |
| ♦ A                   |  | ♠10          |  | ♦ J109532  |  |
| ♣ AQ109               |  |              |  | ♣          |  |
|                       |  | S KAUSTUBH B |  |            |  |
|                       |  | ♠ 98         |  |            |  |
|                       |  | ♥ 73         |  |            |  |
|                       |  | ♦ Q          |  |            |  |
|                       |  | ♣ KJ75432    |  |            |  |
| Other table: 6♥W+1    |  |              |  |            |  |
| NS: MONICA 87 IMPs    |  |              |  |            |  |
| EW: MAVERICKS 90 IMPs |  |              |  |            |  |
| 7♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0      |  |              |  |            |  |

Binod's 3♠ bid seems to be a proxy for a splinter in Clubs. Either that, or it showed some short suit that Sanjit did not care to find out about. Furthermore, the reply to 4Nt did not unearth the void Club. Sanjit signed off in 6♥. Monica Jajoo team lost 11 IMPs.

They recovered all those 11 IMPs in the next two boards. Next board featured a 1-level contract in both the rooms. Card play and defence alone caused a swing. In the Open Room, ♥2 was led against Sanjit's 1Nt. Dummy played small. Boye, judging to place the ♥T with North, decided to flout the 'third hand highest' rule and played the ♥9. Sanjit won, conceded a small Diamond, and easily scored seven tricks for +90.

|                        |  |               |  |                   |  |
|------------------------|--|---------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <div>16</div>          |  | N KEYZAD      |  | W N E S           |  |
|                        |  | ♠ A82         |  | 1♦ P 1♥ P         |  |
|                        |  | ♥ K87         |  | 1NT P P P         |  |
|                        |  | ♦ QJ9         |  |                   |  |
|                        |  | ♣ K84         |  |                   |  |
| W SANJIT               |  | <div>♥2</div> |  | E BINOD           |  |
| ♠ 974                  |  |               |  | ♠ J65             |  |
| ♥ 103                  |  |               |  | ♥ AJ54            |  |
| ♦ AK743                |  |               |  | ♦ 102             |  |
| ♣ AQ2                  |  |               |  | ♣ 10763           |  |
|                        |  | S BOYE        |  |                   |  |
|                        |  | ♠ KQ103       |  |                   |  |
|                        |  | ♥ Q96         |  |                   |  |
|                        |  | ♦ 865         |  |                   |  |
|                        |  | ♣ J95         |  |                   |  |
| Other table: 1♠S=      |  |               |  | 1NT W NS: 0 EW: 0 |  |
| NS: MAVERICKS 101 IMPs |  |               |  |                   |  |
| EW: MONICA 87 IMPs     |  |               |  |                   |  |

|                                   |                                   |                                    |                                     |                  |   |    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|----|
| 16                                | N SAYANTAN                        |                                    | W N E S                             |                  |   |    |
|                                   | ♠ A82<br>♥ K872<br>♦ QJ9<br>♣ K84 |                                    | 1♦                                  | X                | P | 1♠ |
| W AMI ZAMIR                       |                                   | ♦ A                                | P                                   | P                | P |    |
| ♠ 974<br>♥ 103<br>♦ K743<br>♣ AQ2 |                                   |                                    | E TOLEDANO                          |                  |   |    |
|                                   |                                   |                                    | ♠ J65<br>♥ AJ54<br>♦ 102<br>♣ 10763 |                  |   |    |
|                                   |                                   | S KAUSTUBH B                       |                                     |                  |   |    |
|                                   |                                   | ♠ KQ103<br>♥ Q96<br>♦ 865<br>♣ J95 |                                     |                  |   |    |
| Other table: 1NTW=                |                                   |                                    |                                     | 1♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0 |   |    |
| NS: MONICA 87 IMPs                |                                   |                                    |                                     |                  |   |    |
| EW: MAVERICKS 101 IMPs            |                                   |                                    |                                     |                  |   |    |

In the Closed Room, Sayantan doubled, Kaustubh Bendre took out to 1♠ and played there. West cashed top Diamonds and played a third Diamond for East to ruff. Toledano had to choose his next play between the black suits. A trump would have been harmless for the defence. A Club seemed superficially harmless, but it weakened defenders' Club suit from a pre-frozen state to a frozen suit. The trick went ♣7-♣5-♣A-♣4. Ami Zamir now switched to a trump. Kaustubh Bendre drew three rounds of trumps and played a Heart to ♥King. Toledano won ♥A and played a small Heart. Kaustubh won and endplayed Toledano in the following position.

|                                                                                               |                                                                                   |                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>16</div>                                                                                 | <div>N SAYANTAN</div> <div>♠ 8</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦</div> <div>♣ K8</div>    | <div>W N E S</div> <div>1+ X P 1♠</div> <div>P P P</div>                       |
| <div>W AMI ZAMIR</div> <div>♠</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦ 7</div> <div>♣ Q2</div>               | <div>♥ 7</div> <div>♦ 4</div> <div>♥ J</div> <div>♥ 9</div>                       | <div>E TOLEDANO</div> <div>♠</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦</div> <div>♣ 1063</div> |
| <div>Other table: 1NTW=</div> <div>NS: MONICA 87 IMPs</div> <div>EW: MAVERICKS 101 IMPs</div> | <div>S KAUSTUBH B</div> <div>♠ 10</div> <div>♥</div> <div>♦</div> <div>♣ J9</div> | <div>1♠ S NS: 4 EW: 6</div>                                                    |

Toledano had to open the Club suit and allow Kaustubh to finesse against his ♣Ten. Kaustubh made last two tricks for +80 to North-South. Add the 90 from the Open Room. Monica Jajoo won five IMPs on that board.

On Board 17, Keyzad-Boye overshot to 4♥. Boye opened 1♣ in the third seat, Keyzad showed Hearts with his 1♦ response, Binod now chipped in with a 1♠ overcall, and Boye doubled to show three Hearts, a la support double. Sanjit bid 2♥ to show a top-of-the-range passed hand and good Spade support. Keyzad doubled to show good Hearts and Binod retreated to 2♠. That was the limit of the hand. For some reason, Boye pressed on with a 3♣ bid holding five Clubs without any of the three top honours. He did pass Keyzad's 3♥, but they couldn't let 3♠ stand.

|                                                                    |  |                                    |  |                                                               |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 17                                                                 |  | N KEYZAD                           |  | W N E S                                                       |  |
|                                                                    |  | ♠ 52<br>♥ AQ1085<br>♦ 875<br>♣ 985 |  | P P P 1♠<br>P 1♦ 1♠ X<br>2♥ X 2♠ 3♣<br>P 3♥ P P<br>3♣ 4♠ P 4♥ |  |
| W SANJIT                                                           |  |                                    |  | E BINOD                                                       |  |
| ♠ K1076<br>♥ 976<br>♦ QJ3<br>♣ AK6                                 |  |                                    |  | ♠ AQJ3<br>♥ 43<br>♦ 109642<br>♣ Q3                            |  |
|                                                                    |  | S BOYE                             |  |                                                               |  |
|                                                                    |  | ♠ 984<br>♥ KJ2<br>♦ AK<br>♣ J10742 |  |                                                               |  |
| Other table: 3♥N-1<br>NS: MAVERICKS 101 IMPs<br>EW: MONICA 92 IMPs |  |                                    |  | 4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0                                              |  |

X P P P

Keyzad bid 4♣ on 3♠ and North-South ended up in 4♥. Sanjit doubled. (The last round is not visible in the main box that shows the bidding. It is attached as an extra to the diagram.)

4♥ went down two for 300 to East-West. In the Closed Room the bidding was crisp and the contract was an undoubled 3♥ going one down. Monica Jajoo earned six IMPs on the board. The scores, at the end of Board 17, were Monica Jajoo: 98.33, Mavericks: 101.

|                        |  |              |         |                  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--------------|---------|------------------|--|--|--|
| 17                     |  | N SAYANTAN   | W N E S |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♠ 52         | 2♥ P 3♥ |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♥ AQ1085     | P P P   |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♦ 875        |         |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♣ 985        |         |                  |  |  |  |
| W AMI ZAMIR            |  |              |         | E TOLEDANO       |  |  |  |
| ♠ K1076                |  |              |         | ♠ AQJ3           |  |  |  |
| ♥ 976                  |  |              |         | ♥ 43             |  |  |  |
| ♦ QJ3                  |  |              |         | ♦ 109642         |  |  |  |
| ♣ AK6                  |  |              |         | ♣ Q3             |  |  |  |
|                        |  | S KAUSTUBH B |         |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♠ 984        |         |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♥ KJ2        |         |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♦ AK         |         |                  |  |  |  |
|                        |  | ♣ J10742     |         |                  |  |  |  |
| Other table: 4♥xN-2    |  |              |         | 3♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0 |  |  |  |
| NS: MONICA 92 IMPs     |  |              |         |                  |  |  |  |
| EW: MAVERICK: 101 IMPs |  |              |         |                  |  |  |  |

The next scores, in IMP terms, were 0,0,1,3,-2,0,0,0 from Maverick's point of view. At the end of Board 25, the scores were Monica Jajoo:100.33, Mavericks: 105. Board 26 produced a swing that turned the match. The bidding was routine. Sanjit bid 4♠ after finding the 5-3 Spade fit via a checkback 2♦ bid. Keyzad led a small Heart. Sanjit played small from Dummy. Boye won and tabled the ♦ Ace, perhaps, in a moment of lapse. The contract was cold after that.

|                        |          |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|------------------------|----------|------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| <div>26</div>          | N KEYZAD |      | W N E S   |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♠ 64     |      | 1♦ X      |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♥ 85     |      | P P       |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♦ J43    |      | 2♦ P 2♣ P |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♣ J10542 |      | 4♣ P P P  |           |  |  |  |
| W SANJIT               | ♠ KQ532  |      | E BINOD   |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♥ J76    |      | ♠ 1097    |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♦ 106    |      | ♥ AQ102   |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♣ AQ9    |      | ♦ K982    |           |  |  |  |
|                        |          |      | ♣ K7      |           |  |  |  |
|                        |          | ♥ 3  |           |           |  |  |  |
| S BOYE                 | ♠ AJ8    |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♥ K94    |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♦ AQ75   |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|                        | ♣ 863    |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|                        |          |      |           |           |  |  |  |
| Other table: 4♠W-1     |          |      |           |           |  |  |  |
| NS: MAVERICKS 105 IMPs |          |      |           |           |  |  |  |
| EW: MONICA 100 IMPs    |          |      |           |           |  |  |  |
|                        |          | 4♠ W |           | NS: 0 EW: |  |  |  |

In the Closed Room, Kaustubh Bendre employed a technique perfected by Thorale Bajirao, the famous warrior of Pune who never lost a battle. He often severed enemy's supply lines if the enemy was well-ensconced in a place and too strong to tackle directly. The contract was the same as in the Open Room. Sayantan also led a small Heart. Kaustubh won and returned a Heart. Zamir won in Dummy and played a Spade to the ♠ Queen. He needed to play Spades from Dummy once more. He made the mistake of using the ♣ King entry for that play.

|                                                                    |                                    |                                     |         |             |     |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------|-----|---|
| 26 D                                                               | N SAYANTAN                         |                                     | W N E S |             |     |   |
|                                                                    | ♠ 64<br>♥ 85<br>♦ J43<br>♣ J10542  |                                     | 1♠      | P           | 1NT | P |
| W AMI ZAMIR                                                        | ♥ 3                                |                                     | 2♣      | P           | 2♦  | P |
|                                                                    | ♠ KQ532<br>♥ J76<br>♦ 106<br>♣ AQ9 |                                     | 3NT     | P           | 4♣  | P |
|                                                                    |                                    | E TOLEDANO                          |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | ♠ 1097<br>♥ AQ102<br>♦ K982<br>♣ K7 |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | S KAUSTUBH B                        |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | ♠ AJ8<br>♥ K94<br>♦ AQ75<br>♣ 863   |         |             |     |   |
| Other table: 4♠W=<br>NS: MONICA 100 IMPs<br>EW: MAVERICKS 105 IMPs |                                    | 4♠ W                                |         | NS: 0 EW: 0 |     |   |

This was the situation when Kaustubh Bendre was on play. With the Diamond King sitting under AQ, Declarer needed the 13<sup>th</sup> Heart to provide him the tenth trick, but Kaustubh proceeded to cut his supply line to that fourth Heart by firing a Heart while Kaustubh still held a trump. Toledano had to surrender. Down one was the result. Monica Jajoo earned 12 vital IMPs on the deal. Monica Jajoo now led 112.33 to Mavericks' 105.

|                                                                    |                                    |                              |         |             |     |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------------|-----|---|
| 26 D                                                               | N SAYANTAN                         |                              | W N E S |             |     |   |
|                                                                    | ♠ 8<br>♥ J43<br>♦ J1054<br>♣ J1054 |                              | 1♠      | P           | 1NT | P |
| W AMI ZAMIR                                                        | ♠ 6<br>♠ 2<br>♠ 10<br>♠ A          |                              | 2♣      | P           | 2♦  | P |
|                                                                    | ♠ K53<br>♥ J<br>♦ 106<br>♣ AQ      |                              | 3NT     | P           | 4♣  | P |
|                                                                    |                                    | E TOLEDANO                   |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | ♠ 9<br>♥ A2<br>♦ K982<br>♣ 7 |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | S KAUSTUBH B                 |         |             |     |   |
|                                                                    |                                    | ♠ J<br>♥ 4<br>♦ AQ75<br>♣ 86 |         |             |     |   |
| Other table: 4♠W=<br>NS: MONICA 100 IMPs<br>EW: MAVERICKS 105 IMPs |                                    | 4♠ W                         |         | NS: 2 EW: 3 |     |   |

Mavericks pulled back five IMPs on the next deal, but they couldn't get any more on Board 28, the last deal of the set. Atmanirbhar team Monica Jajoo made it to the semi-finals with a neat win (112.33-110) over Mavericks.



## Elopement play : a lost Opportunity

Try this Dummy play problem. At favourable vulnerability, East opens 1♥ in the second seat, West responds 1Nt, and East rebids 2♣. West now signs-off in 2♦. The auction was natural after that bid. East leads the ♦A and switches to a trump. The second trick goes ♠5-♠2-♠6-♠7. You ruff a small Club and cash the ♦King discarding a Heart from the Closed hand. East discards a Club, the ♣4. Take it from there. The clue is in the title in case you need one.

| <div>N KOUSHIK</div> <div>♠ QJ973</div> <div>♥ Q5</div> <div>♦ 9</div> <div>♣ A10763</div> | <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>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>2♣</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>4♣</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | W  | N  | E | S |  | P | 1♥ | P | 1NT | P | 2♣ | X | 2♦ | 2♣ | 3♣ | 3♣ | P | 4♣ | P | P | P |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|--|---|----|---|-----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| W                                                                                          | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | E  | S  |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
|                                                                                            | P                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1♥ | P  |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| 1NT                                                                                        | P                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2♣ | X  |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| 2♦                                                                                         | 2♣                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3♣ | 3♣ |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| P                                                                                          | 4♣                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | P  | P  |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| P                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |    |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| <div>S PRIYA</div> <div>♠ K842</div> <div>♥ A963</div> <div>♦ K10863</div> <div>♣</div>    | <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |   |   |  |   |    |   |     |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |

You have made three out of four tricks, you need seven more. You have six trumps left, four in the Closed hand and two in Dummy, and there is the ♥A in Dummy. Furthermore, you know East does not have any more trump. If he had one, he would have ruffed the ♦King.

Here is how you can go about it. Ruff a Diamond, ruff a small Club, ruff another Diamond, and ruff another small Club, this time, with the ♠King. Ruff a Diamond next, and then cash ♥A, and play any red suit card. You will score your last trump En passant. This was the full hand.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <div>D</div> <div>21</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <div>N KOUSHIK</div> <div>♠ QJ973</div> <div>♥ Q5</div> <div>♦ 9</div> <div>♣ A10763</div> | <div>W</div> <div><div>N</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div> <div><div>P</div><div>1♥</div><div>P</div></div> <div>1NT</div> <div><div>P</div><div>2♣</div><div>X</div></div> <div>2♦</div> <div><div>2♣</div><div>3♣</div><div>3♣</div></div> <div><div>P</div><div>4♣</div><div>P</div><div>P</div></div> |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| <div>W SAMANT A.</div> <div>♠ A106</div> <div>♥ 108</div> <div>♦ QJ7542</div> <div>♣ Q8</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <div>♦ A</div>                                                                             | <div>E KOUSHIK</div> <div>♠ 5</div> <div>♥ KJ742</div> <div>♦</div> <div>♣ KJ9542</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <div>Par Score: 300</div> <div>Par: EW 5♠x-2</div> |                                                                                            | ♣                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ♦ | ♥  | ♠  | NT | N | 4 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 7 | S | 4 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 7 | E | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | W | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | <div>S PRIYA</div> <div>♠ K842</div> <div>♥ A963</div> <div>♦ K10863</div> <div>♣</div> | <div>4♠ N</div> <div>NS: 0 EW:</div> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ♣                                                                                          | ♦                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ♥ | ♠  | NT |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4                                                                                          | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5 | 10 | 7  |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4                                                                                          | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5 | 10 | 7  |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| E                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9                                                                                          | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8 | 3  | 5  |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |
| W                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9                                                                                          | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8 | 3  | 5  |    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                         |                                      |

At the Table, Koushik began very well when he ruffed a small club at trick three, however, at the next turn, he couldn't resist the temptation of cashing the ♣Ace. After that, West's ♠AT were in a promotable position in a sense. After the ♣A, if the Declarer ruffs a Club with ♣K, West will just discard and the Declarer won't be able to ruff another Club. If the Declarer ruffs small, West will overruff and cash ♠A.

Declarer next played a Heart to ♥A and ruffed a Heart. When he ruffed a Club with ♠K on the next trick, Anand Samant overruffed and played the ♠T to remove Dummy's trump. Declarer lost two Club tricks in the end.

This was Board 21 in the quarter-final match between Texan Aces and EA Bridge.

## Quarter-Final, Set 1 : WHAM vs. Dhampur Sugar Mills

The Quarter finals of the 22<sup>nd</sup> HCL International Bridge Championship got underway on Saturday, 11th October 2025 morning. In GOLD and SILVER category, 16 top teams each qualified for the knockout rounds, 8 of them won their first KO round to reach the Quarter-Finals. In the GOLD category, OLIMP, Shourie, WHAM, Dhampur Sugar Mills, EA Bridge, Texan Aces, Mavericks, and Monica Jajoo won their PreOF matches.

For the first session of the Quarter-Finals, the two matches on the Vu Graph were OLIMP vs Shourie and Dhampur Sugar Mills vs. WHAM. The first session of the OLIMP-Shourie match was a one-sided session that OLIMP won 61-2.

The Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Kumar Goyal, K R Venkataraman, Ajay Khare, Arun Bapat, Raju Tolani, and Vinay Desai) vs WHAM(Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Michael Whibley, and Matthew Brown) match turned out to be a close one. In this article, we will cover the second match and refer to the first match for some board results.

Board one was a flat board in the WHAM-Dhampur Sugar Mills match. Both North-South Pairs reached a game and made 12 tricks, one in 4♠, other in 3Nt. The two hands had a combined holding of 28 HCP and none had a short suit. It looked like a flat board for most practical purposes.

|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>0</div> <div>1</div>                                                                                                       | <div>N HUNG</div> <div>             ♠ AK10<br/>             ♥ AQ2<br/>             ♦ J1087<br/>             ♣ KJ6           </div>   | <div>W N E S</div> <div>             1♣ 1♥<br/>             2♣ X P 2♠<br/>             P 2NT P 3♠<br/>             P 3NT P 4♠<br/>             P P P           </div> |
| <div>W VENKY</div> <div>             ♠<br/>             ♥ J53<br/>             ♦ K532<br/>             ♣ AQ752           </div> | <div>♥4</div>                                                                                                                        | <div>E ASHOK G</div> <div>             ♠ 8654<br/>             ♥ 9876<br/>             ♦ Q64<br/>             ♣ 83           </div>                                   |
| <div>Other table: 4♠S+2</div> <div>             NS: WHAM 0 IMPs<br/>             EW: DHAMPUR 0 IMPs           </div>            | <div>S SARTAJ</div> <div>             ♠ QJ9732<br/>             ♥ K10<br/>             ♦ A9<br/>             ♣ 1094           </div> | <div>4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0</div>                                                                                                                                           |

In the OLIMP-Shourie match, Andrey Gromov saw an opportunity when West doubled a 3♣ bid for Club lead. Examine the bidding on their table. On hearing the double, Gromov upgraded his hand counting two Club tricks for

♠ AK 10  
♥ A Q 2  
♦ J 10 8 7  
♣ K J 6

♠ —  
♥ J 5 4 3  
♦ K 5 3 2  
♣ A Q 7 5 2

W N E S

♠ 8 6 5 4  
♥ 9 8 7 6  
♦ Q 6 4  
♣ 8 3

♠ Q J 9 7 3 2  
♥ K 10  
♦ A 9  
♣ 10 9 4

| West  | North            | East     | South |
|-------|------------------|----------|-------|
| DEMUY | GROMOV           | SHOURIE  | ANNA  |
|       | 1 ♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass     | 1 ♠   |
| Pass  | 1 NT!            | Pass     | 2 ♠   |
| Pass  | 2 NT!            | Pass     | 3 ♣   |
| Dbl   | Pass             | Pass     | Rdbl  |
| Pass  | 3 ♦!             | Pass     | 4 ♦   |
| Pass  | 6 NT             | All pass |       |

1. STRONG

his ♣KJ6 holding. East obediently led ♣8 and Gromov soon rattled off 12 tricks. This was a classic case of using opponent's bid as a stepping stone to visualising a higher contract. Bridge players are aware of the concept of a 'stepping stone' play wherein you take the help of one of the opponents to reach a hand, most often the Dummy, that does not have an entry. You take help of opponents to reach an otherwise unreachable place. Without West telling North-South that he held Club honours, the slam is simply not visualisable. With the benefit of the information provided by the double of 3♣, one could begin to think about it.

As the cards are, 6Nt is not the best contract. It will go down on a Diamond lead. Could East have found a Diamond lead? Well, what if West doubles 6Nt to tell partner to 'forget all about his earlier double and think afresh?'. Perhaps, that kind of a double will become commonplace in 2040s. For now, everyone passed 6Nt, East led a Club as guided and the slam sailed. Well-bid Andrey Gromov!

First five boards in the WHAM-Dhampur Sugar Mills match were tame affairs. After scores of 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, WHAM were leading 4-0 at the end of board five. Board 6 produced the first big swing.

|                                                             |                                    |                                     |   |                                   |    |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----|-------------|
| <div>6</div> <div>D</div>                                   | N HUNG                             |                                     | W | N                                 | E  | S           |
|                                                             | ♠ KJ632<br>♥ A95<br>♦ 102<br>♣ A52 |                                     | X | 1♥                                | P  | 1♦          |
|                                                             |                                    |                                     | X | XX                                | 3♣ | 3♦          |
| W VENKY                                                     |                                    |                                     |   | E ASHOK G                         |    |             |
| ♠ AQ874<br>♥ KQ74<br>♦<br>♣ Q104                            |                                    | ♣ K                                 |   | ♠ 5<br>♥ J32<br>♦ J7653<br>♣ J876 |    |             |
|                                                             |                                    | S SARTAJ                            |   |                                   |    |             |
|                                                             |                                    | ♠ 109<br>♥ 1086<br>♦ AKQ984<br>♣ 93 |   |                                   |    |             |
| Other table: 3♦xS=<br>NS: WHAM 4 IMPs<br>EW: DHAMPUR 0 IMPs |                                    |                                     |   | 3♦ S                              |    | NS: 0 EW: 0 |

Ajay Khare passed in the second position but came in with a 3♦ jump in the reopening position at his next turn after Brown opened 1♠ and North and East passed. Matthew Brown doubles for take-out. With a 1-3-5-4 shape and just three courtiers, Whibley didn't want to risk a three level bid. He passed, taking the best of a few bad options. Ajay Khare won the ♣K lead, ran the ♦Ten, repeated the Diamond finesse, rattled off trumps, and played a Spade. In due course, he claimed nine tricks and +470 score.

In the other room, Sartaj opened 1♦. By the time East was forced to get into the auction, Venky had already doubled twice, South had made two bids of Diamond suit, and the bidding had still not crossed the two level. Ashok Goyal could afford to bid 3♣. Sartaj bid 3♦ and played there.

|                                                             |                                    |                                     |   |                                   |    |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----|-------------|
| <div>6</div> <div>D</div>                                   | N HUNG                             |                                     | W | N                                 | E  | S           |
|                                                             | ♠ KJ632<br>♥ A95<br>♦ 102<br>♣ A52 |                                     | X | 1♥                                | P  | 1♦          |
|                                                             |                                    |                                     | X | XX                                | 3♣ | 3♦          |
| W VENKY                                                     |                                    |                                     |   | E ASHOK G                         |    |             |
| ♠ AQ874<br>♥ KQ74<br>♦<br>♣ Q104                            |                                    | ♣ K                                 |   | ♠ 5<br>♥ J32<br>♦ J7653<br>♣ J876 |    |             |
|                                                             |                                    | S SARTAJ                            |   |                                   |    |             |
|                                                             |                                    | ♠ 109<br>♥ 1086<br>♦ AKQ984<br>♣ 93 |   |                                   |    |             |
| Other table: 3♦xS=<br>NS: WHAM 4 IMPs<br>EW: DHAMPUR 0 IMPs |                                    |                                     |   | 3♦ S                              |    | NS: 0 EW: 0 |

Sartaj also got ♣King lead. He ducked, won ♣A, ruffed a Club, cashed a top Diamond to discover the bad break and then played a Spade. Trumps had not been removed at this stage. Venky won ♠A, switched to ♥K, and continued Hearts when Sartaj ducked. Sartaj won and tried to cash the ♠K. East ruffed and cashed a Heart. Sartaj lost one more trick to the Jack of Diamonds. Down two was the result. Dhampur Sugar Mills won 11 IMPs on the board.

WHAM pulled back some IMPs on the next board. Arun Bapat's 2♥ raise seems a little heavy. He conveyed as much at his second turn with a redouble. That was enough excuse for Ajay Khare to bid a game. Double Dummy, 10 tricks were available. Single Dummy, Declarer had to guess the Diamond Queen. Ajay Khare won the opening lead and played a Diamond to Jack losing to East's Queen. The contract had faltered at the first hurdle. Down one was the result.

|                           |          |                  |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| <div>7</div> <div>D</div> | N ARUN B | W N E S          |
|                           | ♠ K62    | 1♣ 2♥ P 1♥       |
|                           | ♥ J52    | X XX P 4♥        |
|                           | ♦ AJ105  | P P P            |
|                           | ♣ 763    |                  |
| W M BROWN                 |          | E WHIBLEY        |
| ♠ AQJ74                   | ♣ 8      | ♠ 1098           |
| ♥ Q                       |          | ♥ K873           |
| ♦ 942                     |          | ♦ Q86            |
| ♣ J95                     |          | ♣ Q104           |
|                           | S AJAY K |                  |
|                           | ♠ 53     |                  |
|                           | ♥ A10964 |                  |
|                           | ♦ K73    |                  |
|                           | ♣ AK2    |                  |
| Other table: 2NTS=        |          | 4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0 |
| NS: DHAMPUR 11 IMPs       |          |                  |
| EW: WHAM 4 IMPs           |          |                  |

Examine the bidding of Matthew Brown. The 1♠ overcall itself was light and he followed it up with a double in the reopening position. Luckily for him, partner came up with ♠T98 and North-South Spades were divided 3-2. Even then, East-West had only six tricks available to them. It seems like a rather risky double, but it fetched six IMPs for his team in the end.

In the Other Room, Sartaj opened 1Nt with the South hand. With five decent Hearts, AKK in side suits, perhaps, opening 1Nt jeopardises many good 2♥ or 3♥ spots, but much depends on what your other options are in the system. Anyway, Sartaj eventually became the Declarer in 2Nt.

|                                                                                         |                                                                                           |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div>7</div><div>D</div></div>                                                     | <div>N HUNG</div> <div>♠ K62</div> <div>♥ J52</div> <div>♦ AJ105</div> <div>♣ 763</div>   | <div>W N E S</div> <div>P 2♣ P 1NT</div> <div>P P P 2NT</div>                               |
| <div>W VENKY</div> <div>♠ AJ74</div> <div>♥ Q</div> <div>♦ 942</div> <div>♣ J985</div>  | <div>♠ Q</div>                                                                            | <div>E ASHOK G</div> <div>♠ 1098</div> <div>♥ K873</div> <div>♦ Q86</div> <div>♣ Q104</div> |
| <div>Other table: 4♥S-1</div> <div>NS: WHAM 4 IMPs</div> <div>EW: DHAMPUR 11 IMPs</div> | <div>S SARTAJ</div> <div>♠ 53</div> <div>♥ A10964</div> <div>♦ K73</div> <div>♣ AK2</div> | <div>2NT S NS: 0 EW: 0</div>                                                                |

Venky led the ♠Q. Ashok Goyal played ♠T. Venky continued with a small Spade. Sartaj won ♠K and played a small Heart to ♥T and Venky's Queen. Venky now cashed all his Spades. In doing so, he forced partner to find some awkward discards. Perhaps a Club back after ♥Q might have given the Declarer some opportunity to go down. On the fourth and fifth Spade, Ashok discarded a Club and a Heart. Sartaj was spared a Diamond guess. He scored three Hearts, two each in minor suits, and ♠K. Eight tricks for +120. WHAM won six IMPs on the board.

Board 10 provided a lucky game swing to WHAM. In one Room, 5-card Spade holder was on lead, in the other, the Opening leader had four in each Major and a Heart lead was far more attractive. WHAM picked up 13 IMPs on board. This board is fit for an entry in the 'Challenge the Champs' bidding competition in Bridge World. The best contract for North-South is 5♣ in a 6-4 fit. Had one of the teams reached that with conviction, that would have been a meritorious gain. The present type of swing often skews the result of short matches. In a 56-board match, the expectation is that the luck would even out.

|                                                                |  |                                                            |  |                                                           |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <div>10</div>                                                  |  | <div>N</div> ARUN B<br>♠ Q10<br>♥ A73<br>♦ 65<br>♣ AQ10965 |  | <div>W</div> N E S<br>P 2♣ P 1♦<br>P 3NT P 2♠<br>P P      |  |
| <div>W</div> M BROWN<br>♠ K974<br>♥ KJ109<br>♦ 932<br>♣ J4     |  |                                                            |  | <div>E</div> WHIBLEY<br>♠ AJ82<br>♥ 8542<br>♦ J104<br>♣ 7 |  |
|                                                                |  | <div>S</div> AJAY K<br>♠ 53<br>♥ Q6<br>♦ AKQ87<br>♣ K832   |  |                                                           |  |
| Other table: 3NTS+3<br>NS: DHAMPUR 12 IMPs<br>EW: WHAM 10 IMPs |  |                                                            |  | 3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0                                         |  |

|                                                                                           |  |                                                                                          |  |                                                                                            |  |                                         |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------|--|
| <div>10</div>                                                                             |  | <div>N HUNG</div> <div>♠ Q10</div> <div>♥ A73</div> <div>♦ 65</div> <div>♣ AQ10965</div> |  | <div>W N E S</div> <div>P 2NT P 1NT</div> <div>P 3NT P 3♣</div> <div>P P</div>             |  |                                         |  |
| <div>W VENKY</div> <div>♠ K974</div> <div>♥ KJ109</div> <div>♦ 932</div> <div>♣ J4</div>  |  |                                                                                          |  | <div>E ASHOK G</div> <div>♠ AJ862</div> <div>♥ 8542</div> <div>♦ J104</div> <div>♣ 7</div> |  |                                         |  |
|                                                                                           |  | <div>S SARTAJ</div> <div>♠ 53</div> <div>♥ Q6</div> <div>♦ AKQ87</div> <div>♣ K832</div> |  |                                                                                            |  |                                         |  |
| <div>Other table: 3NTN-1</div> <div>NS: WHAM 10 IMPs</div> <div>EW: DHAMPUR 12 IMPs</div> |  |                                                                                          |  |                                                                                            |  | <div>3NT S</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div> |  |

WHAM scored an IMP on board 11. Two flat boards followed. Board 14 produced the final big swing of the set. First two bids were the same in both the rooms. East opened 1♦ and South overcalled 2NT to show Clubs and Hearts. In the Closed Room, Matthew Brown tabled a slightly daring 3♦ bid. Arun Bapat forced with 4♦. Whibley passed (?) allowing Ajay Khare to make a 4♠ cue-bid and Arun Bapat to employ an RKC. The question was, RKC for which suit? For Hearts or Clubs? It seems that Ajay Khare solved that problem by showing simple Aces with his 5♥ bid. He didn't seem to have counted ♥Q as trump queen. Arun Bapat had five Hearts, so he didn't need the ♥Q anyway. He bid 6♥. North-South got 980 for that effort.

In the Open Room, Venky did not venture a 3♦ bid so Hung could cue-bid 3♦. Ashok doubled to show Diamond suit and Venky now jumped to 5♦. That robbed the 4NT bid from the space that was available to North-South. In absence of a check on Aces, Hung took a conservative view and settled in 5♥. That was 480 to NS. Dhampur Sugar Mills earned 11 IMPs on that board.

|                                              |  |                                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14                                           |  | N HUNG<br>♠ AQ9764<br>♥ K9873<br>♦ 9<br>♣ 8      | W N E S<br>P 3♦ X P<br>5♦ 5♥ P P |
| W VENKY<br>♠ J8532<br>♥ 4<br>♦ Q7632<br>♣ 96 |  | E ASHOK G<br>♠ K<br>♥ 62<br>♦ AJ10854<br>♣ KQ102 |                                  |
|                                              |  | S SARTAJ<br>♠ 10<br>♥ AQJ105<br>♦ K<br>♣ AJ7543  |                                  |
| Other table: 6♥S=                            |  |                                                  |                                  |
| NS: WHAM 24 IMPs                             |  |                                                  |                                  |
| EW: DHAMPUR 12 IMPs                          |  |                                                  |                                  |
|                                              |  |                                                  | 5♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0                 |

The final score at the end of the first set was WHAM: 24, Dhampur Sugar Mills: 23

## Quarter-Final : OLIMP vs. Shourie, Set 4

At the end of three sets, OLIMP led Shourie by a solitary IMP. That was after they blitzed Shourie 61-2 in the first set and were return-blitzed 4-63 in the third set. The second set was a tame 28-27 IMP in their favour.

The fourth set produced some blockbusters. It began with a Grand Slam. Anna Gulevich deal and opened 3♣ at unfavourable vulnerability, Dror Padon jump-overcalled to 4♥ and Birman came up with a 6♣ bid, no doubt showing a massive hand with Club void. Padon now bid 7♥. Surely, the 6♣ bid couldn't have come without two Aces, Club void, and a Heart fit. That was definitely a brilliant bid.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |   |                                    |    |                                   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|--------|--|--|--|
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   | N GROMOV                           |    | W N E S                           |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| D                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   | ♠ J7652<br>♥ 6<br>♦ K8764<br>♣ 86  |    | 4♥ P 6♣ 3♣<br>7♥ P P P            |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| W DROR PADON                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |                                    |    | E Birman                          |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| ♠ K3<br>♥ KQ10942<br>♦ A<br>♣ AQ109                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   |                                    |    | ♠ AQ4<br>♥ AJ85<br>♦ J109532<br>♣ |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| <table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr></table> |   |                                    | ♠  | ♥                                 | ♦  | ♣ | NT | N | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | S | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | E | 9 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 | W | 9 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 | S ANNA |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ♠ | ♥                                  | ♦  | ♣                                 | NT |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 4 | 2                                  | 0  | 4                                 | 1  |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 4 | 2                                  | 0  | 4                                 | 1  |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| E                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 9 | 11                                 | 13 | 9                                 | 12 |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| W                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 9 | 11                                 | 13 | 9                                 | 12 |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |
| Par Score: -1510<br>Par: EW 7♥                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |   | ♠ 1098<br>♥ 73<br>♦ Q<br>♣ KJ75432 |    | 7♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0                  |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |        |  |  |  |

In the Close Room, the OLIMP East-West had a free uncontested run but they didn't manage to get to 7♥. Sometimes, science doesn't quite give the best results. On this deal, it seems that the mention of Club suit by West must have put off East. It is difficult to offer any more comment on the bidding especially when none of the bid is shown as an artificial bid in the Vu graph records. The end result was that OLIMP lost eleven IMPs, and were, for the first time perhaps, trailing their opponents.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |           |    |                  |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|----|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|-------------|--|--|--|
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   | N C BAKKE |    | W N E S          |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| D                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   | ♠ J7652   |    | 1♣ P 1♥ P        |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | ♥ 6       |    | 2♣ P 2♥ P        |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | ♦ K8764   |    | 3♥ P 3♣ P        |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | ♣ 86      |    | 4NT P 5♥ P       |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| W S ORLOV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |           |    | E C Rudakov      |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| ♠ K3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |   |           |    | ♠ AQ4            |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| ♥ KQ10942                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |           |    | ♥ AJ85           |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| ♦ A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |           |    | ♦ J109532        |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| ♣ AQ109                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |           |    | ♣                |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| <table><tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>9</td><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr></table> |   | ♠         | ♥  | ♦                | ♣  | NT | N | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | S | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | E | 9 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 | W | 9 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 | S TOR GRUDE |  |  |  |
| ♠                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ♥ | ♦         | ♣  | NT               |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4 | 2         | 0  | 4                | 1  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4 | 2         | 0  | 4                | 1  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| E                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 9 | 11        | 13 | 9                | 12 |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| W                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 9 | 11        | 13 | 9                | 12 |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| Par Score: -1510                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |   | ♠ 1098    |    |                  |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
| Par: EW 7♥                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   | ♥ 73      |    |                  |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | ♦ Q       |    |                  |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | ♣ KJ75432 |    | 6♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0 |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |             |  |  |  |

| W   | N | E   | S |
|-----|---|-----|---|
|     |   |     | P |
| 1♣  | P | 1♥  | P |
| 2♣  | P | 2♥  | P |
| 3♥  | P | 3♣  | P |
| 4NT | P | 5♥  | P |
| 5♠  | P | 5NT | P |
| 6♥  | P | P   | P |

Board 18 produced the next big swing. The bidding is straightforward in both the rooms. There is a bit of point counting Open Room starting with a strong 1♣ while the Closed Room started with a strong 1Nt Opening. Both Norths showed the Club suit albeit through different mechanisms. Both Pairs checked on Aces and settled in a small slam. Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich rightly opted for 6Nt. In the Closed Room, Christian Bakke and Tor Grude bid 6♣. It is hard to see the benefit of playing in the Club suit where it is the shortest suit in the South hand. South could definitely have converted to 6Nt, we feel. Anyway, Orlov led his singleton Heart against 6♣ and received a Heart ruff in due course. Team OLIMP won 17 IMPs on the board.

|                                   |  |                                     |  |                                                  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------|--|
| 18                                |  | N GROMOV                            |  | W N E S                                          |  |
|                                   |  | ♠ 10<br>♥ AQ3<br>♦ AQJ<br>♣ Q108764 |  | P 1♣<br>P 2♣ 3♣ 3NT<br>P 4♦ P 4NT<br>P 5NT P 6NT |  |
| W DROR PADON                      |  | E Birman                            |  |                                                  |  |
| ♠ 9532<br>♥ 9<br>♦ 1062<br>♣ 9532 |  | ♠ QJ4<br>♥ J10764<br>♦ 8753<br>♣ A  |  |                                                  |  |
|                                   |  | S ANNA                              |  |                                                  |  |
|                                   |  | ♠ AK86<br>♥ K852<br>♦ K94<br>♣ KJ   |  |                                                  |  |
|                                   |  |                                     |  | 6NT S NS: 0 EW: 0                                |  |

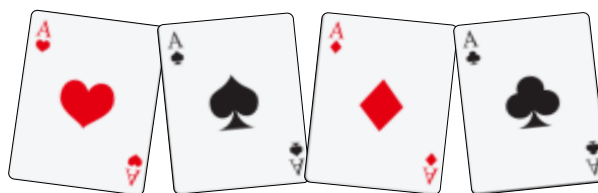
|                                  |  |                                     |  |                                                |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------|--|
| 18                               |  | N C BAKKE                           |  | W N E S                                        |  |
|                                  |  | ♠ 10<br>♥ AQ3<br>♦ AQJ<br>♣ Q108764 |  | P 1NT<br>P 2♣ P 3♣<br>P 3♣ P 3NT<br>P 4NT P 5♥ |  |
| W S ORLOV                        |  | E C Rudakov                         |  |                                                |  |
| ♠ 97532<br>♥<br>♦ 1062<br>♣ 9532 |  | ♠ QJ4<br>♥ J10764<br>♦ 8753<br>♣ A  |  |                                                |  |
|                                  |  | S TOR GRUDE                         |  |                                                |  |
|                                  |  | ♠ AK86<br>♥ K852<br>♦ K94<br>♣ KJ   |  |                                                |  |
|                                  |  |                                     |  | 6♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0                               |  |

After an exciting 4th set of 14 boards, OLIMP won the match with an overall tally of 138-134 IMPs.



# The 22<sup>nd</sup> **HCL** International Bridge Championship

## 6<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025



### Tournament Schedule

|                 |                                                                                                     |                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Oct 12  | <b>TEAM OF FOUR GOLD &amp; SILVER EVENT – KO SFs (4 * 14 Boards)</b>                                |                                       |
|                 | 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                           |
|                 | <b>OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 3 &amp; IMP PAIRS – ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)</b> |                                       |
|                 | 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  | <b>TEAM OF FOUR GOLD &amp; SILVER EVENT – Final (4*14 Boards) &amp; Play-off (3*14 Boards)</b>      |                                       |
|                 | 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                           |
|                 | <b>OPEN MP PAIRS – FINAL (GOLD &amp; SILVER) - Barometer Scoring</b>                                |                                       |
|                 | 0930 – 1315 Hrs.                                                                                    | Session - 1                           |
|                 | 1315 – 1400 Hrs.                                                                                    | Lunch Break                           |
|                 | 1400 – 1745 Hrs.                                                                                    | Session - 2                           |
|                 | <b>IMP PAIRS – FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)</b>                                             |                                       |
|                 | 1000 – 1330 Hrs.                                                                                    | Session - 1                           |
|                 | 1330 – 1430 Hrs.                                                                                    | Lunch Break                           |
|                 | 1430 – 1745 Hrs.                                                                                    | Session - 2                           |
|                 | <b>IMP PAIRS STRATA (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)</b>                                              |                                       |
|                 | 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 | <b>PRO-AM PAIRS TOURNAMENT (IMP Scoring) – Maximum 54 Boards)</b>                                   |                                       |
|                 | 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 Sunday, October 12, 2025

**1000 – 1200 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Semi Final S-1 (2 Matches)**  
**1215 – 1415 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Semi Final S-2 (2 Matches)**  
**1515 – 1715 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Semi Final S-3 (2 Matches)**  
**1745 – 1945 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Semi Final S-4 (2 Matches)**

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