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2 DAYS CHALLENGE MATCH

INDIA **VS** WORLD

ALL STAR TEAM ★★★

4X12 2 DAYS | 96 BOARDS PLAYOFF

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29TH - 30TH OCT, 2023

THE LEELA AMBIENCE CONVENTION HOTEL, DELHI

1, CBD, MAHARAJA SURAJMAL MARG, (NEAR YAMUNA SPORTS
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**GREAT HANDS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH
GREAT MINDS AT THE END OF THE DAY**

**LIVE COMMENTARY AND ANALYSIS
SPECTATORS WELCOME**



The India vs. World All Stars Team Challenge

The India vs. World All Stars team Bridge contest over 12*8 boards commences on Sunday, 29th October. What can you expect to witness over these two days of eight sessions? Here are a few problems that will serve as a curtain raiser. Give a thought as to how you would like to handle the presented situation in each problem, and then turn to the page that describes the moves that the celebrated world champions found. I am sure you will be awestruck with the solutions they came up with.

Expect to watch many more elegant plays and fireworks from them on Sunday and Monday. The challenge match is brought to you thanks to a generous sponsorship from Kiran Nadar and Subodh Maskara.

Problem 1:

Dealer : West	♠ 9 7 3	West	North	East	South
Both Vul	♥ 9 7 6 2	2 ♥*	Pass	4 ♥	6 ♦
	♦ K T 8 6	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ 9 2	*: Weak 6-10 HCP			

	♠ A K 6 2				
	♥ void				
	♦ A Q J 9 7 4 2				
	♣ A 8				

Declarer ruffed the ♥ King lead and removed trumps in one round. When he next played a Spade, West played small. How would you continue?

**

Problem 2: Sitting East, dealer, both sides fresh, Helgemo held this hand. He opened 1Nt and the bidding went Pass-Pass-DbI. The double showed either both Majors or one minor. What would be your thoughts after that double? Would you pass or bid something? What would you be looking to achieve with your next move?

♠ J 2
♥ A 9
♦ A K Q J T 5
♣ J 5 3

Problem 3:

Deal 13, North Dealer, Both Vul

♠ A J 6	W	N	E	S
♥ K 8 2	--	1 ♣	P	1 ♠
♦ A Q 4	P	2N	P	3 ♥
♣ K J 5 4	P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
	All Pass			

♠ T 7 5 4 3
♥ J 9 6 5 3
♦ 2
♣ A 2

West leads Club 10. With 3 Heart honours and two Trump honours out, how do you propose to hold the loss in the two Major suits to three?



Geir Helgemo is a legend in Bridge. Dozens of his brilliant plays including an once in 100-years intra-finesse have been documented by Bridge writers and columnists. He is not only a feared card-player, but he is also an imaginative bidder. In 2022, he won the Norwegian Premier league playing as a member of the team Charlsen. Here is a deal from the final of that league reported by Nils Kvangraven.

Helgemo bid 2Nt!

Board 14

E dealer

None Vul

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

South was in a quandary. There was no way to know if partner held both Majors or not. Partner could well have held the other minor. South passed and Helgemo scored 8 easy tricks for a score of +120. In the other room, his teammates made 10 tricks in a Heart partial so the team won 7 IMPs on that deal. This was a perfect example of an inspired bid that worked like a pre-emptive bid denying opponents any space to clarify their holdings and, in the process, buying a cold part-score contract.



Deal 13, North Dealer, Both Vul

♠ A J 6			
♥ K 8 2			
♦ A Q 4			
♣ K J 5 4			
♠ Q 9 8			♠ K 2
♥ 7			♥ A Q T 4
♦ K T 9 8 7			♦ J 6 5 3
♣ T 9 7 6			♣ Q 8 3
	♠ T 7 5 4 3		
	♥ J 9 6 5 3		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A 2		
W	N	E	S
--	1♣	P	1♠
P	2N	P	3♥
P	3♠	P	4♠

All Pass

Lead ♣ 10.

Mark Horton reports how Mikael Rimstedt played this hand in an ALT invitational event in 2020. Winning the lead with ♣ A, Mikael tabled the ♠ T. West was reluctant to cover fearing a fall of an honour from East hand. When Mikael ran the ♠ T to East's King, East was end played in all the four suits. Imagining that it was the least harmful play, East played the trump 2. Mikael won, removed West's remaining trump, and pulled the ♥ King! When East won and played a Diamond, Mikael won in Dummy and played the ♥ 8 picking up the Heart suit for just two losers. Only two out of 24 Declarers could succeed in the 4♠ contract. The author reminds us of Terence Reese's insightful quote, "it is not only a question of how a suit lies, but of how you would like it to lie."

Mikael Rimstedt will partner Ola, his twin brother. Here is how their elder sister Sandra Rimstedt, a Bridge professional herself, recounts a deal from their childhood. "Ola opened 2 diamonds showing a good hand. Then Mikael jumped to 7NT. Sandra doubled, and Ola redoubled and took 13 tricks. I think they were 5 at the time." No wonder Ola and Mikael have established themselves in World Bridge by now.

Dealer : West
Both Vul

		♠ 9 7 3	
		♥ 9 7 6 2	
		♦ K T 8 6	
		♣ 9 2	
♠ 8 4			♠ Q J T 5
♥ K Q J 8 4			♥ A T 5 3
♦ 5			♦ 3
♣ K T 7 5 3			♣ Q J 6 4
		♠ A K 6 2	
		♥ void	
		♦ A Q J 9 7 4 2	
		♣ A 8	
West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	4♥	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Helgemo was South. He ruffed the ♥ King lead and removed trumps in one round. When he next played a Spade, West played small. Mere mortals would have left everything to providence and relied on a 3-3 Spade break. Helgemo found a brilliant technical play that was suggested by what happened at the table. At the table, West played a small Spade nonchalantly giving a slight hint that he might not have held any Spade honour. When Helgemo played the ♠ 7, East won with the ♠ J and backed a Spade. That was a curious move too. Helgemo had already suspected that West did not start with any Spade honour. East's extra smart Spade return convinced Helgemo that that was the case, so he simply let the Spade run to Dummy's nine winning the trick and making his slam contract. Note that Helgemo would have made the contract regardless of the Spade return. He would have played the ♠ 9 from the Dummy pinning West's Nine on the next round of Spades picking up one more honour from East, and on the third round, he would have finessed against East's ♥ 5!

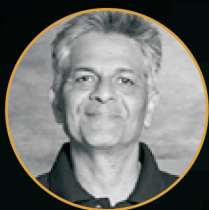
As is reported on youth.worldbridge.org, the commentators of the session had opined that Helgemo displayed three important talents necessary to play the spade suit the right way on this hand – imagination, psychology and guts!

Here is the schedule of the All-Stars challenge match preceding the HCL tournament. This challenge match is brought to you thanks to a generous sponsorship from Kiran Nadar and Subodh Maskara. Each round will be of 12 deals. There will be a total of eight rounds with a total of 96 deals.

Day-1		Day-2	
R-1	11:30 - 13:10	R-1	09:30 - 11:10
Lunch		R-2	11:20 - 13:00
R-2	14:00 - 15:40	Lunch	
R-3	15:50 - 17:30	R-3	13:45 - 15:25
R-4	17:40 - 19:20	R-4	15:35 - 17:15

Both the Open and the Closed Room will be open for kibitzers. In addition, there will be a VU graph room where deals and the plays can be viewed along with a running commentary by experts. At the end of the match, great hands from the challenge match will be discussed with the Great minds that played those hands. Spectators are welcome. All the rooms are close to Gate 2 of the Leela Ambience Convention hotel, Delhi. The address is 1, CBD, Maharaja Surajmal Marg, near Yamuna Sports Complex, Vishwas Nagar Extension, Delhi, 110032.

INDIA ALL STAR TEAM



JAGGY SHIVDASANI

The name synonymous with Indian bridge internationally – Jaggy needs no introduction. If you take up to bridge in India, this is the first name you come across. Life masters in a single US NABC event, youngest life master in India ever. This is not just history. The flame burns ever brighter – the latest – a heartwarming performance in Bermuda bowl, with Asian games to look forward to.



SANDEEP THAKRAL

"The most beautiful of all Mind-sports, bridge is one truly complex and fascinating game – and I am its one true student that loves to explore all the bye-lanes and alleys of this myriad" – says Sandeep Thakral, the acknowledged force on all aspects of the game – play, theory, law, technology, automation – he is the go-to man for Indian bridge. The journey started with Indian junior team way back in 1997 and continues to current date as a proud member of Team Mavericks, and with a noticable performance in Bermuda Bowl, and Asian games just round the corner.



KEYZAD ANKLESARIA

Keyzad Anklesaria started playing bridge at 16, and has never looked back. Mainstay of team Mavericks, Keyzad currently partners Laltu, and considers "consistency" to be his best asset. European Winter games in Tignes, and European open in strasbourg have kept spectators glued to their screens. Keyzad is the best ranked Indian player in WBF rankings.



DEBABRATA MAJUMDER

Fondly called as "Laltu" the Master Blaster is one of the most prolific players in India. Always willing to back himself, willing to take that additional risk, he has the habit of coming out winning. Laltu currently partners Keyzad in team Mavericks, and has some exciting bridge in Tignes and Strasbourg under his belt.



SUMIT MUKHERJEE

A perpetual Indian Open team member, Sumit Mukherjee is also the leading masterpoint winner year after year. Accurate and consistent, he has unlimited stamina. Sumit is super fast on the table and is adept in both percentage play and psychology. Currently plays with Rajeshwar Tiwari in team Formidables.



RAJESHWAR TEWARI

A Delhiite by birth, the bridge virus emerged during the IIT days with several known colleagues. Apart from being an IT professional, have been a founder professional member of Team Formidables with various known personalities like NK, Subhash, Prabhakar, Jaggy, Keyzad and now Sumit. The laurels of the team have been immense nationally and internationally. Decision making process has been my strength with an insightful thinking of various scenarios!



KAUSTUBH BENDRE

Knocking hard on the doors to the Indian team, the ever smiling Kaustubh Bendre is an unorthodox player. Skill and technique often take a back seat to his flair and serendipity. Kaustubh has been a consistent winner in the last few years, playing for Dhampur Sugar Mills and now with team Formidables.



SAYANTAN KUSHARI

Sayantan Kushari - the boy wonder and junior World Champion, has won almost everything there is to win in India, and shows no signs of slowing down. A member of Indian Railways and Formidables, he is fast and innovative on the Bridge table.

WORLD ALL STAR TEAM



GEIR HELGEMO

Geir Helgemo is a professional bridge player born in Norway. He played for Monaco from 2009 until 2019, and played for Norway before and after that. Through 2012 he had won three world championships in teams-of-four competition. As of August 2018 he ranked first among Open World Grand Masters.



ZIA MAHMOOD

Zia is the most well known bridge player in the world, and has just released his bestselling book *Bridge, A Love Story*. He is a World Bridge Federation and American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master. As of April 2011, he was the 10th-ranked World Grand Master.



BOYE BROGELAND

Boye Brogeland is a Norwegian professional bridge player. After a successful junior career, he won three Bermuda Bowl medals with the Norwegian team, including the gold in Shanghai 2007, and several North American Bridge Championships. He came into public focus in 2015 when he led a campaign against cheating in the bridge, exposing the wrongdoing of several top pairs, for which he received public recognition.



CHRISTIAN BAKKE

Christian Bakke, 27, has been a rising star in Norwegian bridge - already collecting 15 national titles. Won bronze in both the European and World Championships in 2022.



OLA RIMSTEDT

Ola Rimstedt is a Swedish professional bridge player. Ola is a World Champion. Playing with his twin brother Mikael Rimstedt, they won the World Open Pairs in Orlando in 2018.



MIKAEL RIMSTEDT

Mikael Rimstedt is a Swedish professional bridge player. Mikael is a World Champion. Playing with his twin brother Ola Rimstedt, they won the World Open Pairs in Orlando in 2018.