



HCL 23rd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

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PILLARS OF 23rd HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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THE SEMI-FINAL SHOWDOWN: GIANTS COLLIDE!

The stage is set for a high-stakes battle as **Team Monica Jajoo**, the sole Indian team in the semi-finals, takes on three formidable international contenders in a quest for glory.

Can India's lone survivor overcome the odds and conquer the **Three Super Giants**?

Meanwhile, the all-Mavericks clash between **Mavericks Gold** and **Mavericks Platinum** promises to be the blockbuster encounter of the championship — a battle of familiar rivals, tactical brilliance and nerves of steel, where only one can advance to the grand finale!

GOLD KNOCKOUTS

MAVERICKS DUO COLLIDE IN A BLOCKBUSTER SEMIFINAL

The fancied **Mavericks Gold** and **Mavericks Platinum** have both marched into the semifinals and will now face each other in a mouth-watering all-Mavericks contest.

I Doctors, who had enjoyed a great run against **Team Shri Radhey**, could not capitalise on their momentum against the fancied **Mavericks Gold**. **Mavericks Gold** maintained control of the contest and secured a convincing **89-IMP victory**.

WHAM, WHAM, WHAM MARCHES ON

WHAM produced a commanding performance against **EA Bridge**, delivering a spectacular **96-IMP victory**.

The **Monica Jajoo – Young Comrades** match was closely fought, with both teams neck-and-neck with five boards to go. **Monica Jajoo** then produced a decisive closing burst, collecting 26 IMPs in the final five boards to outclass **Young Comrades** and secure a **21-IMP victory**.

Mavericks Platinum began against **Hemant Jalan** on a very strong note and increased their margin successively. **Team Hemant Jalan** could marginally recover in the second segment, but eventually it lost its steam in the final two segments as **Mavericks Platinum** secured a huge win by **86 IMPs**.

GOLD SEMIFINAL DRAW

Semifinal	Home Team	vs	Away Team
1	Mavericks Gold	vs	Mavericks Platinum
2	WHAM	vs	Monica Jajoo

SILVER KNOCKOUTS

Team Miracle could not produce the upset against **Trick N Trump**. After remaining competitive early in the match, **Miracle** lost the plot in the third and fourth segments and eventually went down by **49.5 IMPs**.

A DAZZLING START BY GLADIATORS

Gladiators produced a spectacular opening against **Conquerors**, scoring a staggering **102 IMPs** against just **2 IMPs** in the first set.

A **100-IMP** gain in a single 14-board segment was nothing less than extraordinary. The performance had all the character of a dazzling T20-style assault, with the scoreboard repeatedly being rewritten. To score **102 IMPs** in **14 boards** against just **2** from the opponents in an international event is a truly exceptional achievement — potentially a world record, if not a national record, and a performance that will be remembered for a long time.

That extraordinary opening established a commanding advantage, and **Gladiators** maintained their dominance to complete a **172.5-IMP victory**.

Blooming Bidders, the only non-Bengal team to reach the quarterfinal stage, fought bravely against **Winning Minds**. However, they could not sustain their challenge against the young Indian brigade. **Winning Minds** controlled the match across all four segments and comfortably qualified with a **57-IMP victory**.

In the final Silver quarterfinal, **CAPA** faced **Ekdalia**, and started on a high note during the initial rounds. A superb second session transformed the match, with **CAPA** producing a sensational **47-3 IMP** swing. The momentum carried them through to a **65-IMP victory** and a place in the semifinals.

SILVER SEMIFINAL DRAW

Semifinal	Home Team	vs	Away Team
1	Trick N Trump	vs	CAPA
2	Gladiators	vs	Winning Minds

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 OCTOBER 2026



IMP PAIRS ENTRY

- Pairs ranked **53rd onwards** in the **3rd Elimination** of MP Pairs are eligible to play in the **IMP Pairs Final** on **10 October 2026**.
- Eligible pairs who have **not yet entered** must submit their IMP Pairs entry in cash to **Mr. TC Pant (Head of Operations)** by **2030 Hrs today**, clearly stating that they are seeded for the IMP Pairs Final.
- The entry fee will be **automatically refunded** to players who cannot participate due to reaching the Team Final/Play-off or playing the Gold/Silver Final of MP Pairs.



PRIZE MONEY & CERTIFICATES

- Prize winners are requested to submit their bank details, crossed cheque and PAN copy at:
hcl-bridge.com/bank-details-for-prize-money/
- Payments will be made online within **10-15 days** after the tournament.
- Participation Certificates may be collected from **Mr. TC Pant, VIP Room 3**, between **1300-1400 Hrs** and **1800-1900 Hrs**, from today onwards.



BOARD-A-MATCH ENTRY

- Entry for the one-day Board-a-Match event on **11 October 2026 closes today, 9 October, at 2100 Hrs**.
- No entries will be accepted after the deadline.



PLAYING HALLS – TODAY

GOLD / SILVER TEAMS

Semi-Finals will be held in **EMERALD** Hall.

MP PAIRS

3rd Elimination will be played at **TURQUOISE** Hall.
One section of **33 tables**, on Barometer scoring basis. Please check your starting position and be seated **10-15 minutes** before the **1030 Hrs** start.

IMP PAIRS

Elimination will be played at **CORAL, SAPPHIRE, JADE & RUBY** Halls.
Three sessions of **18 boards**; **13 sections** of **9-10 tables**. Please check your starting position and be seated **10-15 minutes** before the **1030 Hrs** start.



NOTE: The Open MP Pairs entry of Indian teams that have reached the Gold/Silver Team Semi-Finals has been cancelled, and the refund process has been initiated.

HCL GOLD TEAMS RESULTS

SEMIFINAL
RESULT >

HCL SILVER TEAMS RESULTS

SEMIFINAL
RESULT >

HCL

MATCH POINT PAIRS – SECOND ELIMINATION

The **Match Point Pairs Second Elimination** commenced with **140 pairs**, competing over **54 boards** in three sessions.

At the end of the Second Elimination, the leading pairs were **Yury Khiuppenen – Vadim Kholomeev**, who topped the field with **4182.50 points (62.46%)**, followed by **Arun M Bapat – Ajay P Khare** with **4101.00 points (61.25%)**. **Sapan Desai – Debabrata Majumder** occupied third place with **4073.00 points (60.83%)**, while **Andrey Gromov – Anna Gulevich** were fourth with **4072.90 points (60.83%)**.

The **top 52 pairs** qualify at the end of the Second Elimination results and will be playing the **Third Elimination today** along with the **seeded pairs**.

TOP 4 PAIRS – SECOND ELIMINATION

RANK	PAIR	POINTS	%
1	Yury Khiuppenen – Vadim Kholomeev	4182.50	62.46
2	Arun M Bapat – Ajay P Khare	4101.00	61.25
3	Sapan Desai – Debabrata Majumder	4073.00	60.83
4	Andrey Gromov – Anna Gulevich	4072.90	60.83

The Third Elimination will be played today with screens and barometer scoring along with the seeded pairs.

MATCH POINT STRATA PAIRS

The **Match Point Strata Pairs** attracted a strong turnout of **146 pairs**, with the event played over two sessions of **22 boards** each.

At the end of the first session, **Subrata Chakraborty – Ramprosad Das** led the field with **2090.00 points (65.97%)**, followed by **Wrik Chakraborty – Ranjan Bhattacharya** with **2024.80 points (63.91%)**.

The eventual winners, **Krishandas Chakraborty – Swetadri Saha**, and the runners-up, **D N Lenka – J Pratihari**, were in the contention zone in the first session, but climbed up gradually in the second session to end up in the podium finish and claim the title for the Match Point Strata Pairs event.

FINAL STANDINGS

RANK	PAIR	POINTS	%
1	Krishandas Chakraborty – Swetadri Saha	4066.30	64.18
2	D N Lenka – J Pratihari	4040.00	63.76

Heartiest congratulations to **Krishandas Chakraborty & Swetadri Saha**, the winners, and **D N Lenka & J Pratihari**, the runners-up, on their excellent performance in the Match Point Strata Pairs event.

IMP PAIRS — A MASSIVE TURNOUT

The **IMP Pairs Elimination** has witnessed a tremendous response, with more than **300 pairs** registered.

The event commences **today at 10:30 a.m.**, with three sessions of 18 boards each.



Today at
10:30 a.m.



3 Sessions
of 18 Boards
each

IMP Pairs Final and Strata will be played tomorrow.

HCL GOLD TEAMS QUARTERFINAL RESULT

Match	Team	C-O	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4	Penalty	Total
1	I Doctors		22	35	17	18		92
	Mavericks Gold		21	80	52	28		181
2	WHAM		42	57	13	57		169
	EA Bridge		22	23	28	0		73
3	Monica Jajoo		27	20	37	47		131
	Young Comrades	6	13	40	32	22	-3	110
4	Hemant Jalan		8	38	4	16		66
	Mavericks Platinum		32	34	39	47		152

HCL SILVER TEAMS QUARTERFINAL RESULT

Match	Team	Carryover	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4	Penalty	Total
1	Miracle	8.5	23	36	12	30		109.5
	Trick N Trump		52	26	36	50	-5	159
2	Gladiators	0.5	102	49	23	54		228.5
	Conquerors		2	21	19	23	-9	56
3	Blooming Bidders		32	24	8	52		116
	Winning Minds		44	33	59	37		173
4	CAPA		25	47	15	45		132
	Ekdalia		10	3	30	24		67

A CENTURY IN 14 BOARDS!

GLADIATORS' BLISTERING 100-IMP ONSLAUGHT

Some innings are measured in balls. This one was measured in boards.

In a performance that belonged in the realm of cricket's most explosive hitting, Gladiators produced a breathtaking **102-2 in just 14 boards**, winning the segment by an astonishing **100 IMPs**.

It was bridge played at explosive pace, resulting in one of the biggest victories of the event — their highest win being **172.5 IMPs** against Team Conquerors.

THE HARDCORE BIDDERS

North – South Rakesh Chandra Sharma Umesh Kumar Singh	East – West Pintu Sao Pankaj P. Chaudhari
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TEAM GLADIATORS

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

HCL Match Point Pairs Elimination-II Results

Rank	Player 1	Player 2	Session 1	Session 2 Cumm.	Session 3 Final Result	Rank	Player 1	Player 2	Session 1	Session 2 Cumm.	Session 3 Final Result
1	Yury Khiuppenen	Vadim Kholomeev	1460.4	2696.1	4182.5	70	Milind P. Athavale	Jitendra J Solani	1310.7	2293.5	3430.1
2	Arun M Bapat	Ajay P Khare	1449.5	2735.6	4101	71	Priya Ranjan Sinha	Koushik Mukherjee	1306.2	2524.2	3418.5
3	Sapan Desai	Debabrata Majumder	1271.7	2676.7	4073	72	Anindra Kumar Sarkar	Meenu Dugal	1189.5	2300	3410.7
4	Andrey Gromov	Anna Gulevich	1326.8	2694.6	4072.9	73	Gaurav Rajwade	Parag Joshi	997	2252	3401.8
5	Ashok Kumar Goel	K R Venkataraman	1299.6	2745.6	4063	74	Kannan S	N Sudhakar Babu	1381.4	2405.6	3400.2
6	Karlis Rubins	Edgars Olla	1245.6	2775.8	4047.2	75	Prabhat Kumar Gupta	Mohan Gurunath S	1155.1	2358.1	3399.9
7	Md Zahid Hossain	B M Mahmud Hossain	1489.1	2597	4042.5	76	D P Acharya	Prasun Kr Mukhopadhyay	1130.5	2356.3	3397.3
8	Rajendra Sirohia	Sukalyan Sarkar	1462.5	2677.5	4005.1	77	Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee	Joy Narayan Roy	910.5	1981.5	3394
9	Emil Jepsen	Simon Ekenberg	1540.2	2682.3	3993.5	78	Pradip Dey	Souvik Kar	1116.7	2404.4	3392.4
10	Swapan Sardar	Sumit Saha	1361.6	2585.9	3970.8	79	U V Athavale	V Ravichandran	1174.3	2382.7	3390.3
11	Sergey Orlov	Evgeny Rudakov	1429.2	2816.4	3939	80	Subhash Bhavnani	Prakash G Hegde	1297.7	2374.5	3389.1
12	Md Moshir Rahman	Md Rashedul Ahsan Nayem	1228.5	2620.5	3909	81	Darshan Patel	Girish Hirode	1131.8	2359.2	3388
13	Sayantan Kushari	Kaustubh Milind Bendre	1458.3	2616.3	3905.2	82	Sarika Mittal	R Anbazhagan	1276.6	2298.5	3387.1
14	R G Bhiwandkar	Subhash A Dhakras	1427.4	2556.4	3873.8	83	Amit Nangpal	Indrajit Sensarma	1139.3	2216.1	3385
15	S M Moin	Naveen Kumar	1420.9	2708.4	3873.2	84	Partho Sarathi Mukherjee	Aloke Kumar Sadhu	1046.9	2375.1	3376.2
16	Sandeep Thakral	Vikrant Mehta	1320.2	2434.2	3850.1	85	Bimalendu Das	Sumanta Roy	1231.7	2183.8	3346.8
17	Hemant Lall	Joyjit Sensarma	1402.7	2704.5	3810.3	86	Pijus Kanti Baroi	Surajit Bar	984.2	1980.2	3344.7
18	Rajeshwar Tewari	Sumit Mukherjee	1469.6	2536.3	3780.5	87	Raju Tolani	Vinay Desai	1310.8	2320.3	3341.5
19	Vinita Gupta	Morten Bilde	1351	2523	3757.6	88	Souvik Saha	Anirban Sasmal	972.4	2133.4	3339.1
20	Arvind Srinivasan	Ramaratnam Venkatesh	1403.6	2632.9	3748.8	89	Sujit Sadhak	Sanjib Majumdar	1135.6	2260.1	3314.2
21	Hemant Purkar	Bhalchandra G Ogale	1456.2	2510.2	3747.1	90	Shyama Prasad Ghatak	Debasish Dey	1085.7	2100.7	3313.2
22	Nitin I Shirole	Ajit Rajaram Padalkar	1196.7	2656.3	3743.5	91	Ranga Khadloya	Ajit B Chakradeo	1209.2	2199.2	3292.1
23	Amrisha Wadera	Rajesh K Jain	1181.7	2622.8	3742.8	92	Rajib Roy	Sudipta Adhikary	1249.2	2376.2	3291.9
24	Adrians Insa	Druvis Jansons	1260.8	2525.2	3742.5	93	Pinaki Prasad Khan	Ramkrishna Majumder	1279.3	2206.3	3275.9
25	Prosenjit Manna	Joyrup Mullick	1429.3	2336.1	3724.9	94	Vinay Mohan Lal	Avijit Sarkar	1273.6	2139.6	3259.4
26	Samir Basak	Sandip Datta	1419.9	2428	3717.4	95	Anil Vijaywargiya	Pankaj Agrawal	1136.8	2061.8	3254.6
27	Daniel Msiika	Ido Moskovitz	1432.6	2587.4	3709.7	96	Pradeep Anand Singh	Vijayanand Singh	1240.1	2253.8	3230.4
28	Vibhas Todi	Satyabrata Lahiri	1295.6	2565.3	3702	97	Sunil Kumar Sinha	Savleen Thadani	1060.2	2133.2	3228.8
29	Debasish Ray	Sukamal Das	1178.7	2400	3697.3	98	Bhanumati Shah	Ramula Shah	1092.1	2078.4	3217.6
30	Bhabesh Saha	Rana Roy	1487.4	2583.2	3684.8	99	Raghunath P Tripathi	Shankar Acharya	1005.4	2080.7	3216.5
31	Rob Stephens	Lex van Vught	1461.2	2567.1	3673.9	100	Biswadip Roy	Sukanta Das	1150.6	2316	3210
32	N R Kirubakaramoorthy	Ramaratnam Krishnan	1275.5	2266.6	3668.8	101	A K Guha	Rajendra Ray	906	1943.4	3193.5
33	Anal B Shah	Animesh Raj	1207.6	2557.6	3657.1	102	Pradeep Govil	S K Sharma	1257.2	2185	3185.2
34	Craig Gower	Diana Rosslee	1060.4	2365.5	3639.4	103	Bijon Kumar Mondal	Swarup Ghosh	1254.5	2180.4	3183.7
35	Vijay Deshpande	Shailendra Chhajed	1202.7	2481.8	3637	104	Sowmik Das	Aloke Kumar Sardar	1104.6	2009.5	3153
36	Shubham Acharya	Richa Shriram	1135.9	2331.1	3633.2	105	Saptarshi Chanda	Bikramjit Das	1184.2	2058.5	3144.8
37	Aman Kumar Sahani	Tarun Manna	1135.5	2482.9	3632.3	106	Sergio Bianchi	Koren Retter	1222.8	2377.8	3117
38	Kamal Kabra	Indranil Chakraborty	1381.9	2470.7	3625.6	107	Indranath Chatterjee	Siddhartha Ghosh	892.3	2053.1	3111.9
39	Saswata Bhattacharya	Pranay Majumder	1332.6	2379.6	3620.7	108	Anand W Golwalkar	Deoki Nandan Sinha	1165.6	2092.6	3110.6
40	Mukund Jagannathan	Vivek Bhand	1324.6	2369.4	3602.3	109	Namit Sharma	Asha Sharma	1098.5	2033	3101.1
41	Swapan Some	Sourendra Coomer Dutt	1157.8	2339.5	3598	110	Kavita Dhawan	Bhavna Naraindas	1169.2	2235.8	3068.8
42	Kirit Modi	Abhay Todankar	1355.5	2448	3584.9	111	Ajoy Sonak	Sukrit M Vijayakar	1285.9	2328.2	3066.2
43	Subhash Gupta	Swarnendu Banerjee	1163.8	2414	3582.6	112	Rajendra Gokhale	S K Iyengar	1026	1920.2	3064.5
44	Pramod Kumar Mishra	Sudhir Kumar Tripathy	1240.3	2426.1	3582.2	113	Gajendra Kumar Vyas	Tanmoy Majumder	876.9	1854.1	3048.9
45	Dilip Mistry	Raju Santra	1185.3	2398.5	3581.8	114	Kalyan Kumar Roy	Amit Chakraborty	1186.6	2343.3	3048.4
46	Soren Cilleborg Bilde	Simon Cope	1116.9	2315.9	3581.5	115	Sanjay Amist	Deepak Kothiwale	1129.2	2099.9	3042.2
47	Moloy Kumar Mondal	Kingshuk Bhattacharya	1152.4	2222.3	3579.2	116	Somnath Mitra	Asis Tosh	1297.8	2240.8	3038.1
48	Shibnath De Sarkar	Badal Das	1336.8	2547	3562.3	117	Amrjit Wadhawan	Arun Jain	1032.4	1893.2	3018.8
49	Priyotosh Sarkar	Ashok Girdhar	1221.4	2521.4	3557.3	118	Goutam Mukherjee	Ashok Dey	1002.9	1990.6	3018.5
50	R Sreekrishnan	Prashanth Kandulakunta	1150	2492.2	3555.5	119	Prakash Gupta	Dipak Kumar Paul	1032.9	2104.9	3013.5
51	Anurag Mohota	Basant K Mohota	1088.8	2264.8	3549.7	120	Eldad Ginossar	Ashwini Gupta	1066.7	2237.3	3001.8
52	Rajeev Khandelwal	Himani Khandelwal	1027.1	2227.8	3544.9	121	Peiyush Jain	Arun Bahulkar	1176.8	2127.3	2960.9
53	Stanley Nazareth	Asvin Ganger	1102.3	2505.3	3544.5	122	Pradip Mondal	Soumitra Das	668.7	1864.7	2960.4
54	Arup Kumar Hudait	Animesh Majumder	1230.7	2505.2	3540.6	123	Sekhar K Bandopadhyay	N K Chittangia	1078.7	1724.4	2960
55	Col KK Sabharwal	Anukool Mandal	1202.8	2421.8	3540.4	124	Sarveswar Bhattacharya	Sajal Banerjee	924.3	1969.1	2928.7
56	Subir Majumdar	Satyabrata Mukherjee	1325.7	2313	3539.3	125	Sanat Kumar Saha	Sudeep Saha	800.6	1810.8	2913.9
57	Subrata Sadhukhan	Vijay Krishnan	1177.7	2178.6	3535.2	126	Rana Chakraborty	Amab Ghosh	907.2	1871.7	2899.8
58	Asit Baran Chakraborty	Shyama Prasad Chatterjee	1188.6	2410.4	3517.5	127	Sanjib Naskar	Proshanto Bhattacharya	1026.8	2113.5	2867.5
59	Asit Kumar Bandopadhyaya	Kiran Shankar Pal	1268	2331.7	3507.8	128	Shekhar Chakravorty	Subir Dey	819.7	1917.7	2865.2
60	Manoj Das	Sanjay Raha	1066.2	2267.4	3506	129	Tapan Kumar Roy	Sunil Das	949.6	1824.6	2865.1
61	Nikita Kamal	Arun Kumar Sinha	1195.8	2346	3503.2	130	Ashish Patel	Alok Kumar	1063.1	1892.4	2851.8
62	Gopika Tandon	Arun Jain	1108.7	2435.7	3492.6	131	Subashish Gope	Suchet Dhar	1119.4	2109.4	2834.5
63	Maneesh Bahuguna	Bhaskar Sarkar	1033.5	2207.7	3491.2	132	Ranjan Banerjee	Avijit Dutta	1029.1	1988.2	2834.2
64	Biswajit Poddar	Shambhu Nath Ghosh	1220.3	2428.3	3490.5	133	Puneet Gangal	Ibrat Khan	846.5	1631.5	2826.5
65	Ajay Kumar Bagadia	Ravi Goenka	1172.9	2388.6	3472.2	134	Paresh J Gandhi	V K Manglik	914.2	1948.2	2823.5
66	Sandeep N Karmarkar	Marianne Karmarkar	1214.7	2375.3	3464.2	135	Amitava Banerjee	Jayanta Dutta	1011.9	1877.2	2810
67	Tamal Dasgupta	Prasanta Bera	1353.6	2482.8	3455	136	Rajendran Ramesh	Subramanian Karuppannan	873.6	1934.9	2777.4
68	Arnab Basu Roy	Abhirup Ghosh	1275.1	2447.6	3438.1	137	Sudhir S Chaudhari	PD Joshi	1134.1	1925.4	2738.4
69	Anant Vikram Somani	Rahul Shetty	1257.2	2246.2	3436.4	138	Rahul Agarwal	Yashpal Singh	599.1	1560	2578.8

STRATA RESULTS

Rank	Player 1	Player 2	Session 1 Score	Session 2 Final Score
1	Krishandas Chakraborty	Swetadri Saha	1932.10	4066.30
2	D N Lenka	J Pratihari	1955.70	4040.00
3	Surendra Nath Kar	Aviram Rout	1852.80	3899.10
4	K S R V Challa	Chandrashekhara V Kekre	2019.10	3838.00
5	Shantanu Rastogi	Ratnesh	1967.10	3817.10
6	Subrata Chakraborty	Ramprosada Das	2090.00	3756.20
7	Satya Ranjan Chakraborty	Soumitra Chakraborty	1904.10	3743.50
8	Pabitra Majumder	Saswata Ballav	2015.30	3693.20
9	Kumar Venkataraman	Pradeep Deshpande	1943.80	3635.10
10	Deepa Jacob	Pranab Bardhan	1819.70	3620.30
11	Wrik Chakraborty	Ranjan Bhattacharya	2024.80	3601.40
12	N Rajachandra	Gurudev Shyamsundar	1896.80	3594.40
13	Tirthankar Sengupta	Amit Palit	1709.30	3568.00
14	Mrinal Kanti Mukherjee	Ashwin Tolani	1918.30	3561.20
15	Amar Kumar Bose	Bhola Nath Ghosh	1547.70	3550.00
16	Kamna Sharma	Abhijit Pal	1687.40	3549.30
17	Paban Agarwal	Kalindi Mewar	2004.30	3534.40
18	Saurav Sil	Gautam Majumder	1750.90	3522.10
19	M K Halder	Biswajit Ghosh	1585.70	3519.20
20	V Rama Murthy	Ramesh Ramagudu	1811.00	3503.10
21	Debasish Ghosh	Gautam Roy	1820.00	3489.90
22	Yogeshwar Banavali	Sunil Desai	1694.00	3489.70
23	Sharad Kumar	Sanjay Shrivastava	1774.90	3484.00
24	Sanat Roy	Goutam Banerjee	1639.20	3458.70
25	Shrikant Jayram Tamhankar	Madhav K Agashe	1638.70	3445.50
26	Md. Shahidul Islam	Md Rezaul Karim	1806.50	3444.50
27	Chainraj Nahar	Prashant Sinhal	1896.00	3443.60
28	Anirudh Prakash	Prakash Easwaran	1649.50	3443.60
29	Sukumaran Rajeev	Asok Jose Lean	1878.80	3439.80
30	Tamal Kumar Bhattacharyya	Bikas Dutta	1670.40	3438.70
31	Mangesh Shridhar Musale	Bhalchandra Shridhar Musale	1459.20	3437.50
32	Jenish Shah	Subhashish Sarkar	1667.70	3435.50
33	Deepak Srivastava	G P Aggarwal	1943.20	3430.40
34	Godwin Jeyaseelan	K Venkataramani	1472.80	3423.10
35	Suman Khanna	Ramesh C Khanna	1639.00	3401.70
36	Kannan Krishnamurthy	S Vijayraghavan	1461.90	3390.60
37	Vikrant Joseph	R V Dharvarkar	1694.00	3383.90
38	Dipak K Poddar	Rajesh Soman	1763.30	3370.50
39	Arnab Guha	Tapan Kumar Roy	1675.30	3358.80
40	Pandu Chedalavada	Yamini Merchant	1578.40	3357.80
41	Sankar Narayan Ghosh	Shakti Dhar Chowdhury	1568.00	3351.70
42	Hemant Dhanjay Bhawe	M L Makrand	1523.60	3351.60
43	Kishor Dutta	Jyotirmoy Dey	1849.60	3345.20
44	Kiran Nadar	B Satyanarayana	1648.00	3338.40
45	Subir Das	Abhijit Roy Chowdhury	1815.30	3334.20
46	Ranjan Bose	S M Patnaik	1422.20	3328.60
47	Sajiv K Menon	Srikanth Palem	1626.30	3324.70
48	Parimal Vaikuntal Vahalia	Girish Kumar	1682.50	3318.30
49	Amol Deshmukh	V Chandrasekhar	1763.20	3305.80
50	Andrey Purushottam	Jitesh Agrawal	1485.00	3305.00
51	Vijay R Phatarpekar	T V Ramani	1619.70	3297.60
52	Sriram Bhikaji Khanolkar	Kausar Hasan Syed	1477.70	3297.40
53	S G Surve	R B Ketkar	1581.10	3284.00
54	Sandip Gharai	Ashish Pan	1558.00	3281.00
55	M R Goyal	Anil Bharihoke	1685.00	3280.70
56	Keshav Aanand Samant	R Sridharan	1752.20	3274.70
57	Dinabandhu Sahu	Prakash Chandra Das	1331.70	3265.20
58	Dharma Narayan Bordoloi	Dhruva Dey	1571.60	3264.00
59	J P Singh	Umesh Ram	1730.60	3262.80
60	Shathi Rangan Dey	Md Faroque Hossain Patwary	1511.00	3258.10
61	V Ravindran	Arabinda Kumar Mishra	1610.30	3257.40
62	Sujata Puranik Rakhra	Kunal Jaiswal	1539.20	3255.30
63	Devangshu Datta	Sandeep Narang	1571.60	3250.30
64	Gautam Aich	Gautam Chattopadhyay	1743.20	3247.50
65	R N Subramaniam	Asokan Pitchai	1637.10	3239.70
66	Chanchal Dass	Kedar Nath Shaw	1667.50	3239.60
67	Jitendra Kumar	Ashim Kumar Ghosh	1686.10	3233.00
68	Deepak Malhotra	Deepika Mehta	1716.30	3228.50
69	Biswajit Mahata	Subhas Mahata	1645.30	3224.60
70	Md. Rashedul Hasan Ripon	Sk. Aminur Rahman	1633.70	3218.10
71	Kishore Das	Debobrata Mondal	1421.30	3210.20
72	Rohit Gupta	D K Tewari	1544.00	3206.70
73	Deepak Ramnani	K P Baskaran	1827.30	3201.40

Rank	Player 1	Player 2	Session 1 Score	Session 2 Final Score
74	Asim Saha	Smita Govilkar	1481.20	3201.30
75	Chintamani Bhikaji Damale	Vinayak Bhikaji Mulye	1478.20	3194.70
76	Amal Kumar Sarkar	Sudipta Mukherjee	1494.50	3184.60
77	R P Shivhare	R L Sanghi	1563.40	3182.00
78	Ananda Roy	Bidyut Goswami	1456.60	3176.30
79	Kalpna Varshney	Vilas Namjoshi	1729.80	3169.70
80	S K Gauta	Sunil Mishra	1491.40	3167.10
81	Deval Mehta	Ravindra Amritkar	1671.30	3163.20
82	Anup Kumar Mahajan	Hemkanti Talukdar	1605.50	3147.70
83	Ravi Shankar Muthuswami	Jatin Baruah	1570.50	3146.70
84	Sunder Shekar Polavaram	Vijay Ramchandran	1571.00	3140.50
85	Suresh Senapaty	H. Anjaneya Swamy	1682.80	3133.70
86	Ram Pal Rehan	Vinai Kumar Gupta	1476.50	3131.10
87	Naina Shah	Kumar Shah	1884.70	3126.60
88	Rajendra Prasad Misra	Deepak Baijal	1458.00	3124.50
89	Gautam Chatterjee	Sujan Chowdhury	1551.80	3122.90
90	Amit Pal	Bijan Kumar Bandopadhyay	1663.10	3117.80
91	Jashith Narang	Bindiya Naidoo	1693.80	3114.80
92	Chandrashekhara K Damle	Nitin M Dharmadhikari	1487.40	3112.80
93	Bidyut Kanti Thakur	Sunandan Thakur	1716.50	3107.60
94	Aman Tyagi	Kinjal Desai	1530.20	3106.30
95	Madhav A Kshirsagar	Kailash Agarwal	1377.50	3091.60
96	P Narayan Iyer	Aparajitha Iyer	1531.10	3078.80
97	Arup Lodh	Gautam Kumar Chanda	1469.20	3067.50
98	Poonam Lal	Neeta Govil	1748.00	3045.90
99	Kunal Chander	Ashish Kumar Vishwakarma	1161.50	3043.90
100	Samar Kumar Maity	Mithun Biswas	1571.30	3028.10
101	Daljit Marwah	Sudhir Kumar Agrawal	1640.50	3018.50
102	A N Sahai	Rabindra Kumar Singh	1530.80	3015.60
103	Harinder Panwar	Dheeraj Sood	1557.80	3002.60
104	Aroon Birla	Ajit Mahadar	1569.70	2997.50
105	Santanu Das	Ashim Chandra Karmakar	1512.90	2983.40
106	P Varalakshmi	Guru Shankar Sundaram	1258.50	2974.00
107	Ashok Kumar	Netaji Pada Kabiraj	1535.10	2968.20
108	P K Bandhu	Apurba Dey	1580.50	2945.30
109	S K Verma	Raman Kumar	1550.80	2933.30
110	Sisir Kumar Banerjee	Santanu Chakraborty	1524.80	2921.60
111	Saileja Tahiliani	Pradip Ghosh	1915.80	2904.70
112	Ignatius Bezzam	Gabriele Zanasi	1246.30	2884.10
113	S K Garg	V K Rattan	1225.10	2875.90
114	Sudipta Mitra	Soumen Chakraborty	1534.60	2871.60
115	Amit Pathria	Sunil Kumar	1503.60	2870.00
116	Devender Soni	Ravinder Kumar Gupta	1427.70	2861.90
117	Anuj Sharma	Jitendra Pandey	1576.10	2861.30
118	S Srinivasan	C Sathish Kumar	1453.00	2849.90
119	Sumathi Iyer	D V Ravi	1300.50	2840.20
120	Amar Wadhwa	Divyaroop Bhatnagar	1483.10	2839.30
121	Sankarasa Behera	Maheshwar Pradhan	1515.70	2833.10
122	Anil Sud	Mithileshwar Jha	1514.60	2789.60
123	Rajendra Pandurang Ranade	Mahesh Dattatray Shetye	1380.60	2788.50
124	Amol Athawale	Prakash Achar	1242.60	2782.80
125	Anushree Jalan	Tapas Das	1406.50	2782.00
126	Amitava Mukherjee	Pradip Gupta	1868.50	2774.90
127	Alka Jain	Devi Muthu Bhatnagar	1394.80	2755.00
128	Kamla Mehra	Deepak Gangajaliwale	1357.10	2740.00
129	Mini Agarwal	Reena Pal	1322.00	2738.60
130	Ajai Bahadur Khare	Vandana Khare	1245.50	2738.10
131	Ajay Kumar Singh	Nag Bhusan Rao	1356.50	2733.20
132	Bijal Shah	Sejal Shah	1381.00	2723.80
133	Viswanathan M	M Elumalai	1199.40	2718.10
134	Nirmal Raja	Ram Kumar H	1540.90	2707.10
135	M Venkatesan	C K Madheswaran	1341.50	2676.70
136	Suren Mewar	Kajal Chandra Das	1207.40	2661.60
137	Joy Saikia	Gautam Sarma	1418.80	2651.70
138	Rajendra V Mekal	Parimal N Shah	1161.00	2629.40
139	R M Parmar	Hari Narayan	1392.70	2606.40
140	Samina Esmail	Sibo Ram Basak	1269.50	2542.90
141	Shiv Kumar Kithania	Ashok Kumar Sinha	1284.20	2500.50
142	Rakesh Ranjan	Manjousha Bairathi	1162.40	2494.00
143	T J Alexander	Salla Ranjan Das	1230.30	2474.30
144	B K Sinha	Archana Sinha	1157.20	2454.00
145	Mahavir Bhupal Savadatti	Prafulla Kumar Das	1070.10	2407.50

Pieces of Eight

Mark Horton

In the opening session of the quarter finals we pay a visit to I Doctors v Mavericks Gold.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

I Doctors v Mavericks Gold

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Filipowicz	Tembey	Maskara	Shah
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	



East led the ♣A, cashed the ♦A and continued with the ♣K, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♥K, drawing trumps and playing a spade, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hingorani	O Rimstedt	Nathani	M Rimstedt
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♣A, cashed the ♦A and continued with the ♠7, West winning with the ♠A and returning the ♣3. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♥K, drew trumps, played a spade to the king and ran the ♦Q, one down, -50 and 10 IMPs to I Doctors.



By the time eight boards had been completed the score had advanced to 12-2.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

I Doctors v Mavericks Gold

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Filipowicz	Tembey	Maskara	Shah
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West led the ♥10 and East won with the ♥Q and switched to the ♦J for the king and ace, West cashing the ♦Q and exiting with the ♦5. Declarer ruffed and played the ♣K, East winning and returning the ♥5. Having won with the ♥Q declarer cashed the ♠A and played a spade for the nine and queen. He cashed the ♥A and continued with the ♦9, claiming for one down when East discarded, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hingorani	O Rimstedt	Nathani	M Rimstedt
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Opposite a passed hand West was not of a mind to convert partner's double.

North led the ♦4 for the ten, king and ace and declarer ran the ♣7, South winning with the ♣10 and returning the ♦8 to dummy's ♦J. When a spade to the king held declarer played a heart to the jack, South winning and continuing with the ♣K to dummy's ♣A. Declarer played dummy's ♥K and when it held he ruffed a club, North overruffing, cashing the ♥A and exiting with a diamond. That meant three down, -300 and 8 IMPs to **Mavericks Gold**.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ J1076	♠ AK84	♠ Q952
♥ AQJ82	♥ 1076	♥ 54
♦ 32	♦ Q7	♦ AJ1098
♣ Q4	♣ AJ102	♣ 75
	♠ 3	
	♥ K93	
	♦ K654	
	♣ K9863	

I Doctors v Mavericks Gold

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Filipowicz	Tembey	Maskara	Shah
—	1♦	Pass	INT
All Pass			

West led the ♥Q and declarer won, cashed five clubs and played a diamond to the queen. East won, but rather than return a heart he continued with the ♦J, declarer claiming nine tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hingorani	O Rimstedt	Nathani	M Rimstedt
—	INT	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

2♠ Transfer

If I read the system card correctly, a rebid of 3♣ by North would have suggested a liking for clubs. East led the ♦A and continued with the ♦J, so declarer managed 10 tricks, -100 and 6 IMPs to **I Doctors**.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J106	♠ AQ7	♠ 95432
♥ 7	♥ AJ53	♥ Q64
♦ QJ72	♦ K654	♦ 1093
♣ AQ1074	♣ K6	♣ 82
	♠ K8	
	♥ K10982	
	♦ A8	
	♣ J953	

I Doctors v Mavericks Gold

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Filipowicz	Tembey	Maskara	Shah
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ♠K, played the ♥10 to dummy's ♥A and a heart to the king. When the ♥Q refused to appear he was one down, -50.

Would you have played West for a singleton heart?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hingorani	O Rimstedt	Nathani	M Rimstedt
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣7 and declarer won with the ♣9, played the ♥10 to the ♥A and a heart to the nine, +460 and 11 IMPs to **Mavericks Gold**.

It had been a low scoring session, **I Doctors** edging it by a single IMP, 22-21.



Rajesh Nathani

MARKETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Amit Paladhi
Manager, HCL

Jijo Jose
Senior Manager, KNMA

Padam Singh
Deputy Manager, HCL



Urvashi Sharma
Associate Manager, HCL

Padam Singh
Deputy Manager, HCL

Amir Hussain
Senior Manager, HCL

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BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP



Debabrata Roy Choudhury

T. Sankar

P. Narasinga Rao

K.S. Swaminathan

V.K. Sharma

Laurie Kelso
(Head TD, WBF)

Sudhir Aggarwal
(TD, WBF)

Sanjay Chakraborty

Pranab (Ranju) Bhattacharya

Pintu Maity

Rounak Ghosh

Arya Chakraborty

Shouvik Das

Soumadeep Ghosh

WEBSITE AND SCORING TEAM



WEBSITE TEAM

Giriraj Singh

Annpurna Chouhan

SCORING TEAM

Srinivasan Iyengar

Shouvik Das

Prithvi Singh

Kaustubh Deodhar

Pieces of Eight 2

Mark Horton

As the second session got under way, Mavericks Platinum led Hemant Jalan 32-8.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

W N E S

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

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrman	Dalal
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

That was +1370.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Anklesaria	Malhotra	Brogeland
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

This time it was +1430 and 2 IMPs to Hemant Jalan.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

W N E S

♠ Q 10 7 3 2	♠ —
♥ A J 10 4 3	♥ —
♦ 10 7 4	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrman	Dalal
—	1♦	Pass	2♥*
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♣	All Pass

North led the ♠8 and declarer pitched a diamond on dummy's ♠A and played the ♥Q, losing only a heart, a diamond and a club, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Anklesaria	Malhotra	Brogeland
—	1♣	Pass	1♥*
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
1♥	Transfer		



East led the ♣5 and declare ruffed and played the ♠10, West discarding the ♣4. When the ♠10 held declarer continued with a spade to the jack and East won and played the ♣8, West winning as declarer pitched a diamond from dummy. He won the diamond switch with the ace, pitched a diamond on the ♣K and played a heart for the jack and king, claiming for one down, -50 and 2 IMPs to **Mavericks Platinum**.

If trumps had been no worse than 3-1, 4♠ would have been impossible to defeat.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrmann	Dalal
Pass	1♦*	2NT*	3♠
Pass	Pass	3NT*	4♦
Dble	All Pass		

2NT Hearts and clubs

East led the ♥5 and having won with dummy's ♥K declarer played a diamond to the queen and the ♣10, East taking the ♣A and returning the ♣3 to dummy's ♣K. A diamond to the nine was followed by the ♦J, West winning and exiting



Boye Brogeland



East led the ♣8 declarer was doomed. Having won with dummy's ♣K he played a diamond to the queen, a heart to the king and cashed the ♠KQ the ♥A and the ♠A, the defenders taking the rest for two down, -200 and 14 IMPs to **Hemant Jalan**.

If NS had played in 4♠, West would have needed to find a diamond lead.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrmann	Dalal
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

When East led the ♥2 declarer had an outside chance of surviving the breach of Burn's Law. He took West's ♥10 with the ♥J and played the ♦7, East taking the ♦A and switching to the ♣Q. Declarer won in dummy, played a spade to the ace and a diamond to the ten, West ruffing and returning the ♠3. If declarer puts up the ♠K, he should emerge with 8 tricks, but when he played low he finished three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Anklesaria	Malhotra	Brogeland
—	1♣	1♦	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥2 and declarer won with the ♥J, played a diamond to the king and ran the ♠J, East winning and switching to the ♣Q. Declarer won in dummy, ran the ♠8, cashed two spades, played a diamond to the ten, cashed the ♣K and exited with the ♦2, East being forced to surrender the game-going trick to the ♥K, +400 and 11 IMPs to **Mavericks Platinum**.



Did you spot how the contract could have been defeated? West must cover the ♠8 with the ♠10!

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AQ4	♠ 2
♥ KJ542	♥ Q10763
♦ KQ62	♦ J8
♣ Q	♣ AKJ32
♠ KJ10865	
♥ A8	
♦ A9	
♣ 1065	

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrman	Dalal
—	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♠*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

South led the ♥A and followed it with the ♦A, -100.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Anklesaria	Malhotra	Brogeland
—	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble	3♠	4♥	All Pass

That was a regulation +650 and 13 IMPs to **Hemant Jalan**.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ KJ653	♠ AQ108
♥ 63	♥ 54
♦ K1065	♦ QJ92
♣ K9	♣ AQ10
♠ 72	♠ 94
♥ J10972	♥ AKQ8
♦ 8743	♦ A
♣ 54	♣ J87632

Hemant Jalan v Mavericks Platinum

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-Evenstad	Padhye	Lahrman	Dalal
—	—	INT	Dble
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	3♣
All Pass			

West led the ♠7 and East won with the ♠Q and switched to the ♥5, declarer winning, unblocking the ♦A and playing two rounds of hearts, ruffing with dummy's ♣K. East overruffed and cashed the ♠A, declarer claiming for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Anklesaria	Malhotra	Brogeland
—	—	INT	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

It might be that 2♦ promised a major (but not multi style) with 2♥ being Pass or correct..

East led the ♦2 to dummy's ♦A and declarer played a club to the king, East following with the ♣10. He won the next club and played the ♦Q, declarer winning, crossing to dummy with a heart and playing a club. East won and played two rounds of diamonds, +630 and 12 IMPs to **Mavericks Platinum**.

Having won the second club, East must switch to a heart. He wins the next club and exits with a heart. Declarer can

cash dummy's winners, but the last of them will see declarer, down to ♠KJ6 ♦K, squeezed.

If East wins the first club and switches to a heart declarer is even worse off and will be at least two down.

At the end of the session **Mavericks Platinum** led 64-46.



Ashis Malhotra

Rituals, Lucky Charms and Bridge Superstitions

SMALL HABITS. BIG BELIEFS. A CALMER MIND.

From
Priyanka Gulati's
Corner

We all know the rituals of sporting legends.

Some athletes always enter the field with the same foot, wear the same socks, follow the same route or even refuse to change their clothes. Nadal has his famous bottles. And then there are rituals that make absolutely no rational sense, but somehow make the player feel better.

So I wondered: what happens in bridge? I asked some of our bridge players about their rituals, superstitions and little things they do before a big tournament.



Oren: "Pens. If I have a bad score, I change. I sit always east or south." Asha Maam always sits south if she can.



Jakub: "We don't really have any superstitions ourselves. However, among many world-class players, you can definitely find some interesting ones — insisting on playing in a particular position in certain sets, sitting in a specific seat, or following a particular routine before or during a match."



Karl Rubins: "I just meditate before the game. No other superstitions."



Boye: "I wear the same jeans (as long as we keep winning/doing well), listen to the same music every morning, come almost as late as possible to the table, 2 minutes before game time, always sit South and West, and preferably South, bring one can of coke and one bottle of water to the table."



Sandeep Thakral: "No superstition at all."



Rajeshwar Tiwari: "I never watch my team play. I believe we lose if I watch."

There is actually something fascinating behind all this.

A recent systematic review found that 55.1% of athletes reported at least one superstition, while more than 90% reported sport-specific rituals. Research suggests that rituals can help increase confidence, reduce anxiety and create a sense of control when the outcome is uncertain.

Even Eldad Ginossar, who describes himself as a rational person, made an interesting point: in sport, holding on to a superstition or believing in a little "super power" can help when the pressure is enormous.

Perhaps that is the real secret.

You know the pen won't change the cards.

You know sitting in a particular direction won't change your hand. And Rajeshwar probably knows his team doesn't actually lose because he watched.

But if the ritual makes you calmer, gives you confidence and tells your brain, "I'm ready"...

Why not?



What's your superstition or ritual in bridge?

Pieces of Eight 3

Mark Horton

In the third session of the quarter-finals, we will follow the closest match, Young Comrades leading Monica Jajoo 59-47.

On Board 29 NS held ♠J2 ♥J104 ♦AQJ973 ♣92 facing ♠A4 ♥AK87 ♦K854 ♣753. North opened 3♦ in the Open Room and 2♦ in the Closed Room, South responding 3NT. West led the ♣K but only had ♣AKJ6 so that was +400.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AK1053	♠ Q82	♠ 96
♥ 98	♥ KJ2	♥ 743
♦ 2	♦ KQ95	♦ J10874
♣ Q9876	♣ KJ5	♣ A103
	♠ J74	
	♥ AQ1065	
	♦ A63	
	♣ 42	

Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Shaw	Rajkumar	Dey
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♥*	2♠	3♣*	3♥
4♣	4♦	Pass	4♥
5♣	Dble	All Pass	
2♥	Spades and a minor		
3♣	Pass or correct		

South led the ♦A and then played the ♥A followed by the ♥Q and the ♥5. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played three rounds of spades ruffing and two rounds of clubs which meant he was three down, -500.



Prahald Rajkumar

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Mukherjee	Roy	P Das
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass			



Kaustabh Nandi

West led the ♠K and continued with the ♠A and ♠5, East ruffing and switching to the ♦10. Declarer won with dummy's ♦K, drew trumps, cashed the ♦A and played a club to the king, two down, -200 and 12 IMPs to **Monica Jajoo**.

Board 31. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ KJ6	♠ 7
♥ Q63	♥ A8752
♦ AQ53	♦ J1084
♣ K104	♣ 983
♠ AQ10	♠ 985432
♥ J4	♥ K109
♦ 9762	♦ K
♣ AQ75	♣ J62

Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Shaw	Rajkumar	Dey
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
2♥	Transfer		

East led the ♣9 for the jack and ace and West returned the ♣5 (a heart switch is a good move) declarer winning with the ♣10, cashing the ♦A and ♦Q, ruffing a diamond and playing a spade, West taking the ♠A and returning the ♣7 to declarer's ♣K. When declarer cashed the ♠K he was one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Mukherjee	Roy	P Das
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2♥ Transfer

East led the ♦J to dummy's ♦K and declarer played a spade for the ten and jack, ruffed a diamond and played a spade, West taking the ♠A, cashing the ♣A and switching to the ♥4. East took the ♥ the ♥A but that was the last defensive trick, +590 and 11 IMPs to **Young Comrades**.

Board 33. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 10865		
♥ QJ107		
♦ QJ63		
♣ 9		
♠ AK		♠ Q43
♥ 8543		♥ AK62
♦ 9		♦ K8542
♣ AQ10542		♣ 6
	♠ J972	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A107	
	♣ KJ873	

Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Shaw	Rajkumar	Dey
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
4♦	Splinter		
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 keycards		

South led the ♠7 and declarer unblocked dummy's ♠AK, played a heart to the ace, pitched a diamond on the ♠Q and played a club to the queen. When he tried to cash the ♣A North ruffed with the ♥10 and declarer overruffed, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and played a club. North ruffed, cashed the ♥Q and played the ♦Q for three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Mukherjee	Roy	P Das
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's ♥A, played a club to the ace, unblocked the ♥AK and played a club, ruffed by North with the ♥7 and overruffed by declarer who pitched a diamond on the ♥Q, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and played a club. When North discarded the ruff was declarer's tenth trick, +420 and 11 IMPs to **Monica Jajoo**.



Sagnik Roy

As you can see, North should have ruffed in and drawn trumps to defeat 4♥, but it can be made.

When North ruffs in on the second round of clubs, declarer should pitch a diamond. If North continues with a heart declarer wins, pitches a diamond on the ♠Q, ruffs a diamond and plays a club, leaving North with no good move – if he ruffs declarer discards and scores three more trump tricks via a crossruff.

Board 37. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J7		
♥ QJ102		
♦ A2		
♣ AQ1092		
♠ Q53		♠ K82
♥ K876		♥ 943
♦ QJ9		♦ K87654
♣ 653		♣ 4
	♠ A10964	
	♥ A5	
	♦ 103	
	♣ KJ87	

Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Shaw	Rajkumar	Dey
—	INT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♥ Transfer

East led the ♦6 and declarer took West's ♦Q and ran the ♥Q, two down, -100.



Binod Kumar Shaw

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Mukherjee	Roy	P Das
—	INT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♥ Transfer

The first trick was identical, but when declarer ran the ♥Q West withheld the ♥K so +400 and 11 IMPs to **Young Comrades**.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Shaw	Rajkumar	Dey
—	—	Pass	1♥
2NT*	3♦*	5♣	5♥
Pass	6♥	7♦	Dble
All Pass			

2NT Minors

3♦ Spades

South led the ♠4 and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♦8, North winning with the ♦K, cashing the ♥A and switching to the ♣7. Declarer finessed and was three down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Mukherjee	Roy	P Das
—	—	Pass	1♥
2NT*	3♦*	5♣	5♠
Pass	6♠	7♣	Dble
All Pass			

2NT Minors

3♦ Spades

Declarer ruffed South's spade lead in dummy, played the ♣Q to the ace and ran the ♦10, two down, -500 and 7 IMPs to **Monica Jajoo**. They won the session 37-32 to trail 84-88.



Pritam Das

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The screenshot displays the Bridge Champ online interface. At the top, a compass rose indicates the orientation (N, S, E, W). Below it, four video feeds show the players: Sophia (North), Christopher (West), EmilyBC (South), and Fran (East). The central area shows the card hands for each player. The top hand (North) is J 4 3 2 J 7 4 2 A Q 4 9 6. The bottom hand (South) is 10 5 3 J 10 5 2 A K 10 8 5 4. The left hand (West) is A Q 9 7 Q 9 5 K 6 3 Q 7 2. The right hand (East) is K 8 6 A K 10 8 6 9 8 7 J 3. A central bidding table shows the current bidding sequence: WEST (1♣, 2♣, 4♥), NORTH (PASS, PASS, PASS), EAST (1♥, 2♣, 3♥), and SOUTH (PASS, PASS, PASS). The bottom right corner shows the game progress: Board 1, N-S 0.00, IMPs 0.00, E-W 0.00, and a progress bar.



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Pieces of Eight 4

Mark Horton

Wham led EA Bridge 112-73. Would we witness a dramatic comeback?

On Board 44, E/W held ♠QJ986 ♥Q752 ♦A ♣QJ4 opposite ♠A532 ♥104 LJ943 ♦A107 and both teams reached 4♠. North held both black kings and declarer was able to organise the play so as to lose only one spade and two hearts.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 96	♠ Q32	♠ J75
♥ 65	♥ QJ10874	♥ K3
♦ KQ432	♦ J9	♦ 1076
♣ 10854	♣ 92	♣ AKJ76
	♠ AK1084	
	♥ A92	
	♦ A85	
	♣ Q3	

Wham v EA Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Hung	Manna	Hans
—	—	1♦*	Dble
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1♦ Precision



Sartaj Hans

East cashed two clubs and switched to the ♦6, declarer took dummy's ♦A, crossed to the ♠Q and advanced the ♥Q. When East covered that was +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brown	Buras	Whibley	Bijoor
—	—	1♣*	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

When North bid 3♥ South might have considered raising to 4♥. Declarer took 10 tricks in 3♠, +170 and 10 IMPs to Wham.



Michael Whibley

On Board 47 West held ♠-♥1073 ♦AKJ103 ♣87532 and after two passes saw North open 4♠. When that comes back do you do something? At one table West doubled (4NT is the alternative if you don't want to pass) and found partner with ♠J ♥AJ986 ♦986 ♣AQ106. Unfortunately East elected to pass and declarer, having ♠KQ1097532 ♥K5 ♦Q ♣94 had no trouble taking 10 tricks.

Board 49. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 8752	♠ Q4	♠ AK
♥ J87	♥ AQ543	♥ 1092
♦ J92	♦ K7	♦ Q10865
♣ QJ9	♣ 8762	♣ 1054
		♠ J10963
		♥ K6
		♦ A43
		♣ AK3

Wham v EA Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Hung	Manna	Hans
—	Pass	Pass	INT
All Pass			

West led the ♥4 and declarer took only four tricks (he pitched the ♣3 at an early stage) -300.



Uttam Swarup Gupta

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brown	Buras	Whibley	Bijoor
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Matthew Brown

Back in the day I used to play that a double of INT by a passed hand promised major or minors. Whatever it promised here it worked like a charm.

West led the ♥4 and declarer won with the ♥K and played the ♠J, East winning with the ♠K and switching to the ♦5.

West won with the ♦K, cashed his hearts and exited with the ♦7. Declarer had pitched the ♣3, so he was three down, -800 and 11 IMPs to **Wham**.

With Wham's lead up to 60 a change of match was in order. We join it with Monica Jajoo leading 105-101.

Board 51. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Roy	Doshi	Nandi
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

2♣ Checkback

North cashed three hearts and switched to the ♣9, declarer winning and playing a diamond for the jack and ace, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dey	Mukherjee	Shaw	P Das
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♣	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♣3 and declarer won with the ♣K and played a diamond for the king and ace, +600 and 10 IMPs to **Monica Jajoo**, taking the score to 115-101.

Board 52. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Roy	Doshi	Nandi
Pass	Pass	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♥A and continued with the ♥K, declarer ruffing, drawing trumps and playing the ♦Q. When it held he cashed the ♦A and took 11 tricks, +690.



Pankaj B Doshi

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dey	Mukherjee	Shaw	P Das
Pass	Pass	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

This time South did not duck the ♦Q and he cashed the ♣A, +420 and 7 IMPs to Young Comrades.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



Monica Jajoo v Young Comrades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
S Das	Roy	Doshi	Nandi
—	—	1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠5 and declarer finished with 11 tricks, +660, East ending up having to lead away from the ♦K at trick 12.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dey	Mukherjee	Shaw	P Das
—	—	1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ was hopeless, declarer finishing two down, -200 and 14 massive IMPs to Monica Jajoo, sending them through to the last four, 131-110.

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