



HCL 23rd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi

DAILY BULLETIN

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N.K. GUPTA MEMORIAL MIXED EVENT

ONE IMP FROM A DOUBLE CENTURY!

Gromov–Gulevich Surge to 199 IMPs as the 100-Board Battle Reaches a New Pinnacle

The N.K. Gupta Memorial Mixed Event has produced a sensational 100-board qualifying finish. **Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich** turned their 94 IMPs after the first 50 boards into a **stunning 199 IMPs**, finishing just one IMP short of the magical 200 IMPs and powering decisively to the top of the field. Equally remarkable was the surge of **Bhalchandra G. Ogale and Aditi Sahasrabudhe**, who moved from just **-0.90 IMPs** yesterday to **101 IMPs** at the end of the 100 boards — crossing the 100-IMP mark in spectacular fashion.

Behind the leaders, **Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma** completed the qualification with an outstanding **150 IMPs**. They had started the day as the leaders on 132 IMPs after 50 boards and remained firmly among the leading contenders through the second half.

Bachiraju Satyanarayana–Kiran Nadar finished on **125 IMPs**, with their score coming from a surge of successful slams (five). They are jointly tied for the maximum number of successful slams with **Tarun Singhal–Alka Jain** and **Prosenjit Manna–Deepa Jacob**, who have also bid and made five successful slams.

Debabrata Majumder and Gopika Tandan also produced a remarkable finish, climbing from **40 IMPs** after 50 boards to **138.78 IMPs** at the end of the full 100 boards. **Soumitra Das–Anuradha Bakshi** finished on **130 IMPs**, while **Sartel Hans–Sophie Ashton** completed the leading group on **116.33 IMPs** and **Bhabesh Saha–Vasanti Shah** on **116 IMPs**.

THE BAROMETER BATTLE

EVERY BOARD, EVERY IMP,
EVERYTHING AT STAKE

The Gold and Silver Finals, each consisting of **50 boards**, now move into barometer scoring, bringing a completely live, board-by-board experience and an exciting atmosphere among all the contenders.

A carryover of a maximum of **10 IMPs**, as per the SCOC, will be given to the Gold and Silver finalists. With the field now split and the margins reset for the final battle, every IMP will carry enormous significance.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MP PAIRS ENTRY



Entry for the **Open Match Point Pairs** event, commencing on the morning of **7 October 2026**, will close tomorrow, **Monday, 5 October 2026, at 2100 Hrs.**

No entries will be accepted after the closing time.

ENTRY FOR QUALIFIERS



Players who qualify for the **KO Stage** of the **Gold/Silver Team Event** and wish to participate in the **MP Pairs** event must also submit their entries before the scheduled closing time.

They will not be seeded to the **MP Pairs** if the entry is not received within the scheduled closing time.

ENTRY FEE REFUND



Players who reach the **Semi-final** stage of the **Gold or Silver Team Event** will be **automatically refunded** their **MP Pairs entry fee**, as they will be unable to participate in the event.

PLAYER IDENTITY CARD



The **Identity Card** is **mandatory** for participation in every event and must carry the player's **proper photograph**.

Even in case of a **last-minute change or substitution**, the player will **not be allowed to play** unless the required **Identity Card** is available and presented.



For any assistance regarding **Identity Cards**, please contact
Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal.

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PLAYING CARDS

Mixed Pairs Special Prizes Leaderboard

Highest slams bid and made
and double contracts made.

Current standings on **Page 4.**

RESULTS LINK

Live Scores & Detailed Results

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



THE PRIZE CEREMONY OF THE MIXED EVENT

will be held today at **19:15 hours.**

23rd HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mixed IMP Pairs Event

QUALIFIERS

GOLD FINALISTS

Rank	Players	IMPS
1	Andrey Gromov - Anna Gulevich	199.00
2	Abhijit Pal - Kamna Sharma	150.00
3	Debabrata Majumder - Gopika Tandan	138.78
4	Soumitra Das - Anuradha Bakshi	130.00
5	Bachiraju Satyanarayana - Kiran Nadar	125.00
6	Sartaj Hans - Sophie Ashton	116.33
7	Bhabesh Saha - Vasanti Shah	116.00
8	Bhalchandra G Ogale - Aditi Sahastrabuddhe	101.00
9	Sukanta Das - Veena Bobb	99.00
10	Prashanth Kandulakunta - Veena Shukla	87.00
11	Anindra Kumar Sarkar - Meenu Dugal	85.00
12	Girish R Bijoor - Ritu Bagaria	85.00
13	Rana Roy - Savleen Thadani	84.00
14	Sumit Mukherjee - Monica Jajoo	83.00
15	Craig Gower - Diana Rosslee	83.00
16	Shambhu Nath Ghosh - Jesal Dabriwala	80.00
17	T V Ramani - Bindiya Kohli	79.00
18	Namit Sharma - Asha Sharma	73.00
19	Rajeev Khandelwal - Himani Khandelwal	63.00
20	Soumya Das - Bindiya Judge	60.00
21	Padmanabhan Sridharan - Uma Rajesh	59.00
22	Smrita Govikar - Biswajit Mahata	59.00
23	Pritam Das - Poonam Surana	58.00
24	Binod Kumar Shaw - Ekta Chadha	58.00
25	Sandeep N Karmarkar - Marianne Karmarkar	56.12
26	Meenal Thakur - Koushik Mukherjee	56.12

SILVER FINALISTS

Rank	Players	IMPS
27	Vijay R Phatarphekar - Alka M Kshirsagar	55.00
28	Arun Kumar Sinha - Nikita Kamal	54.00
29	Biswadip Roy - Anjali Karthikeyan	52.00
30	Subhash Bhavnani - Priya Balasubramanian	51.02
31	Priya Ranjan Sinha - Bindiya Naidoo	50.00
32	Ramkrishna Majumder - Ruchira Raina	49.00
33	Zaira Davide - Joyjit Sensarma	46.94
34	Yury Khyuppenen - Maria Semenova	46.00
35	Kannan Krishnamurthy - Sumita Dasgupta	46.00
36	Prosenjit Manna - Deepa Jacob	43.00
37	Soumadeep Ghosh - Anuradha Krishna	42.00
38	Arun M Bapat - Usha Kabra	41.00
39	Shubham Acharya - Richa Shriram	39.00
40	Biswajit Poddar - Aditi Jhaveri	36.00
41	Arnab Basu Roy - Bina Malhotra	36.00
42	R N Subramaniam - P Varalakshmi	30.00
43	Satyabrata Mukherjee - Sarika Mittal	29.00
44	Ashok Girdhar - Chhaya Joglekar	28.00
45	Wrik Chakraborty - Madhur (Daisy) Singh	24.00
46	Madhav Dhar - Sailaja Tahiliani	24.00
47	Bhaskar Sarkar - Rita Bhagwati	24.00
48	Joyrup Mullick - Sheetal Bansal	22.00
49	Surajit Bar - Kalpana Gurjar	19.00
50	Raj Kumar Srivastava - Bharati Singh	17.35
51	Ajai Bahadur Khare - Vandana Khare	16.00
52	Sanjit Dey - Pujah S Jhunjunwala	14.00

STRATA PAIRS

Rank	Players	IMPS	Rank	Players	IMPS
53	M R Goyal - Kamla Mehra	9.00	89	Rohit Gupta - Deepika Mehta	-39.00
54	Rajul R Dalal - Aparna Sain	8.16	90	Vikas Taralekar - Sanyogita Modak	-42.00
55	Naveen Kumar - Rinku Singh	7.00	91	Parimal Vaikuntlal Vahalia - Nayana P Vahalia	-43.00
56	Ranjan Bose - Bijal Shah	5.00	92	Aparajitha Iyer - P Narayan Iyer	-44.90
57	Vijay Deshpande - Vrinda Jhunjunwala	4.00	93	Aroon Birla - Bina Birla	-50.00
58	Sunil Bhatia - Uma Relan	4.00	94	Umesh Kumar Singh - Sejal Shah	-52.00
59	Alok Daga - Bharati Dey	3.00	95	Ravinder Shroff - Rashmi Ahuja	-52.00
60	Aakash Sharma - Bindu Bhakri Dhawan	2.00	96	Pandu Chedalavada - Yamini Merchant	-53.00
61	Ignatius Bezzam - B S Geetha	2.00	97	Mitresh Manu - Abha Chaturvedi	-55.00
62	Soham Sarkar - Hema Deora	0.00	98	Prakash Gupta - Kalpna Varshney	-56.00
63	Subir Majumdar - Rekha Mody	0.00	99	R Anbazhagan - Mamta Bakshi	-57.00
64	Mayur Patel - Amita Ashvin Raythatha	0.00	100	Alok Kumar - Manjusha Yadav	-60.00
65	Kumar Shah - Naina Shah	-2.00	101	Akhilesh Kumar Saxena - Rekha Saxena	-60.00
66	Souvik Saha - Anjali Malhotra	-4.00	102	Vikram Jain - Ramula Shah	-62.24
67	Sanjeev Tomar - Kusum Chadha	-4.00	103	Birendra Kumar - Neeta Banga	-63.00
68	Paban Agarwal - Kalindi Mewar	-4.00	104	Meera Narain - Anuj Kapur	-67.00
69	Ranga Khadloya - Mini Agarwal	-5.10	105	C M Vasudev - Manju Bhasin	-68.00
70	Puja Batra - Jaggy B Shivdasani	-7.00	106	Yogendra Deva - Kushal Singh	-69.39
71	Kamal Kumar Gupta - Nilofer Kalra	-10.00	107	Amol Athawale - Arti Athawale	-69.39
72	Rakesh Chandra Sharma - Bhanumati Shah	-12.00	108	Pradeep R Rathi - Subhadra P Rathi	-77.00
73	D P Acharya - Shefali Poddar	-15.00	109	Jenish Shah - Ramani Menon	-80.00
74	Saswata Bhattacharya - Sadhana Gupta	-17.00	110	Atanu Ganguly - Kanta Stanchina	-85.71
75	Sekhar K Bhandopadhyay - Pallavi Modak	-18.00	111	Ravi Prakash - Vandana D Singh	-86.00
76	K K Sabherwal - Urvasi Anand	-18.00	112	Lalit Mendiratta - Bhavna Naraindas	-89.00
77	Tarun Singhal - Alka Jain	-19.00	113	Ranji Dhawan - Beneeta Chandra	-93.00
78	Swapan Sardar - Rashmi Bhanshali	-23.00	114	Ravi Kaul - Natasha Timpy Talwar	-98.00
79	Maneesh Bahuguna - Devi Muthu Bhatnagar	-23.00	115	Rakesh Ranjan - Shikha Mahajan	-99.00
80	Tapas Das - Samina Esmail	-24.00	116	Deepak Ramnani - Savita Reddy	-119.00
81	Sourendra Coomer Dutt - Anushree Jalan	-27.55	117	Guru Shankar Sundaram - Sumathi Iyer	-119.39
82	Amit Nangpal - Vandana Lal	-30.61	118	Ashok Kumar Sinha - Hanit Mangat	-120.00
83	Manjoosha Bairathi - Sujoy Kumar Dey	-31.63	119	Aman Tyagi - Kinjal Desai	-123.00
84	Ramesh C Khanna - Suman Khanna	-32.65	120	Raj Madnani - Sweta Padia	-129.00
85	Subashish Gope - Aarti Anand	-33.67	121	Bubbles Bawa - Deepika Nagpal	-129.00
86	Swapan Some - Reena Pal	-35.71	122	B K Sinha - Archana Sinha	-129.59
87	Sunandan Thakur - Rashmi Agarwal	-37.00	123	Sayantan Kushari - Priyanka Gulati	-132.00
88	J B Sengupta - Madhu Malti Jain	-38.78	124	Suresh Senapaty - Sunita Kunzru	-132.65

CENTURIONS 6

Mark Horton

On Board 26 East held ♠K104 ♥QJ108752 ♦Q4 ♣6. Opening 3♥ saw West jump to 6♥ with ♠A653 ♥AK ♦K109 ♣AK98, risking a potentially awkward diamond lead. That was an easy +1430 and 10 IMPs. Stopping in game resulted in the loss of 7 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ A	
	♥ QJ8	
	♦ 108753	
	♣ K 1043	
♠ 865		♠ 10943
♥ K 10		♥ 7543
♦ A6		♦ K Q42
♣ J87652		♣ Q
	♠ KQJ72	
	♥ A962	
	♦ J9	
	♣ A9	

West	North	East	South
Dey	Gower	Bairathi	Rosslee
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦A and after winning the second round of the suit East continued with the ♦4, ruffed and overruffed by West who switched to the ♣6. Declarer won with dummy's ♠K, unblocked the ♠A and played a club, East ruffing and returning the ♦K. Declarer ruffed with the ♥A and played spades, discarding two clubs and a diamond as West refused to ruff. Declarer ruffed the fifth spade with the ♥Q and exited with the ♥8, +110 but a 5 IMP loss.



Craig Gower

This deal is a good illustration of the advantages of playing Gazzilli, South rebidding 2♣ to learn more about North's hand, almost certainly resulting in a final contract of 3NT which was worth between 2 and 5 IMPs, depending on the number of tricks taken.

On Board 31, NS held ♠AQ95 ♥AQ85 ♦Q64 ♣K5 opposite ♠K4 ♥K1076 ♦AJ973 ♣94.

At least one pair bid 1♦-1♥-2♥-4NT*-5♥*-6♥ but although the ♠A and the ♦K10 were onside the hearts were 4-1 and declarer finished a trick short to lose 12 IMPs.

At my featured table North was able to bid a conventional 2NT over 2♥ but when South then jumped to 4♥ North let matters rest.

When East led the ♥4 from ♠10876 ♥4 ♦K108 ♣Q8632 it gave away the trump position and declarer got the diamonds right, eventually collecting all the tricks for +710 and a couple of IMPs. It was the seventh heart contract in a row!



Manjoosha Bairathi

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ J9864	
	♥ J87	
	♦ KJ82	
	♣ 3	
♠ AKQ53		♠ —
♥ 6		♥ K1093
♦ 109764		♦ AQ
♣ Q10		♣ AKJ9642
	♠ 1072	
	♥ AQ542	
	♦ 53	
	♣ 875	

West	North	East	South
Srivastava	Gower	Singh	Rosslee
—	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

South led the $\diamond 5$ and declarer took North's $\diamond K$ and cashed out for +490 which was worth 3 IMPs. The pairs who reached 6 $\clubsuit$ gained 8 IMPs.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

		$\spadesuit$ Q J 8 5 3	
		$\heartsuit$ 4	
		$\diamond$ Q 10 5	
		$\clubsuit$ A K 6 5	
$\spadesuit$ 4	$\spadesuit$ K 6 2		
$\heartsuit$ Q 8 3	$\heartsuit$ K J 9 7 2		
$\diamond$ A J 4 3 2	$\diamond$ 7 6		
$\clubsuit$ Q J 10 4	$\clubsuit$ 9 7 3		
		$\spadesuit$ A 10 9 7	
		$\heartsuit$ A 10 6 5	
		$\diamond$ K 9 8	
		$\clubsuit$ 8 2	

West	North	East	South
Srivastava	Gower	Singh	Rosslee
—	—	Pass	1 $\diamond$
3 $\diamond$	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$

All Pass

East led the $\diamond 7$ for the eight and ace and West switched to the $\clubsuit Q$, declarer winning and playing the $\spadesuit Q$ for the king and ace. Declarer cashed dummy's $\spadesuit 10$ and then played to ruff two clubs, finishing with 12 tricks, +680 and 4 IMPs.

A number of pairs missed game and lost 8 or 9 IMPs.

Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma dropped 10 IMPs on the session, their total of 122 leaving them 23 IMPs behind Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich. Soumitra Das and Anuradha Bakshi moved into third place with 101, as Girish Bijoor and Ritu Bagaria dropped to fourth on 94.



Diana Rosslee

BONUS[®]

PLAYING CARDS

SPECIAL PRIZES

PARKSONS
Cartamundi

$\spadesuit$ $\heartsuit$ SUCCESSFUL SLAMS $\diamond$ $\clubsuit$ (SMALL AND GRAND SLAMS MADE)	
PLAYERS	SLAMS MADE
Bachiraju Satyanarayana – Kiran Nadar	5
Tarun Singhal – Alka Jain	5
Prosenjit Manna – Deepa Jacob	5
Arun Kumar Sinha – Nikita Kamal	5
Surajit Bar – Kalpana Gurjar	4
Soham Sarkar – Hema Deora	4
Bhalchandra G Ogale – Aditi Sahastrabuddhe	4
T V Ramani – Bindiya Kohli	4
Arun M Bapat – Usha Kabra	4
Andrey Gromov – Anna Gulevich	4
Biswadip Roy – Anjali Karthikeyan	4
Anindra Kumar Sarkar – Meenu Dugal	3
Bhabesh Saha – Vasanti Shah	3
C M Vasudev – Manju Bhasin	3
Sumit Mukherjee – Monica Jajoo	3
Subashish Gope – Aarti Anand	3
Abhijit Pal – Kamna Sharma	3
Jenish Shah – Ramani Menon	3
Sunil Bhatia – Uma Relan	3
Girish R Bijoor – Ritu Bagaria	3
Soumitra Das – Anuradha Bakshi	3
Shubham Acharya – Richa Shriram	3
Vikram Jain – Ramula Shah	3
Bhaskar Sarkar – Rita Bhagwati	3
Debabrata Majumder – Gopika Tandan	3

$\spadesuit$ $\heartsuit$ DOUBLE CONTRACTS $\diamond$ $\clubsuit$ (MADE)	
PLAYERS	DOUBLE CONTRACTS MADE
Ravi Kaul – Natasha Timpy Talwar	3
Alok Daga – Bharati Dey	3
Bhalchandra G Ogale – Aditi Sahastrabuddhe	2
Abhijit Pal – Kamna Sharma	2
Ashok Girdhar – Chhaya Joglekar	2
Kannan Krishnamurthy – Sumita Dasgupta	2
Craig Gower – Diana Rosslee	2
Pradeep R Rathi – Subhadra P Rathi	2
Souvik Saha – Anjali Malhotra	2
Birendra Kumar – Neeta Banga	2



*This is a provisional list of potential contenders.
The list of top final contenders will be published at the end of today's play.*



CENTURIONS 7

Mark Horton

On Board 2, North held ♠AKQ10754 ♥K ♦Q32 ♣107 and saw West open INT. At my featured table, North doubled, bid 2♠ over partner's 2♣ and then let matters rest when East doubled and West bid 3♣ which scored +130 and 3 IMPs, ♠96 ♥QJ3 ♦A98 ♣AKJ54 being opposite ♠J3 ♥A752 ♦K74 ♣9863.

I wondered if anyone would pass with North's hand hoping to collect a few fifties. It happened at two tables, and -50 was worth a couple of IMPs.

On Board 3 NS held ♠A972 ♥A10 ♦K10 ♣AQ983 facing ♠KQ8 ♥K93 ♦J84 ♣K642. With spades 3-3, a good guess in diamonds would bring home 6♣ or 6♠ as they were 3-3). Several pairs recorded +920 for 8 IMPs while Prosenjit Manna and Deepa Jacob's +980 was worth 9 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 1065	♠ J983	♠ K74
♥ J983	♥ Q654	♥ K7
♦ QJ82	♦ 5	♦ 109643
♣ 92	♣ KQ54	♣ 1063
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ A102	
	♦ AK7	
	♣ AJ87	

West	North	East	South
Agarwal	Majumder	Mewar	Tandan
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT



After the Kokish-style sequence North decided to let matters rest in 3NT scoring +630 which was worth an IMP.

I wondered if anyone would reach 6♣?

There are some ways to make it. After a diamond lead declarer wins, draws trumps, ruffs a diamond and plays a spade to the queen. When it holds, a spade is discarded on the ♦K and declarer plays two rounds of hearts, ducking to East's ♥K. The diamond return is ruffed and West, down to ♠106 ♥J9 is caught in a guard squeeze. Pitching a heart is out of the question, but discarding a spade allows declarer to cross to dummy and play the ♠J, pinning West's ♠10.

No one was in 6♣, but those bidding 6NT or 6♠ lost 14 IMPs.



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 32	♠ A9876	♠ J1054
♥ J762	♥ —	♥ 43
♦ K8643	♦ Q1095	♦ A72
♣ 53	♣ KQ62	♣ A1084
	♠ KQ	
	♥ AKQ10985	
	♦ J	
	♣ J97	

West	North	East	South
Bawa	Majumder	Nagpal	Tandan
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

Five Hearts was two down, but it was clearly a good result, as EW easily take 11 tricks in spades and can make 6♠! However, it was only worth 4 IMPs. The handful of pairs who were allowed to play in spades collected 9 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bahuguna	Majumder	Bhatnagar	Tandan
INT	2♥*	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Maneesh Bahuguna

2♥ looks like it promised both majors.

East led the ♣3 and West took the king and ace and exited with the ♣6, declarer ruffing and playing the ♠K. West ducked that (not best) but when declarer continued with the ♥K, two down appeared to be inevitable. However, at this point the transmission was interrupted and the result posted was +470 which was worth 11 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Shroff	Majumder	Ahuja	Tandan
—	3♣	All Pass	

East led the ♦9 and declarer won in dummy and played the ♣10, East winning and switching to the ♥4 for the king and ace. When declarer returned the ♥3 East won with the ♥Q and exited with the ♦2. Declarer won in dummy, pitched a spade on the ♥J and emerged with nine tricks, +110 and 9 IMPs.

You can make 4♠ as EW – that was worth 8 IMPs, as was making 3NT (unlikely but not totally impossible). That can always be defeated, but only if North leads diamonds – and that involves unblocking the ♦10 and ♦8 on the first two rounds of the suit!

The order at the top remained the same: Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich 152, Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma 127 and Soumitra Das and Anuradha Bakshi on 119 – at this point, the only three centurions.



Debabrata Majumder

CENTURIONS 8

Mark Horton

Although it was beginning to look like a three-horse race, there was still time for someone to mount a late charge.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Some	Mukherjee	Pal	Jajoo
1♠	Pass	INT	All Pass

South led the ♥2 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer continued with a spade to the jack and a second spade, North winning with the ♠10 and returning the ♥3 for the five, ten and six (!). South cashed the ♣K and then exited with a heart to dummy's king. What happened after that is unclear, but declarer finished four down, -400 and 6 IMPs.

If South had doubled INT, West might have tried 2♦ which is a much safer spot.

Many pairs reached 3NT and those who made it collected the same 6 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amol Athawale	Mukherjee	Arti Athawale	Jajoo
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

3♠ Control
4♣ Control

That was a case of *close but no cigar*.

West led the ♠7 and declarer ruffed the second round of

the suit, played two rounds of hearts, finessing the ♥9 which meant she finished with 11 tricks, +650 which resulted in the loss of an IMP.

Do you think that North knew enough to bid 6♦ rather than 5♥?

On the other hand, South might have bid 5♣ rather than 5♦.

Scoring +1430 or +1370 was worth 12 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Senapaty	Mukherjee	Kunzru	Jajoo
—	—	2♦	2♠
3♣	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♦J and when it held cashed the ♣A and switched to the ♥10. Declarer won that in hand and finished with 10 tricks, +420, the datum score being +430 so no swing.

It was one of those rare examples where a vulnerable save was a possibility, 5♣ going only one down, and Mayur Patel and Amita Raythatha managed it to secure an IMP.

The leading scores changed to: Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich 169, Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma 132 and Soumitra Das and Anuradha Bakshi 113. Debabrata Majumder and Gopika Tandan joined the centurions with 107.69.



CENTURIONS 9

Mark Horton

A lot of IMPs can change hands over 24 deals – could anyone get near to the leaders?

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ 1073		
	♥ QJ654		
	♦ AKJ82		
	♣ —		
♠ KQ42		♠ AJ86	
♥ 10987		♥ AK3	
♦ 43		♦ 10976	
♣ J73		♣ 82	
	♠ 95		
	♥ 2		
	♦ Q5		
	♣ AKQ109654		

West	North	East	South
Bar	Mukherjee	Gurjar	Thakur
—	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

3♠ Looking for a stopper



West led the ♠K and East followed with the ♠6. When West switched to the ♦4 declarer claimed the rest, +420 and 8 IMPs. It illustrates the importance of defensive signalling. Regardless of the methods being employed (the best method, holding KQ and the queen for attitude) East might have overtaken the ♠K. The best move then is to play the

♥K, asking for a count signal (the ♥A would ask for attitude). When West follows with a card that indicates an even number East goes back to spades to secure the setting trick.

On Board 26 EW held ♠53 ♥10 ♦AK10754 ♣J1074 opposite ♠AQ972 ♥Q987 ♦62 ♣K2. At one table, the bidding went 1♠-1NT 2♥-3NT!

North led the ♠8 from ♠KJ1084 ♥K32 ♦Q8 ♣A98 and when dummy's ♠9 held declarer played a diamond to the ten and queen. Back came the ♣8 and declarer put up dummy's ♣K, ran the diamonds and played a spade to the queen, scoring 11 tricks as North had parted with a couple of spades. +660 was a unique result that delivered 12 IMPs.



Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ 1043		
	♥ 104		
	♦ 10754		
	♣ 8764		
♠ 86		♠ AQJ72	
♥ QJ875		♥ AK9	
♦ 32		♦ KQJ86	
♣ AKQ9		♣ —	
	♠ K95		
	♥ 632		
	♦ A9		
	♣ J10532		

This was the 100th deal of the event.

West	North	East	South
Prakash	Mukherjee	Singh	Thakur
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♥	All Pass
4NT	RKCB		
5♣	1 keycard		

North led the ♠8 and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♥AK and played the ♦K, soon claiming +980 and 11 IMPs.

Many pairs went down (if West is declarer, a spade lead is a killer), with some failing even after a diamond lead from North to lose those same 11 IMPs.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Singhal	Mukherjee	Jain	Thakur
—	1♠	2♠*	3♥*
Dble	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♠ Spades and a minor
3♥ Support

South led the ♠4 and declarer ruffed North's ♠7 and played the ♥10, North winning and exiting with the ♠3. Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with the ♥K and played the ♦2 to the king and second diamond, the defenders collecting a diamond and a club for one down, -200 but a loss of 8 IMPs.

Three pairs made 6♠ and collected 14 IMPs.



Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Singhal	Mukherjee	Jain	Thakur
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		



North led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ♠7 and played the ♥Q followed by the ♥8, North winning and switching to the ♠2. South took the ♠A, the last defensive trick, 2NTxx+3 delivering +1200 and 13 IMPs.

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Sarkar	Mukherjee	Deora	Thakur
—	2♣*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ Strong
2♥ 0-3

East led the ♦2 for the ten, jack and ace and declarer cashed five spades. When East parted with a diamond declarer scored +490 but lost 5 IMPs.

The pairs reaching 6♠ collected 8 IMPs; going down, which happened twice cost 12 IMPs.



Board 34. Dealer East. NIS Vul.

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

W N E S

♠ AK5	♠ AK5
♥ AJ4	♥ AJ4
♦ AKQ9	♦ AKQ9
♣ Q7315	♣ Q7315

West	North	East	South
Sarkar	Mukherjee	Deora	Thakur
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2♣ Strong
2♦ Waiting
2♥ Kokish style
3♥ Transfer

It looks like North assumed 4NT agreed clubs.

6♠ was doomed by the atrocious trump break, declarer finishing two down, -200 and a 6 IMP loss.

6♠ was doubled a few times, -500 surrendering 11 IMPs. One pair bid 7♠ but was not doubled so lost only 9 IMPs. The leaders played in 6NT and when West led the ♦5 declarer could win with the ♦9. One way to get to 12 tricks then is to cash a top spade disclosing the break then cash minor suit winners, the last of them squeezing East who will be down to ♠Q10 ♥KQ8. Discarding a heart allows declarer to play two rounds of that suit forcing East to lead into the split spade tenace for +1440. However, the result is shown as +1470 so perhaps declarer crossed to dummy and played the ♥10. If East fails to cover declarer can cash the ♥A (Vienna Coup) and then cash diamonds and clubs ending in dummy, the last club squeezing East for the overtrick. Whatever, it was worth 16 IMPs.



Note that if NS play in 6♦, the defenders must lead a club to be sure of defeating it.

The leading scores advanced to: Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich 186, Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma 146, Debabrata Majumder and Gopika Tandan moving up to third with 141.14 some way ahead of Soumitra Das and Anuradha Bakshi on 118.



CENTURIONS 10

Mark Horton

With Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich enjoying a 40 IMP lead, the deals would need to be very swingy if their pursuers were to have any chance of overtaking them.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
S Karmarker	Bar	M Karmarker	Gurjar
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

West led the ♣3 and declarer won with the ♣Q and played a heart for the queen and king, soon claiming +1370 and 12 IMPs.



Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Dutt	Bar	Jalan	Gurjar
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥!	Dble		

I was busy typing up the auction when BBO lost contact. Once West has overcalled in hearts, it looks tough to reach 3NT and the final contract was shown as 5♦, which finished two down, -100, costing 9 IMPs.



The pairs who reached 3NT scored 4 IMPs while the only pair to bid 5♣ saw West lead a heart allowing East to win and play two rounds of diamonds for one down and 8 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Jain	Bar	Shah	Gurjar
—	—	1♣	2♣*
3♦	4♦*	Dble	4♥
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Dble	6♥	All Pass	

- 2♣ Majors
4♦ Game forcing
5♣ Control
5♦ Control

West led the ♦A, but declarer ruffed, drew trumps and played a spade to the jack for +980 and 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥*	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♥ 5♥+5 any 6-11

3NT was the popular spot on this deal and making it was worth 6 IMPs.

If South leads a spade for the queen and king, declarer must play on clubs (I saw one declarer continue with two rounds of hearts allowing North to win and clear the spades). Going down in 3NT cost between 6 and 9 IMPs.

The convincing winners were Andrey Gromov and Anna Gulevich, their total of 199 IMPs (what a pity they missed the double century!) seeing them well clear of Abhijit Pal and Kamna Sharma on 150, Debabrata Majumder and Gopika Tandan on 138.78 and Soumitra Das and Anuradha Bakshi on 130.



*In memory of
Late Shri. Ashok Ruia*

68th ASHOK RUIA MEMORIAL WINTER NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

17th – 27th DECEMBER 2026

JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

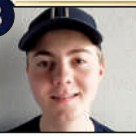
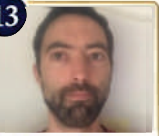
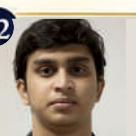
♠ ♥ CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE ♦ ♣			
📅 17 DEC 2026 THURSDAY	👤 Amla Ruia Women Cup – Elimination Stage	👤 Ashok Ruia Senior Pairs	
📅 18 DEC 2026 FRIDAY	👤 Amla Ruia Women Cup – Final	👤 Ashok Ruia Senior Teams – Round Robin (R1–R5)	👤 Women Pairs Strata
📅 19 DEC 2026 SATURDAY	👤 Phoenix Mixed Pairs Cup – Elimination Stage	👤 Ashok Ruia Senior Teams – R6–R7 & Quarter Finals	
📅 20 DEC 2026 SUNDAY	👤 Phoenix Mixed Pairs Cup – Final	👤 Ashok Ruia Senior Teams – Semi-finals & Final	👤 Mixed Pairs Strata
📅 21 DEC 2026 MONDAY	🏆 Ruia Gold Teams – Round Robin (R1–R6)	🏆 Ruia Silver Teams – Round Robin (R1–R6)	
📅 22 DEC 2026 TUESDAY	🏆 Ruia Gold Teams – Round Robin (R7–R8) & Pre-Quarter Finals	🏆 Ruia Silver Teams – Round Robin (R7–R8) & Pre-Quarter Finals	👤 Swiss Pairs
📅 23 DEC 2026 WEDNESDAY	🏆 Ruia Gold Teams – Quarter Finals	🏆 Ruia Silver Teams – Quarter Finals & Semi-finals	IMP Phoenix Marketcity Cup IMP Pairs – Elimination
📅 24 DEC 2026 THURSDAY	🏆 Ruia Gold Teams – Semi-finals	🏆 Ruia Silver Teams – Final	IMP Phoenix Marketcity Cup IMP Pairs – Final
📅 25 DEC 2026 FRIDAY	🏆 Ruia Gold Teams – Final	👤 Mall of the Millennium Cup Matchpoint Pairs – Elimination 1	
📅 26 DEC 2026 SATURDAY	👤 Mall of the Millennium Cup Matchpoint Pairs – Elimination 2	👤 Dabriwala Cup Board-a-Match	👤 Matchpoint Strata Pairs
📅 27 DEC 2026 SUNDAY	👤 Mall of the Millennium Cup Matchpoint Pairs – Final		

📍
Venue: Hotel Pasricha - Banquets & Lawns, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

Good Cards & Great Memories Await!

HCL ProAM 2026

28 INVITED PROs

1  Morten Bakke Denmark	2  Boye Brogeland Norway	3  Matthew Brown New Zealand	4  Dominik Filipowicz Poland	5  Jakub Patreuha Poland	6  Patrik Patreuha Poland	7  Andrey Gromov Russia
8  Christian Lahrmann Denmark	9  Mikael Rimstedt Sweden	10  Ola Rimstedt Sweden	11  Ami Zamir Israel	12  Oren Toledano Israel	13  Michael Whibley New Zealand	14  Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad Norway
15  Anna Gulevich Russia	16  Subhash Gupta India	17  Sayantan Kushari India	18  Hemant Lall India	19  Sumit Mukherjee India	20  Koustabh Nandi India	21  Anil P Padhye India
22  Sagnik Roy India	23  Karlis Rubins Latvia	24  Bachiraju Satyanarayana India	25  Rajeshwar Tewari India	26  Sandeep Thakral India	27  Eddad Ginossar USA	28  Sanjit Dey India

PRE SELECTED PAIRINGS

1  Kiran Nadar India	with	 Bachiraju Satyanarayana India
2  Subodh Maskara India	with	 Oren Toledano Israel
3  Monica Jajoo India	with	 Sumit Mukherjee India
4  Richa Shriram India	with	 Boye Brogeland Norway
5  Kannan Krishnamurthy India	with	 Christian Lahrmann Denmark

OTHER 23 REGISTERED AMs - TO BE DECIDED BY DRAW AT THE COCKTAILS PARTY MEET

7TH OCTOBER 2026

No.	AM	Country	No.	AM	Country	No.	AM	Country
1	Andrey Purushottam	India	9	Maneesh Bahuguna	India	17	Arun Kumar Sinha	India
2	Soham Sarkar	India	10	Bijal Shah	India	18	J K Bhosale	India
3	Santanu Chakraborty	India	11	Sejal Shah	India	19	Priyanka Gulati	India
4	Amit Dabirwala	India	12	Savleen Thadani	India	20	Arjun Sawhny	India
5	S Vijayraghavan	India	13	Mangalam Punj	India	21	Vivek Ram	India
6	N Rajachandra	India	14	Srikar Palem	India	22	Suresh Senapaty	India
7	Ayan Mondal	India	15	Subrata Sadhukhan	India	23	Anant Vikram Somani	India
8	Sailaja Tahiliani	India	16	Bindiya Judge	India			