

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

Editor: T.C. Pant

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Hon. Secretary: Mr. R.K. Gupta

Registered Office: 18, Institutional Area, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

The 2010 World Bridge Series Championships

Some Important Information

The **13th World Bridge Series Championships** to be played at **Philadelphia, PA, USA from 1st to 16th October 2010** will consist of the following competitions for world titles:

- **World Mixed Pairs**
- **World Open Knockout Teams** (*Rosenblum Cup*)
- **World Women Knockout Teams** (*McConnell Cup*)
- **World Senior Knockout Teams** (*Rand Cup*)
- **GENERALI World Open Pairs**
- **GENERALI World Women Pairs**
- **World Senior Pairs** (*Hiron Trophy*)
- **World Mixed Swiss Teams**

The **World Mixed Pairs Championship** consists of 3 qualifying sessions and a 3-session final. Non-qualifiers may participate in the 3-session Mixed Pairs Plate.

The **World Open Knockout Teams** (*Rosenblum Cup*) and the **World Women Knockout Teams** (*McConnell Cup*) are to be played in three stages. In the first stage, participants will be divided into groups of 11, 12, 13 or 14 teams; a round robin will reduce the field to 64 and 32 teams respectively. Next comes the knockout phase, eventually reducing the field to 16 teams in each event. The Knockout Teams will be concluded with the quarterfinals, semi-finals and final/playoff. All teams are guaranteed to play three full days in these events. Eliminated teams from both competitions may join the Swiss Plate (single day event). Please note:

- Pairs from teams losing the knockout match in either the round of 32 or round of 16 of the World Open KO Teams (*Rosenblum Cup*) may enter the *GENERALI* World Open Pairs semi-final.
- Pairs from teams losing the knockout match in either the round of 16 or quarterfinal of the World Women KO Teams (*McConnell Cup*) may enter the *GENERALI* World Women Pairs semi-final.
- Pairs from teams qualifying to the quarterfinal of the World Open KO Teams (*Rosenblum Cup*) may enter the *GENERALI* World Open Pairs final.
- Pairs from teams qualifying to the semi-final of the World Women KO Teams (*McConnell Cup*) may enter the *GENERALI* World Women Pairs final.

The **World Senior Teams** (*Rand Cup*) has a round robin qualifying phase, followed by knockout stages of quarterfinals, semi-finals and final/playoff.

The *GENERALI* **World Open Pairs** and the *GENERALI* **World Women Pairs Championships** are match pointed events, with 5 qualifying sessions, 5 sessions of semi-finals and a 5-session final. Eliminated competitors from both events may join the IMP Pairs which comprise 4 qualifying sessions and a 5-session final.

The **World Senior Pairs Championship** (*Hiron Trophy*) is also a match pointed event, with 4 qualifying sessions and a 4-session final.

The **World Swiss Mixed Teams Championship** comprises 3 qualifying sessions and a 2-session final. Non-qualifiers may join the 2-session Swiss Cup.

The 3rd Buffett Cup

The 3rd Buffett Cup between the "Team America" & "Team Europe" will be held from 13th Sep (Monday) to 16th Sep (Thursday) 2010 at the Miskin Manor Hotel, near Cardiff, Wales.

The first edition in 2006 was won by USA and the 2nd edition in 2008 was won by Europe.

There will be three separate events, a Pairs event on Monday, a Teams event on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, and an Individual event to finish where each player partners each other member of their team. Each team must contain at least two women.

The following 6 Pairs from America & Europe have been chosen to represent the teams:

Team Europe is:

Fulvio Fantoni & Claudio Nunes, Giorgio Duboin & Antonio Sementa, Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness, Boye Brogeland & Espen Lindqvist, Justin & Jason Hackett, Sabine Auken & Daniela von Arnim and Paul Hackett (npc)

Team USA is:

Jeff Meckstroth & Eric Rodwell, Zia Mahmood & Bob Hamman, David Berkowitz & Alan Sontag, Bobbie Levin & Steve Weinstein, Fred Gitelman & Geoff Hampson, Jill Meyers & Jill Levin and Donna Compton (npc)

For more details see the website
www.buffettcup.com.

All six tables will be shown live on BBO.

LEBENSOHL – RUBENSOHL – RUMPELSOHL (PART-2)

Your partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2S. You had agreed to play Lebensohl with your partner and you held S-x H-Kxxxxxx D-Kxxx Cxx. Since you didn't think the hand is Game Forcing, you dutifully bid 2NT planning to show your heart suit after Opener rebids 3C. Your plans were immediately dashed as your RHO jammed the auction by bidding 4S. Your partner and RHO passes the buck back to you. Your partner's hand: S-xxx H-AQxx D-Qx AKxx. You are cold for 5H but your partnership is poorly placed to judge what is right for you. When opponents have a great fit they will always preempt you. That is why it is important to get your suit in the bidding to enable a better judgement.

Most of the players play transfers over 1NT, the main advantage is to make the stronger hand declarer. You lose this advantage playing Lebensohl and many times responder becomes declarer. The answer to this problem is to play **RUBENSOHL**.

B) RUBENSOHL Convention

Rubensohl convention has been named after Jeff Rubens. Rubensohl is basically a combination of Rubens Advances and Lebensohl. Rubensohl was named by Bruce Neill of Sydney and was described in The Bridge World magazine in May 1983. However similar ideas to replace Lebensohl were also developed by Ira Rubin. That is why this convention is also called RUBINSOHL.

In Rubensohl all bids from 2NT to 3S are transfers. The bids are either sign-off in the suit shown or game forcing. After opener has accepted the transfer, responder can sign-off by passing or bids again with a GF hand. 3NT is natural to play with stopper in the opponent's suit. Transfer to opponent's suit is stayman and shows 4-cards in the major suit, with or without stopper in opponent's suit. The general Rubensohl structure of responder's bids after a two-level overcall is:

1N – 2S – ? Further developments are 2N – Transfer to Clubs, weak or GF 3C – Transfer to Diamond, weak or GF 3D – Transfer to Hearts, weak or GF 3H – Stayman, shows 4 hearts, GF 3S – Transfer to 3NT, denies 4-card major and no stopper in opponent's suit 3N – To play with stopper in Spade suit	1N – 2H – ? Further developments are 2S – Natural, Non forcing 2N – Transfer to Clubs, weak or GF 3C – Transfer to Diamond, weak or GF 3D – Stayman, shows 4 spades, GF 3H – Transfer to Spade, atleast invitational 3S – Trf to 3NT, no stopper, no major. 3N – To play with stopper in Heart suit
1N – 2S – 2N – 3C – ? 3D – Natural GF with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds 3H – Natural GF with 5+ clubs and 4 hearts 3S/N –GF with Clubs, 3S no stopper, 3N stopper	1N – 2H – 3D (stayman) – ? 3H – No stopper in hearts and no 4-card Spade 3S – 4-card Spade 3N – To play, shows Heart stopper

The above structure is definitely an improvement over simple Lebensohl. However you don't have invitational bids available in suits unless you could bid your suit naturally at 2-level. If opponents overcall with 2D over 1NT, both 2H and 2S are natural and non-forcing. Accordingly transfers at 3-level are atleast invitational. A similar convention which incorporates Lebensohl with transfers is **Advanced Lebensohl**. In this convention you can invite in all suits however for weak hands you have to go through 2NT relay. We will discuss in detail Advanced Lebensohl next month.

Rubensohl after One of a suit Opening Bid

Another use of Rubensohl which I strongly recommend is after one of a suit opening bid and overcall at two level (with or without jump) by opponents. Here also all bids from 2NT onwards are transfer to next higher suit. Since the opener has to bid at 3-level, the responder has to be careful and must have atleast invitational hand. Opener simply transfers if he doesn't accept the game invitation otherwise he bids naturally. 3S (only after minor suit opening bid) and 3N bids show a stopper in the opponent's suit. 3S asks opener to bid 3NT. With no stopper, responder will double first and then cue bid opponent's suit.

In case of major suit opening bid transfers apply upto opener's major suit only. Transfer to opponent's suit is 3-card limit raise and transfer to opener's suit is 4-card raise.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results - August 2010

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event – Results

03/08/2010 – 13 Tables

NS 1: Suraj Jain – Brig. D.N. Khanna	71.29%
NS 2: Hisano Watanabe – Noriko Domichi	63.12%
NS 3: Alok Khemka –Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas	59.26%

EW 1: Mukesh Shivdasani – Yogesh Tiwari	59.25%
EW 2: Rajesh Jain – S.K. Seth	57.73%
EW 3: V.K. Mutreja – Sangram Guha	53.92%

10/08/2010 – 10 Tables

NS 1: S.K. Syal – Hisano Watanabe	57.29%
NS 2: Dr. Nikita Kamal – Amarjit Wadhawan	56.94%

EW 1: Mrs. Tutu Narula–Sanjay Shrivastava	59.72%
EW 2: Yogesh Tiwari – Mukesh Shivdasani	59.38%

17/08/2010 – 14 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Asha Surana – Raghubir Jasuja	62.15%
NS 2: N.N. Khanna – Richa Bhaskar	60.07%
NS 3: Sanjay Shrivastava – Mrs. Tutu Narula	58.33%

EW 1: Ambrish Wadera–Mrs. Noriko Domichi	60.07%
EW 2: Ashok Chandra – Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal	59.38%
EW 3: Yogesh Tiwari – Mukesh Shivdasani	56.94%

24/08/2010 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Hema Deora – Subhash Gupta	61.94%
NS 2: Mrs. Asha Surana – Raghubir Jasuja	61.74%

EW 1: Arun Jain – A.K. Jha	59.11%
EW 2: Ujjwal Gupta – Mrs. Sushma Gupta	55.19%

31/08/2010 – 12 Tables

NS 1: Alok Khemka – Bhavna Naraindas	63.19%
NS 2: Dr. Nikita Kamal – Amarjit Wadhawan	59.72%

EW 1: Col. B.L. Anand – S.K. Agarwal	68.40%
EW 2: K. Chandramouli – A.K. Jha	68.06%

AILBA Friday Pairs – Results

06/08/2010 – 14 Pairs

1. Noriko Watanabe – Hisanu WatanabeMadh	59.9%
2. Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas – Alok Khemka	57.4%
3. Mrs. Madhu Gupta – Ravinder Gupta	56.7%

13/08/2010 – 12 Pairs

1. Sangram Guha – Ujjwal Gupta	57.4%
1. Mrs. Veena Gupta – Mrs. Shashi jain	57.4%

20/08/2010 – 8 Pairs

1. P.K. Rajgaeriah – Col. S.P. Arvind	62.0%
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27/08/2010 – 10 Pairs

1. Vijay Kumar – Alok Khemka	61.1%
2. Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas – Mrs. Nicki Mehra	59.7%

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

07/08/2010 – 16 Teams

1. **X-PLOERER** - (R.K. Gupta, R. Chakravarty, Mrs. Shashi Jain, Dr. Tushar Moghe, T. Bhattacharjee)
2. **SIKAND's** – (K.B. Sikand, S.R. Gupta, N.K. Jain, Ravi Chandran, Ujjwal Gupta)
3. **ARUN JAIN** - (Arun Jain, A.K. Jha, R.S. Jasuja, Mrs. Asha Surana, Sunil Bhatia)

14/08/2010 – 16 Teams

1. **FORCE** – (S.R. Gupta, N.K. Jain, K.B. Sikand, Ravi Chandran)
2. **PUSHPAK** – (P.C. Gupta, D.K. Tewari, Amarjit Wadhawan, Sunil Bhatia)
3. **MUKESH's** – (Mukesh Shivdasani, Brig. D.N. Khanna, S.N. Mathur, Col. K.K. Sabharwal, Vikram Jain)

21/08/2010 – 14 Teams

1. **X'PLORERS** – (R. Chakravarty, Mrs. Shashi Jain, Dr. Tushar Moghe, T. Bhattacharjee, R. Nanda)
2. **S.N. MATHUR** - (S.N. Mathur, Brig. D.N. Khanna, Yogesh Tiwari, Mukesh Shivdasani)
3. **SONCHEL**– (Sangram Guha, V.K. Mutreja, N.K. Jain, S.R. Gupta)

28/08/2010 – 14 Teams

1. **X'PLORERS** – (R. Chakravarty, Mrs. Shashi Jain, Dr. Tushar Moghe, T. K. Bhattacharya, R. Nanda)
2. **PUSHPAK** – (Dr. Nikita Kamal, Amarjit Wadhawan, Prakash Bhandari, J.B. Sengupta)
3. **SONCHEL** – (Mukesh Shivdasani, Yogesh Tiwari, S.N. Mathur, Brig. D.N. Khanna)
3. **MAZADAR** – (A.K. Sinha, S.C. Jain, S.R. Gupta, N.K. Jain)
3. **ALPHA** – (Daya Dhaon, Col. S.P. Arvind, D.P. Sharma, Mrs. Asha Sharma)

Vasant Vihar Club Pairs Bridge Tournament

33 Pairs (16 & half Tables) participated in the monthly Vasant Vihar Club tournament held on **8th August 2010**. 26 boards were played and the results were:

NS 1: Dr. Nikita Kamal – Amarjit Wadhawan	61.76%
NS 2: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	57.75%
NS 3: Subhash Gupta – Subir Majumder	56.83%
EW 1: Sham Sharma – Sunil Bhatia	60.85%
EW 2: Mrs. R. Dayal – K.C. Kumar	59.22%
EW 2: Anoop Dhawan – Madhu Sharma	57.09%

- Reported by Amarjit Wadhawan

Asha's Holi Gift

-by K. Chandramouli

Holi festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of 'good' over 'evil'. The festival 'bridges' the social gap, and renews sweet relationships. What has it got to do with the game of bridge?

Delhi Bridge Association's weekly tournament on the first Tuesday of March this year, was the day following Holi. Friends hugged and wished each other Happy Holi. Dr Asha Surana and Sushma Gupta seated N-S greet Noriko Domichi, the Japanese Ambassador's wife and her partner, as they come to their table.

Serious business follows. After Noriko opened 1 Diamond and rebid it, Sushma's repeated Spade bid shying away from No Trump would not deter the IIT Professor from bidding the game in NT. The chemistry of the Chemistry Professor is such!. The bidding:

West	North	East	South
K.	Sushma	Noriko	Dr. Asha
Chandramouli	Gupta	Domichi	Surana
		1D	DBL
Pass	1S	2D	2NT
Pass	3S	Pass	3NT All Pass

The complete hand as D6 hits the table

	▲AKT764	
	♥Jxx	
	♦xx	
	♣Jx	
▲QJx		▲xx
♥Qxx		♥Axxx
♦xx		♦KJTxx
♣xxxxx		♣KQ
	▲xx	
	♥Kxx	
	♦AQxx	
	♣Axxx	

As is her wont, Asha adjusts her specs and goes into a huddle. Does her arithmetic; ...tricks in spades, ...in hearts, in diamonds, in clubs; but in the meanwhile the opponents will run away with the setting tricks. Is there a way out?

Vigyan Gupta, the Bishmapitamaha of Bridge is on record "if there is one chance, go for it". Sudden activity. The IIT don having done her thinking of the adverse possibilities decides on her line of action.

Asha plays low Diamond from dummy, Noriko, the king; Asha wins this with the ace, then she plays low spade from her hand and when West plays low plays the ten from dummy. It holds! Sayonara then, to defence !. Vigyan would have been proud were he alive to watch this splendid display. And with that the IIT don is home.; an absolute top. ! Her Holi Gift to her partner. Noriko was the first to compliment her on her brilliant display.

Asha started playing in 1991, but serious tournament stuff from 2003; her regular partner, R. Jasuja. The doc is an affable conversationalist. Devoid of malice her table rocks with laughter. Spice, her trump!

Mixed Pairs Tournament

Mrs. Promila Saraf, President, All India Ladies Bridge Association is sponsoring a Mixed Pairs Bridge Tournament on Sep 12, 2010 at PHD House, New Delhi.

The tournament with a prize money ranging between ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 25,000/- will be held from 1500 Hrs. to 1900 Hrs.

Please contact Mr. N.K. Jain (9871385601) for your entries and further queries.

- Information received from Mr. N.K. Jain

ALL INDIA RAI BAHADUR G.M. MODI MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by

UMESH MODI GROUP

Organized by

Nainital Bridge Association

at

The Boat House Club Ltd.
Nainital - 263001

16th – 19th Sep 2010

Prize Money: Approx. Rs. 2 Lacs

Entry Fee: Team of Four: Rs. 3000 for 4 members + Rs. 500 per additional player

Pairs Event: Rs. 500 per Pair

Board-a-Match – Rs. 700 per Team

Contacts:

Shri Arvind Prasad – 09810112634

Shri Daljit Marwah – 09927086787

Shri Anil Aggarwal - 09897112140

Delhi Gymkhana Club Monthly Pairs Tournament

33 Pairs (16 & half Tables) participated in the monthly Delhi Gymkhana Club Pairs tournament held on 20th August 2010. 26 boards were played and the results were:

NS 1: Brig M L Nasa - Gen D K Mehta	58.81%
NS 2: Mukesh Shivdasani - Arun Jain	58.43%
NS 3: D D Gulhati - K Dwivedi	57.94%
EW 1: Siddharth Behura - Ashok Goel	66.30%
EW 2: Col R Vasudeva - Brig V K Sawhney	62.93%
EW 2: Suman Bansidhar - Kawaljit Singh	57.47%

- Reported by Maj. B.H. Iyer

FINAL RESULTS OF PYC ALL INDIA SIMULTANEOUS CLASSIC PAIRS ON 4th JULY 2010

Sponsored by Amanora Park Town

The PYC All India Simultaneous Classic Pairs were held on Sunday, 4th July 2010. The following 22 centers were registered for the event: Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Vizag, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Varansi, Baroda, Indore, Jabalpur, Goa, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Akola, Assam, Jamshedpur, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Nagpur and Deharadun.

438 pairs played the first session and 432 pairs played the second session.

There were 4 prizes (1st – Rs. 2000, 2nd – Rs. 1500, 3rd – Rs. 1000 and 4th Rs. 500) in both directions for morning as well as afternoon sessions. The winners are:

Session 1: 438 Pairs

North - South			
Rank	Center	Name	Score
1	Mumbai	S. Karmarkar - Bhiwandikar	1713
2	Mumbai	B Pendse - U Athavale	1648
3	Hyd'bad	G V Rao - D C Rao	1643
4	Ahm'bad	Kaizad - Sapan	1617
East - West			
Rank	Center	Name	Score
1	Delhi	Namit Sharma - Rajesh Jain	1812
2	Pune	A. Chakradeo - C. P. Deshpande	1753
3	Pune	M. Kshirsagar - Shankar	1736
4	Goa	Golwalkar Dayal	1711

Session 2: 432 Pairs

North - South			
Rank	Center	Name	Score
1	Delhi	Namit Sharma - Rajesh Jain	1710
2	Chennai	R Kannan - S K Chari	1693
3	Pune	J. Hathiramani - Col. Manwani	1678
4	Pune	S. N. Damle - B. G. Ogale	1676
East - West			
Rank	Center	Name	Score
1	Mumbai	R. Tolani-A. Khare	1664
2	Chennai	T M Suryanarayana - R Vijayraghavan	1649
3	Pune	Janardhan - Dharmadhikari	1599
4	Dehradun	Col Kapoor - SK Wadhawa	1587

Heartiest Congratulations to all the winners.

- Reported by Suhas Vaidya

Late Shri Satya Prakash Wadera Bridge Tournament

An open Pairs Bridge Tournament was organized on **22nd August 2010 at Hotel Star Rocks, C5/30, Safadarjung Development Area** by Mr. Ambrish Wadera in memory of his late father **Shri Satya Prakash Wadera**, an ardent fan of the game.

44 Pairs participated in the tournament. They were divided into 2 sections of 11 Tables each and played in 2 sessions of 22 boards with Scrambled Mitchell movement.

At the end of Session-1 the leaders were:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | DR. TUSHAR MOGHE - T K BHATTACHARYA | 65.37% |
| 2. | D K TEWARI - P C GUPTA | 61.15 |
| 3. | DEEPAK ARORA - P K GUPTA | 57.36 |
| 4. | R NANDA - VED PRAKASH | 56.39 |
| 5. | D K MUTREJA - RAJESH JAIN | 56.28 |
| 6. | S R GUPTA - S R MALHOTRA | 56.06 |

The session-2 was played in the afternoon, after swapping the EW of Sections A & B. The pair of **Dr. Moghe and T.K. Bhattacharya** continued their good run and were the final winners.

The final list of the TOP 10 pairs:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | DR. TUSHAR MOGHE - T K BHATTACHARYA | 59.40% |
| 2. | D K MUTREJA - RAJESH JAIN | 58.94 |
| 3. | D K TEWARI - P C GUPTA | 58.59 |
| 4. | A K JHA - N K JAIN | 57.65 |
| 5. | M M SINHA - A K GHOS | 57.15 |
| 6. | ALOK KHEMKA - BHAVANA NARAINDAS | 56.13 |
| 7. | DEEPAK ARORA - P K GUPTA | 56.00 |
| 8. | COL. Y S YADAV - COL. OM PRAKASH | 55.11 |
| 9. | R NANDA - VED PRAKASH | 54.91 |
| 10. | T C PANT - NAMIT SHARMA | 54.85 |



**Dr. Tushar Moghe & T.K. Bhattacharya -
Winners of Late Shri Satya Prakash Wadera
Tournament with the Wadera family**

The tournament ended with a prize distribution ceremony. Prizes worth Rs. 25,000/- were given to the TOP 6 pairs.

- Reported by Editor

BRILLIANT DEFENSE

Mr. Arun Jain of Delhi showed great skills in defending the following hand, from the Saturday session of the Worldwide Bridge Contest played at Delhi Bridge Association on 5th June 2010.

Board 21, Dealer: North, Vul: NS

	♠76		
	♥AQ6		
	♦T84		
	♣J9642		
♠A32	N	♠JT	
♥K95	W	♥JT732	
♦AQ73	E	♦K962	
♣AQ7	S	♣T5	
	♠KQ9854		
	♥84		
	♦J5		
	♣K83		

West	North	East	South
<i>Amarjit</i>	<i>Arun Jain</i>	<i>Mukesh</i>	<i>A.K. Jha</i>
	Pass	Pass	2S
DBL	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) - Lebensohl

The bidding went as above and West took a shot at 3NT, though it was an overbid after partner's 2NT lebensohl - showing a weak hand and asking partner to bid 3C. It was interesting to note that if west follows the convention and bids 3C, East would bid 3H and with good 19 HCPs, West could raise it to 4H. As the cards lie, the contract makes on club finesse.

East received the lead of SK, ducked by declarer and the SQ continuation was won by declarer in dummy with the Ace and 3 rounds of diamonds were played, ending in hand.

As South never gets entry, 10 tricks were there for the taking as declarer has to give only 2 heart tricks and the opening spade trick. But see what happened on the table.

Declarer after winning the 3rd diamond, played the HJ and took a finesse of HQ (if South has HA, you can never make the contract) by playing low from dummy. Arun won the trick smoothly but not with the Queen but with the Heart Ace, which was enough to make the declarer happy.

After winning Arun returned a low club, which gave a free finesse to declarer. After winning with CQ. Now declarer had 1 spade, 2 clubs and 4 diamonds tricks and can make 2 more tricks with the marked HQ under finesse. So declarer went to hand with the D9 and took the marked finesse of H9. The roof fell, when Arun won with the HQ and returned another heart, locking declarer in dummy and defeating the contract by 1 trick for an absolute TOP on the board.

Brilliant defense by Arun. If he wins with HQ, declarer is cold for 10 tricks and they would have got a big zero in Pairs.

- Reported by Amarjit Wadhawan

Jharkhand State Bridge Championships 2010

The Jharkhand State Bridge Championship was held from 29th July to 1st August 2010. The results are as follows:

OPEN TEAMS:

37 teams participated. The winners were:

1 K K Neogi's IV - K K Neogi, Badal Das, Sukamal Das, Debabrata Majumder, Prabir Paul, Sumit Bhowmick.

2 Baneet - Manas Mukherjee, Subrata Saha, Samir Basak, Shankar Prasad Ghosh.

3/4. Sunil's Team, Ranchi - T P Dutta, S C Bhandari, Sunil Kumar, Partha Ghosh, Sushil Bhusan Ghosh.

3/4. Prof D Ganguly's IV - G Pal, A Datta, A Das, P K Saha, S Das.

5/8 H Singh's IV - Sanjib Das, Biswanath Saha, N P Kabiraj, H Singh, S Banerjee, Samir Pal.

5/8 Novices, Patna - Kamaleshwar Singh, Monoranjan Prasad, S M Moin, Jaieshwar Kumar, S K Sinha.

5/8 Maharaja - Jagadish Biswas, Ramkrishna Majumder, Indranil Chakraborty, Somesh Bhattacharya.

5/8 Pritish, Asansol - D Das, Bhaskar Ganguly, Arup Banerjee, Dinesh Sinha, Sagar Bhuiya, P K Jana.

Board-a-Match:

36 teams participated. The winners were:

1 D Ganguly's IV - P K Saha, A K Das, G Pal, A Dutta, S Das

2 Jamshedpur Rockers - K S Chakraborty, B K Jha, S Kumar, D P Acharya.

3 Arnab's IV - P Bardhan, S Majumder, J N Roy, S N Ghosh, B Poddar, S N De Sarkar.

4 Baneet - M Mukherjee, S Saha, S P Ghosh, Samir Basak.

5 Srikant's IV - Goutam Banerjee, Subrata Kamilya, Srikanta Mondal, Sher Ali.

6 Kanungo - A K Mohanty, B Pradhan, A K Rout, G S Done, T Panigrahi

7 Mondal's IV - S P Roy, S Das, P K Mondal, S K Mondal, D Dey, P K Paul.

OPEN Pairs:

86 Pairs participated. The winners were:

1 S C Bhandari - Sunil Kumar

2 Samir Basak - S P Ghosh

3 N P Kabiraj - H Singh

4 Biswajit Poddar - Sambhu Nath Ghosh

5 Gouranga Das - Swapan Some

6 Prabir Paul - K K Neogi

7 S Mukherjee - A Chakraborty

8 B K Jha - K S Chakraborty

9 Sanat Saha - Prasun Mukherjee

10 C S Majumder - S Sarkar

-Reported by Ranju Bhattacharya, CTD

Poddar National Masters Bridge Championship 2010

The **All India Poddar National Masters Bridge Championship** under the auspices of *Bride Federation of India*, was played at **Matunga Gymkhana, Mumbai** from **14th to 17th August 2010**.

The tournament has been revived after 5 years (earlier played as *Tolani National Masters*). The winner of the tournament will get a direct entry to the selection trials of Indian Team for Bermuda Bowl 2011.

The tournament was inaugurated by Mr. Eashwar, a very senior official with Income Tax Tribunal board along with Mr. N.R. Kirubakara Moorthy, the BFI President, who addressed and welcomed all the participants. Mr. Dipak Poddar, the BFI treasurer anchored the proceedings.

14 teams (a turnout short of expectations as at least 20-24 teams were expected earlier) participated in the **Team of Four** event. Strict adherence to master point eligibility (minimum 300 federation master points) was maintained for participants. The team seedings were based on the total sum of seeding points of all team members of a team. The seeding points were based on a "seeding scale" formula giving weightage to the total red master points of a team member. The teams (seeding no. wise) were:

Seed #	Team Name	Seeding Score	Seed #	Team Name	Seeding Score
1	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	44/6	8	MANGO	29/5
2	INDIA BLUES	36/5	9	SUNIL MACHHAR	34/6
3	AGSAR PAINTS	42/6	10	VAHALIA	22/4
4	PODDAR DEVELOPERS	28/4	11	BANGALORE GUPTA	17/4
5	FORMIDABLES	40/6	12	HOODA	16/4
6	TEXAN ACES	31/5	13	TRICKS	20/6
7	PRAMILA SARAF	37/6	14	MAYA MEERA	

The teams were divided in 2 groups of 7 teams each and played an all-play-all round robin of 12 boards per match, each team playing a bye round. As per the condition of contest, the 4 TOP teams from each group would qualify for the knock-out quarter-final stage. The boards were computer generated and common across the field.

5 rounds of the Round-Robin were played on day-1 and the leaders were:

Group A: Hooda 94 , Poddar Developers 86 , Formidables 85 , DSM 83 , Mango 70 , Machhar 67 , Tricks 51

Group B: Agsar Paints 97, Texan Aces 88, Pramila Saraf 87, India Blues 84, Vahalia 65, Gupta 59, Maya Mira 58

2 more rounds were played on Day-2 and the final league results were:

GROUP-A																		
T#	Team Name	R1		R2		R3		R4		R5		R6		R7		PEN	TOT	RNK
		Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs			
1	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	B	18	5	12	9	21	13	14	4	18	8	25	12	14		122	3
4	PODDAR DEVELOPERS	13	24	B	18	8	17	12	15	1	12	5	19	9	20		125	2
5	FORMIDABLES	12	5	1	18	B	18	9	21	13	23	4	11	8	13		109	4
8	MANGO	9	8	13	9	4	13	B	18	12	22	1	5	5	17		92	
9	SUNIL MACHHAR	8	22	12	9	1	9	5	9	B	18	13	23	4	10		100	
12	HOODA	5	25	9	21	13	25	4	15	8	8	B	18	1	16		128	1
13	TRICKS	4	6	8	21	12	1	1	16	5	7	9	7	B	18		76	

GROUP-B																		
T#	Team Name	R1		R2		R3		R4		R5		R6		R7		PEN	TOT	RNK
		Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs	Vs	VPs			
2	INDIA BLUES	B	18	6	16	10	22	14	17	3	11	7	8	11	16		108	4
3	AGSAR PAINTS	14	25	B	18	7	11	11	24	2	19	6	15	10	19		131	1
6	TEXAN ACES	11	19	2	14	B	18	10	20	14	17	3	15	7	15		118	3
7	PRAMILA SARAF	10	12	14	16	3	19	B	18	11	22	2	22	6	15	1	123	2
10	VAHALIA	7	18	11	11	2	8	6	10	B	18	14	8	3	11		84	
11	BANGALORE GUPTA	6	11	10	19	14	15	3	6	7	8	B	18	2	14		91	
14	MAYA MEERA	3	3	7	14	11	15	2	13	6	13	10	22	B	18		98	

HOODA, PODDAR DEVELOPERS, DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS & FORMIDABLES from Group-A and AGSAR PAINTS, PRAMILA SARAF, TEXAN ACES and INDIA BLUES from Group-B qualified for the knockout quarter-finals. So Barring seed # 8 (Mango team), all the seeds from # 1 to #7 qualified. The 12th seed HOODA was the only surprise in the QF stage. However, as per the CoC, the line up for the 4*10 boards quarter-final was based on the original higher seeds playing the lowest seeded team and hence the QF draw was:

DSM (#1) Vs. HOODA (#12) , INDIA BLUES (#2) Vs. PRAMILA SARAF (#7), AGSAR PAINTS (#3) Vs. TEXAN ACES (#6) and PODDAR DEVELOPERS (#4) Vs. FORMIDABLES (#5).

3 out of the 4 QFs went to the wire. With just last set of 10 boards to be played on day-3, the position at the end of day-2 was: HOODA leading DSM by 5 IMPs; TEXAN ACES leading Agsar Paints by 14 IMPs and INDIA BLUES leading Pramila Saraf by 4 IMPs. In the 4th QF, Formidables were leading Poddar by 30 IMPs.

After 1st set, DSM led with 35 imps but HOODA's young guns came back strongly in 2nd and 3rd set to wipe the deficit and take 5 IMPs lead. They gained another 14 on the last set to knock-out the top seeded DSM (Ashok Goel, Suhas vaidya, Prithish Kushari, Debbrata Majumder, Sumit Mukherjee, Bhabesh Saha) by 19 IMPs. In the 2nd quarter-final, India Blues led by 21 imps in the first set but PRAMILA SARAF team (Sudhakar Rao, Alok Daga, Ajay Brahmachari, Kingshuk Bhattacharya, C.S. Majumder and Subroto Saha) came back strongly in set 2 to wipe out the deficit. India Blues won the 3rd set to again take the lead by 4 imps and blitzed their opponents in the last set to win by 34 imps.

In the QF match between Texan Aces & Agsar Paints (N.R. Kirubakara Moorthy, Uttam Gupta, Anil Padhye, Rajesh Dalal, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare), after 1st set of 10 boards, the teams were separated by just 1 imps. The next 2 sets saw Texan team gaining 8 and 7 imps to lead by 14 imps. They gained another 12 in the last set to win by 26 imps and reach the semi-final. In the 4th QF match, Formidable were leading Poddar Developers (Dipak Poddar, Jitu Solani, Ramavtar Agrawal and K.S. Anand Samant) by 53 imps going into 3rd set but Poddar recovered 23 in the last set, thus keeping them alive in the contest for day-3. However, the last set saw Formidables adding another 17 imps to their tally and winning the match by 47 imps. The QF scores:

Tbl #	Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards				TOTAL
				1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	
1	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS (#1)	Vs	HOODA (#12)	37-02	03-34	15-24	03-17	58-77
2	INDIA BLUES (#2)	Vs	PRAMILA SARAF (#7)	25-04	04-29	22-14	40-10	91-57
3	AGSAR PAINTS (#3)	Vs	TEXAN ACES (#6)	05-04	16-24	16-23	19-31	56-82
4	PODDAR DEVELOPERS (#4)	Vs	FORMIDABLES (#5)	04-40	10-27	36-13	24-41	74-121

The Semi-Final: The 4*12 boards semi-final was played on day-3 between HOODA & FORMIDABLES and INDIA BLUES Vs. TEXAN ACES.

Formidables started with a bang taking a 42-0 lead in the first set. But Hooda's young guns recovered well after lunch and won the 2nd set by 33 IMPs and the 3rd set by 4 IMPs to lag behind by only 5 imps with last set to go. They kept the pressure on in the last set and won it by 9 imps to win the intense battle by 5 imps and reach the finals. The FORMIDABLES team was represented by Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Sunit Chokshi, Rajeshwar Tiwari and B. Prabhakar.

The 2nd semi-final was nearly one sided with Texan Aces easily beating INDIA BLUES (Ashok Ruia, J.M. Shah, R. Dudhane, V.M. Lal and R.G. Bhiwandkar) by 48 imps. The semi-final scores:

Tbl #	Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards				TOTAL
				1-12	13-24	25-36	37-48	
1	HOODA (#12)	Vs	FORMIDABLES (#5)	0-42	60-27	15-11	20-11	95-91
2	INDIA BLUES (#2)	Vs	TEXAN ACES (#6)	13-32	07-37	22-03	18-36	60-108

The final between HOODA & TEXAN ACES turned out to be a great match till 3rd set. Texan team won the first set by 12 IMPs but as they have been doing in previous matches, the HOODA team came back strongly and recovered 7 IMPs in the 2nd set and 8 IMPs in the 3rd set to lead by 3 IMPs with last 14 boards to go. But then the experience took over and Texan Aces did all the right things and Hooda's young guns faltered under pressure to lose 50 IMPs in the last set to lose the match by 47 IMPs. But till 3rd set it was anybody's match.

The final score:

Tbl #	Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards				TOTAL
				1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	
1	HOODA (#12)	Vs	TEXAN ACES (#6)	11-23	31-24	37-29	03-53	82-129

Congratulations to both the teams for playing good bridge throughout the tournament. The winners **TEXAN ACES** were represented by **G. Venkatesh, Keyzad Anklesaria, R. Krishnan, K.R. Venkatraman, P. Shridhar and S. Sunderram.** The losers **HOODA** team was represented by **Sandeep Thakral, Kautabh Bendre, Kaustubh Nandi and Sandip Dutta.**

With this win, Texan Aces qualifies to play in the Indian Open Teams Selection Trials.

SPONSORED PAIRS EVENT:

The Sponsored Pairs event started on day-3 with an elimination round. 24 pairs participated consisting of masters and few Mumbai based invited pairs and 18 qualified for the Pair Finals.

BRIDGEMATE made its debut in India in this Pairs event. The leaders of the elimination-1 were:

1. K. Bhattacharya – C.S. Majumder 305.50
2. D. Majumder – P. Kushari 291.00
3. N.R. Kirubakaramoorthy – Uttam Gupta 282.00
4. Dipak Poddar – Jitu Solani 275.00

The six losing semi-finalist pairs joined the Pairs qualifiers for a 24 pairs all-play-all final of 46 boards with Barometer scoring. **Subhash Gupta – Sunit Chokshi**, overtook the 1st session winners to win the Pairs event. Their team partners Rajeshwar Tiwari – B. Prabhakar came 2nd. The list of leaders:

1. Sunit Chokshi – Subhash Gupta 309.00
2. B. Prabhakar – R. Tiwari 292.00
3. Subroto Saha – Alok Daga 290.00
4. Bhabesh Saha – Sumit Mukherjee 289.00
5. V.M. Lal – R. Bhiwandkar 276.77
6. K. Bhattacharya – C.S. Majumder 274.64
7. Arvind Vaidya – Abhay Todankar 271.64
8. D. Majumder – P. Kushari 269.55
9. T.V. Ramani – V. Phatarphekar 268.77
10. B.N. Parasrampurua – Jeroo Mango 263.95

The BFI President, Mr Kirubakarmoorthy gave the prizes and trophies to the winners and the runnersup of team event and to pairs winners (6 prizes). Mr. Dipak Poddar gave the Vote of thanks. Excellent work done by the team of Mr. Anand Samant and entire team of officials and others who assisted in the tournament.

Mr. Buddy Shah & Mr. Mahesh Rohera, provided excellent vu-graph coverage from Semi-final onwards. Dr. Subir Roy did excellent coverage of the tournament through the daily bulletins.

There was GOOD NEWS from BFI - It has been decided by the Bridge Federation of India that the team selected to represent India in the OPEN Category of the World Championships will be sponsored by the BFI.

- Reported by Editor

- Courtesy Daily Bulletins & BBO Vu-graph

Interesting Deals from Poddar National Master Tournament 2010

Some of the interesting deals from the Poddar National Masters are detailed below:

Semi-Final: Segment 1– Texan Aces Vs. India Blues

Board 9, Dealer: North, Vul: EW

♠82 ♥J86 ♦AJ96 ♣KJ75	N W E S	♠AJ3 ♥95432 ♦T8 ♣643
♠QT96 ♥AKQ7 ♦KQ72 ♣T		♠K754 ♥T ♦543 ♣AQ982

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>KRV(enky)</i>	<i>VM Lal</i>	<i>R. Krishnan</i>	<i>R Bhiwandikar</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1D	Pass	1H	DBL
4H	All Pass		

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>JM Shah</i>	<i>G. Venkatesh</i>	<i>Ashok Ruia</i>	<i>Keyzad</i>
	Pass	Pass	1C
DBL	2D(1)	Pass	3C
All Pass			

(1) – Fit showing

In the open room, KR Venkatraman (Venky) did not give any chance to his opponents, after his partner R. Krishnan (Kista) bid of 1H. They reached the vulnerable 4H, which was always making, with 1 trick each in spade, diamond & club to opponents for +620 to Texan Aces.

In the closed room, Keyzad (Texan Aces) took advantage of the vulnerability bidding a light 1C on the 3rd seat. West doubled, but Venkatesh showed his good club fit and when East did not bid his poor hearts, West had no business to come into picture again.

They lost one trick each in suits other than trump to score 10 tricks for +130 and a gain of 13 IMPs to Texan Aces.

Semi-Final: Formidables Vs. Hooda

When you are down 42 imps, you require something unusual to remain in the match. That exactly was in the mind of the young members of the Hooda team, when they sat for the 2nd set of the match against the Formidables team.

They took all the chances, which came their way to recover 33 imps in the 2nd set.

Segment 2, Board 17, Dealer: North, Vul: None

♠Q974
 ♥
 ♦AQ74
 ♣KQ942
 ♠KT85
 ♥AKT85
 ♦8
 ♣T83
 ♠AJ63
 ♥Q6432
 ♦96
 ♣A7
 ♠2
 ♥J97
 ♦KJT432
 ♣J65

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Chokshi</i>	<i>S. Dutta</i>	<i>Subhash</i>	<i>K. Nandi</i>
	1D	1H	3D
4D(1)	5D	DBL	All Pass

(1) – Heart fit

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Bendre</i>	<i>B. Satya</i>	<i>S. Thakral</i>	<i>Kiran Nadar</i>
	1D	Pass	3D
DBL	5D	DBL	Pass
5H	Pass	6H	All Pass

After a pre-emptive 3D from South, North at both rooms reached the optimum 5D. In the open room, West opted to pass out the DBL by East and as the cards lie, there was no way to defeat the contract for +550 to Hooda's team.

In the closed room, Thakral in the East seat preferred passing and after partner doubled for take out, and North barged in with 5D, he doubled asking partner to choose the major. However, his raise of 5H to 6H was totally confusing. The contract went 2 down but that was only -100 as it was not doubled for a 10 IMPs gain to Hooda team.

Segment 2, Board 18, Dealer: East, Vul: NS

♠J3
 ♥AQ9765
 ♦A863
 ♣K
 ♠K875
 ♥
 ♦Q52
 ♣QJT852
 ♠AQT6
 ♥KJ4
 ♦KT
 ♣A763
 ♠942
 ♥T832
 ♦J974
 ♣94

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Chokshi</i>	<i>S. Dutta</i>	<i>Subhash</i>	<i>K. Nandi</i>
		1NT	Pass
2C	2H	2S	Pass
4H	Pass	4NT(1)	Pass
5C(2)	Pass	5S	All Pass

(1) – RKC in Spades (2) – 1 or 4 Keycard

With 2 key cards missing, and not sure of CK, East rightly stopped at 5S, but made 12 tricks when CK came down on CA and heart was void.

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Bendre</i>	<i>B. Satya</i>	<i>S. Thakral</i>	<i>Kiran Nadar</i>
		1C(1)	Pass
2C (2)	Pass	2S	Pass
3S	Pass	4C(3)	Pass
5D(4)	Pass	6S	All Pass

(1) – Strong Club 16+ (2) – 5 Clubs + another 4 carder (3) – RKC (4) - 1 Keycard with a void

Here East was sure of a void in one of the red suit and at the most the slam depended on club finesse (as East was not sure whether CK is there or not). There was nothing in the paly and the contract was made for +980 and 11 IMPs to Hooda's team.

Segment 2, Board 22, Dealer: East, Vul: EW

♠97
 ♥Q64
 ♦QT96
 ♣8653
 ♠AKT542
 ♥A3
 ♦K7
 ♣AQJ
 ♠Q863
 ♥985
 ♦AJ54
 ♣K7
 ♠J
 ♥KJT72
 ♦832
 ♣T942

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Chokshi</i>	<i>S. Dutta</i>	<i>Subhash</i>	<i>K. Nandi</i>
		Pass	Pass
1S	Pass	2C(1)	Pass
2H(2)	Pass	2S	Pass
3D(3)	Pass	4S	Pass
6S	All Pass		

(1) – Drury (2) – Good opening hand on 3rd seat (3) – Cue

When East showed his spade support through Drury, West showed him the good hand and finally the game bid by East was converted to 6S by West. A very reasonable contract. Made for +1430 to Formidables.

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Bendre</i>	<i>B. Satya</i>	<i>S. Thakral</i>	<i>Kiran Nadar</i>
		Pass	Pass
1C(1)	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C(2)	Pass	2S(3)	Pass
3S(4)	Pass	4C(5)	Pass
4NT(6)	Pass	5D(7)	Pass
7S	All Pass		

(1) – Strong Club 16+ (2) – Distribution asking (3) – 4 carder spade with 8-11 HCPs (4) – RKC in spades (5) - 1 Keycard (6) – King ask (as queen was not asked by west, East was sure that West has 6-carder spade) (7) – 1 King (can be Heart or Club King)

If HK is there and CK is missing, then the Grand slam depended on club finesse and if HK is not there then it depends on partner having DQ.

Well partner did not take out DQ, but lady luck was surely with Hooda's team and the diamond finessed worked for 13 tricks and +2210 fetching them another 13 IMPs.

Segment 3, Board 28, Dealer: West, Vul: NS

♠9 ♥T2 ♦J9753 ♣QT962 ♠T4 ♥A9543 ♦A8 ♣A543	N W E S	♠AJ763 ♥KJ ♦KQ62 ♣K7 ♠KQ852 ♥Q876 ♦T4 ♣J8
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OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Dutta</i>	<i>B. Satya</i>	<i>K. Nandi</i>	<i>Kiran Nadar</i>
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2S	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Prabhakar</i>	<i>S. Thakral</i>	<i>R. Tiwari</i>	<i>Kaustabh Bendre</i>
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Pass	3H	Pass
4C	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	All Pass		

As the cards lie, both the contracts were depending on how the hearts are played. If you play low to HK and take finesse with HJ that works perfectly. If South inserts the HQ, declarer will get 1 spade, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs for 10 tricks in hearts or no-trump.

In closed room, after the singleton spade lead from North, declarer played the spade Ace, and played to DA and diamond King. He tried to throw the spade on DQ, but that got ruffed and overruffed by declarer. He now played to the CK and back to CA in hand. A low club was ruffed in dummy with HJ and South overruffed with HQ. Spade King was cashed and SQ was ruffed by declarer with H5 and overruffed by North with the Ten. North played the CQ ruffed in dummy with HK and now declarer was forced to give one more heart to go down 1 in 4H.

In the open room, South led the D10 and though declarer relied more on spade than on hearts, still he was able to make his contract. After winning with DK, he cashed SA and played a low spade won by South with Queen. Another diamond was played to dummy's Ace and declarer came to hand with HK and played a low spade won by South with S8. Now South played a low heart which gave the 9th trick to declarer.

It would not have mattered what he leads as he gets endplayed in anycase, and can not take more than 4 tricks. That was another 10 IMPs to Hooda team.

Segment 4, Board 39, Dealer: South, Vul: Both

♠42 ♥AKT ♦J3 ♣AKQJT8	N W E S	♠85 ♥J32 ♦Q8742 ♣762 ♠J973 ♥9876 ♦A965 ♣9
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OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Nandi</i>	<i>Subhash</i>	<i>S. Dutta</i>	<i>S. Chokshi</i>
1C	1S	Pass	2C(1)
Pass	2S	All Pass	Pass

(1) – Spade fit

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Prabhakar</i>	<i>S. Thakral</i>	<i>R. Tiwari</i>	<i>Kaustabh Bendre</i>
1C	1S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

In the open room, West opened 1C and North overcalled 1S. South's 2C was good raise in spades. It was surprising that West did not take another bid with West hand having 8 tricks in hand. Though North has 14 HCPs but his 5-3-2-3 shape is not great. He bid 2S and that became the final contract. Declarer was able to make 10 tricks for +170.

In the closed room, Kaustabh Bendre, upgraded his hand with 4-carder spade and singleton club and directly jumped to 4S. The hand turned to gold, when East led the C2 and West after winning the trick, shifted to HK, that was the clue declarer wanted for fulfilling his contract, which duly got made for +620 and another important 10 imps to Hooda team.

With 4 boards of the match to go, the score at the end of board 44 was 86-84 in favour of Hooda team. Then came board 45.

Segment 4, Board 45, Dealer: North, Vul: Both

♠AQ853 ♥965 ♦A864 ♣K	N W E S	♠K74 ♥A432 ♦T ♣QJT92 ♠T6 ♥KQJ7 ♦KQ5 ♣8763 ♠J92 ♥T8 ♦J9732 ♣A54
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CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
Prabhakar	S. Thakral	R. Tiwari	Kaustabh Bendre
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1S	Pass	1NT	All Pass

South led the D2 and declarer after winning with DK, played the HK, North winning with Ace and playing the C2. Soth won with the Ace and played a spade back. Declarer correctly played the Ace else the contract would have been down, and cashed 3 hearts and 2 more diamonds to make his contract for 9 tricks. This could have been a good score as EW had a combined strength of 24 HCPs and could have oveshot.

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
K. Nandi	Subhash	S. Dutta	S. Chokshi
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
2D	DBL	RDBL	3C
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass

In the open room, West did not pass his partner's 1NT and bid his second suit 2D. North became greedy and tried a double asking partner to bid the unbid suits. Poor South had no place to run, when East with his good 11 HCPs, redoubled. Though Sunit had 5 diamonds, it was impossible for him to pass that. He choose to bid the 3-carder club and now it was the chance of opponents to double them. Though Sunit should have gone only 1 down, the contract went 2 down for -500 to Formidables and an unnecessary gift of 9 IMPs to Hooda team trying to buy a mere partial. The misadventure cost Formidables very dear as they finally lost the match by a mere 4imps

The Unlucky "Formidables"

Formidables finally lost the 48-board semi-final by a narrow margin of 4 IMPs (95-91). But a funny thing had happened in the topsy-turvy 2nd set, in which 87imps were exchanged in 12 boards with 5 double digit swings. No body on the table bothered to go through the details of Board 16. This is what happened:

Segment 2, Board 16, Dealer: West, Vul: EW

♠4		
♥J54		
♦K9873		
♣QT52		
♠Q9873	N	♠AJ6
♥QT82	W	♥96
♦	E	♦QJ654
♣9643	S	♣AK7
		♠KT42
		♥AK73
		♦AT2
		♣J8

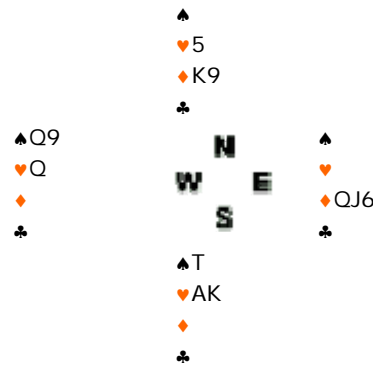
CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
K. Bendre	B. Satya	S. Thakral	Kiran Nadar
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Pass	3S	All Pass

Kiran (South) led the Heart Ace and then shifted to CJ. Declarer won with the Ace and played back the H9, Kiran winning it with the King and repeating clubs. But the initial lead has already given the advantage to the declarer. He won with the CK, ruffed a diamond in dummy and discarded his 3rd club on HQ. The H10 was ruffed by North and overruffed by declarer. He now ruffed another diamond in dummy and ruffed a club with Ace of trump, South discarding the DA. When declarer played the DQ, South had to ruff perforce. He ruffed with S2 and declarer overruffed with S8. Another club was ruffed in hand with SJ and South was helpless and had to give the last 2 tricks to dummy for 10 tricks and +170 to Hooda's team. The bidding in the **OPEN** room was:

West	North	East	South
S. Chokshi	S. Dutta	Subhash	K. Nandi
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C(1)	Pass	2D(2)	Pass
2H(3)	Pass	2S	All Pass
(1) – Stayman		(2) – No major suit	
(3) – Pass or correct to 2S			

Nandi (South) led CJ to declarer's Ace, who played the H9 and Nandi did well to duck this. Declarer played low, which lost to HJ. North continued with the club to declarer's King, who played back his last club won by North and South discarding a low diamond. North continued with CQ and declarer discarded his losing heart and South discarded a diamond. North now shifted to a low trump and declarer won with the King and ruffed a low diamond in dummy and a heart in hand. When declarer now played a diamond, South ruffed with SK and returned back a trump declarer winning with by SJ. Declarer has already made 6 tricks and the last 3 cards position was:



Declarer had 2 more trump tricks for his 8 tricks. But he miscounted and thought that he has gone down one and everyone on the table agreed to the declarer. The Vugraph operator also thought that declarer has claimed down 1. The commentators (P. Sridhar) and others even asked the VG operator that they think the contract has been made. But as there was no response, everyone thought that may be there was some revoke and hence the contract is down.

Actually the contract had made and instead of 7 IMPs, HOODA's team should have got only 2 and that means Formidables would have won the match by 1 IMP instead of losing by 4 IMPs.

Final – Segment 2:

This was an interesting deal from Segment 2 of Finals played between Texan Aces & Hooda Teams.

Board 18, Dealer: East, Vul: NS

	♠QJ72		♠5
	♥T74		♥J932
	♦6		♦JT54
	♣J9764		♣AQ52
♠64		♠AKT983	
♥AQ86		♥K5	
♦KQ972		♦A83	
♣KT		♣83	

OPEN Room:

West	North	East	South
Venky	S. Dutta	Kista	Kaustabh Nandi
Pass	3S	Pass	4S All Pass

Players playing ELC (Equal Level Conversion) would surely have preferred doubling with West hand and would bid 2D (showing Diamonds & Hearts) over 2C from partner, if North passes. However, nor Venkatraman DBL nor bid 2D with his good 14 HCP hand and preferred passing. The opponents did not give any further chances to come in action. There were 2 losers each in black suits and the contract went 1 down for 100 to Texan Aces.

CLOSED Room:

West	North	East	South
S. Thakral	Venkaatesh	K. Bendre	Keyzad
2D	2S	Pass	1S
5D	Pass	Pass	4S DBL All Pass

There were only 2 losers and the doubled contract was made for +550 and 10 IMPs to Hooda team.

- Reported by Editor

Interesting Hand Played on BBO

-by Swarnendu Banerjee

	♠AKJ6		♠9852
	♥K75		♥AQT42
	♦AT6		♦853
	♣KJ5		♣6
♠Q3		♠T74	
♥98		♥J63	
♦Q74		♦KJ92	
♣AT9843		♣Q72	

This hand (Hand shown on left column below) was played on BBO by me on 17th Aug 2010. It has some interesting points to note, which may be useful tips to upcoming players.

West	North	East	South
rv	Swarnendu	subhanarp	
	2NT	Pass	3S (1)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) – Puppet to 3NT

My LHO (subhanarp) led the H4 and my primary consideration was how to make 9 tricks. Seeing the dummy, the possibilities were 4D+4S+1H or 6 in the pointed suits+1H+2C if club Ace and heart length is in the same hand. To cater to both possibilities, playing the Jack of heart from dummy was essential. I did exactly the same and the trick held!

Next move was an avoidance play of 9 of Diamond from dummy. My RHO's (rv) D7 gave me a ray of hope for 4 diamond tricks as they were playing reverse count. Once the D9 held, the time came for tackling spades. LHO's heart length and my spade spots compelled me to reconsider my spade play.

My plan was to play S10 guarding against doubleton 8 or 9 in my LHO's hand. So I played S10 from dummy at trick 3, and after a considerable amount of pause my RHO covered with spade queen and I took the trick with the spade Ace.

The spade king was played next hoping for a doubleton 8 or 9 with my LHO but nothing like that happened. So I reverted my attention to diamonds. I was still hopeful that I can also scramble home with 9 tricks, if hearts are 4-3 by giving 3 hearts and the club Ace. The diamonds rolled home and on the 4th diamond LHO after a considerable amount of pause ditched a club whereas my RHO gave an encouraging low spot in club.

Now was the time to play spade and see if they are 3-3 or not? I am home if they are 3-3 and if not then I will have to consider my next play. On the third spade my RHO spared another club, so my LHO was marked with 4 spades+ 4/5 hearts headed by AQ+ 3 diamonds+ 1 club.

Now I needed to decide whether LHO had 4 or 5 hearts. If he had 4 then club play was required but the pause by LHO influenced me to go for later composition. He was squeezed between club exit card + 5th heart + 4spades.

I threw him in spade. He was undone he had to cash his heart Ace hoping that the king will fall but it did not and a later club play by resulted in an overtrick.

Playing this hand opposite kamalroy was of an immense satisfaction as he is a dummy player of highest calibre. Some people may argue upon the first discard that is H8 as an inference for the 5 hearts with LHO but I strongly feel it is inconclusive. It can come from various compositions and choice of card varies from player to player.

I hope you would have enjoyed the deal too.

Sir Padampat Singhania Memorial Invitational Pairs Tournament

The **8th All India Sir Padampat Singhania Memorial Invitational Pairs Tournament** was organized from 27th to 29th Aug 2010 at Kamla Club, Kanpur by the Kailashpat Singhania Sports Foundation. The participation in this tournament is by invitation to players in good standing. The organizers invited 24 Pairs from all over India and each pair played an 8-board match against every other pair, with screens and pre-dealt boards. 8 Rounds each were played on 27th & 28th and 7 rounds on 29th Aug 2010.

IMP scoring was used subject to a maximum of 17 IMPs on a board. The top 2 NS & 2 EW scores were eliminated for calculation of datum of each board. Each pair started with a bank of 25 VPs per match. The net IMP difference of the match, subject to a maximum of 25 IMPs was added to the bank of the winning pair and subtracted from the bank of losing pair. The maximum score a pair could achieve in a match was 50, whereas the minimum score a losing pair would get was zero.

Subhash Gupta (Delhi) – Raju Tolani (Mumbai) with a score of 50 & 31 in their first 2 rounds were the initial leaders. However they were overtaken by Alok Daga – C.S. Majumder from West Bengal in the next 2 rounds with a score of 153 / 200 after 4 rounds. But with a score of 203/300, they were overtaken by Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal of U.P. after 6 rounds. With another good score of 32 & 50 in the next 2 rounds, Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal took the TOP spot at the end of day-1. At the end of day 1 (round 8) the top scorers were (out of 400):

1. Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal	285	5. Hemant Jalan – Ashish Malhotra	233
2. Alok Daga – C.S. Majumder	271	6. Amarnath Banerjee – Sandip Dutta	225
3. A.K. Sinha – Bhupendra Rastogi	262	7. K.R. Venkatraman – Sunit Chokshi	216
4. Subhash Gupta – Raju Tolani	238	8. D.S. Jadon – Vikas Gupta	210

The first 2 rounds on Day-2 saw the leaders Indresh – Bal going strongly with 354/500. However, the 3rd position holder jumped to the 2nd spot with a score 331. The situation continued in the next 2 rounds as well with Indresh – Bal on 396 followed by Sinha – Rastogi on 367 out of 600.

After round 14, though Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal with 470 were far ahead, there was still tussle for the 2nd spot with Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal from Maharashtra taking their score to 435 and Sinha – Rastogi going 1 position down with 435 out of 700. Both the pairs maintained their positions till the end of day-2. The top rank holders at the end of day 2 (Round 16) were (out of 800):

1. Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal	537	5. D.K. Tewari – P..C. Gupta	438
2. Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal	497	6. Arvind Vaidya – Vivek Bhand	434
3. K.R. Venkatraman – Sunit Chokshi	461	7. Subhash Gupta – Raju Tolani	432
4. A.K. Sinha – Bhupendra Rastogi	453	8. V.M. Lal – R.G. Bhiwandkar	424

The last day fight was on as there was not too much difference in the scores between 5th to 8th positions. Both the leaders maintained their TOP positions with a score of 67 and 55 out of the possible 100. Another 2 rounds were played before lunch time and with the last 3-rounds to go after lunch, the leaders were:

1. Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal	654	5. K.R. Venkatraman – Sunit Chokshi	552
2. A.K. Sinha – Bhupendra Rastogi	592	6/7. Subhash Gupta – Raju Tolani	545
3. Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal	591	6/7. R.A. Agarwal – Anand Samant	545
4. V.M. Lal – R.G. Bhiwandkar	566	8. Arvind Vaidya – Vivek Bhand	424

With 2 big losses (only 5 & 9 out of 50 each in rounds 21 & 22), Indresh – Bal came a bit down to 668 out of 1100 but then also retained the TOP spot. Sinha – Rastogi could also score only 42 out of 100 to be on 634 for 2nd spot. Lal – Bhiwandkar with addition of 65 points jumped to 3rd spot with 631 and Venkatraman – Sunit had a nice pickup of 73 and a total of 625 to be on 4th position. The positions 5 to 8 were occupied by Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal (624 – they could score only 32 in 2 rounds), R.A. Agarwal – Anand Samant (614), Arvind Vaidya – Vivek Bhand (587) and T.C. Pant – Namit Sharma (584). Subhash Gupta – Raju Tolani could get only 32 in these 2 rounds to go down to 10th position.

And now all eyes were on the result of the last round. Though there was a clear 34 points difference between 1st & 2nd position, the tussle for the 2nd position became very hot. It turned out exactly that way when the 2 pairs from Maharashtra, Lal – Bhiwandkar and Padhye - Dalal tied for the 2nd spot with a score of 653. As Lal – Bhiwandkar had won against Padhye – Dalal in direct match, they were declared second with Anil Padhye – Rajesh Dalal third.

Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal got 40 out of 50 in the last round to be the deserving winners of this prestigious invitational tournament. Prizes to the TOP 12 pairs were awarded.

The final results:

RANK	PAIR NAME	Score
1	Indresh Agarwal & Bal Agarwal (U.P.)	708
2	V M Lal & R G Bhiwandikar (Maharashtra)	653
3	Anil Padhye & Rajesh Dalal (Maharashtra)	653
4	K R Venkatraman (Chennai) & Sunit Choksi (Gujrat)	645
5	A K Sinha (U.P.) & Bhupendra Rastogi (U.P.)	644
6	R A Agarwal & Anand Samant (Maharashtra)	642
7	Arvind Vaidya & Vivek Bhand (Maharashtra)	637
8	Alok Daga & C S Majumdar (West Bengal)	604
9	S M Moin (Bihar) & S Lahiri (UP)	597
10	T C Pant & Namit Sharma (Delhi)	592
11	Subhash Gupta (Delhi) & Raju Tolani (Maharashtra)	589
12	Anal B Shah (Maha) & Keyzad Anklesaria (Gujrat)	562
13	Sudhir Aggarwal & Vinod Sharma (Delhi)	560
14	D K Tewari (Delhi) & P C Gupta (Delhi)	554
15	R Krishnan (Chennai) & N K Gupta (Delhi)	551
16	Amarnath Banerjee & Sandip Dutta (West Bengal)	542
17	Gobindo Singha & Vibash Todi (West Bengal)	537
18	Jitesh Agarwal & Dr. Anil Vijayvargia (M.P.)	532
19	Kiran Nadar & Rajeswar Tiwari (Delhi)	519
20	Pankaj Mehta (U.P.) & Kingshuk. Bhattacharya (WB)	503
21	Asim Mukherjee & Snehasis Roy (West Bengal)	503
22	Hemant Jalan & Ashish Malhotra (West Bengal)	502
23	D S Jadon & Vikas Gupta (U.P.)	490
24	H N Singh & Manish Jaiswal (U.P.)	481

Congratulations to the Winners Indresh Agarwal – Bal Agarwal from Allahabad, UP who won it hands down leading throughout in the tournament.

Kudos to the organizers for excellent Technical Management, accommodation, hospitality, time management, excellent publicity of the tourney in local press.

It would have been an icing on the cake, if the organizers could have arranged for an air-conditioned venue. Like earlier years, this year the tournament could not be held in winter, and the Kanpur weather during this period was very hot and humid. We are sure, the organizers will reschedule the tournament back to winter.

- Reported by Editor

FNCC ALL INDIA OPEN BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The Film Nagar Cultural Centre, All India Open Bridge Tournament under the auspices of Bridge Federation of India and A.P. State Bridge Association will be held from 22nd to 24th Oct 2010 at Filmnagar Cultural Centre, Filmnagar, Hyderabad. The tournament will consist of Team of Four, Board-a-Match & Open Pair events.

- Information by Mr. J.V. Ramana Murthy (Mob : 98662 44007)

Appeal Case from the Sir Padampat Singhania Memorial Tournament

-Reported by Sudhir Aggarwal

The following deal from Round 17 of the recently held Singhania Invitational Pairs tournament at Kanpur, was referred to the Appeals Committee.

Board 4, Dealer: West, Vul: Both

♠J85 ♥ ♦QT987543 ♣53 ♠963 ♥KQJT8432 ♦ ♣J9	N W E S	♠T72 ♥A965 ♦ ♣KQ7642 ♠AKQ4 ♥7 ♦AKJ62 ♣AT8	
--	-----------------	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Venky</i>	<i>Sudhir</i>	<i>Sunit</i>	<i>Vinod Sharma</i>
3H	Pass	4C**	DBL
4H	Pass	4NT	Pass
5C	Pass	5H	Pass (?)
All Pass			

**4C was explained to South as Natural whereas East explained 4C as cue bid to North

North & East (Sudhir Aggarwal & Sunit Chokshi) were screen mates, whereas West & South (K.R. Venkatraman & Vinod Sharma) were screen mates.

The Facts:

West opened the bidding with 3H. Tray came to N-E side. North having no bid passed. East looking at his hand knew what was happening and decided to bid 4C. Tray was then pushed to S-W side. West informed S that **4C is natural**. South doubled (in his opinion to show a very good hand with other two suits). West bid 4H and tray then came back to N-E side. Seeing the double and sensing something North asked East for the meaning of 4C bid. He asked specifically to East what your partner has taken 4C as. Because meaning of South's double will be only clear depending on what was explained to him as 4C. East mentioned **4C is cue bid**. Of course N clarified that double is club suit as per their partnership understanding. However East further bid 4N and tray was given to S-W. S saw that North has not taken any action and decided to pass. West bid 5C and finally bidding ended at 5H with no action from S and East accomplished his mission of keeping NS away from their biddable little slam (grand slam not biddable).

After North led the club and S cashed his 4 tricks with 5H going two down, North asked South, what was 4C explained to him (N knew something was wrong as his partner didn't had Club suit. S informed he was told 4C as natural and N informed he was told "cue bid".

Different explanations on both sides. North said if he had the same explanation as South, they would have reached 6D. Of course EW didn't agree, tempers got raised, resulting in heated arguments and director was called.

Facts were established and director after some time came back – ruling table result stands. Not satisfied with director's ruling NS decided to appeal.

The Appeal committee (R. Krishnan, Ramavtar Aggarwal and Ashim Mukherjee) also ruled table result stands as South failed to double 4NT. Nothing was mentioned at all in the appeal ruling about different explanations on both sides of the screen altogether. They didn't even check the convention card of EW, as to what treatment it mentions after 3H opening. The onus was on S to double 4NT. Therefore the whole culprit in their opinion was S and that is why table result stands. Different explanations on both sides of the screen didn't matter to them at all. I pleaded with appeal committee that had I been given same information as my partner I would have bid 5D without any difficulty. One thing is sure; EW being an established partnership, and having played many international events, know their system very well. So why different explanation?

Most of our Bridge experts present at the venue felt the same as appeal committee, where as some said penalty for mistaken explanation should have imposed. But why no one including appeal committee thought of adjusted score because it is established that North's bid was taken away by the explanation given to him.

I am clear now, why most of Bridge players are not satisfied and have no faith on Director's rulings as well as appeal committee rulings.

I had sent the above to some TOP experts of World Bridge for their views and these are given for the benefit of players. Their comments make it amply clear that the ruling was not correct and adequate thoughts were not put by the Appeals committee while giving their decision.

Comments from Mr. Eric Kokish:

Eric Kokish replies : North was well and truly silenced by the information he received and so it was even more important that the committee at least try to determine the real EW agreement. Perhaps there was no agreement and each of them guessed what 4C should mean. If EW could not satisfy the committee that East's explanation was indeed what they were playing, EW lose the benefit of the doubt and NS are entitled to protection. Regardless of S's pass over 4NT, had N been given the same info as S, N would have bid 5D - that is clear - and NS would have reached slam.

However, had E's explanation been deemed correct, W's explanation to South would have been inaccurate. Over a 4C cue-bid South would have been forced to bid 4H as strong takeout, and he too would have gotten his side to slam.

Could South double 4NT safely? Well, not if his double of 4C showed CLUBS, because his hand would now be something like 3145, 4135, 3136, and the like - a misdescription.

This was not a "rub of the green" situation where NS would have to live with their bad result because only one of them was involved and that one was given a correct explanation.

In summary, it was a bad ruling, influenced by the committee's feeling that South HAD TO double 4NT and deserved no protection because he passed instead. In effect EW's explanations made it impossible for N to bid and awkward for S. If W gave S the correct info, S did need to bid again, but if W gave S incorrect information, redress was in order.

If the committee did not attempt to learn EW actual agreement it was remiss in its duty.

Whether NS would be entitled to the most favorable of several likely results or a percentage adjustment (e.g. 70% of the score for 6D, 10% for 7D. 20% for 5H) would turn on the committee's investigation.

Eric

Comments from Mr. Michael Lawrence:
<77bridge@michaellawrence.com>

I am afraid that I can not shed any light on this. Rulings regarding misinformation have become so complex that on one of the occasions when I was asked to sit in on a committee in order to make it legal size (there were five of us at a Nationals) the discussion was endless and to me, confusing. The rules seem to allow for a lot of opinions where I think the rules should be more specific.

Here you got mixed information which should not happen but it did. Sometimes there is talk about how the innocent side should have worked it out but here, North has to bid diamonds and according to the information he has, that would not be a natural thing to do.

Even if South did double 4NT, what is that supposed to mean? Does it show a good takeout hand? Does it show eight solid clubs, inviting North to save? South probably should double it but West will likely end in 5H and South will again have to make a double that North will be obliged to solve in light of the information given earlier.

The best I can say is that if I were N-S, I would feel that I had been victim of the laws and perhaps the committee. Mind you, committees do not like this kind of situation either and when they get a problem like this one, it is almost always going to lead to some bad feelings. As I noted, my heart is with N-S.

Footnote

This gets all the more confusing in that East's 4C bid looks like a tactical bid. It was not really a cue bid which is not the fault of East. If his notes say cue bid. then he gave the correct information.

Sometimes a pair is asked to produce notes to prove their explanations. But mostly these notes are not available.

As an aside, what did 5C mean? Was West answering for hearts or clubs?

Glad I was not involved in this.

You might try sending the problem to the Bridge World. They seem to have opinions on everything.

Best,

Mike Lawrence

The case has also been posted in the BBO appeal & ruling forum, and interested parties can see the expert's opinion in the following link:

<http://forums.bridgebase.com/index.php?showtopic=41367>

ONLINE UNIV. TEAMS C'SHIPS

The first online University Teams Championships were held in 2008 / 2009, and attended by 16 teams from 4 continents. Italy won the final against Norway.

In October 2010, we will start with the 2nd World Teams University Bridge Championships on internet BBO.

It is a knock out competition on internet between countries where the schedule is determined by draw. A country can enter an unlimited number of teams. Your teams must be composed of between 4 to 6 university or school players and a captain must be indicated. For each player, you must enter: name, surname, date of birth, nationality, university or high school, country.

Your teams can participate under the following conditions:

- being at a university or high school (or 1 year after or before studies)
- being between 17 and 28 years old
- having the nationality of the country you represent

Both captains have 1 month to schedule and play a match of 32 boards. The result must be sent directly after the match to Kuba Kasprzak kubakasprzak@o2.pl (with a copy to geert.magerman@telenet.be)

Results will be published on www.unibridge.org and the new Facebook account "Uni Bridge"

You can enter university bridge teams from now till 31st October 2010 on by sending an e-mail to Kuba: kubakasprzak@o2.pl (with copy to geert.magerman@telenet.be). After receiving all entries and after the draw, we will inform each captain by the next match. We will start in November 2010.

We rely on your fair play and friendship, important values for FISU and WBF. Any violation against fair play will not be accepted and have severe consequences. If the Captains request it, Kuba will act as Tournament Director during the match.

- **Geert Magerman, Technical Delegate FISU**

Interesting Deals from Summer NABC 2010

The 82nd Summer North American Bridge Championships 2010 was played from 21st July to 1st Aug 2010 at New Orleans, LA. Some of the interesting deals from the Championship are detailed below:

Champion at work

By Barry Rigal

Billy Eisenberg provided the details for this outstanding deal played by Steve Garner in the first qualifying session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

When a good player does not overcall but backs in later, he tends to have real length in the suit you opened. Garner knew his left hand opponent was a great player, so he played accordingly. Mind you, the auction took an odd turn. Garner and Howard Weinstein were playing against Tor Helness and Connie Goldberg.

Dealer: South, Vul: EW

	♠		
	♥T9642		
	♦AQJ97		
	♣AJ4		
♠A5		♠KQT932	
♥	N	♥AQ53	
♦KT865	W	♦	E
♣KT8753	S	♣Q96	
	♠J8764		
	♥KJ87		
	♦432		
	♣2		

West <i>Garner</i>	North <i>Helness</i>	East <i>Weinstein</i>	South <i>Goldberg</i>
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	2H	2H(3H)	4H
5C	DBL	All Pass	

Weinstein's insufficient 2♥ was corrected without penalty to 3♥. On a heart lead, Garner ruffed, ran the ♣7 successfully, ruffed a diamond and played the ♣Q to Helness's ace. Back came a heart. Garner ruffed again, then ran his trumps. This was the ending:

	♠		
	♥964		
	♦AQJ		
	♣		
♠A5		♠KQT9	
♥	N	♥AQ	
♦KT86	W	♦	E
♣	S	♣	
	♠J876		
	♥KJ		
	♦		
	♣2		

Garner ran spades, throwing Goldberg in to lead into the heart tenace. Beautifully done.

Grand design

On this deal from the second semi-final session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, Debbie Rosenberg and JoAnna Stansby had an expert auction to the top spot for most of the match points.

Dealer: North, Vul: Both

	♠K9852		
	♥A32		
	♦A5		
	♣543		
♠J3		♠Q	
♥Q8	N	♥JT97654	
♦KQ97632	W	♦T4	E
♣J6	S	♣987	
	♠AT764		
	♥K		
	♦J8		
	♣AKQT2		

West	North <i>Rosenberg</i>	East	South <i>Stansby</i>
	1S	Pass	2NT (1)
3D	Pass (2)	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	4D	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D (3)	Pass	6C (4)
Pass	6S (5)	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

(1) Game-forcing spade raise. (2) Neutral.
(3) Zero or three key cards.
(4) Third-round control of clubs? (5) No.

Rosenberg did very well not to jump to 4S over 3D. Once Stansby found a diamond control from her partner, she used key card then asked for third-round control of clubs. When none was forthcoming, she was confident that 7NT could be no worse than finding spades 2-1, and so it proved.

Avoidance play

By Brian Senior

English international Sandra Penfold found a fine avoidance play on this deal from the afternoon session of the Dr. William Bagnetto Stratified Open Pairs.

Dealer: West, Vul: EW

	♠KQJ		
	♥AQ84		
	♦642		
	♣AKQ		
♠T65432		♠A9	
♥JT952	N	♥K763	
♦A7	W	♦QJT93	E
♣	S	♣T5	
	♠87		
	♥		
	♦K85		
	♣J9876432		

West	North <i>Senior</i>	East	South <i>Penfold</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	5C
All Pass			

West led the ♥J. Hopeful of getting two discards to assure her contract, Sandra put in the ♥Q, ruffing East's king. When she led a trump to dummy, West threw a discouraging ♠10. Sandra threw a spade on the ♥A, then led the ♥8. When East followed low, she discarded her other spade.

Ruffing the heart return, Sandra played a club to dummy, then took the ruffing spade finesse and made her contract for an excellent plus 400, leaving West to rue his revealing discard.

Wagar women at work By Barry Rigal

On this deal from the Wagar Women's Knockout Teams, Shawn Quinn and Migry Zur Campanile did very nicely.

Dealer: East, Vul: None

	♠J		
	♥9842		
	♦AJT32		
	♣J87		
♠KT85	N	E	♠AQ763
♥Q653	W	S	♥
♦65			♦KQ984
♣Q92			♣KT4
	♠942		
	♥AKJT7		
	♦7		
	♣A653		

West	North <i>Migry</i>	East	South <i>Quinn</i>
2S	4D	1S 4S	2H All Pass

Quinn led the ♥A, ruffed. Declarer cashed the ♠A and led a spade to the king, North pitching a heart. Then came a diamond. If Migry had ducked, declarer would have won the ♦K, drawn the last trump with the 10 and led a diamond, covering North's card. A low diamond exit would endplay North. So Migry rose with the ♦A. This was the ending:

	♠		
	♥98		
	♦JT32		
	♣J87		
♠T8	N	E	♠Q7
♥Q65	W	S	♥
♦6			♦KQ98
♣Q92			♣KT4
	♠9		
	♥KJT7		
	♦		
	♣A653		

On the return of the ♦J, if Quinn had ruffed she would have been end-played, so she pitched a heart. Declarer could still have succeeded by finding the ♠J, but she knew the defenders' patterns and when she played the long hand to hold that card she went down.

Trick one By Barry Rigal

This deal was played in first final session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

Dealer: West, Vul: None

	♠K2		
	♥92		
	♦A8654		
	♣A732		
♠A8	N	E	♠T93
♥QJT86	W	S	♥A74
♦K9			♦J32
♣K864			♣QJT5
	♠QJ7654		
	♥K53		
	♦QT7		
	♣9		

A normal auction would be as follows:

West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	2H	2S
3C	3H	DBL	3S
All Pass			

Let's say you sat East defending 3♣. You win partner's ♥Q lead with the ace and shift to the ♣Q. No dice: declarer wins, ruffs a heart in dummy and plays the ♠K. Eventually, he will guess diamonds and bring home plus 170.

Would it have done you any good to shift to a trump at trick two? No.

Whether west wins or ducks, declarer can play a diamond to the 10 and the deal is over. So what can you do? Answer: duck the ♥Q. Declarer wins and has a choice of losing options. If he returns a heart, the defenders play the ♠A and a spade. If he leads a club to the ace and a diamond to the 10, the defenders can manage a diamond ruff, and if he plays trumps himself, the defenders can duck or win and play two rounds of spades.

Disappearing trick

Sometimes a sure four tricks turn into three, as Billy Miller demonstrated on this deal from the Sunday evening pairs game. He was playing with Fran Dickman.

Dealer: East, Vul: Both

	♠JT73		
	♥QJT3		
	♦J2		
	♣975		
♠AQ	N	E	♠K642
♥AK87	W	S	♥9642
♦K984			♦T753
♣AQ2			♣J
	♠985		
	♥5		
	♦AQ6		
	♣KT8643		

West	North	East	South
Miller		Dickman	
		Pass	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT	Pass	3C	DBL
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

The opening club lead went to the jack, king and ace. With the bad trump split and the layout of the diamonds, it appears that declarer has four inevitable losers. It didn't work out that way, however.

At trick two, Miller cashed one top heart, then played the ♠A, ♠Q and ruffed a club. He pitched a diamond on the ♠K and played the ♦10 to South's ace. A low diamond return went to Miller's king, and he followed with the ♥K, then the ♣Q, which he ruffed in dummy.

At that point, he had nine tricks: three spades, two high hearts, the ♣A, ♠K and two club ruffs in dummy. At trick 11, he played dummy's ♠6 and ruffed, North following helplessly.

South had a diamond winner at that point, but it fell under one of North's two trump winners.

100% line

By Barry Rigal

Alfredo Versace spotted his 100% line of play on this deal from the Spingold Knockout Teams. Can you do the same?

Dealer: North, Vul: None

♠A
♥AQT5
♦A652
♣KJT4
N
W E
S
♠K952
♥842
♦KJT
♣A93

West	North	East	South
	1D	2S	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the lead of the ♠8, declarer wins the ♠A perforce. With 29 high-card points and so many intermediates, you be forgiven for thinking nine tricks were easy. Are they?

Say you mis-guess a minor-suit queen and they clear spades. Now you must either finesse into the danger hand or risk losing a trick to West and have a heart come through dummy with the minors still blocked.

There may be better lines, but Versace led a diamond to the 10. At the table, this held, so he was comfortably placed.

Had it lost he would have won the spade return, pitching a heart, cashed the ♦K J and crossed to the ♣K to play a club to the 9. If this lost and a heart came back, Versace would have won the ♥A, pitched his ♠A on the ♦A and run the clubs for nine tricks. The full deal:

♠A
♥AQT5
♦A652
♣KJT4
♠83
♥976
♦98743
♣Q872
N
W E
S
♠K952
♥842
♦KJT
♣A93
♠QJT764
♥KJ3
♦Q7
♣65

A name to remember

By Barry Rigal

The name Platnick has become more famous in the world of bridge since Brian was part of the U.S. team that narrowly missed qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl this summer (they will have another chance next year).

Brian comes from a bridge-playing family. Mother Marsha and brother David played in the 0-5000 Spingold and produced the following gem. Marsha asked Brian how much he would need to double a slam. "Would you think that A K Q in spades diamonds and hearts would suffice?" Brian thought it might, but he was wrong. See for yourself (spots approximate):

Dealer: West, Vul: EW

♠T
♥98643
♦J82
♣QJ93
♠AKQ6
♥JT
♦AKQ975
♣2
N
W E
S
♠5
♥AKQ752
♦T643
♣54
♠J987432
♥
♦
♠AKT876

West	North	East	South
1D	Pass	1H	2NT
5D	Pass	Pass	5S
DBL	6C	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		

The doubled club slam, played by David, came rolling home for plus 1090, good for a 21-IMP swing because 6♥ was bid and made for plus 1430 at the other table.

Rara avis: The Winkle

Mike Cappelletti reported a neat ending on this deal (rotated) from one of the regional open pairs played on 28th July. Cappelletti was playing with Loretta Rivers.

Dealer: West, Vul: EW

♠54
 ♥96
 ♦AK973
 ♣9742
 ♠A732
 ♥KQ543
 ♦T8
 ♣T3
 ♠Q
 ♥J7
 ♦J642
 ♣AKQJ65
 ♠KJT986
 ♥AT82
 ♦Q5
 ♣8

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
	<i>Rivers</i>		<i>Cappelletti</i>
Pass	Pass	1C	1S
2H	Pass	3C	3S
3NT	4S	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		

It's clear from the auction that very strong coffee was being served in the playing area. The opening lead was a standard ♣10. East overtook with the jack and tried the ♠K, ruffed by declarer with the ♠8 in case West started with a singleton.

Cappelletti took stock. From the bidding and the play to the first two tricks, it certainly seemed as if East held the high clubs. The failure of West to lead a heart honor on the opening lead suggested either the layout in the diagram or perhaps KJxxx opposite Qx. Either way, Cappelletti strongly suspected East had a doubleton heart honor. The spade position was less clear, but a 4-1 or 3-2 break — West holding the length— would be consistent with the penalty double. On the off chance that East held the singleton ♠Q, therefore, Cappelletti tried the ♠K at trick three: West ducked and declarer was gratified to see the queen drop. The ♠J was also ducked, but West won the next round of trumps with the ace (East pitching clubs), and tried the ♥K.

Declarer won the ace, drew West's remaining trump with the 9, pitching a diamond from dummy, as East released his next-to-last club. The ♦Q was next, followed by a diamond to the ace (declarer noting the fall of the 10 on his left) and a club ruff. This was the three-card ending:

♥9
 ♦K9
 ♥J
 ♥Q54 W E ♦J6
 S
 ♥T82

The play to the last few tricks had convinced Cappelletti he knew the entire layout; his view was proved correct when he exited with a low heart. The defense had no answer to this. If West rose with the queen, declarer's hearts would be good. If West allowed East to win the trick, East would be endplayed in diamonds. A great example of a wink! Making four doubled for plus 590 and all the matchpoints.

The Rise & Fall of METZER Team

Good Luck

In the quarterfinal round of the Spingold Knockout Teams, Alan Sontag and David Berkowitz came up with what could be reasonably be described as a walkoff contract. With one board to go, the Rose Meltzer team trailed the Aubrey Strul squad by 5 IMPs. This was the last board of the match:

Board 64, Dealer: West, Vul: EW

♠62
 ♥KJ632
 ♦9653
 ♣KT
 ♠KJ874
 ♥T9
 ♦QT2
 ♣J43
 ♠AQ95
 ♥A54
 ♦AK7
 ♣852
 ♠T3
 ♥Q87
 ♦J84
 ♣AQ976

N
 W E
 S

In one room, where Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes of the Meltzer team opposed Boye Brogeland and Erik Saelensminde

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>S'minde</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H(1)	DBL	3C	3H
4H	Pass	4S	All Pass

(1) Transfer to spades.

The spade game had no chance and was quickly down one. Sontag and Berkowitz found a different spot.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>		<i>Berkowitz</i>	
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H(1)	DBL	2NT(2)	3C(3)
3D(4)	Pass	3H(4)	Pass
3S	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Transfer to spades. (2) Showing a maximum 1NT opener with a doubleton club or 4-3-3-3 shape. (3) Based on a heart fit. (4) Game try.

South could have defeated the contract with a low club lead, but that could have been very wrong — and North did double for a heart lead. Berkowitz quickly claimed with his nine tricks for plus 600, good for a 12-IMP gain and a come back from behind 7-IMP victory that put them in the semi-final round.

Good Luck Continues

The Meltzer team beat their opponents Zaleski team by 113-85 in the semi-final to reach the final. With last set to go they were comfortably placed at 96-78, a lead of 18 IMPs. But then the Diamond team started their recovery with a bang. The first 7 boards fetched them a score of 22-0 and they led the match by 100-96.

Then board 55 arrived.

Board 55, Dealer: South, Vul: All

♠4
♥K64
♦A83
♣T98752

♠AQ8
♥9832
♦KT7
♣K63

♠KJ976
♥AQJ5
♦J
♣AQ4

♠T3
♥Q87
♦J84
♣AQ976

OPEN ROOM

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
2C(1)	Pass	2D(2)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3C(3)	Pass
3H	Pass	3S(4)	Pass
4C(4)	Pass	4D(4)	Pass
4S(4)	Pass	6H	All Pass

(1) – GF, Max passed hand (2) – 5S + 4H (11+)
(3) – Max Hand, (4) – Cue Bids

CLOSED ROOM

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
			Pass
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D(1)	Pass
2NT(2)	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	Pass	4NT	Pass
5C(3)	Pass	5H	All Pass

(1) – GF Check back (2) – 3-4-3-3 or 3-3-3-4
(3) – 1 or 4

In the open room, Nunes-Fantoni bid the slam missing the trump King and even Ten and an outside Ace. They were real lucky that HK was rightly placed.

In the closed room, Moss-Gitelman also tried for slam but with 2 keycards missing, Gitelman rightly stopped at 5H. That was a lucky 13 IMPs to the Meltzer team and they again took the lead with a score of 109-100 in their favour. In the next 7 boards (boards 56 to 62), Meltzer team gained 6 more IMPs against 3 gained by Diamonds and the score was 115-103 in their favour. With the last 2 boards of the match remaining, based on the flat boards already played in the Open room, nearly all the commentators on BBO were sure of the Meltzer team winning the Spingold. But who would have thought about the twist in the tale created by the penultimate board.

Bad Luck Strikes on Board 63

OPEN ROOM

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	1D(2)	Pass	1S
Pass	1NT	Pass	2H
Pass	2S	All Pass	

(1) – Strong (16+) (2) – Negative < 9 HCPs

Board 63, Dealer: South, Vul: NS

♠63
♥74
♦QJ86
♣Q7652

♠KT65
♥K62
♦KT5
♣J93

♠Q9
♥953
♦432
♣AKT84

♠AT872
♥AQJT8
♦A97
♣

In the Open room, Greco opened with a strong club and showed his atleast 5-4 in spades & hearts and partner corrected to spades, which was passed out.

West led the C3 and Greco ruffed and played a low diamond towards dummy. West won with the King and played back a diamond, won in the dummy. Declarer tried the heart finesse, which lost to west's king and another club was played and ruffed by declarer. Greco now cashed the Heart Ace and ruffed the HT in dummy. He ruffed another club in hand and cashed his Diamond Ace. The trump Ace became his 8th trick for +110.

CLOSED ROOM

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
			1S
Pass	Pass	1NT	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		

Sontag, playing strong club, preferred opening 1S for unknown reasons and Gitelman balanced with a 1NT when Berkowitz passed 1S. Now Sontag tried to show the full potential of his hand and Berkowitz perforce bid 3S, which got doubled by Moss.

West led D5, won by dummy's Queen and the heart finesse lost to the HK. West shifted to CJ to 2, 4 and ruffed. Now Sontag played S7 to 5, 3 and East's 9. East continued with CA ruffed by declarer who now played the Spade Ace and cashed heart Ace and HJ. Now he was down 2, with Diamond Ace cashable. But he instead played the H8 and West after ruffing took out the last trump and played back a club for East to cash all the tricks for 3 down and 800 to Diamond team. That was 14 IMPs to Diamond team and they were on lead again with 117-115. 1 more IMP was gained by them on the last board to win the match & the Spingold.

If Sontag would have taken the line of Greco – that is after winning DQ, take heart finesse losing to West, ruff the club return, cash HA and DA, ruff a heart in dummy and ruff a club. Now when he plays the diamond, West has to win it with DK and has to play a club or a spade. Sontag could have ruffed the club return or won the spade return with the Ace and played the heart winner, getting one trick in trump at the end for down 1 only. That would have been only -200 and only 7 IMPs rather than 14 IMPs to the Diamond team and Meltzer would have won the match by 4 IMPs.

- Reported by Editor
Courtesy: Daily Bulletins & BBO Vu-graph of Summer NABC 2010



**THE WORLD BRIDGE SERIES
CHAMPIONSHIPS
1 – 16 October 2010
Philadelphia, PA, USA**

This year, The World Bridge Series Championships (WBSC) will be held in the USA 1-16 October 2010! It is the first such event to be held in the United States since 1994 and approximately 100 nations are expected to participate in the world series, represented by thousands of the world's best players competing for world titles. Along with the WBSC, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) District 4 will be hosting a two week World Bridge Federation Regional tournament, which will enable bridge players of all abilities to share in the excitement! The World Youth Team Championships (Pre-qualification required) will also take place in Philadelphia at this time. WBF Master Points will be given out for these events. Our sincerest thanks to the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) and the ACBL for their support and sponsorship.

For WBSC schedules, housing, and additional information please click on the following links:

WBF-

www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Philadelphia.10/Philadelphia.htm

USBF -

http://www.usbf.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=627&Itemid=282

Brochure -

<http://www.usbf.org/docs/2010wc/Philadelphia2010.pdf>



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Entry Fees

Team of Four: Rs. 5000/- for 4 member teams
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e-mail: sgupta07@rediffmail.com

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

23rd Oct: 2000 Hrs – Captain's Meet
24th Oct: 0930 -1100 Hrs. – Opening Ceremony
24th – 27th Oct: Round Robin Qualifying (4 Days)
28th Oct: Trip to Taj Mahal @ Agra
29th Oct: 0930-1315 Hrs – S Final (2*14 boards)
1415-1830 Hrs – Final (2*16 boards)
1930 Hrs. – Cocktails / Victory Dinner

Note: The number of rounds per day and boards per round for the qualifying round-robin will depend on no. of entries in the championship.

Editorial board

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Technical Consultants:

Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. B. Satyanarayana

DELHI BRIDGE SCHEDULE

1. Pair event on every Tuesday evening from 1830 Hrs. onwards & Team event on every Saturday from 1430 Hrs. onwards at Delhi Bridge Association Bldg., 18, Institutional Area, Lodi Estate. **Contact: T.C. Pant – 09811094407.**
2. Open Pairs tournament on the first Sunday of every month in the evening at Vasant Vihar Club. **Contact: Amarjit Wadhawan – 09811452647**
3. Open Pairs tournament on every Friday at FRIENDS CLUB, Friends Colony (West), from 1400 Hrs organized by the Ladies Bridge Association. **Contact: Mrs. Shashi Jain – 0120-2512470.**

1st ASIA CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

The First Asia Cup Championship 2010 will be held at Ning Bo, China from 30th Aug till 5th Sep'10 at Smile and Natural Ninbo Hotel (5 star) (see www.yuanzhou.com.cn)

Representative teams of all NBOs of ZONE-4 can participate in both OPEN & WOMEN Team event.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2010

National

03-05 Sep: Kerala Bridge Festival
16-19 Sep: KN Modi Tournament, Nainital
24-26 Sep: Lokmanya Seva Sangh Prize Money event at Mumbai
30 Oct-02 Nov: HCL Tournament New Delhi, India
26-28 Nov: Delhi Gymkhana Club Prize Money event
10-17 Dec: 52nd Winter Nationals, Kolkata
24-26 Dec: Pairs Royale, Invitational Tournament, Pune

International

Aug 30-Sep 5: 1st Asia Cup Championship @ Ning Bo, China
Sep 5-16: 49th International Bridge Festival, Pula, Croatia
Sep 13-16: 3rd Buffett Cup, Cardiff, Wales
Oct 1-16: 13th World Bridge Series, Philadelphia, PA
Oct 24-29: 3rd Commonwealth Nations Cup New Delhi
Nov 25-Dec 5: ACBL Fall NABC, Orlando, FL

CONTACT US:

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