

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

Editor: T.C. Pant

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President: M.D. Dalmia

Hon. Secretary: R.K. Gupta

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The 47th Winter Bridge Nationals

The 47th Winter Bridge National Championship, under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India were organized at J J Indoor Basket Ball Complex, Kilpauk Garden, Chennai from 27th Dec 2005 to 5th Jan 2006.

Shri K.B. Brahmadathan, Chief General Manager, BSNL inaugurated the event in the august presence of Shri P.C. Goenka, President Emeritus BFI, Shri Y. Kamalakara Rao, President BFI, Shri G.K. Sundaram, Chairman of the organising committee, Shri N.R. Kirubakaramurthy, President TNBA and Shri Mukul Chatterjee, Hon. Secretary.

This year's Nationals had a different format with many-sponsored event being added, so that the eliminated players could play further and win more prizes. The various event winners are:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| RUIA GOLD (Team of Four) | WINNERS | TRAMBAK RUBBER |
| | RUNNER-UP | PANKAJ KAPADIA |
| RUIA SILVER (Team of Four) | WINNERS | CHENNAI ONLINE |
| | RUNNER-UP | SCPCC |
| MOHAN SICKA Trophy (BAM) | WINNERS | WELLKNIT |
| | RUNNER-UP | INDIAN RAILWAYS - A |
| HOLKAR Trophy (OPEN PAIRS) | WINNERS | V Ramesh Kumar - Alope Sadhu |
| | RUNNER-UP | Rana Roy - Subhash Gupta |
| KAMALAKARA IMP PAIRS | WINNERS | S.V. Apte – S.B. Vichare |
| | RUNNER-UP | S.S. Mani – A.K. Ghosh |
| Indian Oversea Bank Sponsored Open Pairs | WINNERS | Saswata Bhattacharya - Pranoy Mazumdar |
| | RUNNER-UP | N B Rao - A K Thakur |
| BSNL Sponsored Continuous Individual Championship | WINNERS | P.N. Malhotra |
| | RUNNER-UP | Hanif I. Khwaja |
| L.J. Thomas T-4, Swiss League Sponsored event | WINNERS | R L KEJRIWAL M C |
| | RUNNER-UP | T BOSE'S - IV |
| IndusInd Bank Sponsored Categorized Pairs | WINNERS | P T Ramjee - B T Pai |
| | RUNNER-UP | Bidyut Goswami - K P Chatterjee |
| G.K. Sundaram Fast Pairs | WINNERS | P K ROY - T BOSE |
| | RUNNER-UP | V Suryanarayana - Nirmal |

See detailed report on 47th Winter Nationals inside.

Editor

GAZZILLI (Part-1)

Playing Standard system, you open one of a Major and partner responds one No trump. Now if you have a single suiter major GF hand, there is no convenient bid. You might jump to 3 of a minor to force the bidding that means responder will not know whether the new suit is of 3 or 4 or 5 cards. Also when you jump to three level with 5-4-3-1 GF hands, it becomes difficult to find the fit in your 3-card suit if the responder has that suit in a weak hand. The jump has taken away the space, which is of paramount importance for exploring and finding the right contract.

Similarly another problem area for Standard Bidders is balanced hand of 15-17 HCP with a 5-card major. If you open one of a major, there is re-bid problem with these hands. Many of the players today open 1NT with 5-card major to solve this problem. However this creates a further problem as you miss out on 5-4 or 5-3 major suit fits on borderline hands.

To solve all these difficulties and also to allow non-forcing jumps to three level with lower HCP (14-16), Italians (as far as I know), play what is called **Gazzilli**.

A) What is GAZZILLI

Gazzilli is an artificial bid of 2C by opener after Opening bid of 1H/1S and response of 1S or 1NT. The 2C response is forcing and you can no longer play there. The 2C bid is used for following kinds of hands:

- 5-3-3-2 hands of 12 -14, 15-17 and 18-20 HCP.
- 5 Major and 4+ Club with 11-16 HCP.
- Generally all other hands of 17+ HCP (single suiter, two suiter etc.)

B) Opener's rebids after 1H Opening

Since Gazzilli covers most of the 17+ HCP hands, it allows us a great deal of flexibility with Precision like jumps. The jumps are no longer forcing and simple bids at two level (except 2C) are narrower in HCP. This certainly has an advantage as responder no longer needs to keep the bidding open. The following are opener's rebids after 1H opening and 1S or 1NT response:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1H – 1S – ? . Opener's rebids are: 1N – shows a balanced hand of 12-14 HCP. 2C – Gazzilli. 2D – Natural 4+ cards, 11-16 HCP. 2H – Natural 6 cards, 11-14 HCP. 2S – 3 or 4 card support, 11-14 HCP. 2N – Can be played as splinter, 4 card support or 6 hearts and 3S, 14-16 HCP 3C/D – Natural 5+H and 5C/D, 14-16 HCP. 3H – Natural 6-cards, 14-16 HCP without 3S. 3S – 4 card Spade support, 14-16 HCP, 4-5-2-2. 4C/D – 6 hearts and 4 spades, singleton C/D.</p> | <p>1H – 1N – ? . Opener rebids: 2C – Gazzilli. 2D – Natural 4+ cards, 11-16 HCP. 2H – Natural 6 cards, 11-14 HCP. 2S – 5+ heart and 4+ Spade, 17+ HCP. 2N – Can be played as 6+ heart and any 4-card suit, 17+ HCP (3C=GF relay) 3C/D – Natural 5+H and 5C/D, 14-16 HCP. 3H – Natural 6-cards, 14-16 HCP. 3S – 6 Heart and 5 Spades. 4C/D – 6-5 distribution, 14-16 HCP.</p> |
|---|---|

C) Opener's rebids after 1S Opening

The rebids after 1S opening and 1NT response are on similar lines as after 1H Opening.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1S – 1N – ? . Opener rebids: 2C – Gazzilli. 2D/H – Natural 3+/4+ cards, 11-16 HCP. 2S/3S – 6+ cards, 11-14 /14-16 HCP. 2N – 6+ spade and any 4-card suit, 17+ HCP 3C/D/H – Natural 5+S and 5 C/D/H, 14-16 HCP. 4C/D/H – 6-5 distribution, 14-16 HCP.</p> | <p>1S – 1N – 2N – ? Responder's rebids are: 3C – Relay, GF. 3D – 4 cards diamonds. 3H – 4 cards hearts. 3S – 4 cards clubs. 3D/H/S – to play.</p> |
|--|--|

We will continue our discussion on Gazzilli in next month's bulletin, where we will discuss in detail developments after opener re-bids 2C.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event - Results

06/12/2005 – 9 Tables

| | |
|--|--------|
| NS 1: Daya Dhaon – Suraj Jain | 70.98% |
| NS 2: Mrs. Rashmi Agarwal – D.D. Gulhati | 54.25% |
| EW 1: Dr. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja | 65.75% |
| EW 2: Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele | 65.30% |

13/12/2005 – 11 Tables

| | |
|---|--------|
| NS 1: Mrs. Beneeta Chandra– Mrs. R. Singh | 59.64% |
| NS 2: T.N. Tiku – G. Singh | 56.51% |
| EW 1: T.C. Pant – Amod Rele | 59.38% |
| EW 2: R.C. Consul – J.B. Sengupta | 58.90% |

20/12/2005 – 10 Tables

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| NS 1: Suraj Jain – Daya Dhaon | 64.42% |
| NS 2: D.K. Mutreja – Joyjit Sen Sarma | 57.86% |
| EW 1: Santosh Kumar – Harsh Gupta | 56.37% |
| EW 2: A.K. Sinha – Ajay Tankha | 55.70% |

27/12/2005 – 7 Tables

| | |
|--|--------|
| NS 1: T.N. Tiku – G. Singh | 61.67% |
| NS 2: Ms. Beneeta Chandra–Ms. Rita Singh | 52.22% |
| EW 1: D. Mutreja – Joyjit Sen Sarma | 58.33% |
| EW 2: J.B. Sengupta – R.C. Consul | 57.78% |

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

10/12/2005 – 8 Teams

1. **ACES** – (Subhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal, Amod Rele, T.C. Pant, P.R. Sinha)
2. **EIL** – (A.K. Ghosh, R. Nanda, B.S. Gupta, Mukesh Shivdasani)
2. **Dr. SURANA** – (Dr. Asha Surana, A.K. Narang, R.K. Gupta, R. Chakravarty)

17/12/2005 – 8 Teams

1. **SUBHASH** – (Subhash Gupta, Sartaj Hans, Dr. Ashwani Mehta, Sunil Bhatia)
2. **VIJAY** – (Vijay Kumar, O.K. Mohan Dass, J.B. Sengupta, R.C. Consul, P.C. Gupta)

31/12/2005 – 8 Teams

1. **Dr. Surana** – (Dr. Asha Surana, R.S. Jasuja, R. Chakravarty, A.K. Narang, R.K. Gupta)
2. **Royal India** – (Dr. Nikita Kamal, Amarjit Wadhawan, Hans Verma, Dr. R.L. Sanghi, Ujjwal Gupta)

AILBA – Pairs Event Results

02/12/2005 - 9 Tables

| |
|--|
| NS 1: Dr. R.L. Sanghi – S.A. Bijlani |
| NS 2: Mrs. Rekha Sarin – Ms. Yumiko Goto |
| EW 1: R.C. Tandon – Mrs. Mira Khurana |
| EW 2: Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal - Maj. B.H. Iyer |

09/12/2005 - 9 Tables

| |
|--|
| NS 1: Daya Dhaon – Suraj Jain |
| NS 2: Mrs. Bhavana Naraindas – Alok Khemka |
| EW 1: Mrs. Rashmi Agarwal – D.D. Gulhati |
| EW 2: Amarjit Wadhawan – S.K. Somani |

16/12/2005 - 9 Tables

| |
|--|
| NS 1: Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal – Amarjit Wadhawan |
| NS 2: Mrs. Niki Mehra – Mrs. Veena Gupta |
| EW 1: P.K. Rajgariah – S.K. Somani |
| EW 2: Dr. R.L. Sanghi – N.K. Jain |

23/12/2005 - 9 Tables

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| NS 1: S.K. Agarwal – Ved Prakash |
| NS 2: G.N. Mehra – Mahendra Singh |
| EW 1: R.K. Jain – P.C. Jain |
| EW 2: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja |

30/12/2005 - 8 Tables

| |
|---|
| NS 1: Mrs. Shashi Jain - G.N. Mehra |
| NS 2: Mrs. Suman Bansidhar – MML Sharma |
| EW 1: Maj. B.H. Iyer – S.A. Bijlani |
| EW 2: K.C. Sikka – Mrs. Saklender Sikka |

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

Vasant Vihar Club Tournament

23 Pairs participated in the Vasant Vihar Club monthly tournament held on 11th Dec 2005. The results:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Dr. Tushar Moghe – S.K. Syal | 65.30% |
| 2. Mrs. V. Jain – N.N. Chopra | 59.96% |
| 3. P.P. Aggarwal – Y.R. Dhawan | 58.78% |
| 4. K.C. Sikka – Mrs. Sikka | 57.30% |
| 5. S.A. Bijlani – S.K. Aggarwal | 57.17% |

- Reported by Mr. Amarjit Wadhawan

Shri A.K. GHOSH

Shri A.K. Ghosh, who had a long association with Delhi Bridge, passed away on the night of Jan 7, 2006. He suddenly had a medical ailment and was operated for the same. He was recovering from the operation, when suddenly his condition became worse and finally we lost him.

Shri A.K. Ghosh, who was an Engineer by profession, was working at Engineers India Ltd. He used to come to DBA regularly on Tuesdays & Saturdays for Bridge. We at Delhi Bridge Association will always remember the warm-hearted and jolly natured Shri A.K. Ghosh. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

May his soul rest in peace.

Delhi State Championships

The **Delhi State Championships 2005** were held from 2nd to 4th Dec 2005 at the **Delhi Bridge Association building (DBA)**. Events are detailed below:

OPEN PAIRS EVENT:

The Open Pairs event was held on 2nd & 3rd Dec 2005.

23 pairs (12 tables) participated in the event. After playing elimination round of 22 boards, 8 NS & 8 EW pairs qualified for the final. The toppers in the elimination round were:

North-South

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele | 62.30% |
| 2. V.N. Puri – Ajay Tankha | 58.05% |

East-West

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. S. Mathew – Ashim Kumar Ghosh | 57.43% |
| 2. D.K. Tewari – P.C. Gupta | 56.43% |

In the 30 boards final, each pair played 2 boards against all the other opponents. The winners were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Yogesh Tewari – Arun Jain | 62.35% |
| 2. N.K. Gupta – Sandeep Thakral | 59.73% |
| 3. Subhash Gupta – Sukamal Das | 57.48% |
| 4. T.C. Pant – P.R. Sinha | 54.15% |
| 5. S. Mathew – Ashim Kumar Ghosh | 52.52% |

TEAM OF FOUR EVENT:

The 2-day Team of Four event was held on 3rd & 4th Dec 2005. 12 teams took part in this event. After playing a Swiss league of 8 rounds of 8 boards each, the following 4 teams qualified for the Semi finals:

1. **DELHI BLUES** – 145 VPs (Paresh Gupta, Sham Sharma, D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta, Yogesh Tiwari)
2. **Dr. Surana** – 141 VPs (Dr. Asha Surana, Raghubir S. Jajuja, Arun Jain, R.C. Aggarwal, A.K. Narang)
3. **ACES** - 133 VPs (Subhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal, Amod Rele, Ashok Goel, Sandeep Thakral)
4. **PANT's** – 126 VPs (T.C. Pant, Priya Ranjan Sinha, Joyjit Sen Sarma, Daleep Mutreja, Rajesh Jain)

In the 3*10 boards Semi finals played on 4th evening, **Delhi Blues** team beat Pant's team by **55-32** (10-16, 9-13, 36-3) whereas **Acés** beat Dr. Surana's team by **89-65** (40-26, 20-9, 29-30).

The 4*10 boards final was played on the afternoon of 18th Dec and **ACES** emerged victorious by a very thin margin of 2 IMPs by defeating **DELHI BLUES** by **70-68** (10-14, 7-7, 33-15, 20-32).

Congratulations to All the Winners

- Reported by Editor

Interesting Deal

Even the two of clubs takes a trick now and then

Mark Itabashi reported this deal from the Sunday afternoon Open Pair event (deal rotated) of the 2005 Fall NABC at Orlando.

Board: 2, Dlr: West, Vul: N-S

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | ♠ A ♥ AQ98 ♦ K87 ♣ KT965 | | |
| ♠ 876 ♥ KT764 ♦ Q42 ♣ J8 | N W E S | ♠ 543 ♥ 52 ♦ AT963 ♣ Q74 | |
| | ♠ KQJT92 ♥ J3 ♦ J5 ♣ A32 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1C | 1D | 1S |
| 2D | 2H | Pass | 4S |
| All Pass | | | |

On the lead of the D2, East didn't want to win the ace and set up two tricks for declarer if he had DQ5, so he played the 9. This presented declarer with an interesting play for 12 tricks.

At trick two, Itabashi led the HJ covered by the king and ace. Next the SA and the HQ were cashed. At trick five, he led the H9 and pitched his last diamond. West won the 10, but now had no winning option.

He tried leading a heart for his partner to ruff, to kill the pitch, overruffed by Itabashi. Trumps were drawn leading to this position:

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | ♠ ♥ ♦ K ♣ KT9 | | |
| ♠ ♥ ♦ Q4 ♣ J8 | N W E S | ♠ ♥ ♦ A ♣ Q74 | |
| | ♠ 2 ♥ ♦ ♣ A32 | | |

On the last spade, East had to save his DA. When he discarded a club, declarer cashed the club King & Ace and the C2 took trick 13.

*- Reported by the Editor
(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of FALL NABC)*

47th Winter Bridge Nationals - Complete Report

The 47th Winter Bridge National Championship, under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India were organized at J J Indoor Basket Ball Complex, Kilpauk Garden, Chennai from 27th Dec 2005 to 5th Jan 2006. Each event is detailed below for the benefit of readers.

Team of Four Event for RUIA GOLD CUP

This was the first time, when a new format was played in the Nationals for the Team of Four event. The participating teams were divided into 16 groups, each group headed by a seeded team. The 16 top teams were seeded based on a formula devised by the seeding committee, by which weights were given to the earlier performance of the team in total, as well as performance of each player of the team. The top 16 seeded teams were:

| Seed No. | Team Name | Player's Name |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Indian Railways 'A' | Manas Mukerjee, Rana Roy, Sneheshish Roy, Pritish Kushari, Sumit Mukerjee, Amarnath Banerjee |
| 2 | Formidables | Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Venkataraman.K.R, Sunit Chokshi, Rajeswari Tiwari |
| 3 | India Blue's | Ashok Ruia, S.K.Iyengar, Sudhir Majumdar, J.M.Shah, Rajendra Gokhale, Sudhir Ganguly |
| 4 | Dhampur Sugar Mills | Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Sandeep Thakral, Kamal Roy, Debashish Roy, R.Venkatesh |
| 5 | Agsar Paints | N.R.Kirubakara Moorthy, B. Prabhakar, Anil Padhye, Sunderram, P. Sridhar, Rajesh Dalal |
| 6 | Indian Railways'B' | Saroj Bhattacharjee, Ashim Mukherjee, Gopinath Manna, Pranab Roy, D.Majumdar, Debasish Bose |
| 7 | Tolani Shipping | R. A. Agarwal, Archie Sequeira, Finton Lewis, Ajit Chakradeo, Prakash Hegde, Anal Shah |
| 8 | C.V.Rao | C.V. Rao, SNDe Sarkar, Swarendru Banerjee, Badal Das, Alok Sadhu |
| 9 | SN.Chatterjees's IV | Som Nath Chatterjee, Punya Kirti Das Sharma, Kalipada Das, Debashis Datta, Apurba Bhattacharya |
| 10 | Manywar | Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, K.Ankalasariya, S.Dhakras, Vinay Desai |
| 11 | Radhey | V M Lal, Raju Bhiwandkar, Rajmohan, Premchand Bafna, Suhas Vaidya, Deshpande V |
| 12 | Monotona | Dipak Poddar, Anand KS Samant, Sunil Machhar, R.Sridharan, A.M.Bapat, Sapan Desai |
| 13 | TRAMBAK RUBBER | Hari Shankar Bajoria, Bivas Todi, Govinda Singha, Bhabesh Saha, Asit Baran Chakraborty, Shankar Acharya |
| 14 | ALOK DAGA'S IV | Alok Daga, Ajay Brahmachari, Satyabrata Lahiri, Ajay Bagaria, Subrata Saha, Shankar Prosad Ghosh |
| 15 | JP Goenka's IV | Jagdish Prasad Goenka, Souren Dutt, I Alphonso, Mrinal Mukherjee, P.Dalvi, S.Roy |
| 16 | Indian Railways'C' | B. Dey, .Sujit Bhattacharjee, Arup Dutta, Hasibul Hasan, .Pawan Aggarwal, Biswanath Saha |

In all 130 teams participated in the Team of Four event, which included a team from Sri Lanka. One pair each from Italy & Jordan also participated in the event. Out of the 16 groups, Groups 'A' to 'M' and Group 'P' contained 8 teams each and played 7 rounds of 16 boards against each other. Groups 'N' & 'O' had 9 teams and played 8 rounds of 14 boards each.

After 2 days of round-robin, the top 4 teams of each group qualified for the *round of 64* knock-out matches. There were no surprises, as all the top seeded teams qualified comfortably. As per the Condition of Contest, besides the top 16 teams, which were seeded initially; the other 48 qualified teams were seeded for the knock-out matches based on their rankings in the round-robin. **See list of qualifiers on the next page.**

These teams played a 3*12 board knockout match to go to the last 32 stage. The knock-out matches were 1 Vs 64, 2 Vs 63, 3 Vs. 62 and so on.

The teams eliminated from the Ruia Gold event participated in the **RUIA SILVER** event. These teams played a swiss league for the next 2 days to declare DIRECT RESULTS. The 32 teams who got knocked out from Ruia Gold - Round of 64 knockout, also joined this event, with a pre-determined score based on their score in the Ruia Gold round robin.

LIST OF 64 QUALIFIERS FOR THE RUIA GOLD KNOCK-OUT

| Group | Team Ranked 1 | Team Ranked 2 | Team Ranked 3 | Team Ranked 4 |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Group A | INDIAN RAILWAY - A | WELLKNIT | BAJAJ | NAGBAGAN BANERJEE'S IV |
| Group B | FORMIDABLES | NAVAYUGA | MRSMC | MADHU'S |
| Group C | INDIA BLUE'S | KAKATIYA | INDRA DHANUSH | CHINMOY CHAKRABORTY'S IV |
| Group D | DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS | SRILANKA | Chennai Online | L J THOMAS |
| Group E | AGSAR PAINTS | PANKAJ KAPADIA | EVERGREEN | AJINKYA |
| Group F | INDIAN RAILWAYS- B | VIZAG. STEEL | OFSCB - B | AGARWAL, HYDERABAD |
| Group G | TOLANI SHIPPING | EKOKLEEN | RATNAGIRI | CHARI'S |
| Group H | C V RAO | KAMLESH GUPTA'S - IV | M N C | OFSCB - A |
| Group I | S N CHATTERJEE'S - IV | NEST INN | KINIS | BAJARANG |
| Group J | MANYWAR | BDBU(Green) | I-Doctors | MAYAMIRA |
| Group K | RADHEY | SNDMC (PKB) | PANKAJ MEHTA | BASU MAJUMDAR'S IV |
| Group L | MONOTONA | DARKS | P C D A P | SCPCC |
| Group M | TRAMBAK RUBBER | WILD HORSE (ASANSOL) | S.D.S.C SHAR | ELEGANT |
| Group N | ALOK DAGA'S - IV | PALLABI | CHAUDHARY COMBINES - B | NALCO |
| Group O | J P GOENKA'S - IV | MOHOTA, NAGPUR | OSR (AKT) | MBPT SPORTS CLUB |
| Group P | INDIAN RAILWAYS - C | TARKUNDE | KAUSHIK - B | UPSP |

After playing a 3*12 board knockout match, the last 32 stage was reached. Except for S.N. Banerjee's IV team (Seed # 9), which lost to Chari's team (Seed # 56) by 7 IMPs (70-63), all other top seeded teams comfortably qualified for the last 32-stage knock-out matches of the Ruia Gold event.

The last-32 qualifiers further played another 3*12 board matches to identify the last 16 qualifiers. The results of the last-32 stage were:

| LAST 32 STAGE - KNOCKOUT MATCHES (3*12 Boards) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------|-----|----------------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|---------|
| Table # | Team Name | Seed # | Vs. | Team Name | Seed # | Boards | | | TOTAL |
| | | | | | | 1-12 | 13-24 | 25-36 | |
| 1 | INDIAN RAILWAY - A | 1 | Vs. | MOHOTA - NAGPUR | 32 | 23-16 | 19-5 | 37-24 | 79-45 |
| 2 | FORMIDABLES | 2 | Vs. | TARKAUNDE | 31 | 57-37 | 57-02 | 66-36 | 180-75 |
| 3 | INDIA BLUE'S | 3 | Vs. | L J THOMAS | 30 | 28-29 | 18-10 | 15-40 | 61-79 |
| 4 | DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS | 4 | Vs. | INDRA DHANUS | 29 | 29-68 | 44-16 | 38-33 | 111-117 |
| 5 | AGSAR PAINTS | 5 | Vs. | BASU MAZUMDER'S - IV | 28 | 18-51 | 28-9 | 21-25 | 67-85 |
| 6 | INDIAN RAILWAYS- B | 6 | Vs. | AJINKYA | 27 | 36-41 | 29-16 | 31-34 | 96-91 |
| 7 | TOLANI SHIPPING | 7 | Vs. | NEST | 26 | 16-38 | 38-8 | 7-8 | 61-54 |
| 8 | C V RAO | 8 | Vs. | BDBU (GREEN) | 25 | 27-17 | 50-28 | 52-2 | 129-47 |
| 9 | CHARI'S | 9 | Vs. | MAYA MIRA | 24 | 06-35 | 25-41 | 25-40 | 56-116 |
| 10 | MANYAVAR | 10 | Vs. | KAMLESH GUPTA'S - IV | 23 | 42-05 | 33-39 | 31-43 | 106-87 |
| 11 | RADHEY | 11 | Vs. | PANKAJ KAPADIA | 22 | 22-17 | 32-38 | 13-33 | 67-88 |
| 12 | MONOTONA | 12 | Vs. | AGARWAL - HYDERABAD | 21 | 29-13 | 48-10 | Conceded | 77-23 |
| 13 | TRAMBAK RUBBER | 13 | Vs. | PALLAVI | 20 | 65-04 | 14-29 | 42-23 | 121-56 |
| 14 | ALOK DAGA'S - IV | 14 | Vs. | SRILANKA | 19 | 05-25 | 26-22 | 32-06 | 63-53 |
| 15 | J P GOENKA'S - IV | 15 | Vs. | WELLKNIT | 18 | 23-30 | 09-08 | 30-57 | 62-95 |
| 16 | INDIAN RAILWAYS - C | 16 | Vs. | NAVAYUGA | 17 | 42-06 | 12-34 | 12-35 | 66-75 |

There were upsets galore in the last-32 stage knockout matches, as 7 top seeded teams tumbled. India Blues (#3 seed – Ashok Ruia, S.K. Iyengar, J.M. Shah, Rajendra Gokhale, Sudhir Ganguly & Subir majumdar) lost to L.J. Thomas, Dhampur Sugar Mills (#4 - Ashok Goel, Kaml Mukherjee, Kamal Roy, Debashish Roy, Sandeep Thakral & R. Venkatesh) lost to Indra Dhanush , Agsar paints (#5 - N.R. Kirubakaramurthy, B. Prabhakar, S. Sunderram, P. Sridharan, Anil Padhye & Rajesh Dalal) lost to Basu Majumdar's IV, Radhey (#11 - V.M. Lal, Raju Bhiwandkar, P.C. Bafna, Suhas Vaidya, Rajmohan & V. Deshpande) lost to Pankaj Kapadia, J.P. Goenka's IV (#15 - J.P. Goenka, Souren Dutt, Mrinal Mukherjee, Prakash Dalvi, I. Alphonso & S. Roy) lost to Wellknit and Indian Rly. 'C' (#16 - B. Dey, Sujit Bhattacharya, Hasibul Hasan, Pavan Agarwal, Arup Dutta, Biswanath Saha) lost to Navayuga.

ROUND OF 16 - KNOCKOUT MATCHES (4*14 Boards)

| Table # | Team Name | Seed # | Vs. | Team Name | Seed # | Boards | | | | TOTAL |
|---------|----------------------|--------|-----|------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| | | | | | | 1-14 | 15-28 | 29-42 | 43-56 | |
| 1 | INDIAN RAILWAY - A | 1 | Vs. | NAVAYUGA | 16 | 17-25 | 45-22 | 43-44 | 56-07 | 161-98 |
| 2 | FORMIDABLES | 2 | Vs. | WELLKNIT | 15 | 26-12 | 15-45 | 58-07 | 60-12 | 159-76 |
| 3 | L J THOMAS | 3 | Vs. | ALOK DAGA'S - IV | 14 | 32-48 | 03-32 | 25-09 | 69-09 | 129-98 |
| 4 | INDRA DHANUS | 4 | Vs. | TRAMBAK RUBBER | 13 | 00-49 | 21-65 | 36-40 | 38-59 | 95-213 |
| 5 | BASU MAZUMDER'S - IV | 5 | Vs. | MONOTONA | 12 | 21-22 | 21-19 | 19-16 | 32-12 | 93-69 |
| 6 | INDIAN RAILWAYS- B | 6 | Vs. | PANKAJ KAPADIA | 11 | 34-18 | 18-37 | 34-30 | 32-34 | 118-119 |
| 7 | TOLANI SHIPPING | 7 | Vs. | MANYAVAR | 10 | 18-29 | 39-34 | 05-36 | 38-36 | 100-135 |
| 8 | C V RAO | 8 | Vs. | MAYA MIRA | 9 | 31-05 | 24-02 | 36-28 | W/O | 91-35 |

There were no big surprises in the 4*14 boards pre-quarter finals, as the top 2 teams, Indian Railways 'A' (#1) & Formidables (#2) easily beat their opponents. C.V. Rao (#8) & Trambak Rubber (#13) had an easy time against their opponents.

The team to watch out was **L.J. Thomas team**. They had earlier beaten the #3 seed India Blues and created another upset by defeating Alok Daga's IV (#14) by 129-98. In fact with last 14 boards to go they were trailing by 29 IMPs but blitz Daga's team 69-09 in the last set.

Basu Mazumder's IV (#5), who had earlier tumbled the original #5 seed Agsar Paints again played a steady game to defeat Monotona (#12) by 93-69, whereas Tolani Shipping (#7 - R.A. Agarwal, A.R.D. Sequeira, Ajit Chakradeo, Prakash Hegde, Finton Lewis & Anal Shah) lost to Manyavar (#10) by 35 IMPs.

Indian Railway 'B' (#6) and Pankaj Kapadia (#11) had a thrilling match till the end. Pankaj Kapadia team was leading by 55-52 at half way stage but the Railways team won the 3rd set by 4 IMPs to lead by 1 IMP. Kapadia's team took the last set by 34-32 to win the match by 1 IMP (119-118).

ROUND OF 8 - KNOCK-OUT MATCHES (4*14 Boards)

| Table # | Team Name | Seed # | Vs. | Team Name | Seed # | Boards | | | | TOTAL |
|---------|--------------------|--------|-----|----------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1-14 | 15-28 | 29-42 | 43-56 | |
| 1 | INDIAN RAILWAY - A | 1 | Vs. | C V RAO | 8 | 47 - 28 | 04-34 | 29-12 | 45 - 11 | 125 - 85 |
| 2 | FORMIDABLES | 2 | Vs. | MANYAVAR | 7 | 24 - 23 | 20-33 | 10-34 | 36 - 15 | 90 - 105 |
| 3 | L J THOMAS | 3 | Vs. | PANKAJ KAPADIA | 6 | 47 - 15 | 24-50 | 16-47 | 25 - 31 | 112 - 143 |
| 4 | TRAMBAK RUBBER | 4 | Vs. | BASU MAZUMDER'S - IV | 5 | 20 - 20 | 42-23 | 33-25 | 48 - 13 | 143 - 81 |

Indian Railways 'A' (#1) beat C.V. Rao (#8 - Dr. C.V. Rao, U.R. Kumar, Badal Das, S. De Sarkar, Alok Sadhu & Swarnendu Banerjee).

Manyavar (#7) surprised Formidables (#2 - Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, K.R. Venkatraman & Sunit Chokshi). With last 14 boards to Manyavar led by 36 IMPs. Formidables tried their best but could recover only 21 IMPs to lose the match by 15 IMPs, the score reading 105-90 in favour of Manyavar.

The giant-killers of this tournament, the L.J. Thomas team, which has beaten the #3 seed India Blues and Alok Daga's IV (#14) earlier, again started well and led Pankaj Kapadia's team (#6) by 47-15 in the first set. But the experience of Kapadia's team finally prevailed and the L.J. Thomas team lost the match by 31 IMPs (112-143). But it was an excellent performance by the L.J. Thomas team (Dr. Ravi, Farooque Dadabhoy, V. Suryanarayana, M. Vaduganathan, N. Sriram & Nirmal Kumar Jain)

Trambak Rubber (#4) beat Basu Mazumder's IV (#5 - Siddharta Roy Chowdhury, Sujit Basu, Saswata Bhattacharya, Pranoy Majumdar, Sannat Roy & Subrata Chatterjee) by 143-81 IMPs.

The line-up for the 4 * 16 boards semi-final was:

Indian Railways "A" Vs. Trambak Rubber & Manyavar Vs. Pankaj Kapadia

Both the semi-final matches (4*16 boards) of the Ruia Gold were shown live on BBO Vu-graph.

SEMI-FINAL (4*16 Boards)

| Table # | Team Name | Seed # | Vs. | Team Name | Seed # | Boards | | | | TOTAL |
|---------|--------------------|--------|-----|----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1-16 | 17-32 | 33-48 | 49-64 | |
| 1 | INDIAN RAILWAY - A | 1 | | TRAMBAK RUBBER | 4 | 57 - 38 | 33 - 33 | 16 - 35 | 15 - 41 | 121 - 147 |
| 2 | MANYAVAR | 2 | | PANKAJ KAPADIA | 3 | 26 - 57 | 46 - 38 | 30 - 35 | 27 - 49 | 129 - 179 |

In the first semifinal, Indian Railways 'A' (#1) played against Trambak Rubber (#4). The Railways team took the first set by 19 IMPs (57-38). The second set was tight and ended in a tie with 33-33 score. The Trambak Rubber team made the match very exciting by winning the third set by 35-16 and completely wiping their deficit. With last 16 boards to go the score was tied at 106-106. Trambak Rubber won the last set 41-15 to score an emphatic victory over the reigning champions Indian Railways team. The final score read 147-121 in favour of Trambak Rubber. The Railways team was represented by Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Pritish Kushari, Sumit Mukherjee, Snehashish Roy and Amarnath Banerjee.

In the second semi-final between Manyavar (#2) and Pankaj Kapadia's team (#3), the first session ended with Kapadia's team leading by 31 IMPs (57-26). Manyavar recovered 8 IMPs in the 2nd set but Pankaj Kapadia's team kept a tight hold on the game winning the next 2 sets by 35-30 and 49-27 to win by 50 IMPs (179-129). Manyavar team was represented by S. Dhakras, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Pankaj Desai & Keyzad Anklesaria.

So it was **Trambak Rubber Vs Pankaj Kapadia** in the FINAL of RUIA GOLD.

The 64 boards final between Trambak Rubber and Pankaj Kapadia teams was expected to be a good tussle and the first session turned out to be that way. Pankaj Kapadia team won the first set by 6 IMPs (45-39). However a procedural penalty of 5 IMPs was imposed on them on board 1, reducing the lead to a solitary IMP. The second set turned out to be bad for the Kapadia team as they lost the set by 49 IMP (04-53), trailing by 48 IMPs at half way stage. Kapadia's team won the 3rd session 43-31 to recover 12 IMPs and trailed by 36 IMPs with last 16 boards to go.

But Trambak Rubber comfortably took the last set 61-19 to score an emphatic victory over the Pankaj Kapadia team by 78 IMPs (184-106).

Chennai turned out to be a good hunting ground for the Trambak Rubber team led by Hari Shankar Bajoria. They had earlier won the Ruia cup at Chennai in 1995. The other members of the winning team are Bivas Todi, Bhabesh Saha, A.B. Chakraborty, Govind Singha and Shankar Acharya. For Mr. Govind Singha, this is his 5th Ruia win. This is the 45th time that he has participated in the Winter Nationals (This is the 47th Nationals). It is a rare tribute to his dedication towards Bridge.

The runners-up were represented by J. Biswas, T.K. Roy, Sadhan Ghosh, N.B. Saha and S. Bhattacharya.

Heartiest Congratulations to the Trambak Rubber & Pankaj Kapadia teams for their excellent performance.



The RUIA GOLD Cup Winners

Bhabesh Saha, A.B. Chakravarty, Bivas Todi,
Govind Singha, Hari Shankar Bajoria



The RUIA GOLD Cup Runners-up

S. Bhattacharya, Sadhan Ghosh, J. Biswas,
T.K. Roy & N.B. Saha

TEAM OF FOUR - RUIA SILVER CUP

33 teams started their second innings in the **RUIA SILVER** event after getting eliminated from the Ruia Gold event. They played a 2-day, 10 round swiss league, to decide the winner. Each round was of 12 boards each and the draw was based on actual score. The participating teams were given a 10% carry over score of their final tally in the Ruia Gold.

After completion of 2 rounds, 19 teams from the 32 teams, which got eliminated from the last 64-knockout stage of the Ruia Gold, further joined the Silver event with a 10% carryover of their final tally in the Ruia Gold round-robin plus 26 VPs.

The leaders at the end of 5 sessions (first day of the event) was "Biswanath" team with 111 VPs.

After 10 rounds, "**Chennai Online**" - the local team from Chennai - with a score of 199 VPs won the Ruia Silver trophy from the 52 teams that had participated in the 2-day event, where a swiss-league of 10 rounds decided the winner.

SCPCC with 190 VPs were second and first day's leaders Biswanath team was third with 187 VPs. The top ranked teams were:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1. CHENNAI ONLINE | 199 VPs |
| 2. SCPCC | 190 |
| 3. BISWANATH | 187 |
| 4. PANKAJ MEHTA | 186 |
| 5. T BOSES - IV | 186 |
| 6. GUPTA'S BANGALORE | 184 |
| 7. SNDMC | 180 |
| 8. OFSCB - A | 175 |
| 9. KRISHNAS | 173 |
| 10. OSRC (BSP) | 172 |



**The Winners – RUIA SILVER CUP
CHENNAI ONLINE TEAM**

Madhu Vishwanathan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Shyam Sunder, L. Ravichandran
(C. Rangarajan & Pradeep Kulkarni, the 2 others players of the team are not in photograph)

KAMALAKARA IMP PAIRS

78 Pairs participated in the 2-day, 5-session IMP Pairs tournament for KAMALAKARA Trophy.

The pair of **S.V. Apte & S.B. Vichare** with a score of 190 IMPs won the IMP Pairs for KAMALAKARA Trophy. The top rank holders were:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. S V APTE - S B VICHARE | 190 IMPs |
| 2. S S MANI - A K GHOSH | 163 |
| 3. R S MISHRA - B K AGARWAL | 132 |
| 4. S V KULKARNI - W G C DR V KUMAR | 102 |
| 5. B S MADHUKAR - R RAGHAVENDARA | 97 |
| 6. M D DIWAN - A N PENDSAY | 96 |
| 7. B K SATYAN - RAJEEV PARASH | 92 |
| 8. D SENGUPTA - P K DUTTA | 92 |

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK SPONSORED OPEN PAIRS

The pair of Saswata Bhattacharya and Pranoy Mazumdar won the Indian Overseas Bank sponsored open pairs event with a score of 593.24.

60 Pairs participated in this event played in 2 sessions. The top rank holders were:

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Saswata Bhattacharya - Pranoy Mazumdar | 593.24 |
| 2. N B Rao - A K Thakur | 552.26 |
| 3. P K Thakur - Sagar Bhuiya | 546.76 |
| 4. B S Pradhan - N C Das | 543.00 |
| 5. P K Mishra - P Beura | 534.62 |
| 6. P K Roy - T Bose | 517.26 |
| 7. R Gupta - S Chitmis | 513.08 |
| 8. G Saha - T M Yegyanarayana | 512.00 |

BSNL Sponsored Continuous Individual Championship

88 Players participated in the BSNL sponsored Individual Championships. The event was played in 2 sections. The top position holder of the event were:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. P.N. Malhotra | 431.07 |
| 2. Hanif I. Khwaja | 422.40 |
| 3. T.M. Suryanarayana | 414.44 |
| 4. P.K. Roy | 414.43 |
| 5. P.K. Mishra | 411.57 |
| 6. Subir Roy | 407.87 |
| 7. S.R. Gokhale | 407.80 |
| 8. R.S. Mishra | 401.23 |

L.J. THOMAS Team of Four – Swiss League Sponsored Event

The L.J. Thomas Team of Four Swiss league attracted 44 Teams. It was a 6 round league of 10 boards each. R.L. Kejriwal M.C. team won the event with 128 VPs. The top ranked teams were:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. R L KEJRIWAL M C | 128 VPs |
| 2. T BOSE'S - IV | 115 |
| 3. PACERS | 114 |
| 4. NEST INN | 113 |
| 5. TAPAS MUKHERJEE IV | 112 |
| 6. J P GOENKA | 107 |
| 7. NALCO | 103 |
| 8. S C P C C | 103 |

Board -a-Match event for MOHAN SICKA Trophy

70 teams participated in the Board-a-Match event for MOHAN SICKA Trophy. The teams were divided in 6 groups from 'A' to 'F', with 12 teams in the first 4 groups and 11 in the last 2 groups.

The event started with a 2-session first elimination round. 2 elimination rounds were to be played in this event before the Finals.

16 top teams each from combined groups "A" & "B", "C" & "D" and "E" & "F" qualified for the 2nd elimination round. These 48 teams were joined by the 4 losing quarter-finalists of the Ruia Gold cup in the 2nd elimination round and played in 4 groups of 13 teams each. The leaders in the 2nd elimination round were:

Gr. A & B Combined: Tolani Shipping - 179
Gr. C & D Combined: RADHEY - 175

33 teams qualified for the 3-sessions FINALS of the BAM event for the prestigious MOHAN SICKA Trophy.

The teams were divided in 3 sections of 11 teams each and played a total of 64 boards (32 rounds of 2 boards each) against each other.

WELLKNIT With a score of 238, emerged as the Winners of the MOHAN SICKA Trophy. The team comprised of C.R. Badrinath, R. Krishnan, K. Krishna kumar, N.K. Gupta, Uttam Gupta and Arvind Srinivas. **Indian Railways "A"** with a score of 237 came second. They were represented by Pritish Kushari, Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee & Snehashish Roy.

There was a 3-way tie for the 3rd place. After tiebreak the 3rd position went to **Manyawar** team comprising of Raju Tolani, Vinay Desai, Ajay Khare, Keyzad Ankesaria, Kaustabh Bendre & Ankit Sanghvi. The top rank holders were:

| Rank | Team Name | Total |
|------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 | WELL KNIT | 238 |
| 2 | INDIAN RAILWAYS - A | 237 |
| 3 | MANYAWAR | 232 |
| 4 | AGSAR PAINTS | 232 |
| 5 | KR VIJAYANAND SINGH | 232 |
| 6 | FORMIDABLES | 224 |
| 7 | KAMALESH GUPTA - IV | 219 |
| 8 | C V RAO | 209 |



The Winners – WELLKNIT Team
R. Krishnan, K. Krishna kumar, Uttam Gupta,
Arvind Srinivas. C.R. Badrinath & N.K. Gupta

HOLKAR OPEN PAIRS

160 pairs in 6 groups ('A' to 'F') took part in the most prestigious Open Pairs event for the HOLKAR TROPHY. The first 4 groups contained 13 pairs each and the last 2 contained 14 pairs each. The event was played in 3 elimination rounds after which the 32 Pair finalists were identified.

The group-wise leaders in the 2-session first elimination round of HOLKAR OPEN PAIRS were:

Group "A" & "B" combined:

NS: R. Raghavendra – R. Rajkumar 560.50
EW: K.P. Baskaran – A. Selva Nayagam 552.40

Group "C" & "D" combined:

NS: N.R. Kirubakaramoorthy– K. Mukherjee 547.55
EW: A.K. Nag – Sandeep Lahiri 535.79

Group "E" & "F" combined:

NS: Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal 620.14
EW: Anal Shah – Finton Lewis 535.36

13 NS & 13 EW pairs each from combined groups "A" & "B", "C" & "D" and 14 NS & 14 EW pairs from "E" & "F" qualified for the 2nd elimination round.

The 80 qualifiers from elimination –1 were joined by the 16 losing quarter-finalists & semi-finalists pairs of Ruia Gold in the 3-session, 2nd elimination round. The pairs were divided in 2 groups of 3 sections each. Each section had 8 tables and pairs played against all the section (one section in each session) within the group.

15 North-South pairs and 15 E-W pairs from combined group ABC & DEF qualified for the 3rd elimination round. The group-wise leaders in the second elimination round were:

Group "A" & "B" combined:

NS: K. Kumar – N.K. Gupta 776.20
EW: K.R. Venkatraman – J.M. Shah 742.60

Group "C" & "D" combined:

NS: D. Bose – G. Manna 739.50
EW: V.R. Kumar – Alok Sadhu 720.63

The 6 Pairs of the Ruia Gold finalist teams joined the 60 qualifiers in the 3rd elimination round. The pairs were divided in 3 sections of 11 tables each, and played a Scrambled Mitchell in 3 sessions. The 32 top pairs have qualified for the Holkar finals. The top ranking qualifiers to the finals were:

1. D.N. Lenka – B.M. Behera 1263.28
2. V.R. Kumar – Alope Sadhu 1238.08
3. M. Mukherjee – A. Banerjee 1263.93

The 32 Pair final was played in 2 sessions of 62 boards. The leaders at the end of first session were:

1. K R Venkataraman - J M Shah 313.40
2. Gobind Singha - Bivas Todi 308.60
3. V Ramesh Kumar - Alope Sadhu 297.10

With a score of 550.33, V. Ramesh Kumar & Alope Sadhu emerged as the Winners of the HOLKAR Trophy. Rana Roy and Subhash Gupta were second with a score of 545.07.

The top rank holders were:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | V Ramesh Kumar - Alope Sadhu | 550.33 |
| 2. | Rana Roy - Subhash Gupta | 545.07 |
| 3. | Gobind Singha - Bivas Todi | 539.93 |
| 4. | Anil Padhye - Rajesh Dalal | 532.27 |
| 5. | K R Venkataraman - J M Shah | 528.63 |
| 6. | Vinay Desai - K Anklesaria | 521.07 |
| 7. | Alok Daga - Subrata Saha | 518.20 |
| 8. | Manas Mukherjee - Amar Nath Banerjee | 509.63 |



The Winners – HOLKAR TROPHY
Alope Sadhu – V. Ramesh Kumar

IndusInd Bank Sponsored Categorised Pairs

52 pairs participated in the **Categorised Pairs Event** sponsored by IndusInd Bank. The pairs were divided in 2 sections and played 26 boards each in 2 sessions.

The event winners were P.T. Ramjee – B.T. Pai with a score of 821.99 score. The top position holders were:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | P T Ramjee - B T Pai | 821.99 |
| 2. | Bidyut Goswami - K P Chatterjee | 787.60 |
| 3. | T R Krishnan - Sapan Desai | 775.70 |
| 4. | Britto Madhavan - A K Baliar Singh | 760.69 |
| 5. | D C Bagchi - R K Majumder | 732.06 |
| 6. | R Gupta - S Chitmis | 730.56 |
| 7. | S Krishnan - A Mahadevan | 711.83 |
| 8. | S S Rajan - K Arunkumar | 708.60 |

G.K. Sundaram Fast Pairs

48 pairs participated in the **G.K. Sundaram Fast Pairs Event**. The event was played in 2 sessions and the event winners were P.K. Roy & T. Bose with a score of 619.22. The top position holders were:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | P K ROY - T BOSE | 619.22 |
| 2. | V Suryanarayana - Nirmal | 608.76 |
| 3. | S T Arasu - Arup Hudait | 599.21 |
| 4. | N NIRANJAN - Y KAMALAKARA RAO | 587.35 |
| 5. | R SRI KRISHNAN - M SRIRAM | 586.52 |
| 6. | R K MAZUMDER - BOMKESH BENERJEE | 571.22 |
| 7. | Sandeep Lahiri - T C Pant | 562.30 |
| 8. | C V SAHASTRABADHE - S V SHINDE | 562.20 |

INTERESTING DEALS

Winter Nationals

This interesting deal came in the round 1 of the Team of four match between WELLKNIT & PENSANDO teams for the Ruia Gold trophy.

Dir: N, Vul: NS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | ♠ x ♥ ♦ AJxxxx ♣ AKxxxx | |
| ♠ Kxxxx ♥ KQxxx ♦ K ♣ Q9 | N W E S | ♠ AQxxxx ♥ AJxxxx ♦ x ♣ |
| | ♠ x ♥ xx ♦ QTxxx ♣ Jxxxx | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <i>Badri</i> | <i>Rajagopal</i> | <i>Kista</i> | <i>Gowri Sankar</i> |
| | 1D | 2D(1) | Pass |
| 4H | 5C | 6H | 7D |
| ? | | | |

(1) – Michaels (both Majors)

North opened 1D (Standard) and East overcalled with Michael 2D (showing both majors). West leaped to four hearts and now North with 6-6 distribution in minors bid five clubs. East judged his hand well and bid the ice-cold slam in hearts. It was now the turn of South to shine and seven diamond was an excellent sacrifice, which can go only one down. What you do with East-West hands now?

As it turned out, East doubled the hand after West passed. Now the complete onus was on lead. Finding right lead with 2 suiter-hands is pretty difficult and East also faced the same dilemma. Finally considering that N-S are sacrificing and they should take the maximum penalty possible, he led the ♥A and declarer after dropping the ♦K, claimed his 13 tricks.

The beauty of the hand is that if East – West would have played in seven hearts, in all likelihood, North would have led the ♣A and they would have been reeling 13 tricks without problem. As it turned out, in the other room, East-West were allowed to play in six hearts doubled and made an easy 13 tricks on ♣A lead.

One can blame East for not leading spade Ace but surely no one would have blamed North for leading the ♣A and not ♦A. PENSANDO gained a bonanza of 23 IMPs on the deal.

The next deal is from the WELLKNIT VS RAGHURAMAN match Round 4 (Ruia Gold Cup)

Uttam Gupta of Wellkmit team played the board really well to make the four-spade contract and gain a valuable 10 IMPs for his team. The same contract was played in the open room going one down.

Board 16, Dir: W, Vul: E-W

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ J9 ♥ J ♦ AKJ6 ♣ AT8642 | |
| ♠ 7 ♥ 964 ♦ T742 ♣ KQJ53 | N W E S | ♠ A62 ♥ AKQ53 ♦ Q53 ♣ 97 |
| | ♠ KQT8543 ♥ T872 ♦ 98 ♣ | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Kumresan Badrinath</i> | | <i>Raghuraman Uttam Gupta</i> | |
| Pass | 2C | 2H | 3S |
| Pass | 4S | All Pass | |

Badrinath opened a precision 2C and over opponent's 2H, Uttam bid 3S, which was raised to four by North. The lead was ♥4, East winning with the queen and cashed spade Ace and returned small spade, taken in dummy by the Jack. Declarer cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club. A diamond was played to the Ace and another club was played, East discarding ♥5 and ruffed by declarer. Declarer played the spade King & Queen. The last 4 card position was:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | ♠ KJ ♥ ♦ ♣ T8 | |
| ♠ 9 ♥ T ♦ ♣ KQ | N W E S | ♠ AK ♥ ♦ Q5 ♣ |
| | ♠ T ♥ T8 ♦ 9 ♣ | |

On the last spade, East was forced to keep doubleton diamond and was thrown with the last heart to score the last 2 tricks. VERY WELL PLAYED.

Brilliant Lead

This deal came in the round 4 of the Team of four match between D.S. Roychoudhari & Sankholkar teams for the Ruia Silver trophy. See deal on the next page.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 2S (1) | 3D | 3S | 5D |
| All Pass | | | |
| (1) – Weak (6-10 HCPs) | | | |

East (Mr. A.S. Chitale) came out with a brilliant lead of a heart, which was ruffed by west (Mr. Sankholkar). West continued the brilliant work by underleading a spade to East's queen to get another ruff. He further cashed his Spade Ace to take the contract 2 down.

Board 4, Dir: W, Vul: Both

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ xx ♥ Kxx ♦ AKQT74 ♣ xx | |
| ♠ AK98xx ♥ ♦ 983 ♣ 9842 | N W E S | ♠ QTx ♥ QT9xxxx ♦ x ♣ JT |
| | ♠ Jx ♥ AJx ♦ Jxx ♣ AKQxx | |

WELL BID HAND

R. Venkatesh (North) & Sandeep Thakral (South) of Dhampur Sugar Mills team bid the given hand well to reach the Grand slam in Hearts. This deal came in their last 64-stage knockout match against Chaudhary Combine team in the Ruia Gold event.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| | ♠ AJxxx ♥ AQJx ♦ xx ♣ AK | |
| ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ | N W E S | ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ |
| | ♠ KQxx ♥ K9xx ♦ Ax ♣ Jxx | |

(Direction of the Hand rotated for the ease of readers)

The bidding:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1S | Pass | 1C |
| Pass | 2NT(1) | Pass | 2S |
| Pass | 4C(3) | Pass | 3H(2) |
| Pass | 4NT(4) | Pass | 4D(3) |
| Pass | 5NT(6) | Pass | 5S(5) |
| Pass | 7H(8) | All Pass | 6H(7) |

- (1) – Forcing
- (2) – 3S & 4H good hand or good hand with 4S and heart values
- (3) – Cue-bid
- (4) – RKC in spades
- (5) – 2 Keycards with trump queen
- (6) – King ask
- (7) – HK or CK + DK
- (8) – Play 7H with 4 cards or play 7S with less than 4 hearts.

Enhance your Bridge knowledge

(This column is specifically for the benefit of upcoming Bridge players who would like to acquire advanced technical knowledge of the game in detail. We will mainly talk about terminologies used in relation to PLAY and DEFENSE. It is assumed that you are already an average player with basic knowledge of the game - Editor)

TONTO (TRANSFER OVER 3NT OVERCALL)

Opponent preempts 3♣/♦/♥/♠ and your partner overcalls 3NT.

You may want to:

1. Make a quantitative slam try.
2. Use ordinary Blackwood.
3. Without going beyond game, get an opinion from partner concerning slam in advancer's suit.
4. If partner (the 3NT over caller) expresses slam interest, use keycard Blackwood
5. Show strong 2-suiter by bidding at the 5 level.

TONTO relies on transfer bids at least two steps below advancer's suit. The logic underlying TONTO's transfer sequence is that it is more important to obtain information from partner about the quality of his hand in support of advancer's suit than it is to ensure that partner is always made declarer.

The reason is that the 3NT over caller can have 14-22 HCP with many possible distributions including a void in an un-bid suit.

SYSTEM

- 4♠ = simple Blackwood.
- 4NT = Quantitative.
- 4♣ = Transfer to the cheapest un-bid major.
- 4♦ = Transfer to the suit next higher than the cheapest un-bid major.
- 4♥ = transfer to the remaining possible suit
- 5♣ = ♣s & a major. Very strong 2-suiter.
- 5♦ = ♥s and ♠s. very strong 2-suiter.
- 5♥/♠ = ♥s/♠s and ♣s. very strong 2-suiter.

Over caller's replies to the transfer, depend on how many steps below the transfer suit are available and on whether advancer's suit is a minor / major. In general, the cheapest the response, the better is over caller's hand in support of advancer's suit.

Various factors will influence the evaluation, including controls, general strength, and a source of tricks. When the decision is close, the deciding factor should be the quality of support for advancer's suit,

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| OPP | YOU | OPP | PARTNER |
| 3♥ | 3NT | P | 4♣ (Shows ♠) |
| P | ? | | |

- 4♦ = Extra value + good trump support.
- 4♥ = good trump support + average / lower value.
- 4♠ = Poor trump support.

If advancer's suit is a major and only two-steps are available, then the cheapest re-bid by over caller tends to show good support for advancer's suit while the higher response tends to show poor support. Over caller should bid 4NT by passing the transfer, only with a void / singleton in advancer's suit with a side source of tricks.

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| OPP | YOU | OPP | PARTNER |
| 3♥ | 3NT | P | 4♦ (SHOWS ♣s) |
| P | ? | | |

- 4♥ = Extra value + Good ♣ support.
- 4♠ = Average values + good ♣ support.
- 4NT = Deny ♣ support.
- 5♣ = Minimum value + ♣ support.

After partner has shown support for the transfer suit, a 4NT re-bid by advancer should be RKC. But, if over caller denies trump support then 4NT is quantitative while 5♣ would be RKC. Also, if over caller rejects a transfer to a major suit by bidding 4NT then 5♣ by advancer should be RKC.

| | | | |
|----|-----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3♦ | 3NT | P | 4♣ (shows ♥) |
| P | | | 4♠ = suggest an alternative contract. |

| | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 3♠ | 3NT | P | 4♣ |
| P | | | 4♠ = denies ♥ support but show 1st round control(♠)+a huge Playing hand. |

After over caller's response to advancer's 4♠ Blackwood inquiry, 5♠ by advancer should ask for kings (if advancer wanted to play in ♠ he would have transferred first, then use RKC).

NOTE: If responder (preemptor's partner) immediately doubles 3NT or bids then TONTO is off.

Contributed by Amarnath Banerjee

**WISHING
YOU ALL
A VERY
HAPPY,
JOYFUL
&
PROSPEROUS
2006**

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

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Tolani Grand Prix

The Tolani Grand Prix Bridge Championship 2006, sponsored by Tolani group of companies under the auspices of BFI is being organized from 19th to 22nd Jan 2006 at THE RESIDENCE, Hotel & Convention Centre, Saki Vihar Road, Near L&T Gate No. 1, Before NITIE, Powai, Mumbai – 400 087. Phone : 2857 5000. The tournament will have "Team of Four" and "Open Pair" event.

Contact: Dipak Poddar: 9821319000, Anand (K.S.) Samant: 98209 51180

Shree Cement Bridge Championship

The 4th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championship organized by Bengal Rowing Club, under the aegis of West Bengal Bridge will be held at Kolkata from 27th to 29th Jan 2006. The tournament will have "Team of Four" and "Open Pair" event.

Contact: Ravi Goenka: 923013556, (033)2466 2385

Forthcoming Events - 2006

National

- 16-18 Jan: Selection Trials for Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship, Mumbai
- 19-22 Jan: Tolani Grand Prix, Mumbai
- 27-29 Jan: 4th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championships @ Kolkata
- 16-19 Feb: Lohia Bridge Tournament, Kanpur
- 25-26 Feb: SAARC Tournament (Pair event), Kolkata
- 27 Feb–01 Mar: SAARC Tournament (Team event), Kolkata
- 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

International

- 18-30 Jan: Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra
- 06-12 Feb: 11th NEC Festival, Yokohama, Japan
- 25-26 Feb: White House Top Teams, Amsterdam
- 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

CONTACT US:

You can send your bridge articles, comments, results & tournament schedules to us on the following e-mails:

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