



HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

HCL

Leela Ambience
Convention Hotel,
New Delhi

Celebrating **20** *Years*

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DAILY BULLETIN

Editor
Dr. Prakash Paranjape

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Layout Editor
Bholanath Das



॥ स्वागतम् ॥

Welcome to the 20th Edition of HCL International Bridge Championship

Dear friends,

A hearty welcome to all of you.

Here we are in the 20th Edition of your favourite tournament. The tournament has been gaining increasing popularity with every edition.

What has also kept pace is the generosity of Mrs Nadar and the prizes on offer. With prize money of ₹ 26 Million (US \$ 310,000), the tournament has taken center-stage and become the highest prize money tournament globally.

The home for the event this year is Leela Ambience Convention Hotel at New Delhi. With large banquet halls, this venue has ample space to offer along with a number of amenities. Do enjoy yourself.

We've kicked off with an Exhibition Match between World All Stars and India All Stars.

The world stars consisted of Zia, Helgemo, Brogeland, Bakke, and Rimstedt brothers. The World stars were a big favourite, and they stamped their authority on day 1. Day 2 has been a lot more exciting and looks a lot more like a match. I'm sure you all have enjoyed watching. This bulletin has some more material about the challenge including a few interesting hands.

We are also bringing to you a novel addition – ProAm event that gives all of you an opportunity to partner one of the international stars or one of the Indian top players. This is a unique opportunity to play with and against some of the best in the world, and perhaps even have the start of something beautiful – a new partnership. Do make use of it.



The main event consists of the Team of Four as well as Open Pairs event. To make the tournament more competitive, the Team of Four event is played in two categories – **GOLD & SILVER**. We will also have both an MP and an IMP Pairs event. More information about the trophies and the prizes for these events is available inside the bulletin in an article written by Mr. T.C. Pant, the head of operations for HCL-2023.

There are close to 150 teams entering the Gold and Silver Category put together. It is very heartening to see a lot of you coming back to live bridge.

The tournament came into being thanks to the ideas and the unstinted support of **Mrs. Kiran Nadar**, one of the top Indian players. She is a member and the sponsor of the **"FORMIDABLES"** team. The team has not only won many laurels at the National level but has also represented India umpteen times in international events. The title of HCL Gold event has eluded them in last few years although they reached the finals of the Gold event in 2022, 2021 as well as 2018. They will be looking to right the wrongs of earlier editions. All the very best - Kiran, Satya, Tewari, Sumit, Nandi, and Sagnik.

The favorites for the Gold Team championship are 'Mavericks ALL STARS' consisting of six world champions. That will be the team to beat this year. Good luck to you if you happen to draw them.

'Mavericks' will be another team to watch out. They have had some strong performances, and with the presence of Jaggy, Keyzad, Subhash Gupta, Laltu, and Sandeep Thakral, along with Subodh Maskara, the punch carries enough power – and they will be looking to deliver.

Defending champions **Dhampur Sugar**, previous champions **Texan Aces**, Polish, Bulgarian, and Indonesian teams will also be looking to assert themselves.

Like previous years, we will have Vu-graph of the event from day-1 on BBO. All the events of the tournament will be played with computer generated boards and the scoring of the events will be done through Bridge mates. There will also be a Daily Bulletin of the event and you can check the daily bulletins on the tournament web site www.hcl-bridge.com. We have also made provision of Vu-graph theatre at the venue and players can watch the top notch matches there.

We must take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those who have been involved with innumerable tasks involved in making this event happen. We won't name them here, but please know that we are immensely grateful for your contribution and help.

A very warm welcome to all of you. We hope you enjoy your game and the excellent hospitality of HCL Corporation and go home pleased with the event with plans to come back next year.

Best of luck to all and please play the game in right spirit.

Organising Committee

The **HCL Bridge Championship** was established in the year **2003** by **Mrs. Kiran Nadar**, one of the top Indian players of competitive bridge, to promote the sport in India. This year's tournament offers **Rs 26 Million (~ US \$310,000)** as prize money to winners.

Mrs. Kiran Nadar is a member of the **"FORMIDABLES"** team that has not only won many laurels at the National level but has also represented India several times in international competitive bridge events. The team reached the finals of the Gold event in 2018 as well as in 2022 but had to be content with the runner-up spot. Kiran is married to **Mr. Shiv Nadar** who is the **Founder of HCL**, India's leading Global Technology and IT Enterprise, the sponsor for this prestigious event.

This annual tournament consists of the **"Team of Four Gold and Silver"** events as well as **"Match Point Open Pairs and IMP Pairs"** events.

The first edition of this tournament in 2003 attracted 35 teams & 89 Pairs; in 2004, it increased to 46 teams and 127 pairs; 2005 saw 70 teams & 176 Pairs, and from 2006 onwards till 2012, we always had 70 plus teams & 160 plus Pairs. The participation of all the top Indian teams in this tournament was an ample proof that this is one of the most favorite tournaments of Bridge fraternity in India. To make it more competitive for average players, the organizers in 2013 decided to divide the main Team of Four event into GOLD & SILVER categories with 40 teams in GOLD & 37 teams in Silver categories participating in the 2013 edition.

The year 2016 saw this tournament attaining great heights, when it became an **International Bridge Tournament**. The organizers invited many top foreign teams and this resulted in 41 teams participating in the GOLD and 79 teams in the SILVER event. A record 288 pairs participated in the open match point pairs. **Team "Lavazza" consisting of Zia Mahmood, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde, and Norberto Bochhi won the Gold event**. With 21 foreign teams in 2017 edition, the tournament attained a world class status. In 2018, we had 162 Teams (52 in GOLD & 110 in SILVER) and in 2019 a record 185 Teams (55 in GOLD, 102 in SILVER & 28 in Bronze category), a number that exceeded the expectation of the organizers. However, due to the onslaught of COVID, the tournament could not be held in 2020. The 2021 edition was played as an online event. The tournament was back after COVID with the 2022 edition, where 116 teams (45 in Gold & 71 in Silver) participated. The winners of the Gold event were **Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Kumar Goel, Vinay Desai, Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Milind Bendre, Sagnik Roy, Kaustabh Nandi)**. This year we are again expecting 140+ teams.

The three main trophies of the championship are detailed below:

Naresh Tandan Trophy for Winner of Team of Four Gold Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late Shri Naresh Tandan (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father).

Mohini Tandan Trophy for Winner of Team of Four Silver Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late Mrs Tandan (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Mother).

Neena Bonerjee Trophy for Winner of Open MP Pairs Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late Mrs. Neena Bonerjee by her daughter Nisha. Mrs. Neena Bonerjee was a lady par excellence, a true friend, a great player and even a greater ambassador of this game. Kiran was fortunate enough to have played with her as a partner or as a team mate over many years.



Late Shri Naresh Tandan (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father) in whose memory the HCL Bridge Tournament's "Team of Four GOLD" Trophy has been instituted.



Late Mrs. Mohini Tandan (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Mother) in whose memory the HCL Bridge Tournament's "Team of Four SILVER" Trophy has been instituted.



Late Mrs. Neena Bonarji in whose memory her daughter Nisha has instituted the HCL Bridge Tournament's "Open MP Pair" Trophy

HCL Bridge Tournaments – Past Winners

- By T.C. Pant

Year	Date & Venue	HCL Bridge Championship Past Winners	
		Team of Four Naresh Tandan Trophy	Open Pairs Neena Bonerjee Trophy
2003	Hotel Claridges, New Delhi, 18th to 21st Dec 2003	CALCUTTA BRIDGE CLUB (B. Todi, Kamal Roy, S. Lahiri, Alope Sadhu, A.B. Chakravarty, B. Saha)	B. Satyanarayana - Kiran Nadar
2004	Hotel Claridges, New Delhi, 12th to 15th Aug 2004	WELLKNIT (R. Krishnan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Krishna Kumar, R. Venkatesh & J.M. Shah)	Subhash Gupta- Rajeshwar Tewari
2005	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 12th to 15th Aug 2005	J.P. GOENKA (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alope Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar & Sumit Mukherjee)	J. Biswas - T.K. Roy
2006	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 12th to 15th Aug 2006	J.P. GOENKA (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alope Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar & Sumit Mukherjee)	Prem Chand R Bafna - Ashok Vaidya
2007	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 16th to 19th Aug 2007	SHREE CEMENT (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subrata Saha, Subir Majumdar, Bivas Todi)	S. Sunderram - P. Sridhar
2008	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 4th to 7th Sept 2008	TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah, P. Sridhar, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari, B. Prabhakar)	Subrata Saha - Satyabrata Lahiri
2009	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 13th to 16th Aug 2009	TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah, P. Sridhar, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari)	Rajeev Khandelwal - Himani Khandelwal
2010	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 30th Oct to 2nd Nov 2010	HANS , Australia (Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Arjuna Delivera, Ian Robinson, Paul Gosney and Peter Gill)	Swarnendu Banerjee - Alope Sadhu
2011	Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, 8th to 11th Sept 2011	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS (Ashok Goel, Suhas Vaidya, Pritish Kushari, D Majumder, S.Mukherjee, Bhabesh Saha)	Tapan Roy - Satyabrata Mukherjee
2012	Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi, 30th Aug to 2nd Sept 2012	ARISTOS (Sanjoy Bhattacharya, Kamal Mukherjee, Dr K Srinivas, K Srinivas Reddy, S K Iyenger)	Shib Nath Dey Sarkar - Pranab Bardhan

Year	Date & Venue	HCL Bridge Championship Past Winners		
		Team of Four GOLD Naresh Tandan Trophy	Open Pairs Neena Bonerjee Trophy	Team of Four SILVER Mohini Tandan Trophy
2013	Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi, 8th - 11th Aug 2013	MOHIT MEHTA (Mohit Mehta, Kingshuk Bhattacharya, Pinaki Khan, S B Mukherji, Avijit Chakraborty, C S Majumdar)	Sandeep Thakral - Kaustubh Bendre	CONSTELLATION Amarjit, Dr Nikita Kamal, Shashi Jain, Anil Bharioke, R Chakravorty, V Ravichandran
2014	Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi, 17th - 20th Aug 2014	FORMIDABLES (Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, B Prabhakar, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokashi, Keyzad Anklesaria)	Sanjib Majumder - J.N. Roy	P K THAKUR'S IV P K Thakur, M Dev, G Bansider, J Sarkar
2015	Country Inn & Suites, Sahibabad 20th - 23rd Aug 2015	FORMIDABLES (Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, B Prabhakar, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokashi, Keyzad Anklesaria)	Alok Sadhu - Subrata Saha	DR. SANGHI Dr R L Sanghi, R A Siddiqui, S C Bhandari, S M Moin, Sunil Kumar, Ratnesh
2016	JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi 19th - 23rd Oct 2016	LAVAZZA (Zia Mahmood, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde)	A.K. Sinha - S.K. Hooda	SIX-PACK Nirmal Jain, Sandip Dang, Sanjay Sondhi, Subhranshu Patnaik, AfsharMajeed, Vijay Devadass
2017	JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi 12th - 17th Sep 2017	TEAM ZWEDERLAND - Johan Upmark from Sweden, Fredrick Nystrom from Sweden, Ricco Van Prooijen & Louk Verhees from NL	Simon Hult & Ekenberg from Sweden	A. K. BOSE - Abhijit Kumar Bose, Shantanu Ghosh, Anindya Bhattacharya, Soumya Das, Sayantan Kushari & Sagnik Roy
2018	JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi 9th - 14th Aug 2018	SOUTH SWEDEN - Alon Apteker, Craig Gower from South Africa & Sven- Are Bjerregard & Anders Morath from Sweden	George Matushko & Rogov Dmitry	TEAM MANZOVA - Joy Narayan Roy, PijusKanti Baroi, Debashis Bose, Goutam Pore, Bijit Dutta & Sanjay Mukherjee
2019	JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi 5th - 10th Aug 2019	K1 PLUS from Bulgaria Ivan Nanev, Rossen Gunev, Marta Nikolava, Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov	Sumit Mukherjee - Debbrata Majumder	TEAM PRADEEP - Sukalyan Sarkar, Rajendra Sirohia, Goutam Pore, Binod Kumar Shaw, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Pradeep Goenka
2021	Online Event 18th - 26th Sep 2021	TEXAN ACES: Sunit Choksi, Anil P Padhye, Ajay P Khare Raju Tolani, Milind P. Athavale, S Sunderram, Padmanabhan Sridharan, G Venkatesh	Rajeshwar Tewari - Keyzad Anklesaria	DR SMMC: Amiya Ranjan Das, Somnath Mitra, Goutam Das, Shyama Prasad Chatterjee, Bikas Dutt, Subrata Sadhukhan
2022	Hotel Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon 11 th to 16 th Oct 2022	Dhampur Sugar Mills: Ashok Goel, Vinay Desai, Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Bendre, Sagnik Roy, Kaustabh Nandi	P.S. Mukherjee – Aniruddha Bhattacharya	PRADEEP - Pradeep Goenka, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Goutam Pore, Biswadip Roy, Mithun Mukherjee, Rajesh Kumar Shaw

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T.C. Pant & Sudhir Aggarwal

Daily Bulletins

Dr. Prakash Paranjape (Editor)
Bholanath Das (Layout)

Web Site

Sandeep Thakral, Sudhir Aggarwal & HCL Team

Bridgemates & Scoring

Srinivasan Iyengar, Prithvi Singh, Kaustubh Deodhar

Vu-graph

Pramod Samant, Meenal Thakur, Somik Mitra, Sudip
Mahato, Subrata Adhikari, Abhishek Roy

Computer Boards Dealing

Chetan Rawal, S.R.C. Sekar, Bansi Gupta,
Sharmishtha Rawal

REVIEWIERS

Sandeep Thakral, Vinay Desai & Boye Brogeland

MAIN EVENT PRIZES

Team of Four (GOLD)

Winner	₹ 44,00,000
Runner-up	₹ 24,00,000
Third	₹ 12,50,000
Fourth	₹ 9,00,000
5 th to 8 th each	₹ 4,50,000
9 th to 16 th each	₹ 1,80,000
17 th to 20 th each	₹ 60,000

Team of Four (SILVER)

Winner	₹ 16,00,000
Runner-up	₹ 9,60,000
Third	₹ 4,80,000
Fourth	₹ 3,60,000
5 th to 8 th each	₹ 1,80,000
9 th to 16 th each	₹ 72,000
17 th to 20 th each	₹ 25,000

Open MP Pairs - GOLD

Winner	₹ 12,80,000
Runner-up	₹ 8,40,000
Third	₹ 6,40,000
Fourth	₹ 4,80,000
Fifth	₹ 3,20,000
Sixth	₹ 2,50,000
Seventh	₹ 2,00,000
Eighth	₹ 1,50,000
Ninth	₹ 1,00,000
Tenth	₹ 90,000
Eleventh	₹ 75,000
Twelfth	₹ 60,000
13 th to 16 th each	₹ 50,000

Open MP Pairs - SILVER

Winner	₹ 2,00,000
Runner-up	₹ 1,50,000
Third	₹ 1,20,000
Fourth	₹ 80,000
Fifth	₹ 60,000
Sixth	₹ 40,000
Seventh	₹ 30,000
Eighth	₹ 20,000
Ninth	₹ 15,000
Tenth	₹ 10,000

India vs. World All Stars Team Match

As most of you are aware, the Indian Open team missed the qualification boat in the 46th World Championships in Marrakech in August 2023 by a very narrow margin. Norway blitzed them 20-0 in the last round of the Round Robin denying them a berth in the knockout rounds. Many of us felt that lady luck was particularly unhappy with them in that last round. If only they had made it to the Knock-Out rounds, they would have advanced much further, Indian well-wishers felt.

Knowing the sentiment, Mrs. Kiran Nadar decided to work on a novel idea. What if we gave the first-hand experience of a World Championship final to Indian Stars? If they do well, the rest of the rounds will take care of themselves, she imagined. Thus arose the idea of an All Stars challenge match. Kiran and Subodh Maskara joined hands to invite six World Stars including the legendary Zia Mehmood for a direct match against Indian All Stars. Fortunately, all the schedules worked out and a match was arranged for the last weekend of October, just before the HCL-2023 International Bridge Tournament.



The India vs World All Stars challenge match was played over 96 boards in 8 sessions on 29th and 30th October. The World All Stars team consisted of Zia Mehmood, Geir Helgemo, Ola and Mikael Rimstedt, Christian Bakke, and Boje Brogeland. Indian All stars team consisted of Jaggy Shivasani, Sandeep Thakral, Rajeshwar Tewai, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustubh Bendre, Sayantan Kushari, Keyzad Anklesaria, and Debabrata Majumder. Anal Shah was the Non-Playing-Captain for the Indian All Stars. Subodh Maskara and Subhash Gupta offered themselves as substitutes for the odd session or two when required.

The entire match was presented on the BBO Vugraph for both the rooms and the play records are available in the archives of BBO. Moreover, when sitting out,

many of the World All-star players offered their expert comments on the play. Subhash Gupta, fondly known as 'Guruji', made himself available as a resident expert. This commentary was live-streamed on youtube on the DEMICOMA Bridge Academy youtube channel. Here is a link to a few of those youtube broadcasts wherein the pictures have properly synced with the commentary. Others can be found on Youtube.

30 October, Session 1 : https://youtube.com/live/RVMhfgDkW_c?feature=share

30 October, Session 2 : https://youtube.com/live/2ggPgbGz8_s?feature=share

30 October, Session 3 : https://youtube.com/live/n5eeA8P_uNs?feature=share

At the end first four sessions, the World All Stars were leading 142-56. The second day was played as a second challenger contest. On the second day, the score in the end was 96-78 in favour on India All-Stars.

At the end of the match, there was an open discussion on some of the interesting deals from the match where All-stars offered their views on various situations that were encountered during the play. For paucity of time, just about one deal per session could be discussed in the open session.

Still, each session had some interesting deals and situation. In what follows, we have documented six deals from the first set.



India vs. World All Stars Team Match Contd.

Deal 3, Dealer S, Vul: EW

♠ 73
♥ QJT73
♦ A
♣ KJT52

♠ AQ854
♥ AK5
♦ KQ4
♣ 63

♠ KT62
♥ 92
♦ T95
♣ Q984

♠ J9
♥ 864
♦ J87632
♣ A7

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
			Pass
1♠	2♠(♥+minor)	3♠	4♥
4♠	P	P	P

Keyzad led ♦A, Laltu contributed the ♦2, and Keyzad shifted to a Club, no doubt guided by the small Diaomnd card, to collect a Diamond ruff. Down one.

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
			3♦
3Nt	P	P	P

Mikael tried a barrage 3♦ opening. With ♦KQx and sufficient strength, Jaggy opted for the regulation 3Nt overcall playing there. Ola led the ♥T. Jaggy crossed to Dummy and played a Diamond to the ♦K. Ola produced the ♦A for a surprise, but Jaggy had the ♦T9 in the Dummy so he could get two Diamond tricks. That was 600 to EW and 12 IMPs to the Indian stars.

Deal 4, Dealer West, Vul: Both

♠ 543
♥ 9852
♦ 74
♣ Q742

♠ T2
♥ QT763
♦ AQ985
♣ T

♠ KJ7
♥ AK
♦ KT62
♣ AK86

♠ AQ986
♥ J4
♦ J3
♣ J953

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
P	P	2N	P
3♦(xfer)	P	3♥	P
4♦	P	6♦	P
P	P		

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
P	P	2N	P
3♦(xfer)	P	3♥	P
3N	P	P	P

Both Easts opened 2N in the third seat. Both West transferred with a 3♦ bid. After East's 3♥ though, Zia continued 4♦ and opposite a passed partner Helgemo blasted to 6♦ rather than taking a slow route. Boje Brogeland was commentating on the deal. He observed that West had a borderline hand for a forward-going bid on 3♥, however, his initial pass limited his hand mitigating any chance of overreaching.

North was on the lead and it appeared a toss-up between the black suits. This is the type of situation that divides bridge players into two camps. I belong to the school of thought that would prefer to lead the shorter suit because the Declarer is more likely to hold two cards in that suit. The other camp would prefer a Club lead because it is backed by the Q. Keyzad chose the latter option leading a small Club and the Declarer had no problem in making 12 tricks.

In the Closed Room, Jaggy opted to rebid 3N. Declarer made all 13 tricks after a small Spade lead, but India Stars lost 12 IMPs. After 4 boards, the score was 12-12.

India vs. World All Stars Team Match Contd.

Deal 5, Dealer North, Vul: NS

♠ QJ76	♠ AK543
♥ T74	♥ A5
♦ T732	♦ KJ
♣ A7	♣ K532
♠ T98	♠ 2
♥ J83	♥ KQ962
♦ 9	♦ AQ8654
♣ QJT964	♣ 8

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
	P	1♠	2♠(♥+minor)
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
	P	1♠	2N
P	3♥	P	4♥
P	P	P	

Both Souths opened 1♠ in the second seat. In the Open Room, Laltu overcalled 2♠ showing Hearts and a minor. Zia ventured 3♠ at favourable vulnerability. In the commentary box, Boje Brogeland remarked that South had to have a very strong hand for his overcall at the unfavourable vulnerability, so North might think of bidding on, however, Keyzad, not unreasonably, chose to Pass. 4♠ had no chance. Laltu led his singleton Club. Had he got a Club ruff, the contract would have gone down 3. Keyzad shifted to a Heart though. Down two undoubled was not at all bad for EW as NS were making a vulnerable game.

In the Closed Room, Mikael overcalled 2N showing both red suits. Ola still bid 3♥ but Mikael raised to four. That raise looked a little hopeful as North could well have had a much weaker hand for his 3♥ bid. Perhaps, NS have some other bid available for weaker hands and that 3♥ showed some values. Anyway, 4♥ was cold as the cards were and Ola promptly dropped East's doubleton Ace by using the ♣ A entry to play a trump once through East and then playing a small trump. He lost a trick each in ♠♥♦ for +620. That was 11 IMPs to World All-Stars. The score was 23-12 at the end of five deals.

Boards 3-5 led to a double digit swing each. Board six onwards were fought over part scores each leading to a 5/6 IMP swing.

Deal 6, Dealer East, Vul: EW

♠ AT3	♠ 98642
♥ J84	♥ 973
♦ A85	♦ J76
♣ AKQ8	♣ J9
♠ J	♠ KQ75
♥ AKQ5	♥ T62
♦ KQ932	♦ T4
♣ T53	♣ 7642

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
		P	P
1♦	X	P	1♠
X	XX	2♦	P
P	X	P	2♠
P	P	P	

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
		P	P
1♦	1N	P	P
P			

In the Closed Room, Ola chose a 1N overcall holding 18 HCP and Axx in Diamonds. One can imagine hands where a NT or a Major suit game will play better from South hand. The 1N overcall forgoes that chance. Keyzad likely opted to double with some similar thinking. That led to a very tortuous auction. Laltu took out to 1♠, Zia doubled with a suitable distribution, and Keyzad redoubled to show strength. Laltu rebid 2♠ and played there. The 5-1 break spelt his doom, and the contract went down 1. If a negative double were available to South on East's 2♦, North might have been able to bid 3♣, likely a slightly better spot. Ola's 3Nt sailed with nine tricks. Five IMPs to World All stars team.

India vs. World All Stars Team Match Contd.

Deal 7, Dealer South, Vul: Both

<p>♠ 3 ♥ KQT ♦ AT63 ♣ KQ532</p>		<p>♠ J8764 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ52 ♣ J84</p>	
<p>♠ A95 ♥ AJ6543 ♦ J9 ♣ AT</p>	<p>♠ KQT2 ♥ 972 ♦ 874 ♣ 976</p>		

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
1♥	2♣	X	P
2♥	P	P	P

The bidding was the same in both the rooms. North, holding a lot of tenaces was going to get endplayed many times during the course of play. Looking at all the four hands, it was easy to see how the Declarer could manage to get 8 or 9 tricks. Single Dummy, West couldn't have known that North started with a stiff Spade. Keyzad led his singleton Spade solving that problem for the Declarer. The rest was a routine matter. Keyzad's Spade lead went to South's Ten and Zia's Ace. Zia next played a small Diamond to Dummy's Queen and pulled a Heart. South played the Nine. Zia won ♥A and backed a Heart. Keyzad cashed ♦A and ♥K and exited with a small Club hoping to find the Ten with partner. Alas, it was with the Declarer. South's ♠KQ went to sleep.

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
1♥	2♣	X	P
2♥	P	P	P

In the Closed Room, Ola led the ♥K. Jaggy ducked and Ola shifted to a small Diamond. Mikael's ♦8 provided count so when Jaggy won ♦J, cashed ♥A and played another Heart, Ola was able to cash ♦A and exit with a Spade. Declarer had no route to success after that. World All-stars collected 5 more IMPs on that board.

Deal 8

Dealer West

Vul: None

♠ AT754
♥ AJ7
♦ 8
♣ 8632

♠ 86

♥ T83

♦ AK962

♣ AQ5

♠ 93

♥ KQ95

♦ T54

♣ KT74

♠ KQJ2
♥ 642
♦ QJ73
♣ J9

Bidding : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Keyzad	Helgemo	Laltu
P	1♦	P	1♥
1♠	X	3♠	P
P	P		

In the Open Room, Keyzad opened 1♦, Laltu responded 1♥, and Zia was able to make a cheap 1♠ bid. Helgemo jumped to 3 at his turn reaching the par of the deal. That was 140 to World All stars.

Bidding: Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jaggy	Ola	Sandeep	Mikael
P	1N	P	P
2♣	2♦	P	P
P			

In the Closed Room, Ola opened a weak 1Nt. East-West were unable to find their Spade fit. Jaggy overcalled 2♣ and Ola pressed on with a 2♦ bid winning the auction. Sandeep Thakral led the ♠K. The ideal defence would have been for East to shift to a Heart at trick two. Perhaps, reading Jaggy's 4♠ as a suit preference, Sandeep switched to ♣J. That was curtains for the defence. Ola won, cashed two top Diamonds and played Clubs. Sandeep ruffed the third Club but he could not prevent a Heart discard on the fourth Club. To achieve that, the defenders had to remove the Heart entry to South hand by playing a Heart early. That was +90 and a 6-IMP gain for the World All-stars. At the end of first 8 deals, they led 39-12. We have presented these deals here as a zalak of the quality of the game.

KNOW ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT PLAYING ARENA

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | JADE & RUBY Halls | SILVER EVENT | OPEN ROOM |
| 2. | SAPPIRE Hall | SILVER EVENT | CLOSED ROOM |
| 3. | CORAL Hall | GOLD EVENT | OPEN ROOM |
| 4. | TURQUOISE Hall | GOLD EVENT | CLOSED ROOM |
| 5. | EMERALD Hall | BBO ROOMS | |

OTHER IMPORTANT ROOMS

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | VIP Room 1 | Bulletin Room |
| 2. | VIP Room 2 | Dealing Room |
| 3. | VIP Room 3 | Tech Management Room (TC Pant) |
| 4. | KING GEORGE | Vu-graph Theatre (Around 40 persons can view) |
| 5. | KING NICHOLAS | Meeting Room for Director's |
| 6. | KING LUDWIG | Admin team of HCL |
| 7. | KING OSMAN BAY | Branding Team of HCL |
| 8. | QUEEN ISABELLA | Accounts Team of HCL |

THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Please observe silence during play. Follow the 'Sound' (or lack of it) principle-**Silence Is Golden.**



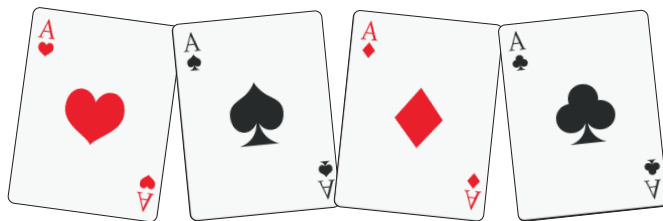
Geir Helgemo



Mikael Rimstedt

The 20th **HCL** International Bridge Championship

31th October to 6th November 2023



Tournament Schedule

Tuesday, Oct 31	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD / SILVER EVENT – SWISS LEAGUE	
	1000 – 1015 Hrs.	Director's Announcements & Draw for Team of Four Gold / Silver Event
	1020 – 1145 Hrs.	Round – 1 (10 Boards)
	1205 – 1330 Hrs.	Round – 2 (10 Boards)
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1555 Hrs.	Round – 3 (10 Boards)
	1615 – 1740 Hrs.	Round – 4 (10 Boards)
	1740 – 1810 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1810 – 1935 Hrs.	Round – 5 (10 Boards)
Wednesday, Nov 01	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD / SILVER EVENTS – SWISS LEAGUE Continues	
	1000 – 1125 Hrs.	Round – 6 (10 Boards)
	1145 – 1310 Hrs.	Round – 7 (10 Boards)
	1310 – 1410 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1410 – 1535 Hrs.	Round – 8 (10 Boards)
	1555 – 1720 Hrs.	Round – 9 (10 Boards)
	1720 – 1750 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1750 – 1915 Hrs.	Round – 10 (10 Boards)
	1930 - 2000 Hrs.	Captain's Meeting for TOP 16 qualifying teams of the GOLD & SILVER event for the PRE-QF knock-out.
Thursday, Nov 02	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO Pre-QF (4 * 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 1 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	1930 Hrs. Onwards	Cocktails & Dinner (Hosted by HCL)
	2015 – 2045 Hrs.	Draw of Lots for Pro Am Tournament

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

Friday, Nov 03	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO QF (4 x 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 2 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	MP PAIRS STRATA II – (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)	
	1100 – 1415 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1830 Hrs.	Session – 2
Saturday, Nov 04	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO SF (4 x 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 3 & IMP PAIRS – ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
Sunday, Nov 05	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – Final (4*14 Boards) & Play-off	
	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

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

	OPEN MP PAIRS – FINAL (GOLD & SILVER) - Barometer Scoring	
	0930 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2
	IMP PAIRS – FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)	
	1000 – 1330 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2
	IMP PAIRS STRATA - II (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1330 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1730 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1830 Hrs. onwards	Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony
Monday, Nov 06	PRO-AM PAIRS TOURNAMENT – Maximum 54 Boards	
	0930 – 1315 Hrs.	Session – 1 (28 Boards)
	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1730 Hrs.	Session – 2 (26 Boards)
	1800 Hrs. onwards	Prize Distribution

IMPORTANT - MP Pairs Entry

Please note that the Entry for Open Match Point Pairs event, which commences on 2nd Nov morning, will close tomorrow (Wednesday, 1st November) at 1430 Hrs. No entry will be taken after that. All participants are requested to kindly adhere to the entry timings.

Also remember that those who qualify to the Last-16 stage of Gold / Silver Team event and plan to participate in MP Pair event will also have to give their entries before start of the Pairs event. They will not be seeded to the MP Pairs, if the entry is not received within the scheduled time. It may also be noted that those who reach the Semi-final stage of GOLD & Silver team event will be returned their MP Pairs entry fee, as they can't participate in the event.

BBO Schedule for Tuesday, October 31, 2023

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

Daily Bulletins & Results of 20th HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP @
www.hcl-bridge.com