

HCL 23rd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi

DAILY BULLETIN

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Chief Editor: Mark Horton Coordinator: T. C. Pant Layout Editor: Bholanath Das



A BATTLE OF

KINGS & QUEENS

Mixed Pairs

N.K. GUPTA MEMORIAL TROPHY

The **Mixed IMP Pairs** for the **N.K. Gupta Memorial Trophy** commenced yesterday with **124 pairs** for what promises to be a hard-tailed contest to finish into the Gold Final. The event is being played over two days with a total of 10 sessions, each consisting of ten boards, giving every pair a hundred-board qualifying stage arsenal to fight for their eligible spots.

Five sessions and 50 boards have been completed yesterday, and the remaining five sessions will be played today. The contest has already produced strong performances at the top from some of the renowned pairs, along with a fiercely competitive field where the qualification places remain very much in contention.

Abhijit Pal & Kamna Sharma have taken a clear lead with an impressive **+132 IMPs**. They are followed by **Girish R Bijoor & Ritu Bagaria** on **+99 IMPs**. **Andrey Gromov & Anna Gulevich** are in third place with **+94.00 IMPs**. These three pairs have been very consistent throughout all five sessions and have set themselves apart from the field.

Further down, the battle for qualifying positions is extremely close. **Soumadeep Ghosh & Anuradha Krishna** and **Subir Majumdar & Rekha Mody** are currently tied at **+36 IMPs**, with **Soham Sarkar & Hema Deora** just one IMP behind on **+35**. With 50 more boards to be played today, the positions can change quickly and every IMP will count in the race to reach the next stage.

PROGRESSION

After the completion of the 10 qualifying sessions, the field will be divided as follows:

Top 25 Pairs + 1 Sponsored Pair
will qualify for the Mixed IMP Pairs Gold Final.

Next 26 Pairs
will contest the Silver Final.

The remaining pairs
will continue in the Mixed Strata event.

THE FINALS

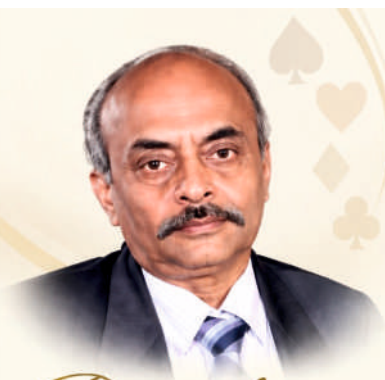
The **Mixed IMP Pairs** Gold and Silver Finals will be played on **4 October**.

Both Finals will be played as **All Play All** over **50 boards**, with **Barometer** scoring, in five sessions of 10 boards each.

GOLD Final : TURQUOISE Hall

SILVER Final : TURQUOISE Hall

MIXED STRATA : SAPPHIRE Hall



Remembering N. K. GUPTA

N. K. Gupta, fondly known as "NK," was one of Indian bridge's most memorable personalities—a brilliant and imaginative player, gifted card reader, and a deep thinker about the game.

His friends and partners remember not only his exceptional bridge skills, but also his **sharp wit, humour, competitive spirit and strong commitment to fair play**.

His unique personality and love for the game left a lasting impression on the Indian bridge community. He inspired many with his ideas, his presence at the table, and his unwavering integrity.

The **N. K. Gupta Memorial Trophy** is a fitting tribute to his enduring contribution and unforgettable presence in the **world of Indian bridge**.

RESULTS LINK

**Live Scores &
Detailed Results**

<https://hcl-bridge.com/result/>

NK GUPTA MEMORIAL TROPHY MIXED PAIRS QUALIFYING STAGE

RESULTS AFTER 25 ROUNDS

Rank	Pair	IMPs	Rank	Pair	IMPs
1	Abhijit Pal & Kamna Sharma	132.00	63	Padmanabhan Sridharan & Uma Rajesh	-1.00
2	Girish R Bijoor & Ritu Bagaria	99.00	64	Vikas Taralekar & Sanyogita Modak	-2.00
3	Andrey Gromov & Anna Gulevich	94.00	65	Rajul R Dalal & Aparna Sain	-3.00
4	Smita Govilkar & Biswajit Mahata	91.00	66	Alok Daga & Bharati Dey	-4.00
5	Ramkrishna Majumder & Ruchira Raina	88.00	67	Satyabrata Mukherjee & Sarika Mittal	-4.00
6	Soumitra Das & Anuradha Bakshi	85.00	68	R N Subramaniam & P Varalakshmi	-5.00
7	Namit Sharma & Asha Sharma	80.00	69	Joyrup Mullick & Sheetal Bansal	-6.00
8	Sanjeev Tomar & Kusum Chadha	63.00	70	Vikram Jain & Ramula Shah	-6.00
9	Pritam Das & Poonam Surana	55.00	71	Madhav Dhar & Sailaja Tahlilani	-7.00
10	Kannan Krishnamurthy & Sumita Dasgupta	55.00	72	Mayur Patel & Amita Ashvin Raythatha	-7.00
11	Shambhu Nath Ghosh & Jesal Dabriwala	55.00	73	Subhash Bhavnani & Priya Balasubramanian	-13.00
12	Yury Khyuppenen & Maria Semenova	54.00	74	Maneesh Bahuguna & Devi Muthu Bhatnagar	-13.00
13	Meenal Thakur & Koushik Mukherjee	54.00	75	Birendra Kumar & Neeta Banga	-13.00
14	Bachiraju Satyanarayana & Kiran Nadar	50.00	76	Alok Kumar & Manjusha Yadav	-16.00
15	Sartaj Hans & Sophie Ashton	50.00	77	Souvik Saha & Anjali Malhotra	-16.00
16	Binod Kumar Shaw & Ekta Chadha	50.00	78	Sunil Bhatia & Uma Relan	-17.00
17	Zaira Davide & Joyjit Sensarma	48.00	79	Ramesh C Khanna & Suman Khanna	-18.00
18	Sukanta Das & Veena Bobb	48.00	80	Pandu Chedalavada & Yamini Merchant	-18.00
19	Sourendra Coomer Dutt & Anushree Jalan	47.00	81	Tapas Das & Samina Esmail	-19.00
20	Bhabesh Saha & Vasanti Shah	44.00	82	Ignatius Bezzam & B S Geetha	-19.00
21	Arun M Bapat & Usha Kabra	42.00	83	Aman Tyagi & Kinjal Desai	-19.00
22	Debabrata Majumder & Gopika Tandan	40.00	84	Shubham Acharya & Richa Shriram	-20.00
23	Rana Roy & Savleen Thadani	37.00	85	Akhilesh Kumar Saxena & Rekha Saxena	-21.00
24	Soumadeep Ghosh & Anuradha Krishna	36.00	86	Guru Shankar Sundaram & Sumathi Iyer	-22.00
25	Subir Majumdar & Rekha Mody	36.00	87	Amit Nangpal & Vandana Lal	-25.00
26	Soham Sarkar & Hema Deora	35.00	88	Kumar Shah & Naina Shah	-27.00
27	Biswadip Roy & Anjali Karthikeyan	33.00	89	Sekhar K Bandopadhyay & Pallavi Modak	-28.00
28	R Anbazhagan & Mamta Bakshi	32.00	90	Jenish Shah & Ramani Menon	-29.00
29	Anindra Kumar Sarkar & Meenu Dugal	29.00	91	Ravi Prakash & Vandana D Singh	-30.00
30	Vijay R Phatarphekar & Alka M Kshirsagar	26.00	92	Atanu Ganguly & Kanta Stanchina	-30.00
31	Rakesh Chandra Sharma & Bhanumati Shah	26.00	93	Aroon Birla & Bina Birla	-33.00
32	Raj Kumar Srivastava & Bharati Singh	26.00	94	K K Sabherwal & Urvashi Anand	-33.00
33	Prashanth Kandulakunta & Veena Shukla	25.00	95	Prakash Gupta & Kalpna Varshney	-34.00
34	Ajai Bahadur Khare & Vandana Khare	25.00	96	Wrik Chakraborty & Madhur (Daisy) Singh	-34.00
35	Naveen Kumar & Rinku Singh	24.00	97	D P Acharya & Shefali Poddar	-35.00
36	Prosenjit Manna & Deepa Jacob	22.00	98	Rohit Gupta & Deepika Mehta	-37.00
37	Ranga Khadloya & Mini Agarwal	20.00	99	Raj Madnani & Sweta Padia	-37.00
38	Vijay Deshpande & Vrinda Jhunjhunwala	19.00	100	Ranji Dhawan & Beneeta Chandra	-37.00
39	Biswajit Poddar & Aditi Jhaveri	18.00	101	Sayantan Kushari & Priyanka Gulati	-40.00
40	Sanjit Dey & Pujah S Jhunjhunwala	16.00	102	Bubbles Bawa & Deepika Nagpal	-40.00
41	Sumit Mukherjee & Monica Jajoo	13.00	103	Suresh Senapaty & Sunita Kunzru	-40.00
42	Rajeev Khandelwal & Himani Khandelwal	13.00	104	C M Vasudev & Manju Bhasin	-41.00
43	Craig Gower & Diana Rosslee	13.00	105	Sunandan Thakur & Rashmi Agarwal	-41.00
44	Parimal Vaikuntal Vahalia & Nayana P Vahalia	12.00	106	Ravinder Shroff & Rashmi Ahuja	-41.00
45	T V Ramani & Bindiya Kohli	12.00	107	Umesh Kumar Singh & Sejal Shah	-45.00
46	Arun Kumar Sinha & Nikita Kamal	12.00	108	J B Sengupta & Madhu Malti Jain	-45.00
47	Priya Ranjan Sinha & Bindiya Naidoo	11.00	109	Tarun Singhal & Alka Jain	-46.00
48	Ranjan Bose & Bijal Shah	10.00	110	Swapan Sardar & Rashmi Bhanshali	-46.00
49	Soumya Das & Bindiya Judge	10.00	111	Manjoosha Bairathi & Sujoy Kumar Dey	-46.00
50	Mitresh Manu & Abha Chaturvedi	9.00	112	Swapan Some & Reena Pal	-46.00
51	Ashok Girdhar & Chhaya Joglekar	8.00	113	Aparajitha Iyer & P Narayan Iyer	-49.00
52	Kamal Kumar Gupta & Nilofer Kalra	6.00	114	Lalit Mendiratta & Bhavna Naraindas	-50.00
53	Arbab Basu Roy & Bina Malhotra	6.00	115	Saswata Bhattacharya & Sadhana Gupta	-56.00
54	M R Goyal & Kamla Mehra	5.00	116	Subashish Gope & Aarti Anand	-56.00
55	Bhaskar Sarkar & Rita Bhagwati	5.00	117	Ravi Kaul & Natasha Timpy Talwar	-57.00
56	Paban Agarwal & Kalindi Mewar	5.00	118	Amol Athawale & Arti Athawale	-66.00
57	Surajit Bar & Kalpana Gurjar	4.00	119	Pradeep R Rath & Subhadra P Rath	-68.00
58	Puja Batra & Jaggy B Shivdasani	2.00	120	Deepak Ramnani & Savita Reddy	-69.00
59	Aakash Sharma & Bindu Bhakri Dhawan	1.00	121	Meera Narain & Anuj Kapur	-73.00
60	Bhalchandra G Ogale & Aditi Sahastrabuddhe	1.00	122	Rakesh Ranjan & Shikha Mahajan	-73.00
61	Yogendra Deva & Kushal Singh	1.00	123	B K Sinha & Archana Sinha	-94.00
62	Sandeep N Karmarkar & Marianne Karmarkar	0.00	124	Ashok Kumar Sinha & Hanit Mangat	-96.00

CENTURIONS

Mark Horton

The 124 duos in the Mixed IMP Pairs would contest ten sessions of 12 boards, 120 in all.

The strategy required for IMP Pairs is to bid game at every opportunity and try not to miss any opportunities for slam.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ J 10 9 7 3	
	♥ 10 9 7	
	♦ J 7 4 3	
	♣ Q	
♠ 2		♠ AKQ8654
♥ AQJ8		♥ —
♦ AKQ8		♦ 10 5
♣ KJ 10 6		♣ 9872
	♠ —	
	♥ K 6 5 4 3 2	
	♦ 9 6 2	
	♣ A 5 4 3	

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Shivdasani	Thakur	Puja Batra
—	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With powerful holdings in the other three suits West opted for the nine-trick game, but was overruled. South led a diamond and declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the ace, getting the bad news. Two rounds of diamonds and the ♥A allowed declarer to discard two clubs and were followed by a diamond ruff and a club. When South put up the ♣A it spared declarer a vital guess, +420 which was worth 7 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ A	
	♥ K 10 6 5 3	
	♦ AKQ9	
	♣ AK6	
♠ 9 6 4 2		♠ KJ5
♥ Q9		♥ J72
♦ J84		♦ 532
♣ J 10 5 4		♣ Q932
	♠ Q 10 8 7 3	
	♥ A84	
	♦ 10 7 6	
	♣ 87	

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Shivdasani	Thakur	Puja Batra
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When South decided not to support hearts at any stage, the slam that depended on little more than a 3-2 break was missed.

Declarer collected 11 tricks, +660 resulting in the loss of 6 IMPs.

The pairs who bid 6♥ collected 11 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ AK74	
	♥ AJ963	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ J9	
♠ 52		♠ 986
♥ 82		♥ KQ4
♦ AJ8653		♦ K72
♣ 875		♣ Q 10 3 2
	♠ QJ 10 3	
	♥ 10 7 5	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ AK64	

West	North	East	South
Amol Athawale	Shivdasani	Arti Athawale	Puja Batra
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♣ Stayman

With a nasty hand to lead from East selected the ♥K. Declarer won, drew trumps ending in hand and played a heart towards the ten, East winning and exiting with a heart. Dummy's losing diamonds went away and when East did not cover the ♠9 that was +680 and 12 IMPs.



Puja Batra

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 875	♠ AJ1063	♠ K9
♥ AQ4	♥ 7	♥ K109852
♦ 10543	♦ KQ	♦ AJ2
♣ 542	♣ AJ976	♣ K10
	♠ Q42	
	♥ J63	
	♦ 9876	
	♣ Q83	

West	North	East	South
Dalal	Shivdasani	Sain	Puja Batra
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ♥10 and West took the ♥A and returned the ♥4, declarer ruffing and playing the ♣6. East took the ♣K and subsequently scored the ♠K and the ♦A for one down, -100 and a 2 IMP loss.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 1087	♠ K92	♠ 54
♥ J106	♥ AK5	♥ Q987
♦ 92	♦ KJ54	♦ 1076
♣ 87532	♣ Q104	♣ AKJ9
	♠ AQJ63	
	♥ 432	
	♦ AQ83	
	♣ 6	

West	North	East	South
Dalal	Shivdasani	Sain	Puja Batra
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2♥ Transfer
4♣ Control

Another slam (6♦) slipped through the net. Looking at the ♥AK and excellent cards in partner's suits, it was surprising that North did not bid on over 4♠.

Arun Bapat and Usha Kabra were allowed to make 6♠, worth 11 IMPs.

As far as I could see, no one reached 6♦.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 83	♠ 83	♠ KQJ976
♥ KQ1083	♥ KQ1083	♥ 4
♦ QJ932	♦ QJ932	♦ K8
♣ 5	♣ 5	♣ 9862
	♠ A102	
	♥ J72	
	♦ A107654	
	♣ 4	
	♠ 54	
	♥ A965	
	♦ —	
	♣ AKQJ1073	

West	North	East	South
Sinha	Tapas Das	Naidoo	Esmail
—	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♠K and continued with the ♠Q, +450 which produced no swing.



Bindiya Naidoo

West	North	East	South
Senapaty	Shivdasani	Kunzru	Puja Batra
—	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♣A and then played two rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing, drawing trumps and playing diamonds, finishing with nine tricks, -100 but 8 IMPs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mixed Pairs at HCL

Mixed pairs day at HCL. And surprisingly... quite calm. Not much shouting. Not much screaming. Maybe because, for once, we weren't packed like sardines in a box. There was space. But how did mixed bridge start?

The first World Mixed Pairs Championship was held in Amsterdam in **1966**. 130 pairs played, and **Mary-Jane Farell and Ivan Erdos** of the USA became the first champions.

The history is full of wonderful stories.

In **1970**, 74-year-old **Waldemar von Zedtwitz**, despite poor eyesight, won the World Mixed Pairs with **Barbara Brier** against 228 pairs.

In **1982**, the World Mixed Pairs title was decided by half a top. Half a top!

In **2002**, **Jeff Meckstroth and Becky Rogers** produced a stunning 69.99% final session to overturn the leaders.

And in the **2016** World Mixed Teams final, the Netherlands came back from 37 IMPs down with just 32 boards left to win.

And only one player in history — **Kerri Sanborn** — has won the World Mixed Pairs twice.

Bridge really does have a sense of drama.

Tomorrow, more boards. More decisions. More stories. And hopefully...

It was not the calm before a storm....

— Priyanka Gulati


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CENTURIONS 2

Mark Horton

The second session of the Mixed IMP Pairs was sedate.

On Board 15, EW held ♠AQ1097 ♥KQ ♦Q42 ♣743 opposite ♠K2 ♥10 ♦K873 ♣KQJ652. The pairs who reached 3NT were lucky that the hearts were blocked (♥AJ98 opposite ♥765432) and when North did not find South's ♦A entry declarer had nine tricks which gave a number of pairs 9 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

		♠ J10		
		♥ KJ43		
		♦ Q8653		
		♣ Q2		
♠ K964	♥ A92	♦ 2	♣ AK964	
		♠ AQ87	♥ 107	♦ KJ1074
		♣ 75		
		♠ 532	♥ Q865	♦ A9
		♣ J1083		

West	North	East	South
Acharya	Mukherjee	Poddar	Thakur
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ♣A and played a diamond for the ten and ace, South returning the ♣3. Declarer won, played a spade to dummy's ace, pitched a heart on the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the queen, ruffed a diamond and could not be denied ten tricks, +420 and 4 IMPs.

As the cards lie, declarer can get up to 11 tricks by cashing the ♥A at some point and crossruffing diamonds and clubs, the overtrick being worth an extra IMP.

The pairs who went down in 4♠ lost 8 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

		♠ K7		
		♥ AK10764		
		♦ K4		
		♣ AKQ		
♠ A106	♥ QJ83	♦ A109	♣ 863	
		♠ 843	♥ —	♦ QJ765
		♣ 109542		
		♠ QJ952	♥ 952	♦ 832
		♣ J7		

West	North	East	South
Roy	Mukherjee	Thadani	Thakur
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The Kokish sequence to 4♥ saw East lead the ♦Q, West winning and returning the ♦9. Having won, declarer cashed the ♥A, East discarding the ♦6. A heart to the nine and jack saw West exit with the ♦10, declarer ruffing and playing a spade for the jack and ace. West exited with a club and declarer could not avoid the loss of another heart, -100 and a 7 IMP loss.

Having discovered the trump break, declarer should continue with the ♠K. When West ducks, declarer plays three rounds of clubs discarding a diamond and exits with a spade. West wins and returns the ♠10 but declarer ruffs with the ♥6 and plays the ♥7 for the nine and jack. When West returns the ♦10, declarer ruffs with the carefully preserved ♥4, overruffs with dummy's ♥5 and plays a spade collecting West's ♥Q8.

After the diamond lead and continuation, declarer might have played three rounds of clubs ruffing followed by a heart, intending to cover West's card. If West plays an honour declarer wins and can play a heart to dummy's nine.

An initial club lead is more challenging, as if declarer wins and cashes a top heart the contract will fail.

Those who recorded +620 collected 10 IMPs.

Heading into the lunch break Girish Bijoor and Ritu Bagaria lead with 55 IMPs just ahead of Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich on 53 IMPs.



Savleen Thadani

CENTURIONS 3

Mark Horton

The EW pairs had an early opportunity to shine in the third session:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	N Sharma	—	A Sharma
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♣	pass
5♣	All Pass	3NT	Pass

I wondered if West might have bid 4♠ over 3NT.

South led the ♠7 and declarer won in dummy, drew trumps and tried to ruff out the ♦Q, +600 which lost a couple of IMPs as the majority played in 3NT (many declarers taking all the tricks).



West	North	East	South
S Karmarkar	Sridharan	M Karmarkar	Rajesh
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		
2♦	Asking		
3♦	Asking		
3♥	Heart stopper		

South led the ♠7 and declarer won with dummy's ♠A, cashed the top clubs and top diamonds and recorded +600. Soumya Das and Bindiya Judge were the only pair to bid 6♣. After the lead of the ♠3, declarer did not find the winning line of finessing in diamonds. It resulted in the loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sundaram	N Sharma	Iyer	A Sharma
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	3♣	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♣10 and East played three rounds of the suit, declarer overruffing West's ♠Q, drawing trumps and playing a heart for +420 and 7 IMPs.

Once East had cashed a second club, there was no defence.

West	North	East	South
Dutt	Sridharan	Jalan	Rajesh
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣*	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
2♦	Multi		
3♣	Transfer		



As you can see, 4♥ is unlikely to make.

One way to defeat it is for East to cash two clubs and switch to a diamond.

Against 5♦x South led the ♥7 and North won with the ♥10 and continued with the ♥K, South discarding the ♠9. When it held he cashed the ♠K and then went back to hearts, South ruffing and switching to the ♣7 for the jack and ace. Declarer cashed the ♣K, ruffed a spade and played the ♦K, finishing with 8 tricks, three down, -500 and an 8 IMP loss.

When declarer ducked the second heart North might have continued the suit. Then South can ruff, put North in with a spade and secure a second heart ruff for -800.

- 2♦ Multi
- 2♥ Takeout of hearts
- 2NT Lebensohl
- 3♥ Stopper
- 3♠ Stopper

That was well bid, as 5♦ would have a chance even if there was a trump loser.

East led the ♥Q and declarer won, drew trumps and played a club to the queen, +600 which was worth 4 IMPs.

At the end of the session, three pairs had broken away, Girish Bijoor and Ritu Bagaria, 74, Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma 73 and Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich, 70.

Board 29. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10843	♠ KJ9	♠ 765
♥ K8	♥ 942	♥ QJ107653
♦ 1065	♦ AK83	♦ Q
♣ A1063	♣ 542	♣ J7
	N W E S	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ A	
	♦ J9742	
	♣ KQ98	

West	North	East	South
Jain	Sridharan	Shah	Rajesh
—	Pass	2♦*	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	5♦
All Pass			



Vikram Jain



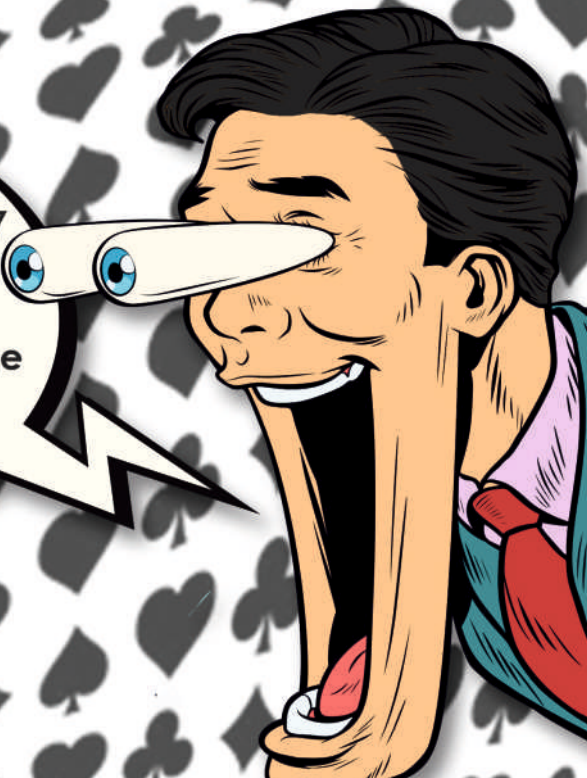
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EA BRIDGE 3rd International Bridge Championship.

VENUE: EXPRESS AVENUE MALL, CHENNAI.

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CENTURIONS 4

Mark Horton

In the penultimate session of the day, the leaders would be hoping to consolidate their positions.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Roy	N Karmarkar	Karthikeyan	M Karmarkar
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠7 for the queen and king and declarer won the third round and ran the ♥8. Even though that held, the contract was two down, -200 and a 7 IMP loss.

If East insists on playing in hearts, declarer has only to run the ♥8 (offering an 81.95% chance of losing only one trick in the suit) to secure ten tricks.

+620 would have been worth 11 IMPs.



Sandeep N Karmarkar

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shaw	N Karmarkar	Chadha	M Karmarkar
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl*
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Rdbl	Support		

South led a diamond and when dummy's ♦10 saw North play the ♦K declarer had an overtrick, +650 and 6 IMPs.



Ekta Chadha

Board 8. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

A few pairs were allowed to make 3NT, picking up 11 IMPs.



♠ J 9
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ J 8 6
♣ A J 10 2

♠ 8 3
♥ K 10 7 2
♦ Q 10 4 2
♣ 8 7 4

♠ K 10 7 2
♥ 6 3
♦ K 7 5 3
♣ 9 6 5

♠ A Q 6 5 4
♥ A Q 8
♦ A 9
♣ K Q 3

W N E S

All Pass

East led the $\diamond 3$ and declarer took the second round of the suit, cashed the $\clubsuit K$, overtook the $\clubsuit Q$ and played the $\spadesuit J$ for the king and ace. At this point, the play record stops, declarer being credited with only eight tricks, -50 and a 9 IMP loss.

We can assume that declarer played three rounds of spades, losing two spades and three diamonds. Once the spade finesse worked, declarer might have cashed two more clubs and then played a heart to the queen. Scoring +400 would have been worth a couple of IMPs.

On Board 10, EW held ♠53 ♥A94 ♦J954 ♣K752 facing ♠Q82 ♥K73 ♦KQ ♣AJ983. Clubs were 2-2 and South held ♠AKJ and the ♦A, so 3NT was unbeatable.

A handful of pairs bid it,collecting 10 IMPs.

Tarun Singhal and Alka Jain doubled North in 3♠ and -1400 delivered 15 IMPs.

The three leading pairs had moved further ahead, with Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich now topping the table on 114. Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma remained in second place on 106, while Girish Bijoor and Ritu Bagaria dropped to third with 87.

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CENTURIONS 5

Mark Horton

In the last round of day 1, we had the opportunity to follow the leaders.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kumar	Gromov	Banga	Gulevich
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 keycards		

West led the ♦9 and declarer won in dummy and ran the ♠J, west winning and continuing with the ♦4. Declarer won in dummy, pitched a diamond on a top club and ran the ♠10, +680.

Missing this slam meant the loss of 10 IMPs, while bidding it would have been worth 7 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Das	Gromov	Bobb	Gulevich
—	—	—	INT
3♦	Dble*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦A and continued with the ♦J, East ruffing and playing three rounds of clubs, West ruffing and returning the ♦8 East's overruff of dummy putting the defenders ahead 6-0, -150 and a 4 IMP loss.

Alok Kumar and Manjusha Yadav doubled West in 5♦ and collected 1400 for 16 IMPs, a result matched by Debabrata Majumder and Gopika Tandan. Pritam Das and Poonam Surana did even better, doubling East's 4♠ for 2300 and 20 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ranjan	Gromov	Mahajan	Gulevich
—	2♣	2♠	Dble*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

East started with three rounds of hearts, West's ruff ensuring one down, -100 but a 1 IMP gain.

As the cards lie 4♠ cannot be defeated and had West raised to 3♠ East would have had every reason to advance to game. Scoring +420 was worth 7 IMPs.

The three leading pairs continued their game of musical chairs, Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma surging ahead on 132, while Girish Bijoor and Ritu Bagaria moved to second, their 99 leaving them 5 ahead of Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich. The field took the opportunity to close the gap and an exciting second day is in prospect!