

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

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XX ALL INDIA SETH SHRINIWAS LOHIA MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The XXth All India Seth Shrinivas Lohia Bridge Tournament under the kind patronage and Presidentship of Shri B.P. Birla was organized by Kanpur Bridge Association at the Ganges Club, Arya Nagar, Kanpur from 16th Feb to 19th Feb 2006.

Team of Four Event:

43 Teams participated in this event. After 9 rounds of Swiss league (each of 10 boards), the following 7 top teams and one best local team of Kanpur qualified for the quarterfinals.

1. MANAS SAHA's IV, KOLKATA - 172 VPs
2. DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS - 172
3. ALOK DAGA's IV - 162
4. RUKMA, KOLKATA - 162
5. BOAT HOUSE CLUB - 156
6. A. BHAR's IV, KOLKATA - 154
7. MAYA MIRA, DELHI - 154
8. ABC (BEST KANPUR TEAM)

In the 2*10 boards Quarter Finals, **Manas Saha's IV** beat ABC, Kanpur (Dr. K.K. Bhatnagar, L.N. Gupta, S.P. Agnihotri, Dr. I.P. Jain, Vikas Mohan & Mukul Arren) by **71-17** (15-13, 56-4); **Maya Mira** beat Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Kamal Roy, Ashim Mukherjee & J.M. Shah) by **42-28** (25-2, 17-26); **Alok Daga's IV** beat A. Bhar's IV (A. Bhar, S. Chatterjee, A. Chatterjee, A. Dutta Roy, A. Ganguli & Balai Kundu) by **51-25** (18-25, 33-10) and **Rukma** beat Boat House Club (Kr. Madhav Prasad, Kr. Vijayanand Singh, V.K. Jhunjhunwala, Arvind Prasad & R.K. Newatia) by **91-34** (39-22, 52-12).

In the 2*12 boards Semi-finals, **Manas Saha's IV** beat Rukma (S. Ain, S. Saha, A.B. Chakravarty, B. Saha, S.P. Ghosh & P. Mukherjee) by **74-52** (26-34, 48-18) and **Alok Daga's IV** beat Maya Mira (Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, C.S. Majumdar, Samir Basak, Kingshuk Bhattacharya) by **63-49** (51-11, 12-38).

In the 4*8 board final **Alok Daga's IV** (Alok Daga, Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Subroto Saha, S. Majumdar) beat **Manas Saha's IV** (Manas Saha, Pranob Roy, Santanu Chaudhary, Kaustav Nandi, Snehashish Roy & Debbrata Majumdar) by **59-49** (6-16, 11-20, 31-11, 11-2) to win the team title.

PAIRS Event:

A total of 88 pairs played in the first elimination round of the event. They were divided into 4 sections and played 2 sessions of 22 boards. The top 11 NS & 11 EW from sections A&B combined and C&D combined qualified for the 2nd elimination round. The winners of the 1st elimination were:

Section A&B combined:

NS: R.S. Mishra – K.A.H. Jafri 519.35
EW: A. Nag – M. Dey 589.52

Section C&D combined:

NS: T.C. Pant – Amod Rele 570.50
EW: Pranab Bardhan – Kajal Das 554.00

The 44 qualifiers were joined by 16 quarter-finalist & semi-finalists pairs of the team event in the 2nd elimination round. They played 12 rounds of 2 boards each in 2 sections and the TOP 7 NS & EW from each section qualified for the finals. The 2nd elimination winners were:

Section A:

NS: N.K. Bajpai – Praveen Agarwal 65.91%
EW: Akaustav Nandi – D. Majumdar 64.20%

Section B:

NS: J.M. Shah – Kingshuk Bhattacharya 57.01%
EW: Manik Chakraborty – Raja Ghosh 57.77%

28 qualified Pairs along with 2 sponsored pairs played the 26 boards Final. The winners were:

1. B.N. Rastogi – S.K. Agarwal 60.99%
2. A. Bhattacharya – S.P. Samaddar 58.65%
3. Samir Basak – C.S. Majumdar 58.65%
4. Kajal Das – Pranab Bardhan 58.38%
5. J.M. Shah – Kingshuk Bhattacharya 58.24%
6. Kaustab Nandi – D. Majumdar 55.91%

Board-a-Match Event:

37 Teams participated in this event and after an elimination round, 23 teams qualified to play the finals. The Winners were:

1. Pankaj Mehta - 87
2. Dhampur Sugar Mills - 84
3. A. Bhar's IV - 82

Heartiest Congratulations to All the Winners.

- Reported by Editor

GAZZILLI (Part 3)

This is the last part of our discussion on this convention. So far we have discussed Gazzilli over Opening Bid of one of a Major. However this convention is also played over Minor suit opening bids. In this bulletin we will discuss some of the sequences of Gazzilli over 1C and 1D Opening Bids.

E) Responses and rebids after 1C/D Opening

We have similar problem as after major suit opening bid that we can no longer play in 2C. This of course is slight disadvantage. After One minor opening, rebid of other minor at two level is reserved for Gazzilli. It shows the normal hands along with single suiter minor 17+ HCP, 4-card major support 18-19 HCP or 17+ unbalanced hand with 5+ cards in the minor. This means that direct splinter bids can be reserved for 4-4-4-1 hands. The following are some of the sequences:

1D – 1H – ? Further developments are:
2C – Gazzilli, used for hands containing 4+ H & 17+ HCP, 6+D 17+ or 5+D and 4+C 11+
3C – 5+ Diamonds and 5+ clubs 14-16 HCP
3D – 6+ Diamonds 14-16 HCP
3H – 4+ Hearts 14-16 HCP
 Other responses same as without Gazzilli

1D – 1H – 2C – ?
2D – to play
2H – 5+ Hearts, to play
2S – Relay, One round Force
2N – 4+ Clubs, Sign-off
3C/D – 4+ Club/Diamonds, Invitational hand
3H – 6+ hearts, Invitational
3S – 6 hearts and 5 spade, GF

1D – 1H – 2C – 2S (Relay) – ?
2N – 5+ Diamond and 4+ Clubs, 17+ HCP
3C – 5+ Diamond and 4+ Clubs, upto 16 HCP
3D – 6+ diamonds, 17+
3H – 4 Hearts, 18-19 HCP
3S/4C – 5+ D and 4H, 17+ and shortness in S/C

1D – 1H – 2C – 2D – ?
2H – 3-card heart, shortness in spade, 14-16 hcp
2S – 5+ diamond and 4+ Clubs, 17+ HCP
2N – 6+ diamonds, 19+ HCP
3C – 5+ Diamonds and 5+ clubs GF
3D – 6+ Diamonds, 17-18 HCP, Invitational
3H – 4 hearts, 18-19 HCP
3S/4C – 5+ D and 4H, 17+ and shortness in S/C

1D – 1S – 2C – ?
2D/S – to play
2H – Relay, One round Force
2N – 4+ Clubs, Sign-off
3C/D – 4+ Club/Diamonds, Invitational hand
3H – 5+ Spades and 5 hearts, Invitational
3S – 6+ Spades, GF

1C – 1H – ? Further developments are:
2D – Gazzilli, used for hands containing 4+ H & 17+ HCP, 6+C 17+ or 5+C and 4+D 17+
3C – 6+ Clubs 14-16 HCP
3D – Splinter in D, 4-4-4-1 hands, 18+ HCP
3H – 4+ Hearts 14-16 HCP
 Other responses same as without Gazzilli

1C – 1H – 2D – ?
2H – 5+ hearts, to play
2S – Relay, One round Force
2N – 4+ Diamonds, Sign-off
3C – sign-off
3D – GF, 5+ hearts and 4+ Diamonds
3H – 6+ hearts, Invitational
3S – 6 hearts and 5 spade, GF

1C – 1H – 2D – 2S (Relay) – ?
2N – 5+ Clubs and 4+ Diamonds, 17+ HCP
3C – 6+ Clubs, 17+
3D – 6+ Clubs and 5 Diamonds, GF
3H – 4 hearts, 18-19 HCP, balanced
3S/4D – 5+C and 4H, 17+ and shortness in S/D

1C – 1S – 2D – ?
2H – Relay
2S – 5 Spades, to play
2N – 4+ Diamonds, Sign-off
3C – sign-off
3D – GF, 5+ Spades and 4+ Diamonds
3H – GF, 5+ Spades and 5 hearts
3S – 6+ Spades, GF

1C – 1S – 2D – 2H (Relay) – ?
2S – 3 Spades, 5+ C & 4+ D, 17+ HCP
2N – 5+ Clubs and 4+ Diamonds, 17+ HCP
3C – 6+ Clubs, 17+
3D – 6+ Clubs and 5 Diamonds, GF
3S – 4 Spades, 18-19 HCP, balanced
4D/H – 5+ C and 4S, 17+ and shortness in D/H

There are many advantages in playing Gazzilli as above where as disadvantage is only one.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event - Results

07/02/2006 – 12 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	65.97%
NS 2: Ganpat Rai – K.B. Sikand	61.11%
EW 1: D.K. Mutreja – Joyjit Sen Sharma	68.06%
EW 2: Ujjwal Gupta – Mrs. Sushma Gupta	62.50%

14/02/2006 – 10 Tables

NS 1: Narvir Singh – Sanjiv Bery	63.54%
NS 2: T.C. Pant – Amod Rele	59.03%
EW 1: S.A. Bijlani – S.K. Agarwal	59.38%
EW 2: D.D. Gulhati – S.K. Uppal	59.03%

21/02/2006 – 12 Tables

NS 1: Dr. Nikita Kamal–Amarjit Wadhawan	64.29%
NS 2: Daya Dhaon – Suraj Jain	61.61%
EW 1: D.D. Gulhati – Ms. Lynn Bayman	62.05%
EW 2: Col. Anand – Col. Arvind	56.25%

28/02/2006 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Beneeta Chandra - Rita Singh	64.58%
NS 2: Dr. Nikita Kamal–Amarjit Wadhawan	64.24%
EW 1: T.C. Pant – V. Ravindran	67.71%
EW 2: Raiesh Jain – G. Manna	65.97%

AILBA – Pairs Event Results

03/02/2006 - 12 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – D.D. Gulhati
NS 2: G.N. Mehra – S.K. Somani
EW 1: Mrs. Indu Krishna – Aditya Prasad
EW 2: C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani

10/02/2006 -12 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Beneeta Chandra – Mrs. Rinku Singh
NS 2: Mrs. Meera Bakshi – J.S. Bakshi
EW 1: C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani
EW 2: Mrs. Indu Krishna – Aditya Prasad

17/02/2006 - 11 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Narvir Singh
NS 2: Mrs. Rinku Singh – Mrs. Rita Singh
EW 1: C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani
EW 2: Mrs. Madhu (R.K.) Agrawal – D.D. Gulhati

24/02/2006 - 9 Tables

NS 1: S.K. Agrawal – Ved Prakash
NS 2: Mrs. Mira Bakshi – J.S. Bakshi
EW 1: Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Narvir Singh
EW 2: Mrs. Beneeta Chandra – N.K. Jain

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

04/02/2006 – 12 Teams

1. **ACES** – (Subhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal, Amod Rele, T.C. Pant)
2. **Tewari** – (D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta, J.B. Sengupta, R.C. Consul, Mahendra Singh)

11/02/2006 – 12 Teams

1. **COSMOS**– (A. Mandal, Duleep Mutreja, Joyjit Sen Sharma, Ved Prakash)
2. **ACES** – (Sudhir Aggarwal, Amod Rele, T.C. Pant, Sunil Bhatia)

18/02/2006 – 10 Teams

1. **ACES** – (Sudhir Aggarwal, Vinod Sharma, Rajesh Jain, D.K. Mutreja)
2. **Dr. Surana** – (Mrs. Asha Suran, R.S. Jasuja, A.K. Narang, Sandeep Narang)

Vasant Vihar Club Tournament

16 Pairs participated in the monthly Vasant Vihar Club tournament held on 5th Feb 2006. The results:

1. Dr. R.L. Sanghi – B.R. Lal 60.44%
2. Mrs. Vimla Jain – N.N. Chopra 58.79%
3. S.G. Bose Mullick – P.P. Aggarwal 58.24%

- Reported by Mr. Amarjit Wadhawan

SELECTION TRIAL at DBA For RAMA JAIN Tournament

The trials for selecting the Pair for representing Delhi in the All India RAMA JAIN Tournament was held on 5th Feb 2006 at DBA.

23 Pairs (12 Tables) participated in the trials. First an elimination round of 22 boards was played and the top 6 NS & 6 EW qualifiers went through to the final round, where they played an all play all final of 33 boards (11*3 boards).

The Final Results:

1. Vinod Sharma–Priya Ranjan Sinha 58.24%
2. Joyjit Sen Sharma – A.K. Jha 55.76%
3. Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele 53.39%
- 4/5. Dr. Tushar Moghe – S.K. Syal 51.58%
- 4/5. R.C. Aggarwal – A.K. Sinha 51.58%

The pair of Vinod Sharma – Priya Ranjan Sinha will represent Delhi in the All India Rama Jain Tournament, to be held at Delhi on 11th & 12th Mar 2006.

- Reported by Editor

TRIALS For SUMMER NATIONALS (AGARWALA TROPHY) @DBA

The trials for selecting the Pair for representing Delhi in the 37th Summer Nationals for Agarwala Trophy (to be held at Vythiri Resorts, Wayanad, Kerala from 17th to 27th Mar 2006) was held at DBA on 11th & 12th Feb 2006.

13 Pairs participated in the trials and played an all play all 13 rounds (of 6 boards each) against each other with a bye round. The scoring was IMP with maximum 18 IMPs gain or loss allowed per round.

The Final Results:

1. Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele	+91 IMPs
2. Dr. R.L. Sanghi – Amarjit	+37
3. N.K. Jain – Daya Dhaon	+33
4. AR. Nanda – B.S. Gupta	+18
5. P.C. Gupta – D.K. Tewari	+ 5

The TOP 2 pairs will represent Delhi in the Summer Nationals for the Agarwala Trophy.

- Reported by Editor

Selection Trials at DBA for Summer Nationals (Team of Four)

The selection trials for representing Delhi team at the Summer Nationals for T.P. Khosla Trophy (Team of Four) were held at DBA on 25th & 26th Feb 2006.

10 Teams participated for the selection trials and played an all play all round robin. After completion of round robin (9 rounds) the following TOP 4 teams went through to the Semi-finals.

1. JHA's	- 163 VPs
2. ACES	- 161 VPs
3. Dr. SURANA	- 155 VPs
4. ROYAL INDIA	- 250 VPs

In the first semi-final, JHA's team beat ROYAL INDIA (Dr. Nikita Kamal, Amarjit Wadhawan, Dr. R.L. Sanghi, Dr. Moghe, V. Ravindran & S.K. Syal) by 18 IMPs (21-11, 53-22, 4-27).

In the second semi-final, ACES beat Dr. SURANA's team (Dr. Asha Surana, R.S. Jasuja, A.K. Narang, Arun Jain, Sandeep Narang) by 24 IMPs (20-16, 14-15, 31-10).

In the 3*10 boards final, played between JHA's team and ACES, ACES beat JHA's team (A.K. Jha, Joyjit Sen Sarma, Daleep Mutreja, Ravi Sawhney, R. Nanda & Rajesh Jain) by 7 IMPs (19-3, 9-16, 21-23).

The ACES team (Subhash Gupta, Sandeep Thakral, Sudhir Aggarwal, Vinod Sharma & Priya Ranjan Sinha) will represent DELHI in the T-4 event of the Summer Nationals 2006 for T.P. Khosla Trophy.

Congratulations to the Winners.

- Reported by Editor

4th SAARC Bridge Championship 2006

The 4th SAARC Bridge Championship was held at the picturesque Swabhumi, Kolkata from 25th Feb to 1st Mar 2006.

66 Pairs participated in the 2-day Open Pairs (held on 25th & 26th Feb). 88 boards were played to decide the winners. The top ranked pairs were:

1. KR Venkatraman - K Krishnakumar	1841.43
2. Amarnath Banerjee – Souren C. Dutt	1668.32
3. Manas Mukherjee - Rana Ray	1602.62
4. Alok Daga - Subrata Saha	1579.09
5. K. Bhattacharya – C. S. Majumder	1556.53
6. Bivas Todi - Govinda Singha	1555.16
7. Pritish Kushari - Sumit Mukherjee	1551.58
8. Hasibul Hasan - Sumit Sarkar	1538.19

The 3-day Team event was played from 27th Feb to 1st Mar. 22 teams (Five teams from Bangladesh, Two each from Nepal and Srilankan, Eleven Indian Teams and 2 teams of SAARC President) participated in the event. The teams played an All-play-All 21 rounds of 8 boards each, after which the winners were declared.

MAYA MIRA, who led from the 1st day itself were the winners of the Championship. The team was represented by Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, Kingshuk Bhattacharya, Ashim Mukherjee, Chandra Sekhar Majumdar & Samir Basak.

RADHEY were second and J.P. Goenka's team were 3rd.

Courtesy: Ranju Bhattacharya from Kolkata

IMPORTANT Note for Summer Nationals

All the players participating in the Summer Nationals 2006 are reminded to come with their Convention Cards rather than fill it up in a hurry on arrival at the venue.

PRODUCTION OF CONVENTION CARDS ON THE TABLE FROM THE FIRST ROUND OF EACH EVENT IS MANDATORY.

Penalties will be imposed on such pairs sitting at the table without their Convention Cards at the start of each event.

The State Associations are also requested to inform their players to file Conventions Cards of special conventions being played by them.

- From Niranjana Ubhayakar

The Sins of Being an Average Bridge Player - The Story

Introduction

I dedicate this story to all the Bridge Palookas of this world

(Being too much enthusiastic about playing Bridge and that also with an partner who is far better than you and desperately trying to achieve stardom and the tag of EXPERT is a SIN, which is surely going to put an average Bridge player to tears on the table).

Prologue

The train was in full speed and the Palooka was traveling back to home after playing in a 4-day tournament. He was trying to get some sleep after going through the torture of playing with an Expert partner, and finally the tiredness and the agony of last 4 days took its toll and he dozed off. It was hardly any time when this beautiful dream took him away to a different world.

The Dream

The enthusiastic palooka is trying to get the Railway tickets for the team, simultaneously trying to sort out his office leave and other official matters. He is frantically trying to telephonically discuss whether there are going to be any important changes in their conventions. "No the usual ones", the expert answers. But the world of Bridge is not easy and the changes in the conventions start with the start of the journey till the destination of the tournament. By the time they reach, the Palooka already knows 10 new conventions and is very eager to show his skills on the table.

The dream is becoming clearer now and he is seeing that Partner has opened 1NT (15-16) and his hand is ♠8742, ♥6, ♦KJT9xxx, ♣3.

Wow... What a partner! Partner explained the convention for exactly such hands. When you have a 4 carder major and a weak minor suit, bid Stayman and if partner doesn't have your major suit, bid 2NT, which is puppet to 3 Clubs. With weak minor suit, you can pass or correct to 3 Diamonds.

So the bidding proceeds 1NT-2C-2H-2NT-3C-3D and the partner goes in a tank. Palooka's heart has started beating... Surely he has done some blunder and partner is suffering due to him. He curses himself and there comes the 3NT from partner. The lead is heart and partner has gone down 2 or 3 in the contract. Partner had ♦Qx and tried the 3NT. To encourage the partner, the Palooka even says well tried Partne, but gets a terse reply. You should convert my 3NT to 4D. But you could have got Ax or Axx in diamonds and I had only shown you 6 diamonds and not seven is the only answer the poor Palooka can give.

The dreams are becoming darker now. Another hand and Palooka on lead with ♠QJ94 leads the ♠Q in a cold four-spade contract by opponents.

The dummy comes with the ♣Axx and partner gives encouraging signal. The bidding suggests that declarer cannot have more than 2 clubs. On the first opportunity of discard, the Palooka discards the ♣4. The deal is over (declarer did not score any overtricks) and the expert starts his firing.

Now what have I done, pleaded the Palooka. Give the count of your hand. Throw that ♣9, to show that you have 4-carder club, came the reply. But it is known that you have the ♣K and declarer cannot have more than a doubleton pleaded the palooka. But the expert countered, this deal it may not matter but learn to give count of the hand. Then the next deal.

Palooka opened a spade and the Right hand opponent doubled. Partner bids 1NT and the Palooka awakes and thanks his luck for remembering that over double they play 2C/2D as 3 & 4 carder raises and 2S is courtesy raise. The 1NT is a puppet to 2C. He proudly announces the convention and bids 2C after PASS by Left hand opponent. Expert bids 2NT and Palooka passes. This goes one down and the firing starts. But partner we agreed that 1NT is a puppet to 2C and further you can describe your hand, pleaded the Palooka but only got a scary glance from partner suggesting you spoilsport, you have already messed up my day. Dammit! you will never learn BRIDGE.

By this time palooka was totally perplexed and bid 1S with ♠QJxxxx, ♥Q, ♦QJx, ♣Axx. Partner bid 2 Clubs and fearing another firing (bidding on a poor hand) he bid 2S. Partner boomed 4NT and Palooka bid 5C (1 or 4 Keycards). Expert again went in a tank and Palooka's heart started sinking. Finally Expert came up with the masterpiece 6NT, and Palooka was relieved that he is not going to play the hand. The contract went one down and Six Spades was ice cold. The Expert's hand was: ♠AKxx, ♥ATxx, ♦AKx, ♣QT.

Palooka did the mistake of asking why the Expert did not bid 2NT (Jacoby). It is a useless convention (Sorry Mr. Jacoby) boomed the expert. But you could have enquired 5D (for queen) and I would have replied 5S, saying partner I have the queen of spades and no kings (I bid 6♣, 6♦ or 6♥ to show the trump queen and the specific King or the other 2 Kings) and you could have easily stopped in six spades. You feel I don't know how to bid? You are playing Pair event not teams came the reply.

There was a big thud and Palooka awoke suddenly. The train had stopped. It started again and he dozed off. Luckily for him the scene had changed now. He found the Expert playing with an International (Subhash Gupta). Palooka in his dream was the happiest man on earth, when he heard the Expert asking Subhash, you didn't give COUNT of the suit and Subhash telling him I give COUNT only when required, otherwise I try to visualize the hand Palooka's ears heard this as sweet music - "COUNT is for you KIDS not for EXPERTS like me", and then someone awoke the Palooka "Delhi has come".

- By Editor

International Bridge News

11th NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2006

The 11th NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2006 was held at Yokohama, Japan from 6th to 12th Feb 2006. It again boasted of a very strong international field, including many of the world's top players. Stage one was an 8-round Swiss Teams consisting of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points, using the 20-VP WBF scale, qualifying eight teams for the KO phase. The 42-team field was divided into top and bottom halves. The initial pairings matched each top-half team at random against a bottom-half team; subsequent pairings were based on current VP totals.

The defending champs from Israel **Michael Barel/Migry Campanile** and the **Yadlin Brothers (Doron and Israel)** who were also second in 2004, were here again to defend their title. The participants also included a new look Italian team - Lavazza featuring reigning Bermuda Bowl, Olympiad, and Rosenblum champions **Norberto Bocchi/Giorgio Duboin** and the new partnership of **Guido Ferraro/Agustin Madala**, the latter the young Argentine star who has moved to Italy to further his bridge career.

The Venice Cup champions from France—Catherine d'Ovidio/Daniele Gaviard, Benedicte Cronier/Sylvie Willard fresh from their win in Estoril also participated. Australia was represented by two teams carrying the banner of OzOne, an exciting new project aimed at bringing Australia into the ranks of the bridge elite in the next few years. One of the teams includes **Ishmael Del'Monte/Rob Fruewirth, Sartaj Hans/Tony Nunn**. The other is comprised of **Bruce Neill/Ron Klinger, Keiran Dyke/David Wiltshire**. A combined international team **FISK** (Acronym for France, India, Sweden and C(K)anada), consisting of Philippe Cronier, Subhash Gupta, P. O. Sundelin & John Carruthers also participated.

The defending champions from ISRAEL (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) led the qualifiers into the quarter-finals in the NEC Cup at the end of 8-rounds with 159 VPs, 6 VPs ahead of 2nd place Italy (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi) with 153 VPs. In 3rd place, with 149 VPs, was YOI (Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu), followed by the WBF (French) Women (Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard) and OzOne-Neill (Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire), tied for 4th/5th with 144 VPs. Tied for 6th /7th place were USA/Kasle and OzOne-Del'Monte with 142 VPs and sneaking-in in the final qualifying spot was TAJIMA with 138 VPs. **FISK** was the unlucky team not to reach the Quarter final stage. Their score of 138 became 137 as they were penalized 1 VP in the Round Robin stage.

The final rankings in the qualifying Swiss is shown below.

1	ISRAEL	159
2	Italy	153
3	YOI	149
4/5	WBF Women (Fr.)	144
4/5	OzOne-Neill	144
6/7	USA/Kasle	142
6/7	OzOne-Del'Monte	142
8	TAJIMA	138

Quarter Finals – 40 Boards

ISRAEL beat TAJIMA-JAPAN 107.5-74 (C/o 0.5-0, 66-28, 41-46); **USA / Kasle** beat Ozone – Del'Monte 126.5-69 (C/o 0.5-0, 61-21, 65-48); **Japan-YOI** beat WBF Women(Fr.) 97.5-30 (C/o 0.5-0, 71-15, 26-15) and **Italy** beat Ozone-Neill by 126.5-52(C/o 0.5-0, 95-31, 31-21).

Semi Finals – 40 Boards

In the first semifinal, **ISRAEL** beat USA / Kasle by 103.5-77 (C/o 0.5-0, 41-29, 62-48). In the second semi-final **Japan-YOI** beat the fancied Italy by 139-87.5 (C/o 0-0.5, 56-48, 74-39).

Final – 64 Boards

The defending champions **ISRAEL (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile)** held off to the tough challenge from the JAPAN-YOI team (Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu) beating them by 135.5-126 (c/o 0.5-0, 36-16, 39-26, 34-33, 26-51) to take the 2006 NEC Cup.

Yokohama Swiss Teams: - Final Results

1. Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Hideki Takano, Liu Zheng – 190 VPs
- 2/3. Benedicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard – 177 VPs
- 2/3. Miwako Hayashi, Keiko Shinkai, Junko Arakawa, Shigeko Kimura – 177 VPs
4. Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Atsushi Kuwabara, Kazuo Saeki – 173 VPs

Asuka Cup (Open Pairs):

The top ten Finishers in Asuka Cup were:

1.	Mori-Takahashi	3022.5
2.	Hirata-Narita	3005
3.	Mr & Mrs Takano	2967
4.	Zhao-Ikemoto	2963.5
5.	Asakoshi-Fu	2913
6.	Chen-Hirata	2895
7.	Del'Monte-Imai	2892.5
8.	Gupta-Cronier	2865.5

(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of NEC Cup)

The 2006 Gold Coast Congress

The 45th Gold Coast Congress was played at ANA Hotel, Golf Coast, Surfers Paradise, Queensland from 18th Feb 2006 to 25th Feb 2006.

Pairs Event:

The Pairs event constituted of 2 qualification rounds and 3 rounds of Finals. Marek Szymanowski (who won the World Championship Pairs in 1994) and Jere Strepinski - both from Poland - led most of the way but trailed Bruce Neill and Ron Klinger going into the last round. They overtook them to win narrowly.

The top rankings went to:

1. M Szymanowski - J Strepinsky
2. B Neill - R Klinger
3. T Brown - P Gue
4. P Lavings - R Krochmalik
5. N Griffiths - M Doecke

Team Event:

There were 120 teams for HI open, 124 for GCI open, 86 teams under Restricted category and 56 Senior teams for the Team event. After a swiss of 10 rounds, the top 10 teams were:

HI Open		GCI Open	
1. Holland	207	Wyer	194
2. Brifman	199	Gruia	192
3. Gardiner	186	Neill	188
4. Nelson	184	Gaspar	187
5. Johnson	182	Jackman	185
6. Rothfield	181.5	Livesey	184
7. Chua	179	Gosney	183
8. Hirst	178	Davidson	182
9. Leibowitz	177	Noble	181
10. Lee	171	Cleaver	180

In first semi-final, the GCI winners **WYER** (Paul Wyer - Michael Courtney, John Lester - David Lilley) lost to **BRIFMAN**.

In the second semi-final, the HI winners and defending champions **HOLLAND** beat **GRUIA** (Calin Gruia - Michael Elinescu, Alex Lucaciu - Veronel Lungu)

In the 50 board finals, the defending **HOLLAND team** (John Holland - Michelle Brunner, John Armstrong - Howard Melbourne, Hugh McGann - Paul Marston) beat **BRIFMAN team** (Peter Gill - Richard Jedrychowski, Vince Demuy - Gavin Wolpert) by 112-75. They led by 24 IMPs in the first set of 10 boards and consolidated their position thereafter.

(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of Gold Coast Congress)

The 2006 White House Top Teams

The 2006 White House Top 16 Teams tournament was held at Amsterdam, Netherlands on 25th & 26th Feb 2006.

Messrs Max Abram and Herman Drenkelford, the sponsors of the event are excellent bridge players in their own right. Max and Herman's team, Modalfa/UMW, is one of only four Dutch teams, the others being Team Westra, Team Orange and HOK/Transfer Solutions.

The teams were divided in 2 groups of 8 teams each and played against each other within their group. The rankings after the round robin were:

Ranking after 7 rounds RR

Rank	GREEN	Tot	WHITE	Tot
1	<i>Lavazza</i>	137	<i>Westra</i>	129
2	<i>Orange</i>	115	<i>Angelini</i>	128
3	Egy/Pol	115	Sweden	127
4	Hungary	110	Ventin	108
5	Robson	105	Jansma	95
6	France	90	Hok Trf. Sol.	86
7	Waterlow	80	Poland	84
8	Modalfa/UMW	78	Gromov	82

The two top teams in each group went through to the semi-final.

In the first semi-final, **ORANGE** team beat team **WESTRA** (Berry Westra, Vincent Ramondt, Gertjan Paulissen, Bart Nab) by 71-56 (22-36, 49-20).

In the second semi-final **LAVAZZA** beat **ANGELINI** (Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace, Francesco Angelini, Antonio Sementa Ercole Bove) by 91-31 (51-4, 40-27).

In the Final **LAVAZZA** (Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Maria-Teresa Lavazza, Massimo Ortensi) beat **ORANGE** (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Simon de Wijs, Bauke Muller) by 67-19 (40-14, 27-5).

In the Play-off **WESTRA** beat **ANGELINI** by 66-48 (38-24, 28-24).

(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of the Tournament)

POSTPONEMENT OF BALIJEE @ Lahore

It is regretfully informed that due to a death in the family of the sponsor, the Balijee Tournament at Lahore, Pakistan has been postponed from the earlier scheduled dates 23rd to 26th March to 13th-16th April, 2006.

Ihsan Qadir - Convenor Balijee Tournament

Interesting Deals from White House Top Teams 2006

"No, no, us first!"

Marjo Chorus, chief-editor of BRIDGE, the Dutch Bridge Federation's magazine, reported two exciting deals from round 1.

Team Orange versus Team Waterlow:

Round 1, Board 4, Dealer: W, Vul: All

	♠K3 ♥T ♦Q982 ♣QT9543		
♠AQT92 ♥A3 ♦AT3 ♣AJ8	N W E S	♠J874 ♥KQJ ♦J5 ♣K762	
	♠65 ♥9876542 ♦K764 ♣		

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Silverstone</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>	<i>Muller</i>
2NT	Pass	3C	Pass
3S	Pass	4C(1)	Pass
4D(2)	Pass	4H(2)	Pass
4S(3)	All Pass		

1) Cue, agreeing spades 2) Cue 3) enough is enough
North led his stiff heart, for dummy's king. In with the trump king, Simon de Wijs switched to the C10 and declarer made an obvious claim gesture.

"No, No, us first!," both North and South shouted as one voice. South ruffed and gave his partner the heart ruff. North carefully continued with the DQ (a low diamond to his partner's king would have resulted in a minor-suit squeeze on himself). So despite the slam tries, even game ended up down. That was a nine-imp gain, nonetheless, since at the other table 6S went for five hundred after a Ligtner double.

Team Westra versus Team Gromov:

The clash between the winner of the first White House Teams (Gromov) and the winner of the second edition (Westra), produced a lot of action on this one. (See deal on the next column) The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>		<i>Paulissen</i>	
	1S	Pass	1NT
DBL	RDBL	Pass	2S
3H	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	DBL	Pass	Pass
RDBL	Pass	Pass	4S
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass

Round 1, Board 9, Dealer: N, Vul: EW

	♠J9742 ♥AT ♦A5 ♣AQ82		
♠ ♥KQJ95 ♦KQ62 ♣JT96	N W E S	♠AKQ83 ♥82 ♦87 ♣K743	
	♠T65 ♥7643 ♦JT943 ♣5		

NS -1100; at the other table EW scored six hundred in 3NT.

Hard to bid

Lavazza versus Hungary.

6C was cold for NS on this deal, but it was very hard to bid. In fact, most NS pairs failed to reach the slam. Not Agustin Madala and Guido Ferraro in their match against Hungary. This is how they did it, despite the West's mini-preempt in hearts.

Round 2, Board 24, Dealer: W, Vul: EW

	♠ ♥A63 ♦AKJ54 ♣KQT84		
♠Q ♥QJ752 ♦T983 ♣A97	N W E S	♠AJT8532 ♥984 ♦62 ♣3	
	♠K9764 ♥KT ♦Q7 ♣J652		

West	North	East	South
	<i>Madala</i>		<i>Ferraro</i>
2H	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	3NT	Pass	4C
Pass	4H	Pass	6C
All Pass			

Bocchi-Duboin, holding the EW cards at the other table, were doubled in 3S and went only two down.

In another match Zia psyched hearts with the East hand and was very unlucky to find his partner, Andrew Robson, supporting him to the hilt. 5S doubled, minus four, was their final resting place.

Amsterdam businessman and bridge enthusiast Peter Sisselaar offered a € 500.- prize for the first Grand Slam bid and made at the tournament. De Wijs-Muller, playing Tarzan (get it!?) Precision staked their claim. This was the deal and their auction:

Round 3, Board 3, Dealer: S, Vul: EW

	♠AQ3 ♥73 ♦A96 ♣J8542	
♠J8754 ♥JT62 ♦T53 ♣Q	N W E S	♠T92 ♥Q94 ♦KJ742 ♣T3
	♠K6 ♥AK85 ♦Q8 ♣AK976	

West	North	East	South
	<i>De Wijs</i>		<i>Muller</i>
			1C(1)
Pass	2C(2)	Pass	2D(3)
Pass	2NT(4)	Pass	3C(3)
Pass	3D(5)	Pass	3H(3)
Pass	4C(6)	Pass	4D(3)
Pass	4H(7)	Pass	4S(3)
Pass	5D(8)	DBL	Pass(3)
Pass	RDBL(9)	Pass	5H(3)
Pass	5NT(10)	Pass	7C All Pass

- 1) 16+ 2) 5+ C, 9+ HCP, 2+ controls
- 3) Relay 4) 1 or 2 hearts 5) 3235
- 6) 4 controls 7) No C A or K
- 8) Top honor in D and S 9) No CQ
- 10) 2nd top honor in S

When the trumps split normally, there was nothing to the play. This slam was also bid and made by Sweden's Fredin-Bjornlund, and their bidding surely took less time than that of De Wijs - Muller (the latter being renowned for not bidding and playing hastily). Moreover, Fredin-Bjornlund bid and made a grand slam on the very next board as well! Alas, in their match they had started with board 7 rather than board 1, so their efforts were not rewarded.

Tactical Game

Angelini versus Sweden

Fulvio Fantoni showed your editor a couple of deals from the last round-robin match between Team Angelini and Sweden. It was a real tactical game.

Round 7, Board 14, Dealer: E, Vul: None

	♠QJ84 ♥Q72 ♦K ♣KQJ73	
♠65 ♥63 ♦98743 ♣9864	N W E S	♠A97 ♥AKT5 ♦QT65 ♣AT
	♠KT32 ♥J984 ♦AJ2 ♣52	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bjornlund</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1D	Pass
1S(1)	2C	DBL(2)	RDBL(3)
2D	Pass	Pass	DBL(4)
Pass	2S	All Pass	

(1) bridge is war (2) three-card spades (3) points, probably four-card hearts (4) takeout

Both teams were very much in contention to qualify for the finals. Fantoni-Nunes had to work really hard to buy this spade partial, especially after Fredin fooled around in the same suit. When EW did not find the heart ruff, Fantoni managed to make an overtrick: +140 to NS. At the other table Sementa-Lauria(EW) played in 3D and went one down. Three IMPs to Angelini, in a match where every IMP counted.

Great Lead

Final: Lavazza versus Orange

Final, Board 21, Dealer: N, Vul: NS

	♠A75 ♥Q43 ♦T63 ♣AQ83	
♠Q6 ♥J9762 ♦J752 ♣75	N W E S	♠KJ983 ♥T8 ♦Q4 ♣KT96
	♠T42 ♥AK5 ♦AK98 ♣J42	

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT(1)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1) 13-15

Giorgio Duboin kicked off with the SQ, which left declarer without a chance. How did the Lavazza star find this brilliant lead?

"They play a weak notrump. So I expected North to have (almost) opening values. At the other table East, on lead, would probably choose a spade. Since we were winning, I wanted to do the same thing as the guy in the other room." Right he was, since Huub Bertens led a spade as East.

By the way, after a heart lead, 3NT can be made although it requires careful play (attack clubs first).

(Courtesy: *Daily Bulletins of the Tournament*)

ALL INDIA P.N.U. CLUB TOURNAMENT

P.N.U. CLUB, Varanasi will hold an All India Prize Money Bridge Tournament, under the auspices of Varanasi Bridge Association @ P.N.U CLUB, Cantt, Varanasi (Ph: 2503472) from March 3-5, 2006. The total Prize Money will be Rs. 150,000/-

Contact: Kr. Vijayanand Singh - 9450011905

ALL INDIA RAMA JAIN TOURNAMENT

The Delhi Bridge Association will hold the ALL INDIA RAMA JAIN PAIRS BRIDGE TOURNAMENT on 11th & 12th March 2006 at DBA Building, 18, Institutional Area, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.

DECCAN GYMKHANA PUNE TOURNAMENT

The Deccan Gymkhana, Pune, is going to organize their Centenary Celebration Prize Money Bridge Tournament in their club premises from 1st to 4th July 2006.

The total prize money will be approx. Rs. 400,000/-

DELHI BRIDGE SCHEDULE

1. Pair event is played at DBA on every Tuesday evening from 1830 Hrs. onwards.
2. Team event is played at DBA on every Saturday from 1430 Hrs. onwards.
3. The Ladies Bridge Association holds an Open Pairs tournament on every Friday at PHD House commencing at 1430 Hrs.
4. The SPEED Sponsored Pairs Tournament is held at PHD House on 3rd Sunday of every month from 1400 Hrs.
5. Vasant Vihar Club holds a Pairs tournament (limited to 30 Pairs, based on first-cum-first-served basis) on the first Sunday of every month from 0930 to 1330 Hours.

Editorial board

Mr. T.C. Pant, Editor
Mr. S.N. Mathur, Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal

Technical Consultants:

Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. B. Satyanarayana

37th Summer National Bridge Championship Mar17-27, 2006, Wayanad Programme

Mar 17 (1900 Hrs):	Captain's Meet (Teams will be divided in 2 groups)
Mar 18 (0930 Hrs):	KHOSLA Trophy (7 Rounds of 10 boards a match each day)
Mar 19 (0930 Hrs)	
Mar 20 (0930 Hrs)	
Mar 21 (0930 Hrs)	
	KHOSLA Teams QF RR (6rounds * 12 boards. Top 4 teams to qualify for SF)
	Agarwala Pairs: Pre-QF (3 Sessions)
Mar 22 (0900 Hrs)	KHOSLA QF (Round7)
Mar 22 (0930 Hrs)	
	Agarwala Pairs: Pre-QF (3 Sessions)
Mar 22 (1100 Hrs)	KHOSLA SF (4*14 Boards)
Mar 23 (0930 Hrs)	
	KHOSLA Finals (4*16 Boards)
	Playoff for 3 rd & 4 th (2*16)
	Agarwala (QF – 3 Sessions)
Mar 24 (0930 Hrs)	Agarwala (SF – 3 Sessions)
Mar 25 (0900 Hrs)	
	Agarwala Trophy (Finals – 8 Rounds of 8 Boards)
Mar 26 (0900 Hrs)	Agarwala Trophy (Finals – 7 Rounds of 8 Boards)
Mar 26 (1930 Hrs)	Prize Distribution
Mar 27 (0930 Hrs)	Wayanad Sightseeing Trips

Forthcoming Events - 2006

National

- 03-05 Mar: All India Bridge Tournament, P.N.U. Club, Varanasi
11-12 Mar: All India Rama Jain Tournament, Delhi
17-27 Mar: 37th Summer Nationals, Vythiri Resorts, Wayanad, Kerala
01-04 Jul: Deccan Gymkhana, Pune

International

- 07-12 Mar: 2nd Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship, Melbourne, Australia
30 Mar - 09 Apr: ACBL Spring NABC, Dallas, TX
09-24 Jun: 8th World Championships, Verona, Italy

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