

HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

DELHI 2024

VENUE
The Leela Ambience
Convention Hotel, Delhi

September 14 - 22

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor
Dr. Prakash Paranjape

Bulletin - 5, 18th September 2024

Layout Editor
Bholanath Das

Six Foreign Teams Qualify for the Pre Quarter Finals of GOLD Team of Four

Pre Quarter Final Draw, GOLD

HOME	TABLE	AWAY
PRO3MAX (0-0)	1	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS
BIANCHI (14-0)	2	INDIAN CHAIN
ACE MATES (0-0)	3	MAVERICKS
HEMANT JALAN (0-0)	4	TEXAN
VEDIC (0-0)	5	MONICA JAJOO
SHREE CEMENT (5.5-0)	6	WHAM
FORMIDABLES (0-0)	7	WBT
BANGUR CEMENT (0-0)	8	SHOURIE

Pre Quarter Final Draw, SILVER

HOME	TABLE	AWAY
TEAM KABRA	1	ANDROMEDA
RSCS	2	DEHRADUN
CHEFS TABLE	3	SHIB SHAKTI
JACK CALLS	4	DILIP ATHA B
ADVENTURE	5	SETU
BORIVALI SPORTS CLUB	6	SABASS
TEAM VIBRANT	7	DAZZLE
SAHYADRI	8	INVINCIBLES

BBO 1 is - Formidables Vs WBT Bridge App
Bbo 2 is - Pro3max Vs Dhampur Sugar Mills

GOLD TEAMS RESULT AFTER 10 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	37	PRO3MAX	131.11	27	18	SAMADHAN	95.49
2	38	BIANCHI	126.67	28	14	MAVERICKS PRODIGIES -0.5	95.02
3	8	ACEMATES	125.04	29	10	SRI JAGANNATH	94.68
4	32	HEMANT JALAN	124.37	30	13	FENESTA	94.49
5	29	VEDIC	123.81	31	17	TORNATAE -0.5	94.01
6	1	SHREE CEMENT	123.12	32	34	CARPEDIEM	93.31
7	44	FORMIDABLES	122.63	33	40	KANSAN ROYALS	93.17
8	43	BANGUR CEMENT	119.73	34	15	PROYAS	92.48
9	39	MONICA JAJOO	119.67	35	42	COGITO	92.32
10	24	TEXAN ACES	115.53	36	7	OVER TRICKS	92.26
11	31	MAVERICKS	112.66	37	20	LAKE MY LOVE -1	91.38
12	2	INDIANCHAIN	112.48	38	23	DELHI BLUES -0.5	90.04
13	12	SHOURIE	111.68	39	36	MOMENTUM	88.97
14	49	WBT BRIDGE APP	109.05	45	45	ERNIS	88.97
15	19	WHAM	108.7	41	47	MIX N MATCH -0.75	87.43
16	48	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS-1	108.45	42	35	BOLD PLAY	86.11
17	21	SHRI RADHEY	108.27	43	6	DESI GIRLS	84.74
18	25	EISK	107.74	44	22	RAJPUTANA	84.72
19	28	OMEGA	106.99	45	51	DR SANGHI -2	83.81
20	41	RUIA BLAZERS	106.05	46	50	OINDRILA WRILEENA -0.5	83.8
21	26	PANKAJ MEHTA	105.85	47	4	DASSBRIDGE	81.46
22	3	SARLAFIBERS	105.12	48	33	ACE CONQUERORS	80.26
23	5	KARATE KIDS -2	104.58	49	16	AMANORA	76.11
24	11	MOHOTA	104.57	50	30	NILACHAKRA -1.25	63.55
25	9	NINI NONO	100.31	51	46	FOUR ACES	62.37
26	27	ROYAL FLUSH	95.73				

BBO Schedule for Wednesday, September 18, 2024

1000 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, KO Pre-Quarter Final, Session 1 (4 x 14 Boards)

1215 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, KO Pre-Quarter Final, Session 2 (4 x 14 Boards)

1515 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, KO Pre-Quarter Final, Session 3 (4 x 14 Boards)

1715 Hrs: T-4 GOLD, KO Pre-Quarter Final, Session 4 (4 x 14 Boards)

Daily Bulletins & Results of 21st HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP @
www.hcl-bridge.com

SILVER TEAMS RESULT AFTER 10 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	63	Team Kabra	137.25	47	59	Kingcolac	100.18
2	78	Rscs	133.85	48	66	Pyramid	-1 99.98
3	72	Chefs Table	133.63	49	17	Villager Chalenger	99.5
4	38	Jackalls	130.25	50	73	Mohakal	99.34
5	44	Adventurers	127.71	51	1	Kosmos	99.13
6	24	Borivali Sports Club	127.64	52	34	Samadhan	98.4
7	58	Team Vibrant	124.58	53	11	Mixed Bag	97.9
8	30	Sahyadri	124.27	54	87	Victory Squad	10 97.8
9	43	Shib Shakti	122.14	55	70	Kkk Bridge Lovers 2	97.14
10	65	Sabass	120.41	56	76	Dr.S.S.M	96.65
11	46	Dilip Atha B	120.21	57	81	Maharaja	94.64
12	20	Andromeda	119.77	58	55	Zeppelin	94.49
13	71	Setu	118.65	59	2	Nuts And Bolts	94.09
14	26	Dazzle	118.15	60	80	H Ojoborolo	-0.5 93.99
15	42	Invincibles	118.06	61	40	Squanderers	93.4
16	19	Dehradun	115.95	62	91	Baskis	92.45
17	77	K2	115.6	63	8	Sharp	92.34
18	68	Goal Getters	115.17	64	25	Doubles	92.27
19	3	Scream	114.87	65	88	Bridgedoctors	92.15
20	23	Twem	113.27	66	10	Rs Mishra Team	92.04
21	49	Nagbagan Card Club	113.14	67	84	Usha Kiran	91.2
22	52	Saanvika	112.71	68	7	Assam Haryana Lion	-0.5 91.06
23	74	Mind Crusaders	111.76	69	89	Galebi	88.72
24	69	Caparo	111.68	70	4	Tulip	88.5
25	39	Oriental	111.63	71	50	Neo	-0.5 87.89
26	9	Spartans	-0.5 111.14	72	28	Bharat	87.66
27	60	Deepadhaar	110.65	73	22	Precision	86.6
28	53	Tapoban	110.37	74	75	Alfa Ace	86.22
29	12	Animesh	108.99	75	5	Tsunami	82.93
30	54	Capa India	108.78	76	31	Kingpins	82.55
31	37	Confluence	108.05	77	33	Jai Ho	82.22
32	32	Playwell Nagpur	107.62	78	16	Kota Club	81.23
33	47	Pass	106.26	79	18	Sparc	81.18
34	83	Sarbeswar 6	106.17	80	6	Tangelo	80.83
35	56	Kohinoor	106.08	81	61	Jaidip Iv	78.23
36	57	Kkk Bridge Lovers	105.9	82	48	Unpredictables	77.39
37	51	Card Kings	105.76	83	62	Tapan	77.03
38	85	Shaptarrathi	104.86	84	90	Malaika	76.23
39	67	Novice	103.99	85	15	Team Sangam	76.03
40	14	Juthika	103.97	86	86	East And West	-0.5 73.67
41	35	Marbles	103.8	87	82	Bhanshali	71.05
42	21	I Doctors	103.01	88	92	DHANU	70.05
43	36	Hyderabad Blue	102.16	89	29	Sbc	63.84
44	64	Heart Ace	102.07	90	41	Guns And Roses	63.3
45	79	Shiva	101.6	91	27	Dais Blitz	45.01
46	13	Sangam	100.29	92	45	Achintan	44.13

Tewari Twirls his moustache To Take The Thirteenth Trick



The two top teams at the table after five rounds of Swiss League – FORMIDABLES and Shourie – drew each other in the sixth round. Board 25 provided the most impressive fireworks. In the Closed Room, Gavin Wolpert opened 1Nt holding only 14 High Card Points, Rajnath Shourie jumped to 3♠ to show short Spades, and jumped to 5Nt when Gavin rebid 3Nt. That showed a power-packed hand and a desire to grope for the best Six level spot. Gavin spent some time over his next rebid and came up with a suggestion of Diamonds. He tabled a 6♦ bid. Holding 5 Diamonds, Rajnath was happy with that suggestion. He duly passed and the conduction ended up being in the best hand.

D 25	N GAVIN W ♠ AKQ3 ♥ Q874 ♦ K52 ♣ 105	W N E S 1NT P 3♠ P 3NT P 5NT P 6♦ P P P	
	W KAUSTABH N ♠ J1062 ♥ K532 ♦ 64 ♣ 873	E SAGANIK R ♠ 9875 ♥ 106 ♦ J97 ♣ Q964	
	S RAJATH S ♠ 4 ♥ AJ9 ♦ AQ1083 ♣ AKJ2		
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 12 13 12 11 12 S 12 13 12 12 12 E 1 0 1 1 0 W 1 0 1 1 0 Par Score: 1440 Par: NS 7♦		6♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0	

Saganik led the ♥T. Gavin thought for a while and went up with the ♥A as expected. On the ♦A next, Saganik dropped the ♦Jack falsecard to try and create some confusion, but Gavin continued Trumps. He did try for an overtrick, but quickly realised that it was unlikely to accrue. 6♦ made 12 tricks was the result giving +920 for North-South.

I was commentating on the live stream with a mixed focus, part of the narrative being for those who knew nothing about Bridge, and part, about the ongoing game. On the BBO screen in an adjacent window, I saw Tewari-Sumit bidding 7 Diamonds. Without giving much thought to it, I imagined that FORMIDABLES would lose IMPs on the deal. When I looked at the score that was projected on the camera, I saw FORMIDABLES winning 11 IMPs. I checked that again and again. And then I once again switched to the BBO screen to find out what had happened.

Indeed, FORMIDABLES had won 11 IMPs. Tewari had won 13 tricks. This was the bidding.

D 25	N Tewari R ♠ AKQ3 ♥ Q874 ♦ K52 ♣ 105	W N E S 1♦ P 3♠ P 3NT P 4♣ P 4♠ P 4NT P 5♥ P 6♣ P 7♦ P	
	W K BATHURST ♠ J1062 ♥ K532 ♦ 64 ♣ 873	E HURD J ♠ 9875 ♥ 106 ♦ J97 ♣ Q964	
	S SUMIT M ♠ 4 ♥ AJ9 ♦ AQ1083 ♣ AKJ2		
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT N 12 13 12 11 12 S 12 13 12 12 12 E 1 0 1 1 0 W 1 0 1 1 0 Par Score: 1440 Par: NS 7♦		7♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0	

Tewari opened a plebian 1♦ and Sumit splintered to 3♠ to show Diamond fit and short Spades. Tewari rebid 3N and Sumit continued 4♣. Tewari rebid 4♠. On RKC, Tewari showed 2 Key Cards, ♦ King and ♠ Ace. Sumit now asked for third round control with his 6♣ bid. With doubleton Club, Tewari jumped to 7♦.

Tewari Twirls his moustache To Take The Thirteenth Trick *(Contd.)*

John Hurd led the ♥T as in the Closed Room. In contrast to Gavin in the Closed Room who needed to make only 12 tricks, Tewari needed to make 13, so the play differed a bit. Tewari won the ♥Ace, cashed ♣AK, and ruffed a Club.

The Club ruff survived, but that was only the 12th trick. What about the 13th? Well Tewari Twirled his moustache to concoct the thirteenth. Here is how.

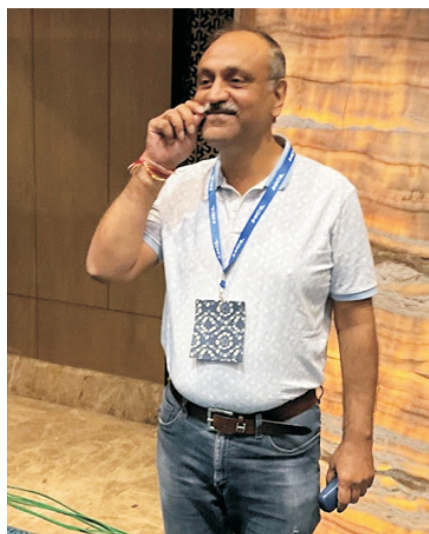
Tewari simply cashed all his Trumps! This was the position before the last trump was played.

D 25		N Tewari R ♠ AKQ3 ♥ Q ♦ ♣	W N E S 1♦ P 3♣ P 3NT P 4♣ P 4♥ P 4NT P 5♥ P 6♣ P 7♠ P																													
W K BATHURST ♠ J1062 ♥ K ♦ ♣	♥8 ♥2 ♥6 ♦10	E HURD J ♠ 9875 ♥ ♦ ♣ Q																														
<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>12</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>		♠	♦	♥	♣	NT	N	12	13	12	11	12	S	12	13	12	12	12	E	1	0	1	1	0	W	1	0	1	1	0	S SUMIT M ♠ 4 ♥ J9 ♦ 8 ♣ J	7♦ N NS: 8 EW: 0
♠	♦	♥	♣	NT																												
N	12	13	12	11	12																											
S	12	13	12	12	12																											
E	1	0	1	1	0																											
W	1	0	1	1	0																											

Tewari played the last trump. West had to keep the ♥King, so West let go a Spade. Tewari now discarded the ♥Queen and the pressure shifted to East. What could East do? East could not discard the ♣Queen, so East, too, let go a Spade. Tewari claimed 13 tricks.

7♦ bid and made scored 1440 for North-South. The 520 difference translated to 11 IMPs for FORMIDABLES!

(Elsewhere Ashish Malhotra, playing for team Hemant Jalan, also made the 7♦ contract. Two other North players, From Pankaj Mehta team, and from Omega team also made 13 tricks.)



GOPIKA and ARUN – Call it the winners



By Priyanka Gulati

In the world of bridge, where every deal carries the weight of strategy and suspense, a 2-day Mixed IMP Pairs category tournament for the NK Gupta trophy was added to HCL International Bridge Tournament for the first time this year 2024. Gopika Tandan and Arun Jain, in a breathtaking display of skill, stood as winners.

Gopika's journey in bridge began in 2017, when her children became older, and she sought something mentally invigorating. Bridge, with its endless complexity, became her passion—a game she admits she'll never fully “figure out,” and that's exactly what keeps her going. Arun, recognizing Gopika's discipline, intelligence, and hunger to learn, and Gopika seeing him as a great mentor, agreed to form a partnership. Together, they built a system where they thrive as equals. While many partnerships crumble under imbalance, with one dominating and the other following, Gopika and Arun have crafted something magical—a truly equal partnership where Gopika, with her sharp eye, often corrects Arun's mistakes. It's a dance of mutual respect and shared ambition.

Their secret? Playing sound bridge. Winning, of course, is sweet, but their goal has always been to focus on the game, to master its subtleties and intricacies. This mindset has propelled them to the top, proving that a love for the game can outshine the mere chase for victory.

Even Zia, after witnessing their triumph online, couldn't contain his joy, exclaiming, “Happy to see my favourite mixed pair win the tournament!”

As the tournament unfolded, it became clear that bridge, like the offers its own thrilling drama—the silent intensity of a well-played hand, the unspoken chemistry between partners, the sweet taste of a perfectly executed defence, the subtle flair of outmaneuvering the opposition, bridge is a game of infinite excitement, where every move holds the promise of a triumph or the sting of a defeat.

As for advice to aspiring players? Gopika suggests diving deep through reading and research, while Arun insists that success lies in card play and defence, instead of learning all the gadgets.

As the HCL tournament continues to grow into a global phenomenon, Arun puts it best: “Mr. and Mrs. Nadar have built something truly remarkable.” And with champions like Gopika and Arun at the helm, bridge has never been more thrilling.

Hemant Jalan vs Acemates, Round 8, GOLD Team of Four

Hemant Jalan team (Hemant Jalan, Ashis Malhotra, Kaustubh Bendre, Sayantan Kushari, Sandip Datta, and Gopinath Manna) trounced FORMIDABLES 44-1 in the seventh round and moved to the top of the Swiss League table. In the eighth round, they met an Australian team Acemates (Dagmar Neumann, Maurits van der Vlugt, Ian Thomson, David Beauchamp, and Jody Tutty). In this article, we will cover three boards from that round each of which produced a double digit swing.

We begin with deal 11. South Dealer, none Vul.

Maurits van der Vlugt, sitting South dealt and opened 3♣. Ian Thomson had a decent hand with Axx in Clubs. 3NT seemed like a regulation bid with it. Indeed, that is what he went for.

W	N	E	S
			3♣
P	3NT	P	P
P			

E	MANNA G
♠	AJ963
♥	9865
♦	42
♣	K4

The diagram above shows the East hand. What would you lead from that hand? Gopinath Manna chose the fourth best Spade. Full hand on next page.



Hemant Jalan vs Acemates, Round 8, GOLD Team of Four (Contd.)

11 D	N THOMSON I	W N E S																														
	♠ K2 ♥ QJ72 ♦ AK65 ♣ A82	P 3NT P 3♣ P P																														
	W SANDIP D	E MANNA G																														
♠ 1075 ♥ AK104 ♦ QJ97 ♣ J3	♠ AJ963 ♥ 9865 ♦ 42 ♣ K4																															
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	9	7	6	5	6	S	9	7	6	5	6	E	4	6	7	7	5	W	4	6	7	8	5	S MAURITS V	
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	9	7	6	5	6																											
S	9	7	6	5	6																											
E	4	6	7	7	5																											
W	4	6	7	8	5																											
Par Score: 100 Par: W 3* \times -1	♠ Q84 ♥ 3 ♦ 1083 ♣ Q109765	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																														

Ian Thomson ran it to his King and played ♣Ace and back. Defence had no chance after the original Spade lead.

In the Open Room, Sayantan Kushari and Kaustubh Bendre reached the same contract, but after a laboured bidding that left opponents with enough information to go about their defence in a methodical, open book fashion.

11 D	N SAYANTAN	W N E S																														
	♠ K2 ♥ QJ72 ♦ AK65 ♣ A82	1♦ 1NT 2♣ P 2♥ P P 3♣ 3♥ 3NT P P P																														
	W JODI TUTTY	E DAVID																														
♠ 1075 ♥ AK104 ♦ QJ97 ♣ J3	♠ AJ963 ♥ 9865 ♦ 42 ♣ K4																															
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	9	7	6	5	6	S	9	7	6	5	6	E	4	6	7	7	5	W	4	6	7	8	5	S KAUSTUBH B	
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	9	7	6	5	6																											
S	9	7	6	5	6																											
E	4	6	7	7	5																											
W	4	6	7	8	5																											
Par Score: 100 Par: W 3* \times -1	♠ Q84 ♥ 3 ♦ 1083 ♣ Q109765	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																														

Kaustubh passed in the first seat. A 3♣ opening might have been too frivolous for him although he is aware of the ideas that are in vogue today. Sayantan overcalled 1Nt. David Beauchamp, with a decent hand of 8 HCP bid 2♣, likely, to find a Major suit fit. Jodi Tutty dutifully bid 2♥. When that was passed around to Kaustubh, he suddenly woke up with a 3♣ bid to get into the auction. Jodi Tutty persisted with 3♥ and Sayantan now decided to try 3Nt. A simple double of 3♥ would have likely netted them +300, but the lure of a speculative 3N proved too difficult to resist.

David led a top Heart. Jodi Tutty won and shifted to the Diamond Queen. She would have got better results with a Spade shift, however, a Diamond worked, too. Sayantan won and played the ♣A and back. David won the ♣King and continued the attack on Diamonds that Jody had started at trick two. Defence got two tricks each in red suits and one each in the blacks to get the contract down two for a +100 score. Acemates won 11 IMPs for that effort.

Hemant Jalan vs Acemates, Round 8, GOLD Team of Four *(Contd.)*

Board 15 produced the next big swing. That volatility was primarily created by a single choice of a bid the North players made for their response. In the Open Room, Sayantan didn't want to force a game with just 11 HCP and a singleton Spade opposite a 1♠ opening.

15 D	N SAYANTAN	W N E S
	♠ 8 ♥ AKJ96 ♦ 8652 ♣ K82	P 1NT P 2NT P 3♦ P 3♥ P 3NT P 4♥ D P D
W JODI TUTTY	E DAVID	
♠ QJ96 ♥ 852 ♦ 104 ♣ 9765	♠ 102 ♥ 107 ♦ QJ93 ♣ AQ1043	
	S KAUSTUBH B	
	♠ AK7543 ♥ Q43 ♦ AK7 ♣ J	
		4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Their bidding followed today's familiar rituals. Sayantan opted for a 1Nt response. Kaustubh rebid 2Nt to show 17-19 HCP, Sayantan transferred to Hearts, Kaustubh rebid 3♥ as ordered, and Sayantan rebid 3Nt. With three-card Heart fit, and AK in each of the pointed suits (Diamonds and Spades), Kaustubh could well have tried a Cue-bid, but he opted not to, instead signing off with a 4♥ bid. Jody Tutty found the Diamond lead that restricted South to 11 tricks.

In the Closed Room, Ian Thomson opted for a Game-Forcing 2♥ response over 1♠ opening. North-South glided into a Heart slam after that.

15 D	N THOMSON I	W N E S
	♠ 8 ♥ AKJ96 ♦ 8652 ♣ K82	P 2♥ P 3♥ P 4♥ P 4NT P 5♥ P 6♥ D P D
W SANDIP D	E MANNA S	
♠ QJ96 ♥ 852 ♦ 104 ♣ 9765	♠ 102 ♥ 107 ♦ QJ93 ♣ Q1043	
	S MAURITS V	
	♠ AK7543 ♥ Q43 ♦ AK7 ♣ J	
		6♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Gopinath Manna was on lead yet again in a make or break situation. With the Sun in Kanya and Saturn and Moon in conjunction in Kumbha, Manna had no chance of getting it right. His karma guided him to the lead of the ♣Ace. That was all Ian Thomson needed for making his small slam in Hearts. The Australian Acemates got 13 IMPs on that board.



Hemant Jalan vs Acemates, Round 8, GOLD Team of Four *(Contd.)*

Board 18 produced the last double digit swing. Jody Tutty played the hand flawlessly to land a laboriously bid slam. We have had to produce two snapshots from the BBO handviewer to get the full bidding for the hand. There were a total of 30 bids in the Auction that went on for eight rounds.

18		N SAYANTAN	W N E S	18		N SAYANTAN	W N E S
		♠ 6	1♠ P 1♠ P			♠ 6	4♠ P 4♥ P
		♥ 1096542	2NT P 3♠ P			♥ 1096542	4NT P 5♠ P
		♦ 10843	3♠ P 4♠ P			♦ 10843	5♠ P 6♠ P
		♣ J2	4♠ P 4♠ P			♣ J2	6♠ P P P
W JODI TUTTY		E DAVID B.		W JODI TUTTY		E DAVID B.	
♠ AK932		♠ Q105		♠ AK932		♠ Q105	
♥ J8		♥ Q		♥ J8		♥ Q	
♦ A9		♦ KJ762		♦ A9		♦ KJ762	
♣ KQ97		♣ A654		♣ KQ97		♣ A654	
S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B	
♠ J874		♠ J874		♠ J874		♠ J874	
♥ AK73		♥ AK73		♥ AK73		♥ AK73	
♦ Q5		♦ Q5		♦ Q5		♦ Q5	
♣ 1083		♣ 1083		♣ 1083		♣ 1083	
NT		NT		NT		NT	
N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1	
S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1	
E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7	
W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7	
Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980	
Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+	

Why did it take so long? Well, East raised Jodi's 1♠ response with 3 cards. A further round of bidding was needed to delineate that holding from a 4-card raise. The 4NT RKC and the 5♦ follow-up King asking seem to be the routine bids that elicited a one-Key-card (♣A) and Trump Queen + Diamond King 6♦ reply, and off East-West were to a 6♠ slam.

Sayantant led a Heart. Kaustubh won and continued with another top Heart. Jody ruffed and cashed ♠Q and ♠A to find out about the bad trump break. All was not lost though because South's ♠J8 were still sitting under Jody's ♠K9 although there was no trump to pull from the Dummy's hand.

Jody Tutty solved that problem in a text-book manner. She cashed ♦AK and ruffed a Diamond. South discarded a Club on the third Diamond. Jody now played ♣K and ♣A to reach the following position.

18		N SAYANTAN	W N E S	18		N SAYANTAN	W N E S
		♠ 1095	3♠ P 4♥ P			♠ 1095	4♥ P 4♥ P
		♥ 10	4NT P 5♠ P			♥ 10	4NT P 5♠ P
		♦ 10	5♦ P 6♦ P			♦ 10	5♦ P 6♦ P
		♣ J	6♠ P P			♣ J	6♠ P P
W JODI TUTTY		E DAVID B.		W JODI TUTTY		E DAVID B.	
♠ K9		♠ J7		♠ K9		♠ J7	
♥ J		♥ 65		♥ J		♥ 65	
♦ Q9		♦ 65		♦ Q9		♦ 65	
♣ Q9		♣ 65		♣ Q9		♣ 65	
S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B		S KAUSTUBH B	
♠ J8		♠ J8		♠ J8		♠ J8	
♥ 73		♥ 73		♥ 73		♥ 73	
♦		♦		♦		♦	
♣		♣		♣		♣	
NT		NT		NT		NT	
N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1		N 0 2 7 0 1	
S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1		S 0 2 7 0 1	
E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7		E 12 11 5 12 7	
W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7		W 12 11 5 12 7	
Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980		Par Score: -980	
Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+		Par: EW 6+	

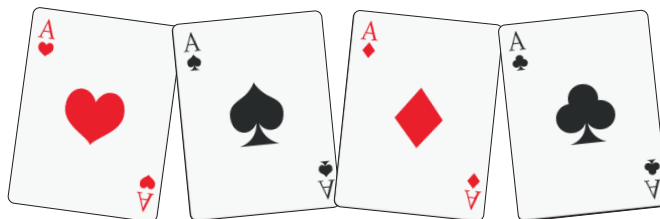
True, there was no trump in the East hand, but the Diamond ♦J8 were good and they could be employed gainfully to pull South's trumps. Jody next played the ♦Jack. What could Kaustubh do? If he ruffed Jody would overruff, draw the remaining trump, and enjoy Clubs. If he discarded, Jody would discard likewise and pull another Diamond.

At the table, Kaustubh discarded two Hearts on two Diamonds. Jody discarded Clubs. She then pulled a Club to achieve the same effect! That was, indeed, a well-played hand.

Australian Acemates got 11 more IMPs for that effort. The 10-board match resulted in a 46-2 win for the Acemates. For the Hemant Jalan team, that was just the reverse of what they won in the seventh round give or take an IMP or two here and there. 'Bridge is a great leveller', Chhota Venky observed in his typed commentary!



The 21st **HCL** International Bridge Championship 14th September to 22nd September 2024



Tournament Schedule

Wednesday, Sep 18	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 ProAm Tournament	
Thursday, Sep 19	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO 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 – 2 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	MP PAIRS STRATA II – (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)	
	1100 – 1400 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1400 – 1500 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1500 – 1815 Hrs.	Session – 2

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

Friday, Sep 20	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – KO SF (4 * 14 Boards)	
	1000 – 1200 Hrs.	Session – 1
	1215 – 1415 Hrs.	Session – 2
	1415 – 1515 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1515 – 1715 Hrs.	Session – 3
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1945 Hrs.	Session – 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION – 3 & IMP PAIRS – ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)	
	1030 – 1300 Hrs.	Session - 1
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Session - 2
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Session - 3
	Saturday, Sep 21	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
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
	Sunday, Sep 22	PRO-AM PAIRS TOURNAMENT (IMP Scoring) – Maximum 54 Boards)
0930 – 1315 Hrs.		Session – 1 (28 Boards)
1315 – 1400 Hrs.		Lunch Break
1400 – 1730 Hrs.		Session – 2 (26 Boards)
1800 Hrs. onwards		Prize Distribution