



15TH HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

HCL

SEPTEMBER 12-17, 2017

JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi

Organized by: HCL Corporation Ltd.

Under the auspices of Bridge Federation of India

DAILY BULLETIN

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Bulletin No. : 3

Thursday, 14th Sep 2017

SWISS LEAGUE - TOP 16

GOLD

DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS TOP

Dhampur Sugar Mills led by Ashok Goel topped the Gold Swiss League to make it to the Pre Quarter Finals. They qualified with more than a match to spare as did Pharma Services, Failla, Shri Radhey and Formidables. By virtue of topping the table, Dhampur Sugar got the first pick of opponents from teams ranked 9 to 16, They choose Team Ramcharan.

Six Indian Teams qualified into the Pre Quarter Finals : **Dhampur Sugar, Formidables, Shri Radhey, Hemant Jalan, Eden Reality and Ramcharan.**

Defending Champions, Team Lavazza who are lying 24th after 9 rounds just about made it into the last 16 with the big 18.84 VP last round victory over Team Indonesia. The two Italian Teams, Failla and Lavazza are pitted against each other by default. Team Failla finished 8th. Obviously no one would pick Team Lavazza as opponents.

SILVER

MANZOVA CASUAL TOP

16 Teams out of 92 move to the next stage of the competition led by **Manzova Casual**. Borivali Sports Club from Mumbai finished second. Overnight leaders, Team Pradeep also qualified finishing fifth.

Refer to page 2 for the List of Qualified Teams with names.

Today there will be a four session knock out with 8 winners going through to the Quarter Finals.

Open Match Point Pairs : The Neena Bonerji Open MP Pairs commences today with the 1st Elimination in 3 Sessions.

The Pre Quarter Final Matches are being shown live in the Vu Graph Theatre in Studio 6 on the 1st floor.

BBO Schedule : Round 1 : Formidables Vs Iceland & Russia Vs Sweden

For further details of the BBO Schedule refer to the last page.

Teams ranked 17th to 20th will also be eligible for the prize money of Rs. 50,000 (Gold) and Rs. 30,000 (Silver)

WHO WILL BE THE MIND MASTERS?

QUALIFIERS FOR PRE QUARTER FINALS - GOLD

Rank	Team	VPs	Player
1	Dhampur Sugar Mills	141.28	Ashok Kumar Goel, K.R.Venkataraman, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder, Sundarram Srinivasan, Sridharan Padmanabhan,
2	Pharma Service	131.07	Morten Bilde, Hans Christian Graversen, Poul Clemmensen, Emil Jepsen, Dorte Cilleborg Bilde
3	Zwederland	124.85	Johan Upmark, Fredrick Nystrom, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees
4	Oceania	123.25	Peter Gill, Liam Milne, Matthew Brown, Michael Whibley
5	Formidables	123.00	Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, Jaggy Shivdasani, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokshi, Keyzad Anklesaria
6	Russia	122.58	Andrey Gromov, Aleksandr Dubinin, Georgy Matushko, Evgeny Rudakov, Vitaly Ruchka, Youri Khokhlov
7	Shri Radhey	122.45	V M Lal, R G Bhiwandkar, K S Anand Samant, Sandeep Karmarkar, Finton Lewis
8	Failla	121.72	Giuseppe Failla, Luca de Michelis, Andrea Manno, Massimiliano di Franco
9	Hemant Jalan	118.16	Hemant K Jalan, Swarnendu Banerjee, Kaustabh Nandi, Kaustubh Bendre, Sandip Datta, Pritish Kushari
10	Eden Realty	115.41	Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Shibnath DeSarkar, Aloke Kumar Sadhu, Partho S Mukherjee
11	Drink	115.29	Guy Mendes De Leon, Veri Kiljan, Luc Tijssen, Thibo Sprinkhuizen
12	Sweden	114.55	Gunnar Andersson, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Simon Ekenberg, Simon Hult, Adam Stokka
13	Ramcharan	114.04	G Veerabhadra Rao, M D Choudary, G V Rao, C D Kumar, M V Subba Rao, K Srinivas, P B G Tilak
14	Bridge Plus	113.75	Angel Vanchev, Zahary Zahariev, Jerry Stamatov, Diyan Danailov
15	Lavazza	113.56	Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde, Antonio Sementa
16	Iceland	113.44	Sveinn Eiriksson, Bjarni Einarsson, Throstur Ingimarsson, Julius Sigurjonsson, Bjorgvin Kristinsson, Adalsteinn Jorgensen

QUALIFIERS FOR PRE QUARTER FINALS - SILVER

Rank	Team	VPs	Player
1	Manzova Casual	139.54	Joy Narayan Roy, Mrinal De, Debasish Bose, Moloy Mondal, Manik Alam, Pijush Baroi
2	Borivali Sports Club	137.63	Amod Rele, Khushru Kapadia, Ronald Miranda, Lyn Nazareth, Stanley Nazareth, Srinivas Joshi
3	A. K. Bose	136.08	Abhijit Kumar Bose, Shantanu Ghosh, Anindya Bhattacharya, Soumya Das, Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy
4	Senior Citizens	133.21	Montu Mukherjee, Pramod Kumar Mishra, J. Pratihari, Dinabandhu Sahu
5	Pradeep	131.23	Pradeep Goenka, Pradip Mohta, Mrinal Kanti Mukherjee, Vikrant Mehta, Kalyan Nandy, Goutam Pore
6	Dr Sanghi	130.27	Dr R L Sanghi, S M Moin, Sunil Sinha, Sham Sharma, Anil Bharihoke, S C Bhandari
7	Rajputana	129.32	K P Mathur, N K Sharma, Puneet Gangal, Pradeep Govil
8	Indian Chain	123.88	N Chitlangia, Sanjay Bajoria, Bharati Dey, Alok Daga, Ravi Saberwal
9	Filmnagar Cul. Centre Hyd.	123.14	J V Ramana Murthy, G Madanmohan Rao, S Rajagopala Rao, R Chandra Mohan
10	Team Vibrant	122.86	M K Halder, Vinay Mohan, Dipak Paul, B N Ghosh, Bhaskar Ganguly, Sanjit Dey
11	Kamales Gupta	119.65	Kamales Gupta, Vikram Jain, Aritra Bhattacharya, Anindra Kumar Sarkar, Joyrup Mullick, Bhaskar Sarkar
12	Xirode	118.92	Girish Hirode, Darshan Patel, Suhas Lele, Vikrant Joseph, Rupa Bakeri, K S Deodhar
13	Bankura Club	118.05	Subhasis Roy, Partha Sarathi Samanta, Tapan Roy, Shyama Prasad Banerjee, Sailen Das, Sanjeeb Ganguly
14	Gupta's Bangalore	117.56	A S Gupta, V Krishnan, R.Anbazhagan, Prakash Eswaran
15	Atanu	116.99	Atanu Ganguly, Kishore Kumar Ganguly, Anirban Sasmal, Nilanjan Ghosh, Raj Mukherjee, Kalyan Kr Roy
16	Six-Pack	114.63	Afshar Majeed, N. Prakasam, V. Ramkumar, Vijay Devadass, Sandip Dang, Nirmal Jain

TALK THE TALK WITH T C PANT



When Anand Samant pulled me back into writing after a hiatus of 8 years, in 2009, I called up T C Pant, barely knowing him, and asked him if I could hop on to the Bulletin band wagon of the 2010 back to back Commonwealth Games and the HCL tournament in New Delhi and assist him. He readily agreed. And since then it has been a series of learning experiences and guidance. Thank you Pantji. The stand out feature of Pantji is his energy levels and his competent multi tasking, besides mastery over software. The man can go on and on. He can boogie on bridge till the break of dawn. I wonder what he has for breakfast. Today T C Pant is the Joint Secretary of the Bridge Federation of India, and also the Head of Technical Management. Writing, editing, scoring, results and playing at National tournaments simultaneously is routine and all - in - days - work for Pantji. The logistics and the infrastructure set by him and Sushil Agarwal at the BFAME and Commonwealth Games Championships earned them high praise from the international bridge fraternity, putting India up there on the bridge technology world map. Here he is again at this HCL tournament handling ALL the technical aspects. We are assured of a smooth and world class tournament. Let's get an insight into what makes T C Pant ticknon stop.

Q: How did you start your journey in this mind sport? When and where did you get into bridge?

Ans: My dad was in Indian Air force and sports being an integral part of the defence setup, it came automatically to me. As a kid and youngster, my main interest was cricket and that went on for years, so much so that I have even done umpiring for 3 years for DDCA. I used to play lot of card games from my young age and it was courtesy one of my Bengali friend's father, (we were neighbors at Kanpur Air force station) for whom it was a ritual to play Sunday bridge along with his friends, which first sowed the seed of Bridge in me. He taught me & his son the basics of bridge in 1971-72. However, as I gave importance to my studies first, the actual bridge interest started only from 1978-79, when I took up my first job at "National Informatics Centre" in Delhi.

Q: How did the transition come about into writing, logistics, and infrastructure, making you the foremost Technical Head Honcho as well as the most prolific

Bulletin Editor in India?

Ans: As a software professional, I was posted to Gulf (from 1984-91) and then to Netherlands (1992-99). In the Gulf, we used to have too much of free time and that prompted me to play Bridge every week. In between when I used to come on holidays to India, I used to play weekly tournaments at the Delhi Bridge Association. But going to Netherlands changed lot of things as far as bridge was concerned. My partner there was a sports journalist and he prompted me to become a volunteer for recording of matches. At that time, there used to be a tournament of the top 16 pairs of the world at Hotel Des Indes, The Hague, sponsored by Cap Gemini, which was also known as the "Wimbledon of Bridge". I recorded my first match in 1993 there and that gave a boost to my interest towards "Bridge Management" activities. Then I started work on computer scoring and when I finally came to India in 2000, along with Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal, I started computer scoring at Delhi Bridge Assn. I got lot of encouragement from senior players like Subhash Gupta and Anand Samant. It was Mr. Anand Samant, who first drafted me in the role of Scorer for the Tolani Grand Prix at Mumbai, and then other tournaments followed.

I was also fond of keeping historical bridge records and the Daily Bulletins of all the tournaments across the globe were very helpful in that. That created some interest in me to write and I took out a monthly "Delhi Bridge Newsletter" for 7 years from 2002 onwards. The tournament organizers after seeing my Newsletter requested me to be the Bulletin Editor of their tournament and it was the late Mr. Kamlakara Rao, the ex-President of BFI who first gave me the chance to edit the Daily Bulletins of the Winter Nationals at Chennai in 2003.

Q: You also play actively in all national tournaments. And manage the whole support system. You wear many hats. How do you cope?

This is courtesy my professional career as head of software teams. Handling young software teams, who needed love & affection besides guidance in technical matters and sometimes also needed me to tell them trivial things like "how to fill their income tax returns, made my team management skills better. I also learnt the tricks of handling good workers as well as the "not so good" workers and the knack of when to be soft &

when to be hard with the teams. I am also a firm believer in getting 99 rupees for "Where to hit the hammer" and 1 rupee for "Hammering". I use the same philosophy in bridge tournaments as well. Two things were important in managing software projects viz. Time Management of projects and Quality Output. The same things are required in management of bridge tournaments as well. May be my defence & sports background allows me to be energetic and active. I still play actively because that allows me to be part of the bridge circle.

Q: Take us through the technological journey Indian bridge has been through from the time you started till present day?

Well, in our days, I recall scoring was the biggest headache. Those guys who were fast in calculations used to be given the scoring sheets and then another team was accumulating these scoring sheets into one table. With the advent of IT, now it is so easy to get accurate & fast results in few minutes. Bridgemates have further reduced the burden of even entering the scores on the computer. The dealing machine is a revolution, which has allowed tournaments to play the same boards on all the tables. Courtesy Fred Gitleman, we have the BBO, which allows you to see all matches from home or any part of the world. It has been a great journey of technical advancement.

Q: How does India rate in terms of technology in Scoring, results, hand deals and records, draws, etc vis a vis world bridge?

Well, we have the knowledge of all the technologies used across the bridge world. Unluckily, as no top official of Bridge Federation of India has a presence in the WBF, we don't get any chance to get the exposure at World level. The problem will remain till BFI manages to request WBF to train BFI manpower and enhance their Technical abilities to take up such jobs. The 2015 World Championships at Chennai was an excellent opportunity for BFI to get this going but we failed in that.

Q: What can India do to become one of the top bridge playing nations?

Whatever I have seen of Indian bridge till now (and that is a long time period of more than 35 years), I have come to the conclusion that we lack the killer instinct of winning. Like the old Gurus, who insisted that, "Don't see the tree, don't see the bird, but see the bird's eye," for shooting, we should also be clear in what we want to achieve. Another big factor is that we Indian have to fend for ourselves and our families, which means

giving little time for improvement on new systems, partnership practice, etc. Unless the dedication to improve is not there, we cannot become world class.

Q: The game is dying. Where and how can we revive/generate interest in bridge and popularize it?

No, I will not say that the game is dying. But yes, the youngsters are not showing much interest in the game. With cut throat competition in professional life, and new avenues of entertainment, they are utilizing their time in those activities, which interest them. In our times, if an engineer used to graduate with a B.Tech and didn't know bridge, it was considered that he had not yet completed his studies. But those times have gone. We can revive it by inducting bridge courses in school. It may be noted that bridge is an addictive game and it should not spoil the career of a growing kid.

Q: Tell us a little bit about T C Pant, his work, his normal day and what gets him going?

After working from 1978 to 2015 (36+ years) as a software professional in India & abroad (for 17 years), I feel very relaxed after my retirement. And now it is mainly bridge, bridge & only bridge in my normal day of work. I spent around 4-5 hours a day doing bridge activities. It can be maintaining Master Points for Delhi region or management of a tournament or scheduling a tournament. Some free time is given to walking and listening to old songs or Ghazals, which is again a very old hobby. An occasional good movie does no harm.

Q: What does Mr Pant do when not playing bridge

Travel a lot for bridge related activities and see Vu-graphs of matches or keep a track of excellent hands played in any part of the world. May be one day I will publish my favorite 52 deals.

Q: In a lighter vein, you bear an uncanny resemblance to a famous national politician, the inimitable Laloo Prasad Yadav. Any experiences and comments with respect to it?

This was courtesy Mr. Raju Tolani, a great character of the bridge fraternity of India. He gave me this name at one of the Corbett Park Tournaments long time ago, and since then it is has stuck. Raju please see to it that the next generation of players should not feel that Laloo is my original name.

By the way, it reminds me of another funny incident at Netherlands, where I was mistaken for being "Amjad Ali Khan", the great Sarod maestro. In both the cases, it is my hair colour & style, which resemble the famous guys.

RESULTS FOR SWISS LEAGUE - GOLD

RANK	TEAM	VPS
1	Dhampur Sugar Mills	141.28
2	Pharma Service	131.07
3	Zwederland	124.85
4	Oceania	123.25
5	Formidables	123
6	Russia	122.58
7	Shri Radhey	122.45
8	Failla	121.72
9	Hemant Jalan	118.16
10	Eden Realty	115.41
11	Drink	115.29
12	Sweden	114.55
13	Ramcharan	114.04
14	Bridge Plus	113.75
15	Lavazza	113.56
16	Iceland	113.44
17	Russia Semenov	112.74
18	Manyawar	110.64
19	Team NRK	110.61
20	Bridge 24PL	109.47
21	Rainbow	106.57
22	McAllister	105.82
23	Anoop Dhawan	105.4
24	Standard Sabari	104.84
25	Israel	103.82
26	COGITO	102.97
27	Aristos	102.34
28	Delhi Blues	100.13
29	Divitas	99.03

RANK	TEAM	VPS
30	Magic Eyes	99.02
31	Calcutta Bridge Club	98.34
32	Hridhaan	98.06
33	Pertamina Indonesia	97.86
34	Sarthak Behuria	97.72
35	K1 Bulgaria	97.63
36	Moribus	95.6
37	Liberty	95.02
38	Mango	94.17
39	Integra	92.95
40	Mrs Hema Deora	92.89
41	Bangur Cement	91.59
42	Aggarwal Team	90.1
43	Poddar Housing Ltd.	89.93
44	Rohit Wrapper	86.73
45	Shree Cement	86.07
46	DOC in DOC	85.19
47	Mohit Mehta	84.85
48	Maya Meera Sneha	82.97
49	K H Power	82.83
50	Dhaka Skype	82.57
51	Alpha	81.7
52	Samadhan	79.25
53	Brave	78.64
54	Mukul Gupta	75.82
55	Pegasus	74.14
56	ONGC C	69.52
57	BridgetheGap	63.32
58	Evergreen Forest	36.34

RESULTS FOR SWISS LEAGUE - SILVER

RANK	TEAM	VPS	RANK	TEAM	VPS
1	Manzova Casual	139.54	47	CFCO	99.56
2	Borivali Sports Club	137.63	48	PMDBA	99.22
3	A. K. Bose	136.08	49	Finesse	98.84
4	Senior Citizens	133.21	50	CBA	98.37
5	Pradeep	131.23	51	Big Boss	98.15
6	Dr Sanghi	130.27	52	Bagchi's IV	98.12
7	Rajputana	129.32	53	Amol	98.11
8	Indian Chain	123.88	54	Bhamidipati	97.35
9	Filmnagar Cul. Centre Hyd.	123.14	55	Kumar Properties Ltd Pune	97.05
10	Team Vibrant	122.86	56	Shiva	96.83
11	Kamales Gupta	119.65	57	Navamita	96.5
12	Xirode	118.92	58	TAD	96.31
13	Bankura Club	118.05	59	A. K. Dhara IV	93.19
14	Gupta's Bangalore	117.56	60	Engineers	93.04
15	Atanu	116.99	61	TWEM	92.82
16	Six-Pack	114.63	62	Marbles	91.23
17	Kishan IV	114.48	63	Vidarbha	90.27
18	Yogakshem	114.06	64	Baruipur Bridge Club	89.79
19	TBA	113.99	65	Nuts & Bolts	89.26
20	Rahara Card Club	112.83	66	Sathe's 4	89.01
21	Jupiter Hyd	111.92	67	Constellation	88.97
22	Gentlemen	111.58	68	Skipper	88.16
23	Smash	111.44	69	Singur Bridge Club	87.34
24	Team Mukesh	111.16	70	Forcing	85.6
25	DM4	110.83	71	Green Top	85.39
26	Sunpar	109.98	72	Jhontus IV	84.23
27	Indian Oil	109.25	73	UP-Bihar	83.2
28	Arup Banerjees VI	109.1	73	Midnapur Card Club	83.2
29	Nagbagan Card Club	108.67	75	Surprise	81.52
30	Spartans	108.58	76	Thakurs Special	81.35
31	GEMS of UP	108.18	77	Intercity	80.31
32	Anant	107.99	78	PCBA	79.9
33	Multi	107.74	79	ABCD Hooghly	79.14
34	Soumitra	107.35	80	PBA	78.64
35	Spade Ace	106.61	81	Jai Ganesh	78.2
36	Hooghly Bridge Circle	105.26	82	Balaji	78.12
37	Villagers	104.52	83	BCDA	77.71
38	Target	104.47	84	Secure	77.4
38	ICA	104.47	85	P K Thakurs IV	76.04
40	Assam Blues	103.8	86	Indradhanush	75.09
41	Atha Group B	103.17	87	SKD1955	74.45
42	A R Das's IV	102.23	88	Ushakiran	73.33
43	Rainbow	101.96	89	Atha Group	71.15
44	Lotus	101.82	90	Kosmos	69.42
45	Hakuna matata	101.37	91	Rajasthan Royal	59.39
46	SBDVI	101.32	92	Asansol Card Club	58.4

IBPA AWARDS 2017 - DEFENSE

Gidwani Family Trust Defense of the Year

Winners: Cédric Lorenzini/Jean-Christophe Quantin (France)

Journalist: Mark Horton (England)

Article/Event: Copenhagen Invitational 2017

Source: IBPA Bulletin 625, February 2017, p. 3

Match 13. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ - A K Q 10 9 8 6 2
 ♥ - 8 6
 ♦ - —
 ♣ - A J 3

♠ - J 5 3
 ♥ - K 5
 ♦ - A K 5 3
 ♣ - Q 8 5 4

♠ - 4
 ♥ - J 9 7 4
 ♦ - Q 10 8 7 2
 ♣ - K 7 6

♠ - 7
 ♥ - A Q 10 3 2
 ♦ - J 9 6 4
 ♣ - 10 9 2

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Cullin	Quantin	Bertheau
—	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	2C ¹	Pass	2D ²
Pass	3S ³	Pass	3NT
Pass	4C ⁴	Pass	4H ⁴
Pass	5D ⁴	Pass	5S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5/6 spades, 4+ clubs, 11-15, or; 16+
2. Hearts, 8(9)+, game forcing opposite the 16+ hand
3. 16+, 6+ spades, 0-2 hearts
4. Control bids

The Swedes climbed dangerously high — South's bids seemed to fit North's hand pretty well. Even with the king of hearts offside, the contract might still be made by taking two heart finesses, losing one heart and one club, but ... East led the seven of hearts; declarer put in the queen. West took the king and, after a few moments thought, returned a heart into the tenace — the only way to defeat the contract. Declarer won and took his only shot by playing a club to the jack, hoping for the king-queen or a doubleton honour onside. No luck, one down, minus 50. It cost 97 IMPs across the field.

GAROZZO - IL SOTTOMARINO (The Submarine)

The diabolic defenses put up by the living legend, Benito Garozzo, from 1960s onwards till now would have won him so many Defense Awards over time. He was called Il Sottomarino - The Submarine for his ability to sea under the water. Rated to be best defender of all time, we continue our tribute to the Maestro by featuring his defenses, taken from Pietro Forquet's

Bridge With The Blue Team. Mere drops in the ocean, but what Pearls!

A Sacrifice Rewarded

During a tournament in the United States, Benito Garozzo playing with Omar Sharif found himself defending against this 3NT contract:

♠ - A K Q 5 3
 ♥ - 6 4 3
 ♦ - J 9 2
 ♣ - K 8

♠ - 7 4
 ♥ - Q 10 7
 ♦ - Q 10 8 6 5 3
 ♣ - A 6

Both sides vulnerable. The bidding :

West	North	East	South
Garozzo		Sharif	
	1S	Pass	2C
Pass	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Garozzo led a low diamond. Omar won with the ace and returned the 2 of hearts. Garozzo captured South's 9 with the 10 and continued with the queen of hearts which held the trick. Declarer won the third round of hearts with the ace and tabled the 2 of clubs.

What would you have done as West?

This was the complete deal:

♠ - A K Q 5 3
 ♥ - 6 4 3
 ♦ - J 9 2
 ♣ - K 8

♠ - 7 4
 ♥ - Q 10 7
 ♦ - Q 10 8 6 5 3
 ♣ - A 6

♠ - J 10 9 8 2
 ♥ - K 8 5 2
 ♦ - A
 ♣ - J 10 4

♠ - 6
 ♥ - A J 9
 ♦ - K 7 4
 ♣ - Q 9 7 5 3 2

Had Garozzo ducked this, South would have made the contract.. Winning with dummy's king, declarer would have led a second round of clubs, playing low from hand and setting up the whole club suit.

However, Garozzo appreciated the need to sever the communications between declarer and dummy. **'He rose with the ace of clubs and followed with the only card which could produce the desired result the queen of diamonds.'**

This sacrifice gave declarer an extra diamond trick but prevented declarer from using he established club winners.

GAROZZO ON DEFENSE

In a teams tournament in Viareggio in 1977, Garozzo produced a spectacular defense. Here is the complete deal:

♠ -AKJ2	
♥ -AK10	
♦ -AJ2	
♣ -543	
♠ -8754	♠ -Q93
♥ -J432	♥ -Q76
♦ -8	♦ -K1043
♣ -J1097	♣ -KQ6
	♠ -106
	♥ -985
	♦ -Q9765
	♣ -A82

Both sides vulnerable. The bidding :

West	North	East	South
Belladonna		Garozzo	
Pass	1C	Pass	1D
Pass	1S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

One Club showed at least 17 points, One Diamond was a negative, showing 0-6 points, and Two No-Trumps promised a maximum negative response.

Belladonna, West, led the jack of clubs. Garozzo overtook with the queen and continued with the king of clubs and a third club. Winning the ace South led a low diamond to West's 8 and dummy's jack. Had Garozzo won this with the king declarer would have had an easy nine tricks via two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and one club, but Benito began his brilliant defence by ducking the jack of diamonds. Declarer Continued with ace and another diamond. On the second round of diamonds Belladonna was able to pitch a heart in comfort but on the third round he was in trouble and decided to let go his club winner.

Upon winning the king of diamonds Garozzo paused to reflect. The spade return could present declarer with the needed entry if South had the 10 of spades while the heart return would come to the same result if South held the jack. However, in the light of South's One Diamond response. Garozzo discounted the possibility of South holding the jack of hearts (since this in addition to South's known ace and queen would give South seven points). Accordingly Garrozzo decided to switch to hearts but had he led a low heart it would have been fatal for the defence. South after winning West's jack with the king would have continued with the ace of hears and another heart throwing Garozzo back on lead.

Therefore Garozzo Came Up With The Winning Return Of The Queen Of Hearts!

Winning in dummy with the ace, **South continued with the jack of spades in an attempt to create an entry to hand with the 10 but Garozzo, still pursuing his precise defense, ducked the jack, following with the NINE!** South cashed the ace of spades and **Garozzo, still desperately trying to avoid the lead, unblocked the queen!** Declarer played off the king of spades, leaving this ending.

		♠ -2	
		♥ -K10	
		♦ -	
		♣ -	
♠ -8			♠ -
♥ -J4			♥ -76
♦ -			♦ -10
♣ -			♣ -
		♠ -	
		♥ -98	
		♦ -Q	
		♣ -	

Despite all the hard work by the defense South could make his contract by leading dummy's spade and finessing on the forced heart returns. However South was not certain of the end position and not unreasonably, in view of Garozzo's return of the queen of hearts, took the ending to be like this :

		♠ -2	
		♥ -K10	
		♦ -	
		♣ -	
♠ -8			♠ -
♥ -74			♥ -J6
♦ -			♦ -10
♣ -			♣ -
		♠ -	
		♥ -98	
		♦ -Q	
		♣ -	

He therefore continued with the king of hearts and another heart, hoping to put East on lead as a stepping stone to his hand via the last diamond but the actual layout doomed this move.

It is worth noting that if Belladonna had discarded a spade on the third round of diamonds, declarer would have made the contract easily. By leading the jack of spades from dummy, if East took the queen, declarer would have an entry to hand while if East ducked, dummy would make all four spade tricks. Similarly, if Belladonna had discarded a second heart his partner would not have been able to find the return of the queen of hearts without it costing a trick in that suit.

Indian Bridge Writers - Anant Bhagwat



Anant Bhagwat is a senior National Tournament Director besides being a National Badminton Champion. He is probably the only Indian writer of note, of bridge books, having already published 4 books. His first book-The Bridge Adventures of Mr. Badhir was shortlisted by the IBPA for the Book of the Year Award. Bhagwat gives bridge an Indian Tadka (seasoning & flavor).

The narrative has been modified with the Authors permission to make it relevant for publishing in the bulletins-Ed.

A WINTER OF CONTENT (ANAND)



Anand Samant, Secretary, BFI

Anand Samant is the extremely efficient Secretary of the Bridge Federation of India. His infrastructural excellence is only overshadowed by his bridge playing capabilities. Anand was a member of the losing semi finalist Team India in the just concluded Ernesto D'Orsi teams' event for Seniors in the World Bridge Championship, Lyon, France.

♠ - J 8 7 2
♥ - Q 9 7 5
♦ - Q 9 7
♣ - A Q

R. A. Agarwal

♠ - K 10 4 3 ♠ - 5
♥ - 9 8 3 ♥ - K J 4
♦ - 10 8 ♦ - K J 6 3
♣ - K J 3 2 ♣ - 10 9 8 6 5

Anant Samant

♠ - A Q 9 6
♥ - A 10 2
♦ - A 5 4 2
♣ - 7 4

Contract: 4 Spades by South

Lead: 3 of Hearts

East inserted the Heart Jack. Anand won the Heart Ace and played back the Heart 10. East on winning the Heart King gave Anand a leg up by returning his singleton trump, which his partner won with the King. A trump back to Anand's hand revealed the 4-1 break. Having lost a trump and a Heart, it all came down to restricting his loss in Diamonds to one trick. So....?

Anand found the look-at-me play of a Diamond from his hand to dummy's Nine! East won the Jack and backed the Heart to the table. **Now came the scoop!!** The Brazilian intra. Chagas revisited. The Diamond Queen of the table – Ace mopped up West's doubleton Ten, setting up the Diamond Seven on the table. Extracting West's teeth and ending on the table gave Anand all the marbles. Table was high. So was Anand (a mental high).

Immediately Anand ran to attend to the logistics of the dealing machine and similar such. All in a days work! Who says organizers cannot be superb players.

TWO NEGATIVES MAKE A POSITIVE

SUMIT MUKHERJEE, arguably India's best player currently, has the highest number of National Championships - Twenty. He has gathered the highest no. of Master Points each year for the last 6 years.

♠ - Q 3

♥ - 9 8 7 2

♦ - K 6

♣ - J 10 9 5 3

♠ - K 9 6 5

♥ - A Q J 3

♦ - J 10 9 8 4

♣ - VOID

♠ - J

♥ - 10 6 5

♦ - 7 5 2

♣ - A K Q 8 4 2

♠ - A 10 8 7 4 2

♥ - K 4

♦ - A Q 3

♣ - 7 6

(Sumit)

Dealer: South

Bidding:	W	N	E	S
				1S
	Pass	1NT	2C	2S
	All Pass			

Lead: Jack of Diamonds

The lead told Sumit a story. Why did West not lead his partner's bid suit? His void was not rocket science.

Sumit won the lead in hand with the Queen and played a Spade towards Dummy's Queen, which won, East playing the Jack. Now what? Carefully Sumit cashed the Diamond King and when he played a trump to his Ace, the 4-1 break ensured 2 trump losers. Add 2 Club losers and 2 potential Heart losers. Sumit cashed the Diamond Ace. This was the scenario :

♠ - -

♥ - 9 8 7 2

♦ -

♣ - J 10 9 5

♠ - K 9

♥ - A Q J 3

♦ - J 10

♣ -

♠ -

♥ - 10 6 5

♦ -

♣ - A K Q 8 4

♠ - 10 8 7 4

♥ - K 4

♦ -

♣ - 7 6

He exited with a trump to West, who cashed his trump King too. This was the big picture:

West played the Diamond 10 on which Sumit threw a Club from hand. West played his fifth and last Diamond. Yet again, Sumit, threw his second Club loser. **A Double Loser On Loser Play!** West had only Hearts. Sumit thus scored his Heart King. Elegant!

A DOUBLE BENEFIT SCHEME

TEAM PHARMA SERVICES VS TEAM RUSSIA - ROUND 8, GOLD

We decided that since the two matches on BBO, post lunch, were featuring both the Russian Teams, we choose Team Russia against Pharma Services tilting mainly due to the bridge playing Bilde family. The husband and wife duo of Morten and Dorte Bilde, (whose son is the Dennis Bilde from Team Lavazza) are playing on Team Pharma.

The other Russian Team Semenov, had the heart break of missing out on qualification by mere 0.7 VPs. They finished 17th.

Board : 11

Dealer : S, Vul : None

♠ - A 10 3		
♥ - 10 8 6		
♦ - A K J 10 6		
♣ - J 8		
♠ - Q J 9 8 6 4	♠ - 7	
♥ - A Q 7 2	♥ - K 9 4	
♦ - 7 4	♦ - 9 8 5	
♣ - 4	♣ - Q J 10 7 6 5 2	
	♠ - K 5 2	
	♥ - J 5 3	
	♦ - Q 3 2	
	♣ - A K 9 3	

Open Room : Team Russia : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Hans C G</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Poul C</i>	<i>Khorhlov</i>
1S	2C	Pass	2D
2H	3H	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3S	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room : Team Pharma Services : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Morten</i>
1S	2D	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Team Pharma North South pair in the closed Room bid their no nonsense principal of fast arrival game, 3NT, which is a toss at the wall. Thinking it would be a push board, we relaxed to let the heavy buffet settle down. But Team Russia made a meal of the bidding. Suddenly on 3S by north, there was a pregnant silence. Opponents had bid and supported hearts and you have three to the Jack. You bid 3NT. Hearts break 4-3. Phew! Sweat the Small stuff.

Board : 12

Dealer : W, Vul : NS

♠ - A 9 7		
♥ - A 9 7 3		
♦ - Q J		
♣ - J 8 7 4		
♠ - J 6 5 4 2	♠ - 10 8	
♥ - K Q 6 5	♥ - 10 2	
♦ - K 9 4	♦ - 10 7 6 5 3	
♣ - A	♣ - K 10 5 2	
	♠ - K Q 3	
	♥ - J 8 4	
	♦ - A 8 2	
	♣ - Q 9 6 3	

Open Room : Team Russia : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Hans C G</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Poul C</i>	<i>Khorhlov</i>
1S	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room : Team Pharma Services : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Morten</i>
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board 12 saw Russia gain a double partial, when both their legs played and made the partials, albeit with a little help from Team Pharma, while defending two spades.

Board : 13

Dealer : N, Vul : Both

♠ - J 5		
♥ - K J 4		
♦ - Q 9		
♣ - A K 9 8 5 4		
♠ - A K Q 7	♠ - 10 8	
♥ - A Q 10 9	♥ - 5 3 2	
♦ - 10 8	♦ - A K 7 5 3 2	
♣ - Q 3 2	♣ - J 10	
	♠ - 9 6 4 3 2	
	♥ - 8 7 6	
	♦ - J 6 4	
	♣ - 7 6	

TEAM PHARMA SERVICES VS TEAM RUSSIA - ROUND 8, GOLD *Contd.*

Open Room : Team Russia : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Hans C G</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Poul C</i>	<i>Khorhlov</i>
	2C	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3D	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room : Team Pharma Services : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Morten</i>
	1NT	Pass	2H
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Redbl
Pass	2S	All Pass	

The next board saw Team Pharma return the compliment by playing the hand in both the rooms, but with not the same effect as Russia on the previous board. Down two vulnerable apiece was -400 away and 9 Imps to Russia, who seemed to get off the blocks.

Board : 14

Dealer : E, Vul : None

	♠ - 8 5 3 2	
	♥ - 6 3	
	♦ - K 10 8 3	
	♣ - K Q 9	
♠ - K 9 7 6		♠ - A J
♥ - A K 10 8		♥ - 7 5 4 2
♦ - 4 2		♦ - A 7 6 5
♣ - 5 4 2		♣ - 10 8 3
	♠ - Q 10 4	
	♥ - Q J 9	
	♦ - Q J 9	
	♣ - A J 7 6	

Open Room : Team Russia : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Hans C G</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Poul C</i>	<i>Khorhlov</i>
		Pass	1C
Dbl	1H	2H	Dbl
Pass	2S	All Pass	

Closed Room : Team Pharma Services : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Morten</i>
		Pass	1C
Pass	1D	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The see saw partial battle continued, this time Team Pharma putting it across Russia in a partial, to pull back 5 Imps.

2S by the Russian North didn't have prayer. EW can make 2H.

Board : 18

Dealer : E, Vul : NS

	♠ - Q 10	
	♥ - K 8 7	
	♦ - 9 7 6 5	
	♣ - Q 5 4 3	
♠ - 7 6 4		♠ - A K J 8 5 2
♥ - Q J 4 3 2		♥ - 6 5
♦ - 10		♦ - Q J 3
♣ - K 10 9 8		♣ - A 6
	♠ - 9 3	
	♥ - A 10 9	
	♦ - A K 8 4 2	
	♣ - J 7 2	

Open Room : Team Russia : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Hans C G</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Poul C</i>	<i>Khorhlov</i>
		1S	Pass
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Closed Room : Team Pharma Services : NS

W	N	E	S
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Morten</i>
		1S	Dbl
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
3S	All Pass		

Team Pharma judged well to bid the Spade game when East made a trial bid in Diamonds. Holding a singleton diamond, West upgraded his hand considerably and bid the game.

In the closed room, west took a conservative view on the trial bid in diamonds by East.; probably the take out double of one spade by south having something to do with it. Even so.....

Anyway that was 6 Imps to Team Pharma Services.

The match ended 18-15 in favor of Russia.

Team Pharma Services and Team Russia made it to the Pre Quarters, finishing 2nd and 6th respectively.

We shall be seeing them in action today in the Pre Quarter Finals. Team Pharma Services choose the Eden Realty from India while the Russians having to choose from Bridge Plus (Bulgaria), Sweden and Lavazza, opted for Sweden as their opponents.

SRINIVASAN IYENGAR- MR. NICE GUY



What's a young single successful Chartered Accountant doing 16 hrs a day, may be more, behind the monitors at these championships? Based in Ahmedabad, this 31 year old teetotaler Tam Brahm, is handling the technical aspects; Bridge Mates, Scoring, Draws, Results, what have you for the Gold Event entirely. What makes 'Srini' (as he is referred to in the bridge fraternity) stand out besides his tech skills and proficiency, It is his pleasant and affable nature. Anyone can approach him. And he will to solve your problem. The Bulletin Room has time and again gone to him when in a fix. He has always sorted it out for us. Thanks Srinivasan. Sitting with him, I noticed lots of players, even from the Silver Teams, approach him with stuff ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Patiently he has sorted it out for them.

Srini is the tech face of the future for Indian bridge. And his demeanour makes it a nice interface between the BFI and the players. Cheers mate! Let's drink a glass of Buttermilk to that. Neat.

(Srini insisted that we Must acknowledge gratitude to Professor Gianni Baldi, the Italian tech genius who has a special fondness for India.

He has invented and implemented all the Bridgerama programmes from the 1960's. And even today Professor Baldi's programmes are being used and run in world bridge. Thank you Professori from Srini and the rest of us in India.)

KAPLAN QUOTES FROM THE RAMA ROOM

- I don't know what North was thinking of doing, but it's just as well he didn't.
- Now that he's at six level, he knows no more than he did before but there is less bidding space for making errors.
- I think he'll keep doubling them until he finally beats one.

World Team Olympiad, Valenberg, Netherlands

AGE IS BUT A STATE OF MIND CATCH 'EM YOUNG



Anshul Bhatt - Youngest ever winner of the Joan Gerard Award 2017

Roaming around the Silver Open Room, we saw a pair of spectacles peering over the edge of the table. On closer look, there was a body attached to it below. His ID card for these championships was bigger than his face. Well almost.....

He is all of 8 years and has represented India in both the Teams and Pairs at the 5th World Youth Bridge Championships in Lyon, France last month, being the youngest participant at the Championships. So impressed were the World Bridge Federation by his age and size (or the lack of it) that they made him the pall bearer and also made him take the Oath at the Opening Ceremony. They also conferred upon him the **Joan Gerard Youth Award** for aptitude, fair play, sportsmanship, etc in the Under 16 Category, making him the **youngest ever to win the award**. Please Welcome the Boy Who Knows A Lot- **ANSHUL BHATT** from Mumbai.

Beating his grandparents in Mendicoat and Satyo, (a form of whist without the 10s in the pack), at the age of 6, ignited the bug in him and with an enterprising and supporting father, Mehul, the kid is going places. Will he be the next Dennis Bilde? Or will the intricacies of growing up, academics, and all such variables take over?

For the moment let us toast the pint sized celebrity Anshul.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU KID!



In action at the 15th HCL International Bridge Championship

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EVENT PRIZES

Team of Four (GOLD)

Winner	Rs. 30,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 15,00,000
Third	Rs. 7,50,000
Fourth	Rs. 6,00,000
5 th to 8 th each	Rs. 3,60,00
9 th to 16 th each	Rs. 1,50,000
17 th to 20 th each	Rs. 50,000

Team of Four (SILVER)

Winner	Rs. 12,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 7,50,000
Third	Rs. 4,00,000
Fourth	Rs. 3,00,000
5 th to 8 th each	Rs. 1,80,000
9 th to 16 th each	Rs. 75,000
17 th to 20 th each	Rs. 30,000

Open Pairs

Winner	Rs. 10,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 7,50,000
Third	Rs. 6,00,000
Fourth	Rs. 4,00,000
Fifth	Rs. 3,00,000
Sixth	Rs. 2,50,000
Seventh	Rs. 2,00,000
Eighth	Rs. 1,50,000
Ninth	Rs. 80,000
Tenth	Rs. 60,000
Eleventh	Rs. 45,000
Twelfth	Rs. 30,000
13 th – 16th	Rs. 15,000

IMP Pairs

Winner	Rs. 2,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 1,50,000
Third	Rs. 1,25,000
Fourth	Rs. 1,00,000
Fifth	Rs. 75,000
Sixth	Rs. 50,000
Seventh	Rs. 30,000
Eighth	Rs. 20,000
Ninth	Rs. 15,000
Tenth	Rs. 10,000

A Well Bid Grand Slam By Team Bridge Plus (Bulgaria)

In Round 5 of the Gold Teams Bridge Plus of Bulgaria nicely bid a grand slam, being one of the only four teams out of 58 to do so. This is their bidding GPS.

Bridge Plus vs Russia Semenov

Round : 5, Gold Teams

Board : 18, Dealer : E, Vul : NS

♠ - 8	
♥ - K Q 10 8 7 6	
♦ - A 10 3	
♣ - Q 10 3	
♠ - K Q J 9 6 4 2	♠ - 7 3
♥ - 5 3	♥ - 9 4 2
♦ - 9 8 7	♦ - K 6 4 2
♣ - 8	♣ - J 5 4 2
♠ - A 10 5	
♥ - A J	
♦ - Q J 5	
♣ - A K 9 7 6	



D. Danailov

W	N	E	S
	<i>Stamatov</i>		<i>Danailov</i>
		Pass	1C* ¹
4S	Pass* ²	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5H* ³	Pass	5S* ⁴
Pass	5N* ⁵	Pass	6C* ⁶
Pass	7H* ⁷		

1C¹ - Strong

Pass² - Forcing

5H³ - Strong 12+

5S⁴ - RKCB

5N⁵ - Even no of key cards

6C⁶ - Bid 7 if you have Qx or xx in clubs

7H⁷ - Don't bid further ☺



J. Stamatov

GOTCHA! ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST



Sishya - Guru : Pooja & Prof. Jayakumar

The Bulletin Room is right behind the Vu Graph Theatre. Saw an elderly gentleman pointing out to the screen and saying, "East and West are partners!" (my partner might disagree. But that's another story.) This revelation perked up my ears. Eavesdropping a tad I learnt that the distinguished gent was Air Commodore R. Jayakumar (Retd), an Aeronautical Engineering professor from Bangalore. And the young lady, Pooja Kumari, now working for Tech Mahindra in Noida, was his student in Bangalore. Since Professor Jayakumar was in Delhi, playing for Team Pegasus in the Gold Event, Pooja had come to visit him and pay her respects.

Being a true bridge lover, the professor was trying to introduce her to the game.

Talk about promoting bridge at the grass roots or any level. Pooja, we hope, you take to this game.

First impressions-Pooja did seem interested.

Sins of Omission : In Bulletin No. 2 in the Participating Teams List - Gold, the name of Team ONGC-C was inadvertently left out. The error is regreted.

ONGC C : **Rajesh Tiwary**, Alok Kumar, R K Gupta, S C Sarkar, Harish Krishna, P K Pramanik

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT LOCAL CONTACTS OF ORGANISERS

Mr. Subhash Gupta (Organising Secretary) : 9811079843

Mr. T. C. Pant (Head of Operations) : 9811094407

Mr. Rakesh Kalra (HCL) : 9818182277

Mr. Rajat Chandolia (HCL) : 9811546542

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

HELPLINE No. : +91-8800658767

can be used for INCOMING CALLS ONLY during the event.

(Since Mobiles have to be in a 'Switched Off' mode during play)

The caller can leave a message which will be passed on to the participant.

12 IMP PENALTY !

NO MOBILE PHONES



**MOBILE PHONES HAVE TO BE 'SWITCHED OFF' DURING PLAY. SILENT MODE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
THEY WILL BE RANDOM CHECKS & STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF PENALTIES**

STRICTLY NO SMOKING IN THE PLAYING AREA

STRICT PENALTIES WILL BE IMPOSED



In case emergency :

Designated smoking areas

- 1. Exit Door (Opposite Gold Open Room)**
- 2. Exit Door (Opposite Silver Closed Room)**

Statutory Warning : Neither the Bulletin Editor nor the Organisers support or encourage smoking.

HELP THE DAILY BULLETIN EDITOR

In case you come across any interesting hand - be it Bidding, Defense or Play of a Hand, please submit it to the Bulletin Editor in the Bulletin Room on the first floor (Adjacent to Vu-graph theatre). You may also send across any interesting bridge or non bridge related episode, and share the experiences with the rest of the bridge fraternity, adding to the pleasure of those present and others who could not make it here. Thanks a lot in advance.

You can also Call or Whatsapp : +91 98210 74808 (Bulletin Room)

FROM SUMIT MUKHERJEE'S SCRAP BOOK

Sumit Mukherjee along with Debabrata Majumdar, Sunit Choksi and Keyzed Anklesaria are pretty much the present and the future of Indian Bridge. When I asked Summit for a few hands he promptly sent me this two gems on Whatsapp.

A TWO SIDED STEPPING STONE AT TRICK 13

		♠ Q x x x	
		♥ J x	
		♦ 10 x	
		♣ A K 10 9 x	
♠ 8 x x		♠ K 10 x	
♥ 9 x x		♥ A Q 10 x	
♦ A x x		♦ Q x x x	
♣ J x x x		♣ Q x	
	♠ A J 9		
	♥ K 8 x x		
	♦ K J x x		
	♣ x x		
W	N	E	S
Manas	Kushari	Subir	Sumit
-	Pass	1D	Pass
Pass	2C	Pass	3NT
All Pass.			

Lead: S 8

East played the 10, declarer won in hand with the Jack. A low club to 10 and East's Queen. East played the Heart Queen. It seemed very likely that East has Heart A Q 10 x. Sumit won the Heart King in hand, finessed the club 9 and cashed two more clubs. RHO discarded three diamonds. Sumit took stock. What was Righty's hand. Looked like three spades to the King (from the lead of the S 8), Four hearts to the A Q 10 x (from the shift to the heart Queen, doubleton club Queen and four diamonds to the.....? **Queen!** Because with the Diamond Ace East would tally 15 HCP, enough to qualify a 1 NT opening. So Sumit also discarded three diamonds. He now finessed the spade 9 and cashed the spade Ace. **Sumit exited with the Diamond King (!), dropping East's now bare Queen!** The defence had to throw in the towel. If East tried to cash two hearts, he would have to concede a trick to Sumit's good Heart Eight. And if East cashed one heart and returned a heart to his partner's Nine, West would have to concede a diamond to dummy's Ten. **A double edged stepping stone at trick thirteen!**

This was over 15 years ago when Sumit was in his 20's.

FINE TUNING THE STRATOSPHERE - HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO - A LIGHTNER CUE

This one is from the recently concluded prestigious Spingold in Toronto. In the Roth Swiss Event which started out with 156 teams and culminated in a 32 team final, Sumit partnering Debabrata Majumdar, along with his team mates Kirubhakaran and R. Krishnan finished a creditable 5th.

Sumit in his talk with us had said that modern bridge is all about bidding. True to his word, this hand is all about fine tuning the bidding; a case of practicing what you preach. And also evaluating the hand. This was against Bulgaria.

Dealer: South. Vul: None

♠ Q 9 x
♥ -----
♦ K J x x x x x
♣ x x
(Debabrata)
♠ A K J 10 x x x x
♥ x x x
♦ x
♣ x
(Sumit)

W	N	E	S
-	Debabrata	-	Sumit
5H	5S	6C	4S
Pass	6H*	7H	Pass
Dbl	All Pass.		7S!

* 6H: Conventional. Lead Heart if they bid 7C partner. (A Lightner Bid?-Ed)

7S!: Diagnosis confirmed. Partners is heart void.

Lead: Club Jack

In Sumit's own words: When Debabrata bid 6 H, as per our partnership agreement, it said lead a Heart if they bid 7C! [A Lightner cue-Ed]. Now RHO bid 7H. So I knew partner is void in Hearts. And I bid 7 S. When I was young, Badal (Badal Das) taught me that when you got distributional hands, in competition always hid one more, sometimes you may lose 5 Imps but you can save a lot more. LHO led the Club Jack. RHO took the King and continued with the Club Ace. I ruffed high and played a diamond. LHO took the Ace and RHO showed out. LHO tried the Heart Ace which I ruffed and set up the diamonds. The contract can go one more down if LHO plays a small diamond when I led a diamond from hand. Since East is void, he can ruff and play back a trump.

♠ -----	♠ x x
♥	♥ -----
♦ A Q 10 x	♦ -----
♣	♣

The 15th **HCL** International Bridge Championship
12th September to 17th September 2017

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Sep 14 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.	Pair Elimination – I, Session I
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Pair Elimination – I, Session II
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Pair Elimination – I, Session III
Sep 15 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.	Pair Elimination – 2, Session I
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Pair Elimination – 2, Session II
	1630 – 1700 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1700 – 1930 Hrs.	Pair Elimination – 3, Session III
	SWISS PAIRS EVENT – (8 rounds of 6 boards each)	
	1045 – 1330 Hrs.	Round 1 to Round 3
	1330 – 1430 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1430 – 1715 Hrs.	Round 4 to Round 6
	1715 – 1745 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1745 – 1930 Hrs.	Round 7 to Round 8
	2000 Hrs. Onwards	Cocktails & Dinner (Hosted by HCL)
BBO SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY SEP 14, 2017		
10.00 Hrs:	T-1 GOLD, Formidables Vs Iceland, Pre Quarters	R-1 (2 Tables)
	T-2 GOLD, Russia Vs Sweden, Pre Quarters	R-1 (2 Tables)
12.15 Hrs:	T-1 GOLD, Failla Vs Lavazza, Pre Quarters	R-2 (2 Tables)
	T-2 GOLD, Shri Radhey Vs Bridge Plus, Pre Quarters	R-2 (2 Tables)
15.15 Hrs:	To be announced	R-3 (4 Tables)
17.45 Hrs:	To be announced	R-4 (4 Tables)
Daily Bulletins & Results of 15 th HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP @ www.hcl-bridge.com		