

Editor

Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi

Dr. Prakash Paranjape

# HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Gelebrating 26 Years

Oct 31 - Nov 6, 2023

**DAILY BULLETIN** 

**Bulletin - 2, 1st November 2023** 

Layout Editor **Bholanath Das** 

#### **BULGARIA TOP GOLD TEAMS**

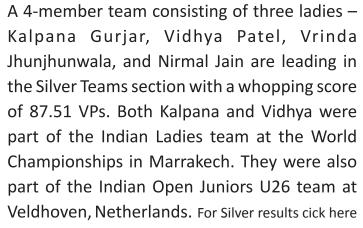
The 20<sup>th</sup>HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP, 2023 commenced yesterday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel in Delhi. A total of 52 teams are taking part in the Gold Teams and 93 in Silver. At the end of the first five rounds of the Swiss league that were played on day one, Team Bulgaria consisting of Jerry Stomatov, Julian Stefanov, Ivan Nanev, and Vladimir Mihov topped the Gold Teams with a VP total of 74.16. Joyjits Army with 74.14 VPs is close on their heels. The next six teams are Azs Buboslavia, DKI Red, Mavericks All Stars, DKI Blue, Poland, and Rampage. Two strong teams from India - Formidables and Mavericks are placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> position respectively. https://hclbridge-results.com/2023/goldteams



Vrinda Jhunjhunwala and Nirmal Jain

Unity are at the second position with a score of 73.49 VPs, a good 14 VPs less than the top team. The next six teams are EISK, PALS, Mahakal, Team Vibrant, Gladiators, and ICSA coolers.

Last five rounds will be played today. At the end of 10 rounds, top 16 teams in each section will qualify for the Knock out stage that will commence tomorrow. There will be a carryover, up to a maximum of 14, for the KO matches as per the SCoC. First elimination of Match-Point Pairs will also be played tomorrow.



https://hclbridge-results.com/2023/silverteams/



Kalpana and Vidhya



Disease		OLD TEAMS					
Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	15	Bulgaria	74.16	27	39	Pravaha	50.84
2	24	Joyjits Army	74.14	28	43	Texan Aces	50.46
3	18	Azs Buboslavia	73.61	29	10	Bridge24PL	49.32
4	12	DKI Red	68.29	30	8	DKI Green	48.44
5	38	Mavericks All Stars	67.39	31	46	Triple Eight	46.56
6	13	DKI Blue	65.74	32	20	Maverick Prodigies	45.8
7	30	Poland	65.09	33	7	Maya Meera Sneha	45.78
8	48	Rampage	61.54	34	41	Gold Diggers	45.5
9	19	Shri Radhey	60.67	35	5	Carpe Diem	45.48
10	31	Indian Chain Pvt Limited	59.9	36	1	Hemant Jalan	45.37
11	50	Ruia Blazers	59.8	37	34	Mohota	45.02
12	6	Delhi Blues	59	38	21	Bangur Cement	44.5
13	45	Gopika Tandan	57.18	39	16	Blades	43.13
14	42	Shree Cement	56.96	40	52	Sanghi	42.21
15	36	Tornatae	56.05	41	14	Mix n Match	41.7
16	51	Maximus	55.68	42	28	Team Liberty	41.34
17	9	Utkal	55.59	43	2	NCR Blue	38.45
18	26	Formidables	53.05	44	47	Fenesta	36.86
19	33	Anup Dhar	52.9	45	32	Six Survivors	34.41
20	11	Cogito	52.84	46	4	Spartans	34.21
21	29	Kanha	52.68	47	27	Challengers	33.97
22	17	Mavericks	52.14	48	49	Green Tiger	33.61
23	23	Lake My Love	51.94	49	44	Third Eye	32.29
24	35	VFJ	51.85	50	37	Kista	32.2
25	3	Samadhan	51.35	51	22	Amanora	30.98
26	40	Dhampur Sugar Mills	51.02	52	25	Inception	21.01

#### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MATCH POINT PAIRS

Please note that the Entry for Match Point Pairs event that commences tomorrow (2nd November) morning will close today (1 November) at 1430 Hrs. No entry will be accepted after that. The entry has to be given online along with the entry fee.

Even those who have qualified to the KO stage of Gold / Silver Team event, and plan to participate in MP Pair event will not be seeded to the next elimination round of MP Pairs, if their entry is not received by today 1430 Hrs. Those who reach the Semi-final stage of the team event in Gold & Silver will be returned their MP Pairs entry fee, as they will not be able to participate in the Pairs event.

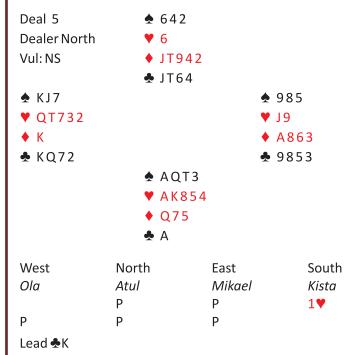
IMPORTANT: A pair will be allowed to participate at any stage of a pairs event, independent of whether one or both players of the partnership are qualified to KO stage or not. Even a player, who has not participated in the team event, will be allowed to play the pairs event with another player, who is qualified to any KO stage of team event. However, there will be conditions applied for allowing such partnerships. Please see Chap. 8.8 of the SCoC for details.

	SII	LVER TEAMS	RESU	LT	AF	TER 5 ROUN	DS
Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	79	SarlaFibers	87.51	48	91	Brusters	48.84
2	39	Unity	73.49	49	25	Indore The Clean City	48.43
3	48	EISK	72.3	50	42	KKK Bridge Riders	47.95
4	11	PALS	68.74	51	9	JAAL	47.85
5	38	Mahakal	68.48	52	45	Pravah	47.79
6	86	Team Vibrant	67.12	53	87	Sarveswar	47.07
7	21	Gladiators	67.1	54	50	JBS	46.73
8	60	ICSA Coolers	65.92	55	77	НРВА	46.23
9	8	Spartans	64.59	56	88	CBA	46.14
10	32	Pradeep	64.54	57	1	Kosmos	46.12
11	66	PMDBA	64.45	58	3	Delhi 6	45.99
12	15	Andromeda	63.04	59	41	Tapan Six	45.79
13	76	Dehradun	62.43		71	Bangkok BMS	45.79
14	34	Shiv Shakti	62.27	61	93	Finesse	45.07
15	58	BAAPPA	61.76	62	23	Playwell Nagpur	44.44
16	2	Invincibles	60.95	63	22	Nagpur VI	44.4
17	- 59	CAPA India	60.92	64	61	Jiya	44.07
18	33	Bridgemates	60.71	65	31	Proyas	44.05
19	29	Standard Plus	60.58	66	75	Starlight	43.71
20	27	Fernanda	59.77	67	14	Tarun	43.44
21	17	Chefs Table	59.54	68	24	Shiva	43.42
22	51	Spectacular Saju	59.28	69	16	Amanora B	43.22
23	53	Mind Crusaders	59.2	70	49	Dilip Atha	43.05
24	52	Miracle	58.99	71	73	Que Sera	42.33
25	13	Aajinkya	57.57	72	67	Abhyuday	42.23
26	46	Baruipur Bridge Club	57.37	73	62	Chandrajan V	41.92
27	70	Dr. S. S. M	57.18	74	84	Mix Bag	41.78
28	63	Sonarpur Bridge Club	57.12	75	30	VASP	41.55
29	56	Juthika	57.02	76	7	DVJR Bridge Team Delhi	40.34
30	40	Sixth Sense	56.88	77	85	Shree Ganesh	40.22
31	78	Spade Ace	56.72	78	72	Lucky Coup	39.9
32	35	Lucky Six	56.38	79	28	Cacophonix	39.54
33	4	Rainbow	55.97	80	80	Bharat Mata Ki Jay	37.76
34	82	Potluris	55.11	81	69	Ushakiron	37.06
35	5	Hibiscus	55.08	82	65	Bridge Bandits	36.42
36	10	Yali	54.69	83	36	Bidyuts IV	35.76
37	44	Sahjadi	54.54	84	19	Trestle	35.47
38	83	Galebi	54.3	85	89	Kool India	35.13
39	57	K2	53.92	86	47	SETU	33.73
40	90	Hyderabad Blue	52.44	87	12	Xeavi	32.18
41	74	Chakas	51.99	88	54	Brajas IV	32
42	43	Autumnsonata	51.93	89	6	Consistent	30.89
43	81	Joi Jagannath	51.81	90	20	Punyawant	29.65
44	18	Boldplay	49.64	91	37	Cal Mates	24.74
45	68	Orion	49.16	92	26	Noida Blues	20.72
46	55	Bridge Lovers	49.07	93	64	Puppet Stayman	20.5
47	92	Tapoban	49.02			11 /	
		1					

#### A 1 ♥ Contract And A One Suit-squeeze

South opens 1♥ in the third seat and the bidding goes PPP. Can the board be of interest at all? The answer is negative in many cases, but Board 5 of the first Round produced a positive answer to that question. In fact, the first six boards of that round were such that the bidding was almost the same, or similarly straightforward on most tables. The play in a few of them offered some interesting twists.

On Vugraph today for the first session were the Mavericks All Stars playing against the Kista team. Kista is a star himself having won countless events on the Indian National circuit and won the silver medal in the Seniors Section in the World championships of 2022. The tussle between two All Star Defenders Ola and Mikael Rimsted and Kista as Declarer was what I was looking for. Deal 5 provided that opportunity.



In one room, after the ♣K lead and the ♥AK of Hearts at trick two and three, Boje Brogeland tabled the ♠Q. The contract was now secure even against a 5-2 trump break as was the case. West was endplayed with the ♠K as he held no more Diamond card. West played the ♠K. Winning with ♠A, Boje now played a trump. West could take all his trumps but was endplayed again. EW could take the ♣Q and just one more trick.

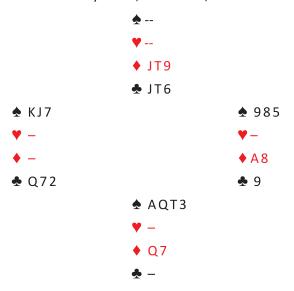
In the other room, after the same opening lead, Kista won the ♣A and played the ♥AK West contributing ♥3 and ♥2 in that sequence and East playing ♥9 and ♥J. Kista now played another Heart. West now had three trumps to cash. Ola won the fourth trick with 7 and played the ♦K first.

When it won, he cashed two more trumps. Kista let go all the Spades from the Dummy. On the last three trumps, Mikael discarded the  $\diamondsuit 3$ , and then the  $\clubsuit 5$  and  $\clubsuit 8$ .

This was the situation with six cards left in each hand.

Deal 5, Dealer North, Vul: NS

Contract 1♥ by South, NS:3 tricks, EW:4 tricks.



If West now exits with a Spade, either after cashing ♣Q or without cashing ♣Q, South will win and play the ♦Q forcing East to duck. South will then play ♠A and back to endplay West yet again and use him as a stepping stone to Dummy's Club trick. Does that mean there is no defence?

Before answering that question, let us look at what happened at the table. Ola cashed the ♣Q and Kista discarded a Spade from the Closed hand. Ola now exited with the ♠K. Kista won ♠A discarding a Club from Dummy and played the ♠Q which East ducked. Now, Kista had a choice of plays and he had to guess the location of the ♠J, not the easiest of tasks at any time. If West held it, Kista would have to cash ♠Q and play a Spade using West as a stepping stone to Dummy's Club winner. If East held it, Kista could endplay him with a Diamond. Kista guessed wrong and went one down.

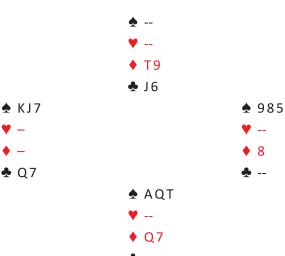
And now for the answer of our question. Well, we haven't yet looked at West playing the ♣2. South will have to win in Dummy with the ♣J because East still holds the ♣9. South cannot now continue Clubs lest he lose two more Clubs and the ♦Ace or one more Spade depending on what he discards on Clubs. What happens if South plays the ♦J from the Dummy? East plays the ♦A and South is squeezed in one suit in the following situation.

# A 1 Contract And A One Suit-squeeze contd.

Deal 5, Dealer North, Vul: NS

Contract 1♥ by South, NS:4 tricks, EW:4 tricks.

♦ J- ♦ A-South to play next



If South plays the ◆7, East will push a Spade and South will lose two more tricks to West, ♣Q, and ♠K. If South throws ◆Q, East will play a Diamond endplaying Dummy forcing a play away from ♣J6. South was squeezed in one suit! You don't encounter one-suit squeezes every day, you don't come across such situations even for years. But of course, yesterday was not every day, nor every year, yesterday was the first day of the HCL International Bridge Tournament, 2023 edition, so even the rare one-suit squeeze had to grace the occasion.

#### Mavericks All Stars vs. Poland, Round 3

In round 3, Mavericks All Stars were pitted against a strong Poland team. The fireworks began from the first board itself. Zia and Helgemo lost two big penalties.



**♦** 972

Deal 21, Dealer North, Vul: NS

♣ 972♥ AJ76♦ A753♣ AQ

♣ JT54
 ♠ K8
 ♥ 542
 ♥ KQT83
 ♠ KQT9
 ♠ 84

♣ T853

₹ 74
★ AQ63
♥ 9
★ J62
♣ KJ962

Open Room Bidding

West	North	East	South
Gavel	Bakke	Jagniewsky	Brogeland
	1Nt	Р	3♥(short suit)
Р	4♦	Р	5♣
Р	5♦	Р	Р
Р			

In the Open Room, Bakke, sitting North, opened 1Nt and South responded 3♥ to show a short suit. Holding AJxx, Bakke seems to have taken an unusual step of crossing 3Nt, possibly because he held three Aces, when he chose to rebid 4♦. At this point, they have not yet identified a suit fit. Boje Brogeland rebid 5♣. Bakke was not happy with that so he converted to 5♦ and they ended up playing in a 4-3 fit. 5♦ contract went down three.

**Closed Room Bidding** 

West	North	East	South
Zia	Pszczola	Helgemo	Janiszewski
	1Nt	2♥	X
3♥	Р	Р	Χ
Р	Р	Р	

In the Closed Room, North opened 1Nt and Helgemo chose to overcall 2♥ with an uninspiring 2524 shape and eight HCP. South doubled for take out and Zia, with a nearbalanced shape and 542 of Hearts, chose to raise to 3♥. When the bidding reverted to South after two passes, South doubled again. With AJ76 in Hearts, North was happy to pass the double.

South led his stiff Heart and North ducked. Declarer played a small Diamond from the hand to Dummy's King. South

contributed the ♦6 showing count and North ducked. Helgemo now ran the ♠J to South's Queen. Janiszewski won and played a Club. North cashed ♣AQ and the two red suit Aces, and played a Spade. South won and played a High Club ruffed in the Dummy and overruffed by North. Declarer had one more Club to lose so the defenders made 8 tricks. Down four non-vulnerable was 800 to Poland. They gained 15 IMPs on the board.

The next board had even better score in store for the Poland NS.

Deal 6	<b>♦</b> KJ82	
Dealer East	<b>♥</b> 8753	
Vul: FW	♦ Q984	
vai. Lvv	<b>♦</b> 8	
<b>♠</b> 973		<b>♠</b> Q
<b>¥</b> 2		<b>♥</b> AQJT964
♦ KT75		<b>♦</b> 32
<b>♣</b> T9764		♣ KQ3
	<b>♠</b> AT654	
	<b>♥</b> K	
	♦ AJ6	
	♣ AJ52	

#### Open Room Bidding

West	North	East	South
Gavel	Bakke	Jagniewsky	Brogeland
		1♥	1♠
Р	3♥	Р	4♠
Р	Р	Р	

In the Open Room, the bidding was uneventful. Boje Brogeland played in 4♠ making 11 tricks for a score of

+450. In the Open Room, Helgemo's double of 3♥ added spice to the offering.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Pszczola	Helgemo	Janiszewski
		1♥	1♠
P	3♥	X (?)	4♠
4N (minors)	Р	5♣	Χ
Р	Р	Р	

What should be the meaning of that double? A strong hand takeout of Spade suit is what comes to mind first. That is what Zia thought it would be but Helgemo just had a long Heart suit and a not-too strong hand in terms of High Card strength. When South bid 4♠, Zia, with 4-5 in minors, bid 4Nt. Helgemo bid 5♠ and Janiszewski doubled. Helgemo could have run to 5♥ to save the day but he passed. ♠5 doubled went down five for a score of 1400. That was 14 more IMPs to Poland.

Mavericks All Stars lost five more IMPs on board 27 but pulled back some in last three boards so the final score was 34-19 IMPs converting to 14.8-5.2 VPs for Poland.



#### A Six Club Slam And Two Polish Club Attempts

Deal 15 of the fifth round was a small slam in Clubs for North-South with 19 opposite 10 HCP. Two teams playing Polish Club were pitted against each other. It was Poland vs Azs Buboslavia team. The bidding began on similar note but deviated a little on the third Round. Let us have a look at both the auctions.

Dealer South **♥** KJT Vul: NS **♦** 762 ♣ AJ8432 **♦** QT852 ♠ AK964 732 ♥ Q96 ▶ T843 **♦** 95 **♣** T65 **♣** 7 **◆** 73 ♥ A854 ♦ AKQJ ♣ KQ9 Bidding Open Room West North East South Patreucha Buras Patreucha Strzemecki 1♣ (Polish Club) 3♣ (INV,♣) 3♦ (Values, FW going) Ρ Ρ **3♥** (Values) 3♠ (like fourth suit Force) Р

North intended the 4♠ bid to show shortness but South was not exactly on the same page. In the end, North didn't think he had enough to bid a slam all by himself so he signed off in 5♣.

Ρ

Χ

**4**♦ (Cue, FW going)

Ρ

Bidding Closed Room	West	North	East	South
	Janiszewski	Novak	Pszczola	Marcinowski
				1♣
	Р	3♣	Р	3♦
	Р	3♥	Р	4♣
	Р	4♠	Χ	Р
	Р	4Nt	Р	6♣
	D	D	D	

4♣ (no ♠ch.)

4♠ (short)

Ρ

In the Other room, the bidding was identical up to the 3♥ bid. South now crossed 3N himself, bidding 4♣. North showed Spade control, first or second round, with a 4♠ bid. When that was doubled, North rebid 4N suggesting that he did not have two fast Spade losers. That was enough for South to bid 6♣.



Azs Buboslavia team

# The 20th HCL International Bridge Championship 31<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023







## **Tournament Schedule**

Wednesday, Nov 01		.D / 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 GOL	D & SILVER EVENT – KO Pre-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 – EL	IMINATION – 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
Friday, Nov 03	TEAM OF FOUR GOL	D & 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

Tournament Schedule Contd.				
Friday, Nov 03	OPEN MP PAIRS – E	LIMINATION – 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 GO	LD & 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		LD & SILVER EVENT – Final (4 x 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		
		INAL (GOLD & SILVER) - Barometer Scoring		
	0930 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1		
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break		
	1400 – 1745 Hrs.	Session - 2		

Tournament Schedule Contd.				
Sunday, Nov 05	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		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 TOU	RNAMENT – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov morning, will close tomorrow (Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE

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

## **BBO Schedule for Wednesday, November 01, 2023**

1000 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-06 (4 Tables)
1145 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-07 (4 Tables)
1410 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-08 (4 Tables)
1555 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-09 (4 Tables)
1750 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-10 (4 tables)

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