

ALL INDIA HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT
12th to 15th August 2004

Summary Report

The 2nd All India HCL Bridge Tournament was held at Hotel Claridges, New Delhi from 12th to 15th August 2004. The Tournament had 2 events - the Team of Four event for the "**Naresh Tandan Trophy**" and the Open Pairs event for the "**Neena Bonarji Trophy**". Total 46 Teams & 127 Pairs participated in the Team of Four & Open Pairs tournament, comprising players from all over India. Agsar Paints, Formidables, WELLKNIT, Tolani Shipping, DSM & MONOTONA were some of the top participating teams.

Team of Four Event for "Naresh Tandan Trophy":

At the end of first day (after 6 rounds), **Pankaj Kapadia's team** comprising of Dipak Santra, Tapan Roy, Jagdish Biswas & Sankar Acharya and **Dhampur Sugar Mills** comprising of Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das, Sibnath Dey Sarkar & Pranab Bardhan lead the event with **123 VPs**. The teams from Chennai - **WELLKNIT** comprising of R. Krishnan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Krishna Kumar, R. Venkatesh & J.M. Shah with **120 VPs** and **AGSAR PAINTS** comprising of N.R. Kirubakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, P. Sridhar, Anil Padhye & S. Sunderram with **115 VPs** were in 3rd & 4th place respectively.

After playing 4 more rounds on the second day, **DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS** Team with **195 VPs**, topped the 10 rounds Round-Robin stage. **Agsar Paints** with **193 VPs** were second.

The quarter finalists were:

1.	Dhampur Sugar Mills	-	195 VPs
2.	Agsar Paints	-	193 VPs
3.	WELLKNIT	-	192 VPs
4.	Formidables	-	176 VPs
5.	Pankaj Kapadia's IV	-	174 VPs
6/7.	MONOTONA	-	171 VPs
6/7.	Lucknow Blue	-	171 VPs
8.	GUPTA's Bangalore	-	166 VPs

The teams had the right to choose their opponents as per the priority of their ranking in the round robin stage. **The Quarterfinal line up was:**

1.	Dhampur Sugar Mills	Vs.	GUPTA's Bangalore
2.	Agsar Paints	Vs.	Lucknow Blue
3.	WELLKNIT	Vs.	Pankaj Kapadia's IV
4.	Formidables	Vs.	MONOTONA

The teams who just missed the qualification to the quarterfinals were:

9/10.	VETERANS	164 VPs
9/10.	Calcutta Bridge Club	164 VPs
11/12.	ALOK DAGA	162 VPs
11/12.	RADHEY, MUMBAI	162 VPs

In the 4*14 boards Quarter Finals **Dhampur Sugar Mills** beat **GUPTA's Bangalore 114-73** (20-38, 27-23, 67-12). Gupta's team (A.S. Gupta, S. Vijayraghavan, V. Krishnan & Bhaskar Rao), who were leading by 14 IMPS after 2 sessions, could not sustain their firepower in the 3rd set and were blitzed by 55 IMPs. In the 2nd QF, **Agsar Paints** beat **Lucknow Blues 135-84** (27-24, 48-46, 60-14). The Lucknow team was represented by Virendra Singh, Dhanesh Chandra, Kanwar Wajahat, Kalka Prasad, Mukul Gupta, Murli Manohar. The 3rd QF was a tough tussle and finally **WELLKNIT** beat **Pankaj Kapadia's IV 98-89** (42-33, 24-31, 32-25). Pankaj Kapadia's team was represented by Dipak Santra, Tapan Roy, Jagdish Biswas & Sankar Acharya. In the 4th QF, **Formidables** beat **Monotona** by **127-68** (51-18, 29-12, 47-38). The Monotona team was represented by Dipak Paddar, Suhas Vaidya, Arun Bapat, Anand Samant, R. Sridharan & Anal Shah. The Semi final line up was:

Dhampur Sugar Mills Vs. WELLKNIT & Formidables Vs. Agsar Paints

In the first of the 3*16 boards semi-final, **WELLKNIT** beat **Dhampur Sugar Mills** by **85-71** IMPs (c/o **3-0,16-17, 21-41, 45-13**).

In the second semi-final, **Agsar Paints** beat Formidables (Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokshi & K.R. Venkatraman) by **121.5- 113** IMPs (c/o **13.5-0,41-29, 33-39, 34-45**).

So it was **WELLKNIT Vs. AGSAR PAINTS**, both the Chennai teams in the FINALS of T-4.

In the 4*16 boards final, **WELLKNIT** beat **AGSAR PAINTS** by **142 - 81 (C/O: 0-3, 30-29, 38-7, 27-23, 47-19)**. AGSAR, who had a carry over of 3 IMPS lost just 1 IMP in the first set, but in the second set, WELLKNIT with 2 big swings in their favor took the lead by 29 IMPs. The 3rd session was played with caution by both the teams and WELLKNIT added 4 more to their kitty, to lead by 33 IMPs. AGSAR further lost 28 IMPs, trying to recover in the last set.

Congratulations to the WELLKNIT team (R. Krishnan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Krishna Kumar, R. Venkatesh & J.M. Shah), who won the "Naresh Tandan Trophy" and the first prize of **Rs. 2.5 Lacs**. The loser **AGSAR PAINTS** team (N.R. Kirubakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, P. Sridhar, Anil Padhye & S. Sunderram) got **Rs. 1.2 Lacs**.

PAIRS Event for "Neena Bonarji Trophy"

The Pairs Tournament started with 127 Pairs taking part in the event. There were 2 elimination rounds, each played in 2 sessions. In the first elimination, 104 pairs played in 4 sections of 13 NS & 13 EW each. 12 best NS & 12 best EW pairs from sections "A" & "B" combined, and equal number from sections "C" & "D" combined along with one qualifier having the best score in the 13th position qualified for the 2nd elimination round. The winner of 1st elimination round were:

Section "A" & "B" combined:

NS: Mrs. Bhavana Naraindas – Mrs. Chitra Roy
EW: A.B. Chakrabarty – B. Saha

Section "C" & "D" combined:

NS: Dr. R.L. Sanghi – Suraj Jain
EW: Sandeep Thakral – N.K. Gupta

In the 2nd elimination, there were 60 pairs (49 qualifiers + 11 losing quarter finalists) put into 2 sections. They played a 2 session * 20 boards elimination round and the best 13 NS + 13 EW out of the two sections qualified for the Pairs Finals. The winner of 2nd elimination round were:

NS: A.N. Nanerjee – G. Singha
EW: D. Santra – S. Acharya

The 26 qualifiers from 2nd elimination round were joined by the six losing semi-finalist pairs, to constitute the final 32 Pairs for the 62 boards FINAL.

In the first session of the Pairs final (of 32 boards), Subhash Gupta – Rajeshwar Tewari with 66.35% score were way ahead to the 2nd position holder Badal Das – Sumit Mukherjee (62.81%). Kamal Roy – Satyabrata Lahiri with 58.02 were third. Subhash & Rajeshwar kept the tempo going in the second set also and finally won the event. The list of the event winners is as follows:

1. Subhash Gupta - Rajeshwar Tewari	561.00
2. R.A. Agrawal - Goutam Biswas	537.00
3. Badal Das - Sumit Mukherjee	534.00
4. P.C. Gupta - D.K. Tewari	525.50
5. Ashok Goel - Kamal Mukherjee	517.00
6. Mrs. Kiran Nadar - B. Satyanarayana	509.50
7. C.S. Majumdar - Subir Majumdar	502.50
8. Raju Tolani - Ajay khare	502.00
9. Asim Mukherjee - Samir Basak	500.50
10. Kamal Kumar Roy - Satyabrata Lahiri	496.00

Congratulations to Subhash Gupta – Rajeshwar Tewari, the winners of the “Neena Bonarji Trophy” and the first prize of Rs. 1.0 Lacs. R.A. Agrawal – Goutam Biswas won Rs. 60,000/- for coming 2nd.

The event got over with the prize distribution ceremony presided by the organizing secretary Mr. Subhash Gupta. The chief guest, Mr. Ajay Jadeja - the dashing and evergreen cricketer, gave away the prizes to the winners. Mr. Shiv Nadar, Chairman HCL Corporation graced the occasion with his encouraging words to all the participants and promised that HCL will make this tournament one of the TOP most tournaments in India. Mr. Puneet Gangal on behalf of all the participants thanked the organizers and the sponsors of the tournament and conveyed the feelings of all the participants that right now this is one of the best-conducted tournaments in India.

(Reported by T.C. Pant)