

All India HCL Bridge Tournament 2004

Hotel Claridges, New Delhi

12th – 15th August 2004
(Sponsor: HCL Corporation Ltd.)

Daily Bulletin

Editors : T. C. Pant, Subhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal

12th Aug 2004

Courtesy : All Participants

WELCOME

Ladies, Gentlemen and Dear Bridge friends,

It is indeed a great pleasure to again welcome you all to the **2nd HCL All India Prize Money Bridge Tournament**, on behalf of **Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Mr. Shiv Nadar** and the members of the organizing committee. We sincerely wish and hope that each one of you has a pleasant and memorable experience during the course of next four days. We are grateful to all the players, who have traveled from various places, far and near, to attend and make this tournament an overwhelming success.

The members of the organizing committee have spared no effort to make this tournament a success. The response has been very heartening with calls coming in virtually from all parts of the country and we expect a good representation from across the country.

The number of prize money tournaments in India is on the rise and most of them attract a fairly large number of participants, allowing players to interact with each other frequently and honing their bridge skills by exposing themselves to better and tougher competitions.

Needless to say that there is no dearth of players or sponsors. What else do we need to promote this wonderful game? A game which is good for the youngsters because it increases their concentration, polishes their reasoning and analytical skills and above all teaches them enough about human relationships and team psychology. For not so young, the game has proven to be an excellent therapy to keep diseases like Alzheimer and Parkinson at bay.

Efforts are being made all over the world to make this game a truly Olympic sport. Our Sports ministry does not even categorize it as a sport! Not meaning to dwell too much on this topic, I just want to plead to one and all who are present here and who represent a vast spectrum of our Bridge fraternity, to look inward and outward and put our own house in order. Then only we can approach the other sponsors, the Government and the media, without whom we cannot grow and we will slowly become an endangered species.

We will try and bring out the daily bulletins for the entire duration of the tournament, giving you the essentials of daily happenings, including the names of the people who are participating in this tournament, the latest results and rest of the tit-bits.

Once again – WELCOME, DO WELL AND ENJOY.

Subhash Gupta

On behalf of Members of the Tournament Committee

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Mrs. Kiran Nadar

Organising Secretary:

Mr. Subhash Gupta

Members:

T.C. Pant
Sudhir Aggarwal
Paresh Gupta
B. Satyanarayana
Amod Rele
Sunil Bhatia

TEAM OF DIRECTORS

Mr. N.K. Jain - Joint CTD
Mr. Ranju Bhattacharya - Joint CTD
Mr. Salil Banerjee - TD
Maj. B.H. Iyer - TD

APPEALS COMMITTEE

A.S. Vishwanathan - Chairman
Justice B.P. Singh - Convenor
Kr. Vijayanand Singh - Member
J.M. Shah - Member
Rajeshwar Tewari - Member
Suhas Vaidya - Member
Kamal Mukherjee - Member

Chairman can co-opt any other member, if necessary.

EVENT PRIZES

Team of Four

Winner Rs. 250,000
Runner-up Rs. 120,000
Losing SFinalists Rs. 60,000
Losing QFinalists Rs. 35,000
9th to 12th Position Rs. 10,000

Pairs

Winner Rs. 100,000
Runner-up Rs. 60,000
Third Rs. 35,000
Fourth Rs. 24,000
Fifth Rs. 18,000
Sixth Rs. 15,000
Seventh Rs. 12,000
Eighth Rs. 10,000
Ninth Rs. 7,500
Tenth Rs. 5,000

Note: Session Winners in Pair Elimination Rounds will get Rs. 1,500.

TDS will be deducted as per the prevailing IT rules.

Today's Schedule

0830 – 0915 Hrs. - Entry for T-4 & Pairs event
0930 – 1045 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 1 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1100 – 1215 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 2 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1230 – 1345 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 3 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1345 – 1445 Hrs. - Lunch Break
1445 – 1600 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 4 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1615 – 1730 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 5 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1745 – 1900 Hrs. - T-4 (Round 6 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)

NEENA BONARJI MEMORIAL BRIDGE TROPHY

*Among the players participating in this tournament, there will be very few who wouldn't have had played bridge with or against **Neena Bonarji** – A lady par excellence, a true friend, a great player and even a greater ambassador of this game. Kiran was fortunate enough to have played with her as a partner or as a teammate over the years.*

*Her daughter **Nisha**, wished to commemorate her mother by instituting a beautiful trophy for the winners of the "Open Pairs Championships" at this tournament. Here is what she has to say about her MOM.*



"It is not easy to write about somebody like my Mother. God makes only a few like her. A mother par excellence, a wife my father adored and a daughter on whom her parents depended. Above all she was *HERSELF*. A Woman of Substance. If I could be half the person she was, it would be an achievement.

My mother was a reserved person and I always called her a "Safe Deposit". What was shared with her remained safe there. As a child, I remember I would hate her leaving and going out of town to play her tournaments. My grandmother would also get extremely upset and dissuade her from going. Actually, we all just missed having her around.

The only person, who really nurtured her talent, gave her the encouragement and the required drive was my father Karran Bonarji.

Born with a talent for cards, Mom only realized her talent and passion for the game after her marriage in 1968. The date of her marriage – 1st March 1968 – which marked the beginning of the bridge chapter in her life, is embedded in the cards on the trophy.

My father was a brilliant teacher and Mom a terrific learner. My father's contribution to Mom's bridge is acknowledged in the King of Hearts appearing on the trophy and their bonding is reflected in the Queen of Hearts appearing next to the King.

"Acol" was the bidding system she started her game with, but much to my father's "disappointment", she soon adopted other bidding systems, which he thought was "breach of loyalty". He would admonish her and remind her that he was the teacher and she the student, but despite their divergent views, the bonding and shared interest in the game continued. Father would passionately discuss the "hands" she had played at a tournament. Given that she had two small children to raise and a family to look after, she blossomed with the unstinted support from my father. He remained her mentor, companion, friend and teacher till the very end. He truly believed in my mother and her God given talent for bridge. His belief in her ensured that my mother shone in national and international bridge.

Perhaps their connection was so great that Mom passed away within a month of my father's demise.

Mom firmly believed and taught my brother and me that all persons – men and women – should have an identity. My mother always lived upto the values, morals and ideals she believed in. Today I hope that I am able to bring my children with the same values and beliefs that my parent inculcated in me.

It is amazing, but whether it was Calcutta, Delhi or Dehradun, Mom's circle of friends always grew. Bridge gave her an identity and ensured she made lot of friends. Apart from her school friends, her bridge friends remained with her till the very end. I am truly amazed at the number of persons who miss her to-date. In spite of her illness, bridge kept her upbeat. It was her passion, lifeline and her career.

"NEENA" means "priceless" in Russian and that is what Mom is!"

Neena, you will always stay with us in our hearts.

Subhash Gupta

Two Spade response to 1NT Opening (Vacant Doubleton and Range Enquiry)

When partner opens 1NT (say 15-17 HCP) and we have a balanced game going hand (min 9-10 HCP) without a 4-card major, the normal bid is 3NT irrespective of whether the hand has a doubleton without an honour (which we will call vacant doubleton) in a suit.

Similarly if we have an invitational hand without a 4-card major, most bridge players today will bid 2C stayman, planning to rebid 2NT over any response from partner. The result of this method is that the 1NT opener's hand is revealed to the defenders.

Many partnerships use 2S response as Minor suit stayman with weak or game forcing hands with both minors. To cater to a wide variety of hands where responder can inform opener more about his hand, we recommend that 2S response to 1NT Opening should be used for following hands:

- **Invitational hand**, without a 4-card major.
- **Weak or invitational or game forcing hands**, with both minors.
- **Game forcing hands**, with a vacant doubleton in a suit and without a 4-card major.

A) Opener's rebids and further development after 2S bid

In responding to 2S bid, opener assumes that 2S bid is a range enquiry and accordingly shows his hand in the following manner:

- **2NT**, Minimum hand.. Responder then rebids:
 - **Pass**, shows an invitational hand.
 - **3C**, shows both minors weak or invitational hand. Opener to pass or correct to 3D.
 - **3D**, Vacant doubleton in a minor (3H=Relay → 3S=Club, 3NT=Diamond).
 - **3H/S**, Vacant doubleton in the suit bid (must have 3-cards to an honour in the other major).
 - **3NT**, both minors, only game going hand.
 - **4C/D**, 5-5 in minors doubleton heart/spade, slammish.
 - **4H/S**, 5-5 in minors 3-card heart/spade, slammish
- **3C/D**, Maximum hand and better minor. Responder then rebids:
 - **Pass**, shows both minors weak hand.
 - **3D/H/S**, same as above.
 - **3NT**, to play.
 - **4C/D/H/S**, same as above.

B) Examples: (assumes 15-17 NT)

♠ xx ♥ AQxx ♦ KQxx ♣ KJx	♠ Jx ♥ KJx ♦ Axxxx ♣ Qxx	♠ KQx ♥ xxx ♦ Jxx ♣ Kxxx	♠ x ♥ xx ♦ Kxxxx ♣ Qxxxx	♠ Kx ♥ x ♦ KQxxx ♣ AQxxx
With the above two hands, the normal bidding would be 1NT-3NT which has no play on spade lead where 4H is cold against 4-2 break. With the above-recommended method, the bidding would be: 1NT-2S-2N-3S-4H.	The bid with the above hand after partner opens 1NT should be 2S. If opener bids 2NT responder passes otherwise he bids 3NT over 3C/D.	Responder with the above hand bids 2S after partner opens as 1NT. Over 2NT response he bids 3C whereas passes response of 3C/D by opener.	Responder with the above hand bids 2S after partner opens as 1NT. Over opener's response, responder bids 4D to show 5-5 minors and 2S, slammish.	

We would strongly recommend the use of range enquiry and vacant doubleton method for regular partners. Like every other convention this also has a drawback that when you show vacant doubleton, the information is also passed on to the defenders, which will assist them while leading.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

An Norwegian Artist at Work

Maastricht Olympiad 2000 – Quarter Final

Board 7, Dlr: South, Vul: Both

	♠ J732 ♥ KQJ ♦ 875 ♣ JT8	
♠ AK985 ♥ A8632 ♦ T6 ♣ 9	N W E S	♠ T4 ♥ 7 ♦ A42 ♣ AKQ6542
	♠ Q6 ♥ T954 ♦ KQJ93 ♣ 73	

West	North	East	South
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			Pass
1S	Pass	3C	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4H	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5H	Pass	6C	All Pass

When this board came up in the Vu Graph, it was easy to see how all thirteen tricks could be taken on a diamond lead. By taking the ruffing finesse in spades, you win four spade tricks in addition to the 7 clubs and 2 aces.

However, after the auction above, Tor Helness of Norway received a low heart lead, which took away the entry to the spade suit. But Tor, an artist in the World Bridge Circus and on the Norwegian Open team for more than 20 years, once again demonstrated his magic skills. The ace of hearts was followed by six rounds of clubs. North had to cling to his four spades to prevent Tor from establishing the suit by ducking a round. North's two other cards were the king of hearts and a diamond. Tor cashed his diamond ace, and the spade ten was covered by the queen and ace. A heart ruff eliminated North's last exit card, and a spade was ducked. North could take his jack, but had to give dummy the last two spade tricks. Had South played low to the ten of spades, Tor would take the ace, ruff a heart, and play the king of spades and another. The nine of spades would still yield the extra trick - and the contract.

Brilliant!

The IBPA Hand of the Year 2000

Player: Vincent Ramondt (The Netherlands)

Game by N-S failed more often than not on this deal, a real beauty by young Dutchman Vincent Ramondt against the leaders:

Board 5, Dlr: North, Vul: N-S

	♠ T932 ♥ KT97 ♦ AK ♣ JT2	
♠ AK ♥ 6 ♦ JT974 ♣ Q9853	N W E S	♠ QJ84 ♥ QJ8432 ♦ 3 ♣ 76
	♠ 765 ♥ A5 ♦ Q8652 ♣ AK4	

West	North	East	South
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			Pass
<i>Duboin Maas</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	
	Pass	2H	Dble
Pass	Pass	2S	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bocchi was known to hold a weak two in hearts, but how would you play against the DJ lead? Ramondt cashed DAK, and exited with a spade. Duboin had to win and unblocked his second top spade, before exiting with a third round of diamonds. Ramondt won with the queen and made the key play of cashing HA to extract West's most dangerous tooth. Next a low diamond put Duboin back on play and he had to return a club. On the third round of clubs East was squeezed in the majors. It gained the Dutch pair a well-deserved 11 IMPs.

This declarer play was given the IBPA's Best Played Hand award.

(Contributed by T.C. Pant)

BRIDGE HUMOUR

A man playing with his wife is looking at the scoresheet of the last board: another zero. 'Ah, well,' the husband says, 'if God had wanted us to play bridge, he would have given us thirteen fingers.'

INVITATION

All participants are cordially invited for Cocktails with Snacks on Friday the 13th Aug 2004 at 2000 Hrs. Please note that program has been shifted to 13th August from the earlier scheduled 12th August to accommodate the participants of the Pair's event also.



Submit your "BEST BID", "BEST PLAYED" or "BEST DEFENDED" hand of the day and win an attractive prize of Rs. 500.

Entries should be submitted to Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. T.C. Pant or Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal.

**** ANNOUNCEMENT ****

PRIZE MONEY TOURNAMENT

PHD-GPI under the patronage of Shri K.K. Modi will organize their 3rd Prize money Bridge Tournament at PHD House, New Delhi from 14th to 17th November 2004. There will be 24 prizes in Team of Four.

REQUEST TO PLAYERS

All players are requested to adhere to the scheduled timings of the game to avoid any penalties.

Entries For Pair Event

You are requested to give entries for "Open Pairs" latest by 1500 Hrs. on Friday (13th August 2004)

Entry Fee - Rs. 1200 (Per Pair) for first elimination & Rs. 800 from those qualified to play the 2nd elimination.

LUNCH COUPONS

Participants will be provided their Lunch coupons each day on their tables itself.

IMPORTANT

Please keep your cell phones off or in SILENT mode, while the play is in progress. Director will impose penalties on players, whose cell is found ringing during play hours.

NO SMOKING ZONE

Playing area is totally a "Non-Smoking" Zone. Please refrain from Smoking in the Playing Area.

Tomorrow's Schedule (13th Aug 2004)

0900 - 1500 Hrs. -	Registration for Pair Tournament
0900 - 1015 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 7 of 10 boards - Actual draw)
1035 - 1150 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 8 of 10 boards - Actual draw)
1210 - 1325 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 9 of 10 boards - Actual draw)
1325 - 1415 Hrs. -	Lunch
1415 - 1530 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 10 of 10 boards - On Actual draw)
1615 - 1815 Hrs. -	T-4 (Quarter Finals - Session 1 - 14 Boards)
1830 - 2030 Hrs. -	T-4 (Quarter Finals - Session 2 - 14 Boards)
1700 - 1930 Hrs. -	Pair Elimination 1 - Session 1 - 20 Boards
2000 Hrs. -	Cocktails with Snacks