



HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP DELHI 2024

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The Leela Ambience
Convention Hotel, Delhi

September 14 - 22

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor
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Layout Editor
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FORMIDABLES top the GOLD category

After five rounds of Swiss League, **Formidables** (Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustabh Nandi, and Saganik Roy) are at the top of the table of GOLD category Team of Four event with 69.72 VPs. **Shourie** (Rajnath Shourie, Gavin Wolpert, Vincent Demuy, John Kranyak, Kevin Bathurst, and John Hurd) were in the second position with 68.7 VPs.

EISK and Hemant Jalan were joint third with 68.09 VPs. Acemates (66.7), Indian Chain (66.47), Pro3max, a team from Russia (65.16), and ERNIS (64.11) were in fifth to eighth position respectively.

Karate Kids, a team from Israel was ninth with 61.08 VPs. Some strong teams such as Texan Aces, Mavericks, and Dhampur Sugar Mills do not figure in the first 16 after the end of five rounds. Similarly, WHAM from Australia are just about 16th while WBT Bridge App from Norway, with a tally of 47.63 are 32nd. The 4-member Norway team is 2/3 of the team that will represent Norway in the World Championships at Buenos Aires in November 2024. They are expected to do better in tomorrow's rounds. 16 Top Teams will qualify for the Knock-out stage that begins with pre-Quarter-Finals.

Team of four SILVER category

After five rounds of Swiss league of 10 boards each, in the SILVER category of the team of four event, team **Dehradun** consisting of R.V. Chauhan, T.K. Mandal, Yashpal, and Rahul Agarwal topped the table with 78.7 VPs. **Team Kabra** (Pallab Sinha, Pallab Roy, Kamal Kabra, Indranil Chakraborty, Gopal Das, and Shantanu Roy) were at the second place with 76.5 VPs.

Dilip Atha B (73.49), Marbles(69.95), Capa India (69.67), and Dazzle (69.5) were in the third to sixth position.

There will be five more rounds of Swiss League tomorrow. After 10 rounds, Sixteen teams will qualify to play the Pre-Quarter finals that will be played on Wednesday.

GOLD TEAMS RESULT AFTER 5 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	44	Formidables	69.72	27	50	Oindrila Wrileena	50.34
2	12	Shourie	68.7	28	38	Bianchi	50.28
3	25	EISK	68.09	29	41	RUIA BLAZERS	49.77
	32	Hemant Jalan	68.09	30	17	Tornatae	49.56
5	8	AceMates	66.7	31	9	NINI NONO	49.24
6	2	INDIANCHAIN	66.47	32	49	WBT Bridge App	47.63
7	37	Pro3max	65.16	33	34	CarpeDiem	46.09
8	45	ERNIS	64.11	34	11	Mohota	44.57
9	5	Karate Kids	61.08	35	13	FENESTA	43.9
10	7	Over Tricks	59.67	36	15	PROYAS	43.56
11	28	Omega	59.5	37	26	Pankaj Mehta	42.9
12	14	Mavericks Prodigies	59.21	38	42	COGITO	42.34
13	29	Vedic	58.25	39	16	Amanora	42.32
14	3	SarlaFibers	57.68	40	35	Bold Play	41.28
15	43	Bangur Cement	57.43	41	20	Lake My Love	38.89
16	19	WHAM	55.42	42	47	Mix N Match	38.67
17	24	TEXAN ACES	54.78	43	10	Sri Jagannath	38.46
18	1	Shree Cement	54.27	44	36	Momentum	38.16
19	39	MONICA JAJOO	54.12	45	6	Desi Girls	36.32
20	18	Samadhan	53.9	46	30	Nilachakra	33.75
21	31	MAVERICKS	53.84	47	4	DassBridge	33.35
22	21	Shri Radhey	53.59	48	22	Rajputana	31.53
23	40	Kansan Royals	52.76	49	46	FOUR ACES	31.02
24	27	Royal Flush	51.98	50	33	ACE CONQUERORS	30.89
25	51	Dr Sanghi	50.48	51	23	Delhi Blues	29.71
26	48	Dhampur Sugar Mills	50.47				

To

The Family of NK Gupta

Gopika Tandan and I apologize for not being present at the prize giving ceremony yesterday.

'NK' was truly a legend in Indian bridge circles and we are glad to see Kiran Nadar and you going to great lengths to preserve his extraordinary legacy.

With every good wish

Sincerely

Gopika and Arun

SILVER TEAMS RESULT AFTER 5 ROUNDS

Place	ID	Players	Score VP table	Place	ID	Players	Score VP table
1	19	Dehradun	78.7	47	4	Tulip	51.08
2	63	Team Kabra	76.5	48	62	Tapan	50.85
3	46	Dilip Atha B	73.49	49	23	Twem	50.74
4	35	Marbles	69.95	50	67	Novice	50.59
5	54	Capa India	69.67	51	8	Sharp	49.92
6	26	Dazzle	69.5	52	42	Invincibles	49.5
7	76	Dr.S.S.M	66.3	53	52	Saanvika	48.97
8	39	Oriental	65.8	54	11	Mixed Bag	47.78
9	56	Kohinoor	63.93	55	2	Nuts And Bolts	47.62
10	77	K2	63.4	56	81	Maharaja	47.35
11	38	Jackalls	63.13	57	43	Shib Shakti	46.86
12	47	Pass	62.82	58	14	Juthika	46.19
13	13	Sangam	62.02	59	83	Sarbeswar 6	45.59
14	78	Rscs	62.01	60	50	Neo	44.59
15	37	Confluence	61.73	61	10	Rs Mishra Team	43.98
16	68	Goal Getters	61.25	62	16	Kota Club	43.58
17	59	Kingcolac	60.62	63	18	Sparc	43.55
18	72	Chefs Table	60.25	64	20	Andromeda	43.34
19	60	Deepadhaar	59.78	65	70	Kkk Bridge Lovers 2	43.33
20	22	Precision	59.25	66	36	Hyderabad Blue	42.93
21	17	Villager Challenger	58.77	67	55	Zeppelin	42.83
22	3	Scream	58.65	68	33	Jai Ho	42.57
23	65	Sabass	58.57	69	1	Kosmos	41.57
24	87	Victory Squad	58.39	70	82	Bhanshali	41.44
25	69	Caparo	58.27	71	85	Shaptarrathi	40.59
26	91	Baskis	57.87	72	79	Shiva	40.3
27	9	Spartans	57.76	73	34	Samadhan	39.51
28	24	Borivali Sports Club	57.3	74	89	Galebi	38.39
29	21	I Doctors	56.7	75	31	Kingpins	37.86
30	58	Team Vibrant	56.53	76	86	East And West	37.85
31	53	Tapoban	56.42	77	48	Unpredictables	36.77
32	74	Mind Crusaders	55.69	78	75	Alfa Ace	36.17
33	44	Adventurers	55.65	79	84	Usha Kiran	35.63
34	28	Bharat	54.57	80	29	Sbc	35.56
35	12	Animesh	53.92	81	25	Doubles	35.35
36	32	Playwell Nagpur	53.72	82	90	Malaika	35.23
37	51	Card Kings	53.14	83	66	Pyramid	34.76
38	5	Tsunami	53.07	84	73	Mohakal	34.4
39	7	Assam Haryana Lion	52.91	85	92	DHANU	33.3
40	71	Setu	52.83	86	88	Bridgedoctors	32.57
41	64	Heart Ace	52.65	87	6	Tangelo	32.16
42	80	H Ojaborolo	52.59	88	61	Jaidip Iv	31.46
43	57	Kkk Bridge Lovers	52.44	89	15	Team Sangam	29.98
44	30	Sahyadri	52.16	90	45	Achintan	23.61
45	49	Nagbagan Card Club	52.13	91	41	Guns And Roses	20.22
46	40	Squanderers	51.11	92	27	Dais Blitz	17.67

Team of Four Gold R1 Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan

In the first round of the Team of Four GOLD category, Mavericks were playing against Hemant Jalan. In the Open Room, Keyzad-Harald were North-South for Mavericks while S. Datta and G. Manna were West-East for Hemant Jalan team. In the Closed Room, Sayantan Kushari-Kaustubh Bendre were North-South for Hemant Jalan while Jaggy Shivdasani-Sandeep Thakral were West-East.

The first deal was flattish. On the correct guess of ♣J, Datta made 11 tricks while Jaggy made only 10. The fireworks started in the Closed Room with the second deal.

		N SAYANTAN K ♠ ♥ AJ3 ♦ Q94 ♣ AJ106432	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>X</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	P	1♠	2♣	2NT	3♥	X	P	4♠	P	P	4NT	X	5♣	P	P	X	P						
W	N	E	S																														
		P	P																														
1♠	2♣	2NT	3♥																														
X	P	4♠	P																														
P	4NT	X	5♣																														
P	P	X	P																														
W JAGGY ♠ AKQ943 ♥ K10 ♦ 10873 ♣ 9		E Thakral S ♠ J10876 ♥ 62 ♦ KJ5 ♣ Q75																															
<table border="1"> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <th>N</th> <td>13</td> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <td>13</td> <td>6</td> <td>11</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>W</th> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table> Par Score: 800 Par: EW 7♣x-4		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	13	7	11	4	7	S	13	6	11	4	7	E	0	5	0	9	0	W	0	6	0	9	0	S KAUSTUBH B ♠ 52 ♥ Q98754 ♦ A62 ♣ K8		5♣x N NS: 0 EW: 0
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	13	7	11	4	7																												
S	13	6	11	4	7																												
E	0	5	0	9	0																												
W	0	6	0	9	0																												

After a routine third seat 1♠ opening by West and a 2♣ overcall, Thakral bid 2Nt to show a mixed raise, a hand that is not strong enough for a limit raise but is stronger than a preemptive raise. South showed his Hearts. Thakral reverted to 4♠ on the next round. When it was passed around to Sayantan, he bid 4Nt, likely to show two places to play. Kaustubh was OK with Clubs. He bid 5♣ and it got doubled.

Sayantan ruffed the ♠ lead, ran the ♣Ten on the next trick, played a Club to King, ruffed a Spade, removed last trump, and played ♥A and ♥J driving out the ♥K. He made 12 tricks for a score of 950.



Sayantan Kushari and Kaustubh Bendre

Team of Four Gold R1

Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan (Contd.)

In the Closed room, the bidding and the lead were the same. The first trick was identical, too. On the next trick, Thakral overtook ♣Jack with the ♣K and cashed all his Clubs. Jaggy played the ♣9 on ♣T and discarded ♥9 on the fifth Club. The question for Sandeep Thakral now was to figure out which King partner held. The ♥9 discard showed disinterest in Hearts but West could well have either of the pointed suits (Diamond or Spade) King. Thakral gave ♠King to partner from the cards that were on view. Accordingly, he cashed the ♠Ace and returned a Spade. That was curtains for the defence and +90 to NS. Hemant Jalan team got 4 IMPs on the board. Running Scores: Hemant Jalan 17 IMPs - Mavericks 0.

Board 4 was a part-score battle.

<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">4</div>	N Keyzad ♠ AQJ65 ♥ Q75 ♦ 93 ♣ 762	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</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	P	P	1♥	P	2♥	2♠	P	P	P																	
	W	N	E	S																												
	P	P	1♥	P																												
2♥	2♠	P	P																													
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W S Datta ♠ 43 ♥ 862 ♦ A64 ♣ A10843	E G Manna ♠ K10 ♥ AKJ103 ♦ J852 ♣ J9																															
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N	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	2	5	3	7	3																											
S	2	5	2	7	3																											
E	9	8	9	5	8																											
W	9	8	8	5	8																											

The bidding began with East's 1♥ opening and West's 2♥ raise. Both Norths overcalled 2♠. In the Open Room, Manna passed letting North play in 2♠. He led a top Heart and shifted to the Jack of Clubs pronto. The Declarer has chance against that defence. East-West got two tricks each in rounded suits and one each in the pointed suits. The contract went down one for a score of +100 to East-West.

<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">4</div>	N SAYANTAN K ♠ AQJ65 ♥ Q75 ♦ 93 ♣ 762	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1♥	P	2♥	2♠	3♥	P	P	P																
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N	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	2	5	3	7	3																											
S	2	5	2	7	3																											
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W	9	8	8	5	8																											

In his book 'To Bid or Not to Bid', Larry Cohen had twisted the maxim 'eight never, nine never' that Bridge students were asked to follow when deciding whether to finesse for a Queen or not. Larry advocated 'eight never, nine ever' instead, but that was meant to apply to competitive bidding, not to a finesse situation. The idea was that one doesn't compete at three level with eight-card fit. Well, Sandeep Thakral decide not to follow the rule and bid one more for the road. 3♥ was the final contract.

South led a Spade to partner's Ace and Sayantan shifted to ♦9. That went to ♦J and Queen which Thakral ducked. He won the ♦K continuation with the Diamond Ace and cashed Heart AK. Had he opted for a Heart finesse, he would likely have made 9 tricks. As the play went, North got his ♥Queen and NS got two tricks in Diamonds in addition to one each in the black suits. Down one was the result. Five more Imps went to Hemant Jalan team's account. Running Scores: Hemant Jalan 22 IMPs - Mavericks 0.

Team of Four Gold R1

Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan *(Contd.)*

On Board 5, the bidding in the Closed Room seemed like a routine one Sayantan rebidding 1N after 1♥-1♠ uncontested sequence with a 3532 hand. One Notrump would have gone down on the lead of a Diamond honour from a holding of QJxxx. Thakral elected to lead a small Diamond. 1Nt made 8 tricks. That was +120 to NS.

D 5	N SAYANTAN K	W	N	E	S																														
	♠ J109 ♥ K9542 ♦ AK2 ♣ 85		1♥	P	1♠																														
W JAGGY		P	1NT	P	P																														
♠ Q74 ♥ J107 ♦ 543 ♣ A943		P																																	
	E THAKRAL S																																		
	♠ A83 ♥ Q86 ♦ QJ876 ♣ QJ																																		
	S KAUSTUBH B																																		
	♠ K652 ♥ A3 ♦ 109 ♣ K10762																																		
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	♠	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	8	6	7	8	6																														
S	8	6	7	8	6																														
E	5	7	6	5	6																														
W	5	7	6	5	6																														

In the Open Room, Keyzad raised 1♠ to 2♠. This was one of the few deals on which we saw a 3-card raise of a Major suit response in this very session. A few deals later, when Chhota Venky logged in for a typed commentary, he mentioned it more than once that he didn't quite like a 3-card raise in most situations. Anyway.

D 5	N Keyzad	W	N	E	S																														
	♠ J109 ♥ K9542 ♦ AK2 ♣ 85		1♥	P	1♠																														
W S Datta		P	2♠	P	2NT																														
♠ Q74 ♥ J107 ♦ 543 ♣ A943		P	3♦	X	3♥																														
	E G Manna	P	3♠	P	P																														
	♠ A83 ♥ Q86 ♦ QJ876 ♣ QJ																																		
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	♠	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	8	6	7	8	6																														
S	8	6	7	8	6																														
E	5	7	6	5	6																														
W	5	7	6	5	6																														

Keyzad-Harald ended up in 3♠, a contract that had no chance. Mavericks lost a further six IMPs on this board. Running Scores: Hemant Jalan 28 IMPs - Mavericks 0.

Team of Four Gold R1

Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan (Contd.)

Boards six and seven were flattish boards. Mavericks lost a further one IMP on Board 6 though. Finally, On Board 8, Mavericks pulled back a chunk of IMPs. The board featured a choice of contract between 4 of a Major and 3Nt with a 4-4 Major suit fit.

8	N Keyzad	W N E S																														
	♠ Q62 ♥ A963 ♦ QJ9 ♣ A53	P 1♣ P 1♥ P 2♥ P 3NT P P P																														
W S Datta	E G Manna																															
♠ 543 ♥ QJ5 ♦ 108732 ♣ J6	♠ A108 ♥ 82 ♦ A5 ♣ Q109874																															
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♠	7	9	10	10	7																											
N	7	9	10	10	7																											
S	7	9	10	10	7																											
E	6	4	3	3	3																											
W	6	4	3	3	3																											
Par Score: 420 Par: NS 4♠, 4♥	♠ KJ97 ♥ K1074 ♦ K64 ♣ K2	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0																														

In the Open Room, after 1♣-1♥-2♥ uncontested sequence, Harald, with his tenace-laden hand, jumped to 3N. With a 4333 shape, Keyzad had no reason to move back to 4♥. Keyzad passed. On a Club lead, 3Nt would have gone down. Perhaps, there is a case for not leading a Diamond with the poor 4-HCP holding that the West had, but even then, it would have been a toss-up between black suits. At the table, West opted for a Diamond lead and 3Nt was an easy make of 10 tricks. That was 430 to North-South.

In the Closed Room, South took a different route.

8	N SAYANTAN K	W N E S																														
	♠ Q62 ♥ A963 ♦ QJ9 ♣ A53	P 1♣ P 1♥ P 2♥ P 2♠ P 3NT P P P																														
W JAGGY	E THAKRAL S																															
♠ 543 ♥ QJ5 ♦ 108732 ♣ J6	♠ A108 ♥ 82 ♦ A5 ♣ Q109874																															
<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	♠	7	9	10	10	7	N	7	9	10	10	7	S	7	9	10	10	7	E	6	4	3	3	3	W	6	4	3	3	3	S KAUSTUBH B	
♠	7	9	10	10	7																											
N	7	9	10	10	7																											
S	7	9	10	10	7																											
E	6	4	3	3	3																											
W	6	4	3	3	3																											
Par Score: 420 Par: NS 4♠, 4♥	♠ KJ97 ♥ K1074 ♦ K64 ♣ K2	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																														

South bid 2S and North bid 3Nt. It doesn't seem right to have the lead go through a four-King holding. As luck would have it, East had an automatic Club lead and the 3Nt contract went down two for 100 to East-West. Could we call it some kind of a poetic justice? I will leave it to you. Mavericks pulled back 11 IMPs on this board to open their account.

Running Scores: Hemant Jalan 29 IMPs - Mavericks 11.



Keyzad Anklesaria



Harald Eide

Team of Four Gold R1

Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan (Contd.)

D		N SAYANTAN K		W N E S																																
9		♠ K1095432		1♥ P 2♣																																
		♥ AK32		P 2♥ P 2♠																																
		♦ 97		P 3♥ P 4♣																																
				P 4♦ P 5♣																																
				P P P																																
W JAGGY				E THAKRAL S																																
♠ 10832				♠ QJ765																																
♥ AJ87				♥ Q6																																
♦ 10954				♦ Q87																																
♣ 2				♣ Q103																																
		S KAUSTUBH B																																		
		♠ AK94																																		
		♥																																		
		♦ J6																																		
		♣ AKJ8654		5♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0																																
<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>12</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>12</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	12	9	9	7	11	S	12	9	9	7	11	E	1	4	3	6	2	W	0	4	3	6	2	Par Score: 920 Par: NS 6♣					
♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																
N	12	9	9	7	11																															
S	12	9	9	7	11																															
E	1	4	3	6	2																															
W	0	4	3	6	2																															

Board 9 was a push board, however, it was not an uninteresting board.

Both North and South had a massively distributional hand with a 7-4-2-0 shape. The bidding progressed naturally with a two over one 2♣ response by South to North's 1♥ opening bid. Kaustubh Bendre chose the 4♣ continuation over North's third Heart bid. On North's 4♦ continuation, however, he wasn't perhaps sure that a 4♠ Cue bid will find both the partners on the same page. Kaustubh took a safe shot at 5♣. That made 12 easy tricks.

D		N Keyzad		W N E S																																
9		♠ K1095432		1♥ P 2♣																																
		♥ AK32		P 2♦ P 2♠																																
		♦ 97		P 3♥ P 4♣																																
				P 4♥ P 5♣																																
				P P P																																
W S Datta				E G Manna																																
♠ 10832				♠ QJ765																																
♥ AJ87				♥ Q6																																
♦ 10954				♦ Q87																																
♣ 2				♣ Q103																																
		S Harald E																																		
		♠ AK94																																		
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		♦ J6																																		
		♣ AKJ8654		5♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0																																
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♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																
N	12	9	9	7	11																															
S	12	9	9	7	11																															
E	1	4	3	6	2																															
W	0	4	3	6	2																															

In the Open Room, Keyzad rebid 2♦, not 2♥. Further bidding was almost similar and the final contract, the same. A push board as mentioned above.

Running Scores: Hemant Jalan 29 IMPs - Mavericks 11.

Team of Four Gold R1

Mavericks vs. Hemant Jalan (Contd.)

On Board 10, Sandeep Thakral had the last laugh for the Mavericks. It was a meagre 2♥ contract, but the defence was a beauty.

The bidding was the same at both the tables.

In the Open Room, Datta opted to lead the ♠A and shifted to a small Club. Had the Declarer played small from the Dummy, defence would have had no further chance. Of course, Declarer didn't make that speculative play. He went for ♣King from the Dummy, won with ♠A by Manna. Manna had a chance to defeat by shifting to a *small* trump, but Manna continued Clubs allowing the Declarer to embark on a sort of cross-ruff. Defence only got three trumps in the later play.

10 D	N Keyzad	W N E S
	♠ 5 ♥ 9653 ♦ AK104 ♣ KQ74	1NT X P P P P P
	W S Datta	E G Manna
♠ A10 ♥ Q8 ♦ J9752 ♣ J853	♠ A	♠ J8643 ♥ AK2 ♦ Q8 ♣ A92
♠ 5 7 6 5 ♥ 6 5 7 6 5 ♦ 7 8 6 7 7 ♣ 7 8 6 7 7	S Harald E	
Par Score: -90 Par: EW 1NT, 2♦	♠ KQ972 ♥ J1074 ♦ 63 ♣ 106	2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

In the Closed Room, Jaggy and Sandeep Thakral showed what killing defence smells like.

10 D	N SAYANTAN K	W N E S
	♠ 5 ♥ 9653 ♦ AK104 ♣ KQ74	1NT X P P P P P
	W JAGGY	E THAKRAL S
♠ A10 ♥ Q8 ♦ J9752 ♣ J853	♠ J8643 ♥ AK2 ♦ Q8 ♣ A92	
♠ 5 7 6 5 ♥ 6 5 7 6 5 ♦ 7 8 6 7 7 ♣ 7 8 6 7 7	S KAUSTUBH B	
Par Score: -90 Par: EW 1NT, 2♦	♠ KQ972 ♥ J1074 ♦ 63 ♣ 106	2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Jaggy led a small Diamond. Declarer won and played a Spade to the ♠9 in the Closed hand to Jaggy's ♠T. Jaggy persisted with a Diamond. Declarer won and played the ♣King from the Dummy. Sandeep Thakral won ♠A and figured out why the Declarer was wandering all over the jungle of side suits. Thakral switched to the ♥2!

Jaggy won the ♥Q and played another trump defanging the Declarer. After the ♥AK, Thakral switched to the ♣9 not wanting ever to be on the lead again, with all his lowly Spades. ♣Nine went to Declarer's ♣T, Jaggy's ♣J and

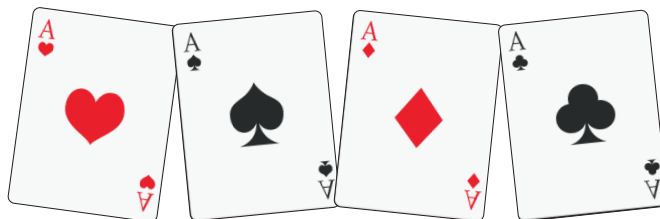
Dummy's Queen. Declarer now ruffed a Diamond and ruffed a Spade in the Dummy. The ♠Ace fell so there were many good Spades in the Dummy but no own route to get there. With ♦T and ♣74, Declarer played the ♣4 from the Dummy. With his ♦J and ♣85, Jaggy claimed the rest of the tricks. Down 3 was the result for +300 to EW. Mavericks pulled back Nine more IMPs on this deal to finish the session with a respectable 20-29 look. Hemant Jalan team got 13.4 VPs for their effort.

That was a lovely session to watch and hopefully, this narrative should be instructive for the new and advancing players.



Jaggy Shivdasani and Sandeep Thakral

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



Tournament Schedule

Tuesday, Sep 17	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 PRE-QF KO.
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

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

	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
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

Tournament Schedule

Contd.

	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

BBO Schedule for Tuesday, September 17, 2024

1000 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-6 (2 Matches)
1145 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-7 (2 Matches)
1410 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-8 (2 Matches)
1555 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-9 (2 Matches)
1750 Hrs:	T-4 GOLD, Swiss League, R-10 (2 Matches)

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