

HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

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September 14 - 22

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor
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Bulletin - 7, 20th September 2024

Layout Editor
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It is Shourie vs Vedic and WBT Bridge App vs WHAM in GOLD Team of Four Semi Finals

The four-session Quarter Finals of the GOLD and SILVER Team of Four events got over on Thursday with **Shourie** (USA) defeating Pro3max 134-79.5; **WBT Bridge App** (Norway) making short work of 146-103.5; **WHAM** (Australia) defeating Mavericks 150-75; and **Vedic** overcoming the challenge of Texan Aces 124.5 to 101. In the Semi Finals tomorrow, Shourie play vs. Vedic while WBT Bridge App fight it out against WHAM.

In the SILVER category, **Sahyadri** will play against **Jackalls** while **RSCS** will play against **SABASS**.

The second elimination of MP Pairs also concluded today. Ami Zamir and Oren Toledano finished at the top with a score of 66.14%; K R Venkatraman and Swarnendu Banerjee were second with 65.5% score; and Bar Tamovski and Asaf Yekutieli were third with 61.86%. Top fifty (50) pairs will qualify for elimination three where they will be joined by pairs from the losing Quarter Finalists from both GOLD and SILVER categories.



Captain
Rajath Shourie



Captain
Krishna Kumar Malani



Captain
Sartaj Hans



Captain
Boye Brogeland

BBO Schedule for Friday, September 20, 2024

1000 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, KO Semi Final, Session 1 (4 x 14 Boards)
1215 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, KO Semi Final, Session 2 (4 x 14 Boards)
1515 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, KO Semi Final, Session 3 (4 x 14 Boards)
1745 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, KO Semi Final, Session 4 (4 x 14 Boards)

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www.hcl-bridge.com

GOLD TEAMS KO PRE QF RESULT

Table	Team	C-O	S1	S2	S3	S4	Total
1	PRO3MAX	6.5	15	24	22	12	79.5
	SHOURIE		26	23	53	32	134
2	INDIAN CHAIN	6.5	1	33	42	1	83.5
	WBT BRIDGE APP		66	16	36	21	139
3	MAVERICKS		7	30	36	21	75
	WHAM		59	9	42	40	150
4	TEXAN ACES		20	24	26	31	101
	VEDIC	5.5	28	20	55	16	124.5

GOLD TEAMS KO SEMI FINALS

Table	Team	Vs	Team
1	SHOURIE	Vs	VEDIC
2	WBT BRIDGE APP	Vs	WHAM

SILVER TEAMS KO QUARTER FINAL RESULT

Table	Team	C-O	S 1	S2	S3	S4	Total
5	ANDROMEDA		20	4	35	32	91
	SAHYADRI		54	29	42	5	130
6	RSCS		20	45	36	24	125
	DAZZALE		31	23	49	7	110
7	CHEFS TABLE		32	24	48	19	123
	SABASS		56	27	56	10	147
8	JACKALLS		33	77	47	11	168
	SETU		33	13	35	35	116

SILVER TEAMS KO SEMI FINALS

Table	Team	Vs	Team
1	SAHYADRI	Vs	JACKALLS
2	RSCS	Vs	SABASS

Kista and Thakral report on Board 8, Round 8, Swiss League.

We covered the diagrammed deal in Bulletin 5 on 18th September. Jody Tutty played the deal in 6♠ and made her contract on a flawless exhibition of Trump Coup.

After the bulletin was published, we had some inputs, both from the players and the kibitzers. The first one was from Kista. Kista and Ashantha Demel (The pace bowler from Sri Lanka, if you followed cricket in last century and remembered the names). He bowled the first ball for srilanka in a test match. Kista also played in 6♠ and made the contract on a trump coup. Proverbial Alice would have been impressed with that kind of play, however, for Kista, it was a routine matter, just another day in office, nothing special to report there, so he forgot about the deal after the day's play was over. After looking at the bulletin, he sort of woke up and messaged me that their pair got the same result. "Do you need an explanation of our auction?," he continued.

18		N ANDY HUNG				W N E S			
		♠ 6		1♣ P		1♣ P			
		♥ 1096542		2♦ P		2♥ P			
		♦ 10843		2♠ P		3♣ P			
		♣ J2		3♦ P		3♥ P			
W ASANTHA		E KISTA							
♠ AK932		♠ Q105		♥ Q		♦ KJ762		♣ A654	
♥ J8		♥ Q		♦ KJ762		♣ A654			
♦ A9		♦ KJ762		♣ A654					
♣ KQ97		♣ A654							
		S SARTAJ							
		♠ J874		♥ AK73		♦ Q5		♣ 1083	
		♥ AK73		♦ Q5		♣ 1083			
		♦ Q5		♣ 1083					
		♣ 1083							
Other table: 5♠E+1		NS: WHAM 4 IMPs		EW: OMEGA 24 IMPs		6♠ E		NS: 0 EW: 0	

18		N ANDY HUNG				W N E S			
		♠ 6		3♦ P		3♥ P			
		♥ 1096542		4NT P		5♣ P			
		♦ 10843		5♦ P		6♦ P			
		♣ J2		6♠ P		6♠ P			
W ASANTHA		E KISTA				E KISTA			
♠ AK932		♠ Q105		♥ Q		♦ KJ762		♣ A654	
♥ J8		♥ Q		♦ KJ762		♣ A654			
♦ A9		♦ KJ762		♣ A654					
♣ KQ97		♣ A654							
		S SARTAJ							
		♠ J874		♥ AK73		♦ Q5		♣ 1083	
		♥ AK73		♦ Q5		♣ 1083			
		♦ Q5		♣ 1083					
		♣ 1083							
Other table: 5♠E+1		NS: WHAM 4 IMPs		EW: OMEGA 24 IMPs		6♠ E		NS: 0 EW: 0	

Kista opens 1♣ with 5 Diamonds and 4 Clubs just so that partner could respond 1♦ showing his expected Heart suit. Well, partner did not have Hearts, but had Spades instead, so partner bids 1♥ to transfer to Spades (They play transfer responses over 1♣ opening). The further rounds of bidding unearthed the 5-3 Spades, one key card with East, and ♠Q and ♦K. To cut the long story short, Kista became the Declarer in 6♠ and brought home the contract with a regulation trump coup.



Kista and Thakral report on Board 8, Round 8, Swiss League. (Contd.)

HCL-2024 GOLD Swiss League R8

Board 18
East Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ 6										
	♥ 10 9 6 5 4 2										
	♦ 10 8 4 3										
	♣ J 2										
♠ A K 9 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 8		♥ Q									
♦ A 9		♦ K J 7 6 2									
♣ K Q 9 7		♣ A 6 5 4									
	♠ J 8 7 4										
	♥ A K 7 3										
	♦ Q 5										
	♣ 10 8 3										

West	North	East	South
<i>Jaggy Shivdasani</i>		<i>Sandeep Thakral</i>	
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass
2 NT ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass
4 ♣ ⁴	Pass	4 ♦ ⁵	Pass
4 ♠ ⁶	Pass	5 ♣ ⁷	Pass
6 ♣ ⁸	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3 or 4-card raise
2. Relay, waiting for clarification
3. 4 Clubs, 3 Spade, one or two small in Hearts, else East would have rebid 1NT
4. Setting the suit
5. Cue bid
6. To play, denying Heart control
7. A subtle slam suggestion.
8. Happy to bid the slam.

Meanwhile, Sandeep Thakral lamented a missed opportunity to execute that Trump coup. As it happened, for the given layout, they bid the hand very well to reach a better contract of 6♣. The contract played itself without any need for any exotic play, so to say. Let us look at their auction, for that reason.

The explanation in the figure should make most of the ideas clear. Still, the subtle slam suggestion needs a bit of elaboration. For that, one must note that East-West had found a Spade fit first. Jaggy's 4♠ bid was a suggestion to play there, not a Cue-bid, or a forward-going move per se. With two small Hearts, Sandeep would have been happy to pass and play there.

With stiff Heart, he could afford to play one level higher. The 5♣ bid thus conveyed the message of a singleton Heart in a subtle manner. It was not a Cue bid, it was not an asking bid, nor was it an answer to any asking bid. It was merely a statement that the partnership could afford to play a 5-level contract thereby implying that there were no two fast Heart losers.

Jaggy was happy with that suggestion so Jaggy bid 6♣. Clubs were 3-3, so there was nothing to play there.

Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %
1	19	Ami Zamir Oren Toledano	2536	66.14	25	153	Kaustabh Nandi Sagnik Roy	2134.7	55.68
2	85	K R Venkataraman Swarnendu Banerjee	2511.2	65.5	26	145	Monica Jajoo Sukamal Das	2130.2	55.56
3	79	Bar Tarnovski Asaf Yekutieli	2371.9	61.86	27	157	Md Alauddin Hasan Al Banna	2124.8	55.42
4	147	Puneet Gangal Gajendra Kumar Vyas	2340	61.03	28	67	Amit Nangpal Indrajit Sensarma	2121.4	55.33
5	127	Ajay Kumar Bagadia Ravi Goenka	2336.3	60.94	29	99	Rajendra Sirohia Sukanta Das	2112.8	55.11
6	41	Leonardo Fruscoloni Aldo Giovanni Gerli	2285.1	59.6	30	27	U V Athavale V Ravichandran	2109.8	55.03
7	108	Vinay Mohan Lal Subir Majumdar	2260.7	58.97	31	46	Marianne Karmarkar Sandeep N Karmarkar	2107	54.96
8	88	Atul Rai Amar Nath Banerjee	2259.2	58.93	32	111	Stanley Nazareth Asvin Ganger	2103.2	54.86
9	3	D K Tewari P C Gupta	2256.8	58.86	33	92	Tapan Kr Bhattacharya Asim Das	2090.3	54.52
10	54	Abhirup Ghosh Sudipta Adhikary	2221.5	57.94	34	49	Ravi Raman Ivan Alphonso	2082.1	54.31
11	45	Saurav Sil Arnab Ghosh	2204.4	57.5	35	36	Prasanta Bera Sisir Kumar Banerjee	2073.4	54.08
12	62	Francesco Mazzadi Sergio Bianchi	2202.6	57.45	36	1	Anurag Mohota Basant K Mohota	2073.3	54.08
13	119	Pijus Kanti Baroi Satyabrata Mukherjee	2201.4	57.42	37	121	Ram Avatar Agrawal Gautam Biswas	2072.6	54.06
14	156	Amal Kumar Gune Jayanta Sarkar	2197.9	57.33	38	76	Tonmoy Ghosh Ramkrishna Majumder	2066.4	53.9
15	131	Rajeshwar Tewari Sumit Mukherjee	2193.9	57.22	39	118	Ananda Roy Bidyut Goswami	2065.7	53.88
16	16	Shambhu Nath Ghosh Biswajit Poddar	2179.9	56.86	40	114	Sumit Saha Swapan Sardar	2058.6	53.69
17	159	Debabrata Majumdar Sapan Desai	2174.6	56.72	41	124	Jodi Tutty David Beauchamp	2057.6	53.67
18	4	Yogesh B Shah Rajul R Dalal	2174	56.7	42	112	Savleen Thadani Bhaskar Sarkar	2053.5	53.56
19	97	Mahamudul Hasan Sumon Pranta Sarker	2171.8	56.65	43	95	Binod Kumar Shaw Sanjit Dey	2053.4	53.56
20	106	Raju Tolani Ajay P Khare	2158.6	56.3	44	66	Pranab Roy Sourendra Coomer Dutt	2051.5	53.51
21	75	Samir Basak Somesh Bhattacharya	2156.6	56.25	45	25	Joy Narayan Roy Joyjit Sensarma	2050.9	53.49
22	58	Tanmoy Majumder Sagar Bhuia	2154.9	56.2	46	9	Asok Jose Lean R Chandramohan	2049.9	53.47
23	105	Timur Edis Elvan Edis	2148.1	56.03	47	89	R G Bhiwandkar Subhash A Dhakras	2042.7	53.28
24	71	Navneet Swaika Subhasish Sarkar	2140.1	55.82	48	39	Kaustubh Milind Bendre Sayantan Kushari	2040.4	53.22

Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %
49	64	S K Iyengar N R Kirubakaramoorthy	2040.1	53.21	73	103	Pallab Sinha Roy Pallab Roy	1949.9	50.86
50	53	Saptarshi Chanda Animesh Majumder	2037.3	53.14	74	44	Aniruddha P Sanzgiri B C Pendse	1941.1	50.63
51	22	Rajeev Khandelwal Himani Khandelwal	2036.4	53.11	75	146	Amitava Banerjee Ramendra Chowdhury	1938.5	50.56
52	101	Arun M Bapat Maneesh Bahuguna	2034.6	53.07	76	148	Kamal Kabra Indranil Chakraborty	1936.4	50.51
53	13	Rajib Roy Arnab Basu Roy	2022.1	52.74	77	142	Asit Kumar Bandopadhyaya Bijan Kumar Bandopadhyay	1933.1	50.42
54	133	Rahul Shetty Mahesh Rohera	2020.8	52.71	78	151	Vinay Sharma Lyn Nazareth	1928	50.29
55	72	Anant Vikram Somani Rajesh Somani	2018.2	52.64	79	15	Sajan Chakraborty Bidyut Das	1926.9	50.26
56	128	Deepa Jacob Prosenjit Manna	2013.5	52.52	80	123	Subrata Sarkar Debabrata Ray	1925.3	50.22
57	125	Uday Maitra Uttam Swarup Gupta	2013	52.5	81	98	Alok Kumar Mandal Sukumar Kayal	1925	50.21
58	144	Dipak K Poddar Jitendra J Solani	2011.7	52.47	82	37	Yatindra Sahae Gustav Axen	1923.3	50.16
59	91	Sabyasachi Sadhukhan Joyrup Mullick	2010.3	52.43	83	31	Rajendran Ramesh Subramanian Karuppannan	1920.3	50.09
60	134	Arvind Vaidya Vivek Bhand	2005.5	52.31	84	138	Shantanu Roy Gopal Das	1917.7	50.02
61	34	Asit Baran Chakraborty Satyabrata Lahiri	1999.4	52.15	85	48	Soumya Das Jesal Dabriwala	1912.8	49.89
62	113	Rathindra Nath Kundu Shyama Prasad Chatterjee	1998.7	52.13	86	18	Mrinal Kanti Mukherjee Sowmik Das	1912.3	49.88
63	56	Abhijit Pal Arijit Chattaraj	1997.8	52.11	87	57	Suman Banerjee Goutam Pore	1911.3	49.85
64	107	Dagmar Neumann Maurits van der Vlugt	1996	52.06	88	132	Partha (Bulu) Saha Soumitra Das	1896.9	49.48
65	42	Vijay R Phatarphekar R Sridharan	1991.2	51.94	89	11	Sumit Bhowmik Amitava Ghosh	1887.6	49.23
66	52	Swapan Sarkar Debashis Majumdar	1990.1	51.91	90	143	Ian Thomson Tony Leibowitz	1882.3	49.09
67	82	Ibrat Khan S K Sharma	1988.2	51.86	91	102	Sailaja Tahiliani Pradip Ghosh	1878.5	48.99
68	74	Sanjay Bagaria Anirban Mitra	1976	51.54	92	122	Vasanti Shah Atulya Sood	1878	48.98
69	26	C M Kulkarni Keshav Sakharam Samant	1974.7	51.5	93	24	Rohit Gupta Deepika Mehta	1877	48.96
70	8	Sanjib Bhattacharjee Sanjib Ganguly	1956.4	51.03	94	155	N Rajachandra Bhalchandra G Ogale	1873.3	48.86
71	73	Jaydeep Bhattacharjee Nantu Bhattacharjee	1956.2	51.02	95	51	Sandip Datta Gopinath Manna	1871.8	48.82
72	61	Indranath Chatterjee Rana Chakraborty	1953.8	50.96	96	149	Sudipta Ray Biplab Kumar Das	1868.5	48.74

Results : Open MP Pairs - Elimination 2

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %
97	2	Kamal Krishna Mukherjee Vibhas Todi	1867.7	48.72	121	68	Prakash Bhandari J B Sengupta	1761.4	45.94
98	129	Kamleshwar Rai Chunni Lal Arora	1865.5	48.66	122	38	Suman Sengupta Shouvik Das	1755.9	45.8
99	14	Andrey Purushottam Swapn Some	1852.8	48.33	123	141	Ambrish Wadera Anil Bharihoke	1746.6	45.56
100	83	Ramaratnam Krishnan Ashantha De Mel	1845.8	48.14	124	21	Ajit Mahadar Nitin M Dharmadhikari	1740.8	45.4
101	47	Hasibul Hasan Anushree Jalan	1845.8	48.14	125	87	Shyama Prosad Mukhopadhyay Asim Sarkar	1736	45.28
102	35	Sukumaran Rajeev Sahirudeen	1840.2	48	126	5	Gautam Aich Gopal Chatterjee	1733.3	45.21
103	32	Sanjay Amist Deepak Kothiwai	1833.4	47.82	127	33	Rabi Sankar Roychowdhury Subrata Chatterjee	1715.9	44.75
104	96	Dipak Kumar Paul Sujit Kumar Sur	1832.2	47.79	128	117	Amol Deshmukh V Chandrasekhar	1713.3	44.69
105	77	G P Aggarwal Sunil Kumar Sinha	1831.8	47.78	129	59	Bijon Kumar Mondal Goutam Banerjee	1709.8	44.6
106	12	Tapan Kumar Roy Sailen Das	1829.9	47.73	130	158	Dilip Kr Sarma Dharma Narayan Bordoloi	1705.1	44.47
107	137	Anshul Singhal Kalyan Mohan	1829.5	47.72	131	94	Mrinal K Halder Bhola Nath Ghosh	1685.8	43.97
108	109	H S Dua V M Gupta	1823.9	47.57	132	17	Buddadev Dutta Tutun Banerjee	1652.2	43.09
109	93	Dibyendu Shee Debashis Bhadra	1822.9	47.55	133	29	Chanchal Dass Priyotosh Sarkar	1644	42.88
110	81	Rajesh K Jain Asha Sharma	1821	47.5	134	7	Anupam Rai Pintu Sao	1637.5	42.71
111	78	Deepak Ramnani K P Baskaran	1816.5	47.38	135	86	S Hari Shankar Sukrit M Vijayakar	1625.9	42.41
112	139	Sudhir S Gavandi S L Malshe	1813.9	47.31	136	84	Ashis Das Ashish Kumar Vishwakarma	1621.5	42.29
113	69	Bhavna Naraindas Kavita Dhawan	1810.6	47.22	137	23	V A Phapunkar A L Sancheti	1614.9	42.12
114	55	Aritra Bhattacharya Pinaki Ranjan Banerjee	1806.1	47.11	138	6	Abdi Naffar Ronald Miranda	1611.6	42.03
115	65	J K Bhosale Dilip P Gosavi	1805.2	47.08	139	104	R P Narain D Sudhanand	1603.6	41.82
116	43	Biren Mitra Behera I Khan	1793.2	46.77	140	28	Sourav Mukherjee Partha Pratim Pal	1574	41.05
117	115	Sunil Misra S K Gautam	1791.3	46.72	141	152	Dipanjan Khan Saikat Mandal	1571.7	40.99
118	154	Rupal Shah Karima Popat	1779.6	46.42	142	116	Md Sahajahan Bikas Dutta	1560.9	40.71
119	63	Tushar Moghe Vijay Gupta	1767.9	46.11	143	136	Sayantan Konar Sanjib Majumdar	1540.1	40.17
120	135	Prasanta Dutta Kingshuk Bhattacharya	1767.1	46.09	144	126	Kamalesh Gupta Vikram Jain	1377.7	35.93

Quarter Finals : Pro3max vs Shourie Session 3

In the Quarter Finals, Pro3max, a team from Russia consisting of Evgeny Rudakov, Sergey Orlov, Maxim Feofanov, Mikhail Toprover, Elena Rudakova, alexei Gerasimov played against Shourie, a team from US, comprising of John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, Gavin Wolpert, Rajath Shourie, John Hurd, Kevin Bathurst. Pro3max started with a carryover of 6.5 based on their 13-0 win over Shourie in the Swiss League stage. In the first session, Shourie scored 26 IMPs to 15 of Pro3max; and in the second session Pro3max prevailed with a 24-23 score. Thus, at the end of two sessions, Shourie were leading with a score of 49 to 45.5

The third session was a swingy one. In the first eleven deals, there were six double digit swings. Let us have a look at some of them. But before we do that, give a thought to a defence problem

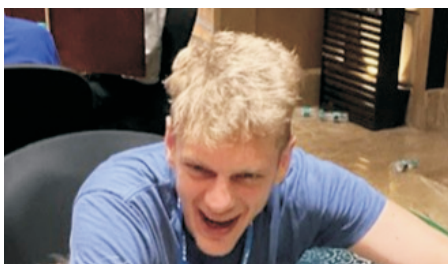
D		N J KRANYAK	
9		♠ Q8	
		♥ AJ6	
		♦ AQ87	
		♣ J1052	
W ORLOV			
♠ 76		♥ 8	
♥ Q1053			
♦ 10943		♥ 4	
♣ 97			

Deal 9, North dealer, East-West vulnerable. You are North. You open 1Nt, East bids 4♠ and plays there. How do you plan to defend from here?

Over to the first few swingy deals of the match.

D		N GERASIMOV		W N E S																															
3		♠ AJ9642		P 1♣	P 1♣																														
		♥ 95		P 3♣	P 2♣																														
		♦ 32		P 4♣	P 4♣																														
		♣ A109		P	P																														
W BATHURST				E HURD																															
♠ 3				♠ 7																															
♥ 874				♥ Q62																															
♦ QJ754				♦ A1096																															
♣ K763				♣ QJ842																															
S ELENA																																			
♠ KQ1085																																			
♥ AKJ103																																			
♦ K8																																			
♣ 5																																			
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>			♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	6	6	12	12	12	S	6	6	12	12	12	E	7	6	1	0	1	W	7	6	1	0	1				
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																														
N	6	6	12	12	12																														
S	6	6	12	12	12																														
E	7	6	1	0	1																														
W	7	6	1	0	1																														
Par Score: 990																																			
Par: NS 6NT				4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0																															

Elena opened a Polish 1♣ and Gerasimov responded 1♠. With South's Diamond Kx exposed to a finesse on the Opening lead, the Russian North-South were not inclined to bid a slam. When North failed to Cue 4♦ on South's 4♣, South subsided in 4♠. Hurd led a Diamond, but not the Ace. He chose ♦9. Diamond King held and Gerasimov quickly rapped up 13 tricks.



Quarter Finals : Pro3max vs Shourie Session 3 (Contd.)

In the other room, Demuy opened a Natural 1♠ and North bergened 3♦ to show a good Spade fit and a medium hand. With the ♦Kx protected, the American North-South were happy to bid 6♠. West led a small Club and the Declarer scored easy 13 tricks. 11 IMPs to Shourie. Shourie led the session 11-2, and overall by 60-47.5 IMPs.

Board 4 was another back-to-back slam deal.

3	N J KRANYAK	W N E S
	♠ AJ9642 ♥ 95 ♦ 32 ♣ A109	P 3♦ P 1♠ P 3NT P 4♣ P 5♣ P 6♣ D D D
W ORLOV	E RUDAKOV	
♠ 3 ♥ 874 ♦ QJ754 ♣ K763	♠ 7 ♥ Q62 ♦ A1096 ♣ QJ842	
	S U DEMUY	
	♠ KQ1085 ♥ AKJ103 ♦ K8 ♣ 5	
		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

4	N GERASIMOV	W N E S
	♠ AK93 ♥ AJ ♦ AQJ852 ♣ K	P 1♣ P 1♦ P 1♠ P 2♣ P 3♦ P 3♥ P 3NT P P
W BATHURST	E HURD	
♠ J1065 ♥ K1093 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ97	♠ Q42 ♥ Q8764 ♦ 1063 ♣ 85	
	S ELENA	
	♠ 87 ♥ 52 ♦ K97 ♣ A106432	
		3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

Gerasimov opened a Polish 1♣ on this board, and after a negative 1♦ response began with a 1♠ rebid and a jump to 3♦ to show Spades and longer Diamonds. South's 3♥ was directional. With ♥AJ, North was happy to bid 3Nt, however, the auction didn't get across South's three controls (♣A and ♦K) and the ruffing values in Majors.

In the other room, Kranyak began with a natural 1♦ and reversed with 2♠ on partner's 1Nt. After 3♣-3♦ bids, Demuy spurned the 3♥ directional asking bid choosing the 4♦ bid instead. Part of the reason was his original 1Nt response. Having grabbed the Notrump conduction into his hand, it wouldn't have been prudent to look for a Heart control with partner late in the auction. His 4♦ bid made virtue out of necessity and it worked very well on the layout. After one round of cue-bids, they settled into a Diamond slam. 12 tricks were easy. That was +1370 and 12 more IMPs to the American team.

4	N J KRANYAK	W N E S
	♠ AK93 ♥ AJ ♦ AQJ852 ♣ K	P 1♦ P 1NT P 2♠ P 3♣ P 3♦ P 4♦ P 6♠ P 5♣
W ORLOV	E RUDAKOV	
♠ J1065 ♥ K1093 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ97	♠ Q42 ♥ Q8764 ♦ 1063 ♣ 85	
	S U DEMUY	
	♠ 87 ♥ 52 ♦ K97 ♣ A106432	
		6♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0



Quarter Finals : Pro3max vs Shourie Session 3 (Contd.)

Board 7 was a defence problem.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 7 <small>D</small> </div>	N GERASIMOV ♠ Q1085 ♥ Q6 ♦ Q942 ♣ 943	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td><td>2♣</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>3NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦	P	1♥	2♣	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P														
	W	N	E	S																											
	1♦	P	1♥	2♣																											
	P	2NT	P	3NT																											
P	P	P																													
W BATHURST ♠ 432 ♥ J10 ♦ AKJ108 ♣ 1052	E HURD ♠ K97 ♥ 98754 ♦ 653 ♣ A8																														
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♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	10	8	8	10	8																										
S	10	8	8	10	8																										
E	3	5	5	3	3																										
W	2	5	5	3	3																										

After another Polish 1♣ opening, by Elena and a more or less natural follow-up, North-South reached 3NT from North side. Hurd duly led ♦3 that looked like a third card from partner's naturally bid suit. The Dummy had a singleton Diamond. Bathurst had no side-suit entry. All he needed to do was to play a lower honour - ♦J or ♦T on the first trick to defeat the contract. Declarer would have had to go out to East with the ♣A and East-West could have collected five easy tricks.

Bathurst won the first trick with the ♦King and shifted to ♥Jack. 3NT made 10 tricks. Which move was the real culprit in this board? Was it the unnecessary 1♥ bid, or was it the first-round play of West? Looking at the Dummy, I am inclined to blame the latter move.

In the other room, the American North-South played in 2♠. 10 tricks are available in Spades but a route to that contract in bidding seems a little difficult.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 7 <small>D</small> </div>	N J KRANYAK ♠ Q1085 ♥ Q6 ♦ Q942 ♣ 943	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1♦</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>P</td><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦	P	1♥	P	1NT	P	2♦	X	P	2♠	P	P	P												
	W	N	E	S																											
	1♦	P	1♥	P																											
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P	2♠	P	P																												
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♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	10	8	8	10	8																										
S	10	8	8	10	8																										
E	3	5	5	3	3																										
W	2	5	5	3	3																										

On Board Elena-Gerasimov reached a slam with 16 opposite 13 and one of the hands being 4333. Luck wasn't on their side and they lost another 11 IMPs when the American North-South played in a routine 3NT contract.



Results : MP Pairs - Strata II

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Session MPs	Session %	Session Pos
1	264	Rajendra Ray & Sanat Roy	2094.2	63.46	1002.3	60.75	13
2	206	Avijit Sarkar & Pritam Das	2029.5	61.5	1123.4	68.08	1
3	28	Babhrubahan Bose & Pradip Dey	2025.5	61.38	1021.1	61.88	7
4	148	Prabir Das & Biplab Dawn	1994	60.42	1015.2	61.52	11
5	102	Swetadri Saha & Krishna Das Chakraborty	1991.6	60.35	1051	63.7	4
6	183	Wrik Chakraborty & Swarnasish Chatterjee	1981.4	60.04	1045.6	63.37	5
7	71	Somnath Mitra & Siddhartha Ghosh	1978	59.94	948.7	57.5	20
8	65	Raju Mitra & Samar Kumar Maity	1977	59.91	1014.3	61.48	12
9	121	Sadhana Gupta & Ratna Tadepalli	1976.8	59.9	1017.5	61.66	8
10	249	Prasad V Keni & Ranga Khadloya	1964.3	59.52	1056	64	3
11	69	Surajit Bar & Souvik Kar	1921.2	58.22	955.7	57.92	18
12	207	Bhanumati Shah & Kamal Shah	1919.2	58.16	1015.3	61.53	10
13	81	Subhash Bhavnani & T V Ramani	1902.3	57.65	954	57.82	19
14	68	Sudeep Saha & Alope Kumar Sardar	1886.1	57.15	917.6	55.61	30
15	270	Ayan Chatterjee & Mithun Mukherjee	1882.1	57.03	988.9	59.93	16
16	143	Suraj Das & Santanu Das	1880.6	56.99	944.9	57.27	22
17	147	Kalpana Gurjar & Vidhya Patel	1875.3	56.83	792.2	48.01	94
18	104	Jibak Tewari & Santanu Chakraborty	1851.4	56.1	904.6	54.82	36
19	229	Bidyut Bhattacharjee & Ajay Kar	1850.9	56.09	778.5	47.18	106
20	151	Subir Kumar Chaudhuri & Bablu Roy Choudhury	1844	55.88	899.4	54.51	39
21	271	Pintoo K Bose & Shankar Chatterjee	1833.3	55.55	792.5	48.03	93
22	163	Borhan Ali Molla & J Pratihari	1826.4	55.34	838.3	50.81	66
23	63	Bipul Kumar Roy & Amar Kumar Bose	1818.7	55.11	847.6	51.37	60
24	141	Arup Dutta & Pradyut Bhattacharjee	1817.6	55.08	824.1	49.94	74
25	267	Shakti Dhar Chowdhury & Bimalendu Das	1812.9	54.94	827.8	50.17	72
26	230	Biswajit Dutta & Pradip Mondal	1806.3	54.74	1001.3	60.69	14
27	201	V Rama Murthy & Ramesh Ramagudu	1803.9	54.66	809.8	49.08	83
28	245	Amarjit Wadhawan & Nikita Kamal	1802.9	54.63	1015.4	61.54	9
29	64	Sanat Kumar Saha & Partha Sarathi Mukherjee	1801.9	54.6	786.8	47.69	97
30	30	Arup Kumar Hudait & Pintu Maity	1799.7	54.54	835.7	50.65	67
31	189	Rohit Rai Tandon & Aakash Sharma	1793.4	54.35	798	48.36	87
32	110	Anil Kumar Upadhyay & Girish Kumar	1791.4	54.29	930.4	56.39	25
33	21	Protap Bandyopadhyay & Rajesh Jain	1787.6	54.17	903.6	54.77	37
34	164	Saswata Bhattacharya & Pranay Majumder	1777.8	53.87	1034.4	62.69	6
35	204	Tarun Singhal & Umesh Kumar Singh	1777	53.85	831.6	50.4	69
36	130	Dinesh Sinha & Gautam Chattopadhyay	1775.2	53.79	846.7	51.32	61
37	3	Mohan Jhala & Pares J Gandhi	1771.7	53.69	760	46.06	113
38	29	Sunil Das & Tarun Manna	1768.2	53.58	840.3	50.93	64
39	169	Devendra Goyal & Robert Sima	1766.9	53.54	988.2	59.89	17
40	47	Pradeep Anand Singh & Vijayanand Singh	1765.3	53.5	1065.7	64.59	2
41	111	Parimal N Shah & Wilson Menezes	1760	53.33	933.6	56.58	23
42	7	Anukul Mandal & Gopika Tandan	1754.9	53.18	856.5	51.91	54
43	185	Raghunath P Tripathi & Shankar Acharya	1754.6	53.17	829.6	50.28	71
44	231	Rajendra V Mekal & Avinash Kelkar	1747.1	52.94	993.3	60.2	15
45	181	Arvind Jain & Anurag Pandey	1737.6	52.65	848.7	51.44	59
46	202	Nirav Patel & D V Ravi	1736.1	52.61	931.3	56.44	24
47	221	Mathew Chandy & Subhasree Basu	1731	52.45	902.4	54.69	38
48	107	R Anbazhagan & Bindiya Naidoo	1729.9	52.42	800.1	48.49	85
49	225	R K Pradhan & Sankarsan Behera	1725.7	52.29	919.9	55.75	29
50	246	Yogendra Kumar Trivedi & Himanshu Shah	1725.6	52.29	912.5	55.3	34
51	165	V Krishnan & Guru Shankar Sundaram	1725.6	52.29	830	50.3	70

Results : MP Pairs - Strata II

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Session MPs	Session %	Session Pos
52	126	Prakash Gupta & Santi Ranjan Dutta	1723	52.21	878.4	53.24	49
53	62	Sekhar K Bandopadhyay & Namit Sharma	1720.8	52.14	882.4	53.48	46
54	82	Ajit Saldanha & M J R Vasudevan	1715.4	51.98	851.5	51.61	58
55	6	Yasar Karunaratane & Velupillai Balakumar	1713.8	51.93	884.5	53.61	44
56	83	Raman Madhok & Shailendra Kumar	1713.6	51.93	928.2	56.26	26
57	187	Chatto Raj & D Dutta Gupta	1712.3	51.89	892.9	54.12	40
58	4	Prakash Achar & Anil Kumar Srivastava	1712	51.88	720.8	43.69	127
59	89	P S Premsagar & C D Kumar	1710.8	51.84	844.7	51.19	62
60	268	Saswata Ballav & Asit Ranjan Ghosh	1703.1	51.61	806.3	48.87	84
61	90	Kajal Chandra Das & Kalyan Chowdhury	1702.1	51.58	779.3	47.23	104
62	146	Swarup Ghosh & Manas Ghosh Dastidar	1697.5	51.44	815.4	49.42	79
63	2	Srinath Rajam & Nirmal Kumar Jain	1686.7	51.11	911.1	55.22	35
64	11	Kamal Kumar Gupta & Rajendra Prasad Misra	1685.6	51.08	815.8	49.44	78
65	67	Souvik Saha & Tapan Kumar Bandyopadhyay	1684.7	51.05	914.8	55.44	31
66	101	Koushik Mukherjee & Priya Ranjan Sinha	1679.9	50.91	927	56.18	27
67	10	Kannan S & Nizamudeen Shahul Hamid	1679	50.88	853	51.7	57
68	205	M P S Chauhan & Vijay Kumar	1678.2	50.85	764.7	46.34	110
69	61	Chintamani Bhikaji Damale & Sachin Joshi	1677.2	50.83	732.7	44.41	124
70	203	Alena Ignateva & Zaikova Marina	1673.7	50.72	720.2	43.65	128
71	248	Hari Narayan & Kalpna Varshney	1673	50.7	797	48.3	88
72	170	Ratan Lal Sanghi & S M Moin	1671.8	50.66	798.4	48.39	86
73	124	Rajesh A Dalal & Mukund Thapa	1663.9	50.42	872.5	52.88	51
74	109	Suvankar Basu & Sudip Pandit	1658.9	50.27	868.1	52.61	52
75	261	Chiranjib Ballav & Ashis Pan	1654.1	50.12	811	49.15	82
76	5	Bijal Shah & Sejal Shah	1652.8	50.08	888.9	53.88	42
77	129	Abhay Todankar & Anand W Golwalkar	1651	50.03	774.1	46.91	107
78	43	Raghunath Karmarkar & Bharat R Paranjpe	1649.1	49.97	882.6	53.49	45
79	171	Jayanta Chowdhury & Jagadish Chandra Bala	1648.7	49.96	880.1	53.34	48
80	108	Monu Kumar & Naveen Kumar	1647.5	49.92	794.7	48.16	92
81	70	D N Lenka & Bhaskar Chandra Mallik	1647.2	49.91	743.3	45.05	120
82	186	Shriram Anant Karve & Manisha Anand Jamenis	1646.3	49.89	854.5	51.79	55
83	265	Sankar Narayan Ghosh & Uday Ghoshal	1643.6	49.8	839.3	50.87	65
84	210	Ashok K Sinha & Ekta Chadha	1637.1	49.61	854.2	51.77	56
85	50	Aman Tyagi & Kinjal Desai	1636.9	49.6	781.2	47.34	102
86	24	Subashish Gope & Suchet Dhar	1632.5	49.47	754	45.69	115
87	27	Mithun Biswas & Sanjay Banerjee	1630.4	49.4	816.6	49.49	76
88	22	Hemant Purkar & Chandrashekhar V Kekre	1630.2	49.4	842.9	51.08	63
89	87	Paban Agarwal & Kalindi Mewar	1625.1	49.25	727.9	44.12	125
90	167	Chandrakant Shah & Aruna Shah	1621.8	49.15	752.8	45.62	117
91	168	Edgar de Souza & Hussein Adamally	1618.7	49.05	820.3	49.71	75
92	122	Alka Jain & Devi Muthu Bhatnagar	1606.1	48.67	948.1	57.46	21
93	144	Bikramjit Das & Vivekananda Ghosh	1606	48.67	708	42.91	131
94	247	Kavita Ajmera & Baneet Kumar Malhotra	1604.6	48.62	826.4	50.08	73
95	88	Vrinda Jhunjhunwala & Arun J Puranik	1603.1	48.58	832.4	50.45	68
96	142	Amit Pal & Amal Kumar Sarkar	1602	48.54	787.4	47.72	96
97	227	Satish Pandey & Ravi Bhargava	1599.1	48.46	686.6	41.61	137
98	128	Pankaj P Chaudharl & P K Joel	1596.4	48.37	741.6	44.95	122
99	266	M Vasanth Pai & Bhaskar Kumar Ganguly	1596.2	48.37	779.3	47.23	103
100	23	Pramod Ranjan Das & Amit Chakraborty	1592.8	48.27	872.9	52.9	50
101	125	Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mitresh Manu	1591.9	48.24	812.6	49.25	81
102	250	Ashok Kumar & Sujeet Kumar	1588.7	48.14	783.6	47.49	98

Results : MP Pairs - Strata II

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Session MPs	Session %	Session Pos
103	150	Subhas Basu & Tapan Choudhury	1587.4	48.1	697.1	42.25	135
104	41	Bhalender Singh Nayyar & Yogendra Deva	1586.3	48.07	914.6	55.43	32
105	166	Parimal Vaikuntlal Vahalia & Rupa Bakeri	1585.9	48.06	782.8	47.44	100
106	149	Prithvi Raj & Abhishek Gupta	1584.2	48.01	881.2	53.41	47
107	86	Aditi Jhaveri & M M Lule	1581.1	47.91	699.4	42.39	133
108	242	Satish G Diwanji & Ajit B Chakradeo	1573.4	47.68	814.7	49.37	80
109	48	Aditi Sahastrabuddhe & M V Phatak	1563.8	47.39	754.5	45.73	114
110	45	Edward Perera & Romesh Bandaranaike	1556.8	47.18	718.1	43.52	129
111	44	Madhav A Kshirsagar & Srinivasan Krishnaswami	1556.8	47.18	912.7	55.32	33
112	103	A C Srivastava & Roshan Sahay	1555.6	47.14	815.9	49.45	77
113	66	Prasanta Saha & Prabir Kumar Paul	1553.7	47.08	681.7	41.32	140
114	190	J P Das & Debabrata Mukhopadhyay	1553.3	47.07	717.6	43.49	130
115	184	Aniruddh Ghosh & Bapi Das	1547.8	46.9	890.5	53.97	41
116	222	Tapan Kumar Roy & Braja Gopal Dey	1547.7	46.9	782.3	47.41	101
117	182	Bidyut Kanti Thakur & Lalit Mendiratta	1545.8	46.84	778.8	47.2	105
118	49	P Sudhakar Rao & Prashanth Kandulakunta	1543.8	46.78	788.9	47.81	95
119	226	Jiten Chakraborty & Pradip Chakraborty	1529.6	46.35	743.3	45.05	121
120	263	Birendranath Bandopadhyay & Achintya Haldar	1524	46.18	677.4	41.05	141
121	46	Beneeta Chandra & Ranji Dhawan	1521.9	46.12	888.5	53.85	43
122	191	Nilkanta Mehena & Alok Dutta	1516.8	45.96	796.3	48.26	90
123	211	Prasad Honap & Avinash Prabhakar Deshmukh	1511	45.79	656.1	39.76	143
124	127	Ramesh Kumar & Panchanan Kar	1505.8	45.63	795.2	48.19	91
125	208	Don Freeland & Martha Freeland	1503.2	45.55	685.9	41.57	138
126	85	Joydip Mukherjee & Sushil Kumar Paul	1498.1	45.4	782.9	47.45	99
127	91	R W Khare & N B Shinde	1479.3	44.83	697.7	42.29	134
128	251	Sharad Kumar & Sunil Kumar	1479	44.82	746.1	45.22	118
129	244	Richa Shriram & Ranjan Bhattacharya	1477.9	44.79	760.3	46.08	112
130	105	Saikat Neogi & Pradip Kumar Banerjee	1459	44.21	772.6	46.82	108
131	223	Devender Soni & Jai Kishan	1450.8	43.96	926.7	56.16	28
132	161	Gautam Chatterjee & Abhishek Mitra	1446.4	43.83	659.6	39.98	142
133	1	Samina Esmail & Samira Soni	1443.9	43.76	694.5	42.09	136
134	188	Manoj Mallik & Pradyut Kr Das	1439.5	43.62	620.6	37.61	149
135	106	Rajesh Thakur & Hatinder Panwar	1432.8	43.42	699.7	42.41	132
136	123	Siba Prasad Ghosh & Bharat Joshi	1430.6	43.35	861.4	52.21	53
137	209	Amitava Mukherjee & Pradip Gupta	1412.4	42.8	684.4	41.48	139
138	25	Sanjiv Sahay & U N Panjiyar	1411.6	42.78	765.9	46.42	109
139	224	Ashoke Dey & Gobindo Saha	1408.3	42.67	746.1	45.22	119
140	262	Kishore Das & Nimai Chandra Roy	1407.2	42.64	723.9	43.87	126
141	228	Saumitra Basu & Rashmi Bhanshali	1370.8	41.54	741.3	44.93	123
142	241	Ashim Kumar Ghosh & Sunandan Thakur	1366.5	41.41	614.9	37.26	150
143	131	Jyotirmoy Dey & Gautam Sarma	1355.5	41.08	796.8	48.29	89
144	8	R S Gera & Sudhir Kumar Agrawal	1344.2	40.73	642.9	38.97	145
145	162	Vijay Singh & Pushpa Puri	1328.9	40.27	639.5	38.76	146
146	51	Suresh Senapaty & Hermione Mathias	1325.2	40.16	753.3	45.65	116
147	42	Gautam Roy & Debasish Ghosh	1321.8	40.05	650.7	39.44	144
148	269	Rekha Sarin & Manju Jain	1297.6	39.32	556.5	33.72	153
149	84	Nitesh Solanki & Harshad B Shah	1283	38.88	626.1	37.94	147
150	145	C K Madheswaran & M Venkatesan	1255.8	38.05	760.6	46.1	111
151	9	Sudhir K Agrawal & Madhu Sudan Sharma	1241.6	37.62	624.1	37.83	148
152	26	T Viswanadham & T Kameswari	1241.3	37.61	579.4	35.12	152
153	243	Jignesh Parikh & Saurabh Dalal	1179.1	35.73	601.4	36.45	151

A beautiful squeeze.

Did you make 12 tricks here?

The diagrammed deal came up in the last session of the Pre Quarter Finals. A small slam requires Spade finesse to succeed. It is just about 50% chance. In the GOLD category, 10 out of 16 Tables managed to stay out of it; in the SILVER category, 10 out of 16 tables bid it. Boards like this help us tell something about the quality of the field.

While looking at the field scores, I also noticed that the contract made on one table.

D 16	N V ♠ AJ ♥ QJ104 ♦ Q432 ♣ QJ3	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>6NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♦	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	2♦	P	2NT	P	6NT	P	P	P											
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
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How could the contract make? Could it be because of some silly mistake by a defender, or was it because of some brilliant play? Perhaps, because of both?

Say East leads the ♦ Jack. You win ♦ King and play a Club. West wins ♣ Ace and makes a glaring mistake by backing a Club. Will you be able to make 12 tricks?

You should, on a crisscross squeeze. Win the Club, cash Hearts, and cash two more Clubs ending in the Dummy.

D 16	N V ♠ A ♥ ♦ Q42 ♣	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>6NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♦	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	2♦	P	2NT	P	6NT	P	P	P											
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S	11	9	11	10	11																											
E	2	4	2	2	2																											
W	2	4	2	2	2																											

This will be the position with East yet to discard. If East discards a Spade, you can cash ♠ Ace, enter Dummy with ♦ King and cash ♠ Queen-Ten. If East discards a Diamond, you can cash ♦ King, enter North hand with Ace, and enjoy Queen of Diamonds!

A beautiful squeeze.

Did you make 12 tricks here? (Contd.)

I checked the match where 6Nt had succeeded. Team No. 31 North-South had that +990 score. I pinged Thakral.

"I didn't play that session."

"Who played?"

"No idea."

"Let me know when you come to know."

"OK."

Finally, late in the night, after the music had stopped, a tired Thakral turned up to tell the tale. Keyzad played in 6Nt. After the \heartsuit Jack lead, he won, played a Club to the \clubsuit Queen in the Closed hand, and played a **small club** to Dummy's \clubsuit T. This was the situation with West yet to play. Played cards are grayed out.

D 16	N Keyzad \spadesuit AJ \heartsuit QJ104 \diamondsuit Q432 \clubsuit QJ3	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1\diamondsuit</td><td>P</td><td>1\clubsuit</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>6NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1 \diamondsuit	P	1 \clubsuit	P	1NT	P	6NT	P	P	P															
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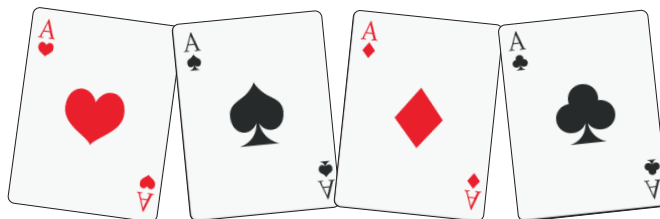
West now had a smart thought. Declarer was finessing against East's \clubsuit Jack, West imagined. If so, and if they won the \clubsuit Ace, Declarer would have no choice but to play the \clubsuit K later in the play, and the \clubsuit J would crash giving the Declarer another trick with \clubsuit 9.

What if West ducked? That would leave the Declarer with a guess as to whether West started with \clubsuit Axx or \clubsuit Axxx, whether to pin the \clubsuit J next, or not. Accordingly, West ducked. The Club Ace now went to sleep. Keyzad switched his attention to Spades and made 12 tricks with four Hearts, three each in Spades and Diamonds, and two Clubs. That was how the +990 score arose!



The 21st **HCL** International Bridge Championship

14th September to 22nd September 2024



Tournament Schedule

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