



HCL 23rd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi

DAILY BULLETIN

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Bulletin 1, 2nd October 2026

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Swagatam

Welcome to the 23rd Edition of
HCL International Bridge Championship

Hello one and all,

A very warm welcome to you.

Please join us in celebrating the 23rd edition of this hugely popular and your favourite tournament – **the biggest and the best of them all.**

Lets start by thanking **Mrs Kiran Nadar** for her generosity.

Thanks to her, and **HCL group**, we have ever-increasing prizes, and world's best amenities of any tournament.

The **HCL Bridge Championship** continues to innovate. The latest addition is **one day BAM event**. We really don't want you to go back, and will continue to offer more and more. I hope you will shower your love on this event too, and participate in large numbers.

The astounding success of **NK Gupta memorial mixed pairs event** has resulted in increasing the event to three days. We will now have two days of qualification followed by finals on the third day in three different categories. The prize money has also been significantly increased. **More than 25% is up for grabs compared to last year.**

For the first time, all seats for **ProAM** have been taken far in advance. Goes to show the success of the idea. With some of most familiar celebrities in the field, this is a unique opportunity to lock horns with the best of the best – and have stories for a life time. I do hope you are participating.

There are **140 teams** entering the **Gold and Silver Category** put together. We are looking forward to a lot more participation in coming years.

The tournament came into being thanks to ideas and unstinted support of **Mrs. Kiran Nadar** – one of the top Indian players. She is member and sponsor of the **"FORMIDABLES"** team, which has not only won many laurels at National level but has represented India umpteen times in International events. All the very best – **Kiran, Satya, Tewari, Sumit, Nandi & Sagnik.**

WHAM – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Mathew Brown and Michael Whibley – the winners of 2025 as well as 2024 are back to defend their title. Can they claim a hat-trick. They will surely be trying.

Mavericks by **Subodh Maskara** has two teams in the fray. Both very strong. Teams to beat.

Special welcome to **Dr Vinita Gupta** and her team. Her first appearance at this tournament. Please do look for, and buy, her book.

The event promises to keep us all riveted.

Like previous years, we will have **Vu-graph** of the event from day-1 on **BBO**. All the events of the tournament will be played with computer generated boards and the scoring of the events will be done through **Bridge mates**. There will also be a **Daily Bulletin** of the event and you can check the daily bulletins on the tournament web site **www.hcl-bridge.com**. We have also made provision of **Vu-graph theatre** at the venue and players can watch the top notch matches there.

We must take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those who have been involved with innumerable tasks involved in making this event happen. I won't name them here, but please know that we are **immensely grateful** for your contribution and help.

A very warm welcome to all of you. We hope you enjoy your game and the excellent hospitality of **HCL Corporation** and go home pleased with the event with plans to come back next year.

Best of luck to all and please play the game in right spirit.

Sandeep Thakral
– on behalf of
Organising Committee

HEAD OF OPERATIONS
Mr. T.C. Pant

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Play Format & Qualification Mixed IMP Pairs

The **Mixed IMP Pairs** event for the **N K Gupta Trophy** commences today with a 2-day Qualification Round, followed by the Finals on 4 October 2026.

124 Pairs are participating in this 3-day event. The event will be played in **SAPPHIRE, CORAL & TURQUOISE Halls.**

QUALIFICATION FORMAT

- 11 Sections (A – K)
- 10 Sessions of 10 Boards each over two days.
- Sections A – D : **TURQUOISE Hall** – 6 Tables each
- Sections E – G : **CORAL Hall** – 6 Tables each
- Sections H – K : **SAPPHIRE Hall** – 5 Tables each

QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

- Top 25 Pairs + 1 Sponsored Pair
→ **MIXED IMP PAIRS GOLD Final**
- Next 26 Pairs
→ **MIXED IMP PAIRS SILVER Final**
- Remaining Pairs → **MIXED STRATA Event**

FINALS – 4 OCTOBER 2026

Mixed IMP GOLD & SILVER Finals will be played as All Play All – 50 Boards, with Barometer Scoring, in 5 Sessions of 10 Boards each.

- **GOLD Final** : **TURQUOISE Hall**
- **SILVER Final** : **TURQUOISE Hall**
- **MIXED STRATA** : **SAPPHIRE Hall**



LIVE BBO BROADCAST
FROM 10 A.M. ONWARDS
(Two Tables)

RESULTS LINK

**Live Scores &
Detailed Results**

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

The Curtain Raiser



by Mr. T.C. Pant

The **HCL Bridge Championship** was established in the year **2003** by **Mrs. Kiran Nadar**, one of the top Indian players of competitive bridge, to promote the sport in India. Since then the championship has gained lot of popularity and has become the top most tournament of Indian Bridge Calendar, as well as one of the highest prize money tournament of the World. This year's tournament offers **Rs 28.5 Million (~ US \$310,000)** as prize money to winners.

Mrs. Kiran Nadar is Member of the **"FORMIDABLES"** team, which has not only won many laurels at the National level but has represented India several times in international competitive bridge events. Her team won the 2014 & 2015 editions and reached the finals of the HCL Gold event in 2018, 2022 & 2023 but had to contend with the runner-up spot. She is married to **Mr. Shiv Nadar**, the **Founder of HCL Corporation**, India's leading Global Technology and IT Enterprise - which is the sponsor of this prestigious event.

This annual tournament consists of the **"Team of Four Gold and Silver"** events as well as **"Match Point Open Pairs and IMP Pairs"** events. From 2023, a one day **ProAm event**, where a Professional player plays with an Amateur player has been introduced. The sponsors added a 2-day **Mixed IMP Pairs event** for **"N.K. Gupta Trophy"** in 2024. Due to large participation in Mixed event, this year onwards the event will be of 3-days with 2 days qualification followed by Finals. This year, we have added a **one day BAM event to the championship to be played on the last day with Prize money of Rs. 10+ Lacs.**

The first edition of this tournament started in 2003 with only 35 teams & 89 Pairs and slowly gathered momentum resulting in having 70 plus teams & 160 plus Pairs from 2006 to 2012. The participation of all the top Indian teams in this tournament was an ample proof that this is one of the most favorite tournaments of Bridge fraternity in India and to make it more competitive for average players, the organizers in 2013 decided to divide the main Team of Four event into **GOLD & SILVER** categories with 40 teams in GOLD & 37 teams in Silver categories participating in the 2013 edition.

The year 2016 saw this tournament attaining greater heights, when it became an **International Bridge Tournament**. The organizers invited many top foreign teams and that resulted in 41 teams participating in the GOLD and 79 teams in the SILVER event. A record 288 pairs participated in the open match point pairs. **Team "Lavazza", consisting of Zia Mahmood, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde & Norberto Bocchi** won the Gold event in the first International event. With 21 foreign teams in 2017 edition, the tournament attained a world class status. In 2018, we had 162 Teams (52 in GOLD & 110 in SILVER) and in 2019 a record 185 Teams (55 in GOLD, 102 in SILVER & 28 in Bronze category), which even exceeded the expectation of the organizers. Due to COVID, the tournament could not be held in 2020 and the 2021 edition was played as an online event. The tournament was back after COVID with the 2022 edition, where 116 teams (45 in Gold & 71 in Silver) participated and in 2023 a total of 145 teams (52 in Gold & 93 in Silver) participated followed by 143 teams (51 in Gold + 92 in Silver) in 2024 edition.

Last year we had 146 teams (58 in Gold + 88 in Silver) and the winners of the Gold event was team **WHAM from Australia & NewZealand consisting of Sartaj Hans, Andy Pei-en Hung, Matthew Brown, Michael Whibley**. There were 329 pairs in the Open MP Pairs event and 114 Pairs in Mixed Pairs event. This year we are again expecting around 130+ teams and 300+ Pairs in Match Point Pairs category along with 120+ pairs in the Mixed IMP Pairs event. The three main trophies of the championship are detailed below:

Naresh Tandan Trophy for Winner of Team of Four Gold Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late **Shri Naresh Tandan** (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father).

Mohini Tandan Trophy for Winner of Team of Four Silver Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late **Mrs Tandan** (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Mother).

Neena Bonerjee Trophy for Winner of Open MP Pairs Event – This trophy has been instituted in the name of Late **Mrs. Neena Bonerjee** by her daughter Nisha. Mrs. Neena Bonerjee was a lady par excellence, a true friend, a great player and even a greater ambassador of this game. Kiran was fortunate enough to have played with her as a partner or as a team mate over the years.



Late Shri Naresh Tandan
(Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father)



Late Mrs. Mohini Tandan
(Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Mother)



Late Mrs. Neena Bonarji

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Kiran Nadar

Co-Chairman:
Mr. Prasad Keni, President, BFI

Organising Secretary: Sandeep Thakral

Organising Members:
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Srinivasan Iyengar

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their Teams

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Murari Kumar Jha

REVIEWERS

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Sandeep Thakral, R. Venkatesh

MAIN EVENT PRIZES

Team of Four (GOLD)

Winner	Rs. 44,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 24,00,000
Third	Rs. 12,00,000
Fourth	Rs. 9,00,000
5th to 8th	Rs. 4,50,000 each
9th to 16th	Rs. 1,80,000 each
17th to 20th	Rs. 60,000 each

Team of Four (SILVER)

Winner	Rs. 16,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 9,20,000
Third	Rs. 4,80,000
Fourth	Rs. 3,60,000
5th to 8th	Rs. 1,80,000 each
9th to 16th	Rs. 72,000 each
17th to 20th	Rs. 25,000 each

Open MP Pairs – GOLD

Winner	Rs. 12,80,000
Runner-up	Rs. 8,40,000
Third	Rs. 6,40,000
Fourth	Rs. 4,80,000
Fifth	Rs. 3,20,000
Sixth	Rs. 2,50,000
Seventh	Rs. 2,00,000
Eighth	Rs. 1,50,000
Ninth	Rs. 1,00,000
Tenth	Rs. 90,000
Eleventh	Rs. 75,000
Twelfth	Rs. 60,000
13th – 16th	Rs. 50,000

Open MP Pairs – SILVER

Winner	Rs. 2,00,000
Runner-up	Rs. 1,50,000
Third	Rs. 1,20,000
Fourth	Rs. 80,000
Fifth	Rs. 60,000
Sixth	Rs. 40,000
Seventh	Rs. 30,000
Eighth	Rs. 20,000
Ninth	Rs. 15,000
Tenth	Rs. 10,000

HCL

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PAST WINNERS

Year	Date & Venue	Team of Four (Gold) Naresh Tandan Trophy	Open Pairs Neena Bonerjee Trophy	Team of Four (Silver) Mohini Tandan Trophy
2003	18th to 21 st Dec 2003 Hotel Claridges, New Delhi	CALCUTTA BRIDGE CLUB (B. Todt, Kamal Roy, S. Lahiri, Alok Sadhu, A.B. Chakravarty, B. Saha)	B. Satyanarayana – Kiran Nadar	
2004	12th to 15 th Aug 2004 Hotel Claridges, New Delhi	WELKNIT (R. Krishnan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Krishna Kumar, R. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah)	Subhash Gupta – Rajeshwar Tewari	
2005	12th to 15 th Aug 2005 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	J.P. GOENKA (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alok Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar, Sumit Mukherjee)	J. Biswas – T.K. Roy	
2006	12th to 15 th Aug 2006 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	J.P. GOENKA (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alok Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar, Sumit Mukherjee)	Prem Chand R Bafna – Ashok Vaidya	
2007	16th to 19 th Aug 2007 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	SHREE CEMENT (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subrata Saha, Subir Majumdar, Bivas Todt)	S. Sunderram – P. Sridhar	
2008	4th to 7 th Sept 2008 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah, P. Sridhar, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari, B. Prabhakar)	Subrata Saha – Satyabrata Lahiri	
2009	13th to 16 th Aug 2009 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah, P. Sridhar, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari)	Rajeev Khandelwal – Himani Khandelwal	
2010	30 th Oct to 2 nd Nov 2010 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	HANS, Australia (Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Arjuna Delivera, Ian Robinson, Paul Gosney, Peter Gill)	Swarnendu Banerjee – Alok Sadhu	
2011	8th to 11 th Sept 2011 Hotel Radisson, NOIDA	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS (Ashok Goel, Suhas Vaidya, Pritish Kushari, D. Majumdar, S. Mukherjee, Bhabesh Saha)	Tapan Roy – Satyabrata Mukherjee	
2012	30 th Aug to 2 nd Sept 2012 Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi	ARISTOS (Sanjoy Bhattacharya, Kamal Mukherjee, Dr K Srinivas, K Srinivas Reddy, S K Iyenger)	Shib Nath Dey Sarkar – Pranab Bardhan	
2013	8th to 11 th Aug 2013 Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi	MOHIT MEHTA (Mohit Mehta, Kingshuk Bhattacharya, Pinaki Khan, S B Mukherji, Avijit Chakraborty, C S Majumdar)	Sandeep Thakral – Kaustubh Bendre	CONSTELLATION (Amarjit, Dr Nikita Kamal, Shashi Jain, Anil Bharioke, R Chakravorty, V Ravichandran)
2014	17th to 20 th Aug 2014 Tivoli Hotel, New Delhi	FORMIDABLES (Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, B Prabhakar, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokshi, Keyzad Anklesaria)	Sanjib Majumder – J.N. Roy	P K THAKUR'S IV (P K Thakur, M Dev, G Bansider, J Sarkar)
2015	20th to 23 rd Aug 2015 Country Inn & Suites, Sahibabad	FORMIDABLES (Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, B Prabhakar, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokshi, Keyzad Anklesaria)	Alok Sadhu – Subrata Saha	DR. SANGHI (Dr R L Sanghi, R A Siddiqui, S C Bhandari, S M Moin, Sunil Kumar, Ratnesh)
2016	19th to 23 rd Oct 2016 JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi	LAVAZZA (Zia Mahmood, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde)	A.K. Sinha – S.K. Hooda	SIX-PACK (Nirmal Jain, Sandip Dang, Sanjay Sondhi, Subhanshu Patnaik, Abhisar Majed, Vijay Devadass)
2017	12th to 17 th Sep 2017 JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi	Team Zwederland (Johan Upmark, Fredrick Nystrom, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees)	Simon Hult & Ekenberg	A. K. BOSE (Abhijit Kumar Bose, Shantanu Ghosh, Anindya Bhattacharya, Sourya Das, Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy)
2018	9th to 14 th Aug 2018 JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi	SOUTH SWEDEN (Alon Apteker, Craig Gowe, Sven-Are Bjerregard, Anders Morath)	George Matushko & Rogov Dmitry	TEAM MANZOVA (JN Roy, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Debashis Bose, Goutam Pore, Bijit Datta, Sanjay Mukherjee)
2019	5th to 10th Aug 2019 JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi	K1 PLUS, Bulgaria (Ivan Nanev, Rossen Guneev, Marta Nikolava, Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov)	Sumit Mukherjee – Debbirata Majumder	TEAM PRADEEP (Sukalyan Sarkar, Rajendra Sirohia, Goutam Pore, Binod Kumar Shaw, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Pradeep Goerka)
2021	18th to 26 th Sep 2021 Online Event	Texan Aces (Sunit Choksi, Anil Padhye, Ajay Khare, Raju Tolani, Milind Athavale, S Sunderram, P. Sridharan, G Venkatesh)	Rajeshwar Tewari – Keyzad Anklesaria	DR SMMC (Amiya Ranjan Das, Somnath Mitra, Goutam Das, Shyama Prasad Chatterjee, Bikas Dutt, Subrata Sadhukhan)
2022	11th to 16th Oct 2022 Hotel Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon	Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Goel, Vinay Desai, Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Bendre, Sagnik Roy, Kaustubh Nandi)	P.S. Mukherjee – Aniruddha Bhattacharya	PRADEEP (Pradeep Goerka, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Goutam Pore, Binod Kumar Shaw, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Pradeep Goerka)
2023	31 st Oct to 6th Nov 2023 The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel	AZS BUBOSLAVIA (Kamil Nowak, Piotr Marciniowski, Jakub Patreuha, Patryk Patreuha)	Boye Brogeland – Christian Bakke	STANDARD PLUS (S Rajeev, Sahirudeen, Asok Jose Leon, Ranga Khadaya, Nimmaden S. Harid, Prant Mundadan)
2024	14th to 22 nd Sept 2024 The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel	WHAM (Sartaj Hans, Andy Pei-en Hung, Matthew Brown, Michael Whibley)	S. Sundarram – P. Sridharan	RSCS (Chandan Choudhury, Sanjay Raha, Ramprasad Das, Subrata Chakraborty)
2025	6th to 14 th Oct 2025 The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel	WHAM (Sartaj Hans, Andy Pei-en Hung, Matthew Brown, Michael Whibley)	Christian Bakke – Tor Eivind Grude	NAGPUR VI (Arun J Purnik, Sameer Roy, Mahesh Mor, Anil Kumar Mohota, Makrand M Luley)

Burn's Laws

David Burn

This marvellous article by David Burn originally appeared under the title Larry Who? It appeared in April 2010.

It appears that the most significant bridge book to emerge in recent years is something called The Law of Total Tricks. This work is said to have revolutionised competitive bidding among experts and average players alike, and it even has a sequel called Following the Law. The third volume in the series, Lesser Breeds Without the Law, ought to be out in time for Christmas. The principle on which the Law is based was originally developed by Jules Verne in his novel Nord contre Sud, or "North Doubles South". It should be apparent from the title that the novel is a bridge fantasy, not meant to be taken seriously, but this has not prevented scholars from following its precepts religiously. In particular, the pithily expressed notion that "the sum of the number of tricks available to North-South in their best trump fit and the number of tricks available to East-West in theirs equals the sum of the number of trumps held by North-South in their best fit and the number of trumps held by East-West in theirs" has caused innumerable learned writers, including the present author, to forget what they were going to say at the end of a sentence because the beginning of it has gone on for so long.

The Law itself is more or less worthless, since the total number of tricks taken by anyone almost never equals the total number available to them, regardless of how many trumps they might have. That is why, in his second book, Larry Cohen was at pains to develop the theme of "adjustments". The current version of the Law of Total Tricks, assuming that I have fully understood the great man's words, is:

"The total number of tricks that North-South and East-West can take in their respective best trump fits is equal to: the total number of trumps they hold, minus one for the number of holdings such as Qx and Jxx in any of the hands, plus one for each card over eight in a side suit held by the partnership, minus a half for every honour held in a short suit, plus a half for having most of your honours in your long suits, with a tendency towards a negative assessment if the opponents bid one of your long suits, but a tendency towards a positive assessment if your hand does not contain impurities."

No wonder it doesn't work. And even if it did, no one would have a hope of understanding it. What I am going to present in this article is a far simpler rule, with the following absolute guarantee: If you never again violate Burn's Law of Total Trumps, your results will improve enormously.

That may sound a grandiose and wholly unjustifiable claim, but it is not. I have conducted the most comprehensive and painstaking research in order to verify my theory. At the recent Olympiad in Rhodes, any one of forty teams would have won but for the fact that at some point they violated Burn's Law. Chinese Taipei, for example, would have been in the final instead of France had they not done this:

Dealer North
North/South Game

♠ 72	♠ AK65	♠ J94
♥ J87642	♥ 109	♥ 3
♦ KJ102	♦ 93	♦ Q8754
♣ 7	♣ AK853	♣ Q1064
		
	♠ Q1083	
	♥ AKQ5	
	♦ A6	
	♣ J92	

In the Closed Room the auction was:

West	North	East	South
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♥*
Pass	Pass*	Pass	

It may help to set out the two different versions of this somewhat bewildering auction:

Bid	Meaning according to North	Meaning according to South
2♣	5+ clubs, perhaps a major, 11-16	5+ clubs, perhaps a major, 11-16
2♦	relay	relay
2♠	4+ spades	4+ spades
3♥	5+ hearts	I ought to have hearts but I am a bit fixed because 3♠ is not forcing, 4♦ is a splinter and 4♠ is feeble
3♠	No diamond guard	No diamond guard
4♦	Fourth suit, presumably looking for somewhere to play	A cue bid, which I hope partner will realise agrees spades even though there is no reason why he should
4♥	Heart support	Heart support
4♠	A cue bid with hearts agreed	Spade support
5♣	A cue bid with hearts agreed	A cue bid with spades agreed
5♦	A cue bid with hearts agreed	A sign off in spades
5♠	A cue bid with hearts agreed	Club support (it might be argued that taking six rounds of the auction to support your partner's first bid suit is a little excessive, but in view of the number of rounds that South took to support spades, not especially surprising)
6♣	A grand slam try in hearts, asking for good trumps	A cue bid with spades agreed
6♦	A sign off in hearts	A grand slam try in spades, asking for good trumps
6♥	Oh, well!	What the *@\$&!

In the Open Room, the bidding was no less risible but rather more effective:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lin</i>	<i>Mari</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Bompis</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	6♠*	All Pass	4♠

1NT	Out of turn, but nobody noticed
2NT	Both majors
4♦	Transfer to spades
6♠	A punt, hoping that the slam would either be a good one or would make on a blind opening lead

Six spades made, six hearts went five down, and France took the lead in the match for the first time in the final set of sixteen boards.

Shattered by this blow, the Chinese Taipei men could not recover and all because they had failed to obey Burn's Law of Total Trumps:

'When you are declarer, the total number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by your opponents.'

Britain would have been in the knock-out stages but for this:

♠ 10974	♠ A865
♥ 865	♥ AKQ3
♦ J97	♦ AKQ64
♣ A93	♣

In the Open Room, Slovenia did well to stop in a making contract, for South had ♠KQJ3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Closed Room, one of the more serious violations of the Law occurred:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	4♣	1♣
			All Pass

This contract went five down (it is an interesting corollary to Burn's Law that almost all violations of it end up going five down) and Slovenia gained 12 IMPs.

In true Larry Cohen style, I have already written the sequel to the Law of Total Trumps.

It is called The Rule of Eight, and it is for those of you whose bidding methods are already geared to the avoidance of 3-0 fits but whose judgement at the higher levels of the auction may be a little suspect.

This deal from the Olympiad final between France and Indonesia is a good example.

Dealer South
Love All

♠ 83	♠ QJ10765	♠ 2
♥ K86	♥ AQ72	♥ 3
♦ A875	♦	♦ KQ96432
♣ Q865	♣ 942	♣ AK73
	N W E S	
	♠ AK94	
	♥ J10954	
	♦ J10	
	♣ J10	

This was the bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Szwarc	Panelewen	Multon	Watulingas
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
4♦	4♥	4NT	5♥
Pass	5♠	6♦*	Pass
Pass	6♠*	Double	All Pass

6♦ A violation of the rule of eight
6♠ See above

In the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Mouiel	Sakul	Levy
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
4♦	4♥	5♣	3♦
6♦*	6♥*	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Double	6♠
			All Pass

6♦ Further violation
6♥ Ditto

Make the same guarantee for the Rule of Eight as I made for the Law of Total Trumps. If you never again violate it, your results will improve immeasurably.

The rule is similar to the well-known Rule of Eleven, and is applied in three stages:

During the auction, ascertain how many aces are held by your opponents.

Subtract this number from eight.

Do not bid at the level given by the answer.

The third book in the series will cover advanced topics in card play such as putting down the dummy. To whet your appetite, here is an important principle:

If your side has bid and supported a major suit during the auction, but finished up in no trumps, you should put the major you were bidding on the extreme right of dummy as it appears from declarer's point of view.

Otherwise, as one poor soul discovered in Rhodes, your partner may fall foul of Burn's Third Law:

You cannot make 3NT on a crossruff.

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SCHEDULE

Friday, 2nd October 2026

MIXED IMP PAIRS EVENT – ELIMINATION ROUND
(10 Sessions of 10 Boards each to be played over 2 days)

Time (Hrs)	Event
1000 – 1015	Director's Announcements & Display of Seating Plan for the Event
1015 – 1135	Session – 1 (10 Boards)
1135 – 1145	Break
1145 – 1305	Session – 2 (10 Boards)
1305 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1520	Session – 3 (10 Boards)
1520 – 1530	Break
1530 – 1650	Session – 4 (10 Boards)
1650 – 1720	Tea Break
1720 – 1840	Session – 5 (10 Boards)

Bridge in the Vicarage

David Bird

David Bird is the world's most prolific bridge writer, with more than 150 bridge books to his name. Known for the clarity of his writing and explanations, he has won the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year Award a record nine times. His celebrated humorous fiction series, featuring the cantankerous Abbot, has run for over 45 years, the first story featuring the monks of St Titus appearing in Bridge Magazine in June 1978.

The Reverend Richard Hyde unlatched the oak front door, and in from howling gale came Abbot Yorke-Smith, looking even more red-faced than usual.

'Come and warm yourself by the fire, Abbot; Father O'Neill is here already. Who did you manage to get for a fourth tonight?'

'Well, it wasn't easy to find anyone on choir practice night, but eventually I persuaded Brother Anthony to play again.'

'Oh! Er...good,' replied Rev Hyde unconvincingly.

Brother Anthony was a rather unpopular partner since, being a member of the Eustacian order, he had to obey their vow of total silence, and this naturally restricted his accuracy in the bidding. Only the previous week the Abbot had had to reprimand a young novice who had feigned a sudden severe cramp in the leg, and hobbled off towards the infirmary when he had cut brother Anthony at the monastery £1-a-hundred table.

The first hand of the evening was boldly bid by the Rev. Hyde:

LoveAll; Dealer West

		♠ QJ543	
		♥ K106	
		♦ K72	
		♣ A7	
♠ 109762	♠ —		
♥ Q9	♥ AJ853		
♦ Q1098	♦ J5		
♣ J4	♣ Q109652		
		♠ AK8	
		♥ 742	
		♦ A643	
		♣ K83	

West	North	East	South
Father	Brother	The	Rev
O'Neill	Anthony	Abbot	Hyde
Pass	Pass	1♥	3NT
All Pass			

It was standard tactics to open light in front of Brother Anthony's partner in order to disrupt even further

communications which were already almost non-existent, but Rev Hyde clearly regarded his solid holdings as adequate for the Eustacian gambling 3NT convention.

Father O'Neill's queen of hearts was covered by the king and ace, and the Abbot's club switch was won in the dummy. When Rev Hyde played off four rounds of spades the Abbot, shifting uncomfortably in his cassock, discarded two clubs and two hearts and was subsequently thrown in to concede a trick to dummy's ten of hearts.

'Sorry, Patrick, I should have tried baring my knave of hearts,' said the Abbot, reluctantly writing down the score.

'I forgive you,' said his partner in a professional tone. Soon afterwards the Abbot dealt the cards as follows:

GameAll; Dealer East

		♠ KQJ10	
		♥ KJ	
		♦ KQJ	
		♣ KQJ9	
♠ 8			♠ A643
♥ 86			♥ AQ52
♦ A10543			♦ 8
♣ A8732			♣ 10654
		♠ 9752	
		♥ 109743	
		♦ 9762	
		♣ —	

Rev Hyde viewed his dismal collection in the South seat, and proceeded to open the bidding with a confident One Club. This diversion was, after all, fairly safe with Brother Anthony as partner.

Brother Anthony gazed wistfully at his 22-count. What could they make? A small slam? A grand slam? As he prepared himself to deliver the almost imperceptible shake of the head that had formed his bidding methods for the past 30-odd years, he thought how proud of him his fellow Eustacians must be.

'Surely the Abbot was dealer,' said Father O'Neill suddenly. 'Your bid was out of turn, Richard, but there is no penalty if the Abbot passes.'

'One Club,' said the Abbot promptly, reaching for the rulebook, and eagerly locating the appropriate section.

'It says that the offender's partner is...silenced for the rest of the auction,' he said, unable to hide his annoyance at this useless penalty.

'Come, come partner, this is only a game between friends,' said Father O'Neill compassionately. 'Let us waive the penalty.'

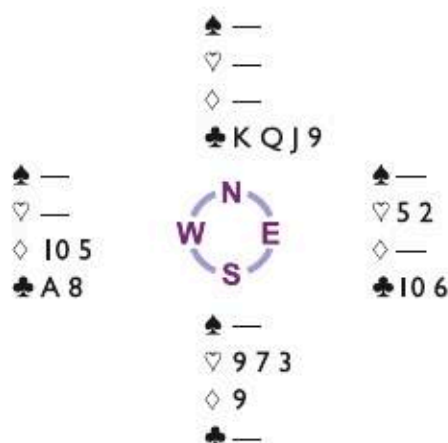
Rev Hyde passed, and Father O'Neill raised the Abbot to Five Clubs.

Brother Anthony re-scanned his 22-count, seething with anger. They were making a mockery of him. They were insulting the venerable Eustacian order. They were implying that over 400 years of silence had all been in vain.

The time had come to teach them a sharp lesson.

'Double!' he said firmly, noting with interest that, since taking his vows at a tender age, his voice had broken.

Only the ticking of the grandfather clock interrupted the stunned silence that followed. Eventually the Rev Hyde, eyeing his partner with a singularly unclerical expression, led the ten of hearts. The Abbot won in hand, and cross-ruffed at high speed to produce the following ending with West, the dummy, on play:



Brother Anthony was forced to ruff the diamond high, and exit with another high trump to the ace. Dummy's last diamond promoted declarer's ten of trumps and the game was home.

'What on earth do you mean by breaking your vow of silence, just to double a cold game?' cried the Rev Hyde.

Brother Anthony shook his head almost imperceptibly, and pulling up the cowl of his cloak, he walked sadly to the front door, and out into the unforgiving night.

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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

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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			



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