

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

Editor: T.C. Pant

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President Emeritus: Mr. M.D. Dalmia

President: Mr. R.R. Gupta

Hon. Secretary: Mr. R.K. Gupta

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Railways annex T.P. Khosla Trophy & A.N. Banerjee – G.N. Manna annex the Agarwala Trophy in the 2008 Summer Nationals

The 39th Summer National Bridge Championships 2008 organized by Ordnance Factories Sports Control Board under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India were held at Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu Estate (Near Ooty), Nilgiris, Tamilnadu from 7th to 13th April 2008.

Teams & Pairs of different State Associations and Sports Control Boards participated in the Team of Four event for the **T.P. Khosla trophy** and in the Open Pair event for **Agarwala Trophy**. 31 Teams participated in the Team of Four event and the **Railways team** re-established its dominant presence in Indian Bridge circuit, being the worthy winner of the T.P. Khosla Trophy by beating the WEST BENGAL "A" team by 19 IMPs in the 4*14 boards final. The winners were represented by **Manas Mukherjee, Subir Majumdar, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee, Gopinath Manna & Debrata Majumdar (Laltu)**.

80 Pairs participated in the Open Pair event for the **Agarwala Trophy** and the pair of **Amarnath Banerjee – Gopinath Manna** of Indian Railways won the event. It was icing on the cake for the duo, who were also part of the Indian Railways team, which won the T.P. Khosla trophy.

(See detailed report on Page 5).

- Editor

Vijay Goel's Team Wins the SAARC event

Vijay Goel's Team – MAYA MEERA SNEHA won the OPEN TEAM EVENT of the 5th SAARC Bridge Championships hosted by the **Bridge Federation of Sri Lanka** at **GALDARI Hotel, COLOMBO** from **23rd to 27th April 2008**. They defeated DATA STEEL from Pakistan by 12 IMPs in the final to defend their title. *(See detailed report on Page 8).*



SAARC Open Championship Winners - MAYA MEERA SNEHA team from India
L to R: Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das, Ashim Mukherjee, Vijay Goel, Mr. Liyanagamage (who gave away the prize) & Kamal Mukherjee,

ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD (Part 3)

In the previous bulletins, we have seen how responder responds to 4NT - RKCB Key card ask and how 4NT bidder uses Queen ask and Specific King Ask (SKA) bids. Let us see how Specific Suit Ask (SSA) is used.

F) Specific Suit Ask

After response to RKCB 4NT ask, 5NT asks for specific kings. However 4NT bidder may not be interested in specific kings, he may be interested in what the responder has in a specific suit. The asker may have losers in only one suit. That suit may be headed by AKx(x) or Axxx. If so, the asker is looking for third round control, a doubleton or queen or a singleton, Kx or KQx, to play in a grand slam.

In order to ask partner about a specific suit, called the specific suit ask (SSA), you must first go through 4NT. After response to 4NT, a new suit that is NOT the queen-ask is the SSA. That means you have to forego 5NT specific king ask to make a SSA. The SSA confirms joint possession of the four aces as well as the KQ of the agreed suit. The SSA cannot substitute for the queen-ask, the queen-ask takes precedence. The responses to SSA are as follows:

- A return to trump suit (as ever) is the weakest response. It denies 2nd or 3rd round control in the ask suit. It does not count as a step.
- 1st Step = 3rd round control (xx or the queen)
- 2nd Step = 2nd round control (specifically Kxx or longer)
- 3rd Step = Kx
- Raise of the ask suit = KQ(x)
- Jump in the trump suit = singleton

The above response to SSA are applicable in case the King of the ask suit has not already been denied. However if the responder has already denied the King of the ask suit (e.g. after a Queen-ask and a King showing response or a King denial response to 5NT), the responder responds as follows:

- A return to trump suit denies 3rd round control in the ask suit.
- 1st Step = Queen or doubleton.
- Raise of the ask suit = QJ

SSA can also be made in a previously bid suit. Responses are same but responder cannot have shortness:

- Return to trump suit denies 2nd or 3rd round control.
- 1st Step = The Queen.
- 2nd Step = The King.
- Raise of the ask suit = The KQ with any length

The frequency of an SSA is relatively low, but serves a wonderful purpose. Remember following points:

- A SSA either follows a keycard ask directly or a queen-ask.
- A 6 level SSA made in suit directly beneath the trump suit in rank shows the AKx(x) and asks for third round control for a grand. In all other cases it does not promise the King. The SSA bidder has to be prepared for any response which bypasses the six level of the agreed suit.

Examples:

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
♠ AQxxxx	♠ KJxx	1S	2N (Jacoby)	♠ Ax	♠ x	1D	1H
♥ AKxx	♥ xx	4NT (RKCB)	5H (2 without)	♥ Qxxx	♥ AKJxxx	2H	4NT (1430)
♦ x	♦ AKxx	6H (SSA 3 rd round control)	7S (Yes)	♦ AQxxx	♦ x	5S (2 with Q)	6C (SSA)
♣ Ax	♣ Kx			♣ xx	♣ AKJxx	6D (xx or Q)	7H

After an RKCB response, the asker has to decide what further information is needed. Is it the trump queen, a specific king, a specific 3rd round control, etc? Once that question is answered, it is easier to know how to proceed. A piece of cake. Isn't it??

There is much more to RKCB than what could be presented in these bulletins. For complete details of Mr. Eddie Kantar's RKB, you must read ROMAN KEYCARD BLACKWOOD – Slam Bidding for the 21st Century by Eddie Kantar.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results - April 2008

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event – Results

01/04/2008 – 18 Tables

NS 1: Suraj Jain – Brig. D.N. Khanna	67.01%
NS 2: V.N. Puri – Narvir Singh	65.97%
NS 3: P. Bhandari – Col. K.K. Sabharwal	65.63%
NS 4: Alok Khemka – Bhavna Naraindas	60.42%
EW 1: Mrs. S. Bansidhar – Kavita Dhawan	64.89%
EW 2: T.N. Tiku – G. Singh	59.38%
EW 3: Sanjay Shrivastava – Subodh Jain	58.68%
EW 4: Arun Jain – Yogesh Tiwari	57.12%

08/04/2008 – 17 Tables

NS 1: Suraj Jain – Brig. D.N. Khanna	60.73%
NS 2: Mrs Nicky Mehra – Sunil Malhotra	59.85%
NS 3: S. Majumdar – A.K. Jha	55.43%
EW 1: S.R. Malhotra – S.K. Syal	66.70%
EW 2: Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Narvir Singh	62.85%
EW 3: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	59.03%

15/04/2008 – 16 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – M.P. Agarwala	69.15%
NS 2: S. Majumdar – A.K. Jha	57.65%
NS 3: Rudradev – R.P. Singh	56.69%
EW 1: P.C. Gupta – S.R. Gupta	68.47%
EW 2: Mrs. Asha Surana – Raghubir Jasuja	63.33%
EW 3: A.K. Sinha – T. Bhattacharya	61.59%

22/04/2008 – 16 Tables

NS 1: Col. B.L. Anand – Maj. Ashok	62.86%
NS 2: Kavita Dhawan – Mrs. S. Bansidhar	57.34%
NS 3: Mrs. Madhuri Modwel – N.N. Khanna	54.91%
EW 1: V.N. Puri – Ajay Tankha	70.91%
EW 2: R.S. Jasuja – Mrs. Asha Surana	59.48%
EW 3: S.R. Malhotra – S.K. Syal	56.77%

29/04/2008 – 14 Tables

NS 1: V.N. Puri – D.K. Mutreja	68.13%
NS 2: Wg. Cdr. D.S. Yadav – Col. S.P. Arvind	63.81%
NS 3: Alok Khemka – Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas	62.29%
EW 1: Narvir Singh – Mrs. Kunti Thakur	68.84%
EW 2: V.K. Puri – Mrs. Pushpa Puri	62.01%
EW 3: R.C. Consul – J.B. Sengupta	60.60%

Vasant Vihar Club Pairs Bridge Tournament

32 Pairs (16 Tables) participated in the monthly Vasant Vihar Club tournament held on 6th April 2008. The results:

1. P.C. Gupta – S.R. Gupta	67.66%
2. Suraj Jain – Brig. D.N. Khanna	65.52%
3. S.R. Malhotra – S.K. Syal	61.75%
4. Sham Sharma – Paresh Gupta	58.20%
5. Mrs. S. Bansidhar – Mrs. Kunti Thakur	
6. Dr. R.L. Sanghi – Yogesh Tiwari	

- Reported by Mr. Amarjit Wadhawan

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

05/04/2008 – 15 Teams

- COSMOS** – (T.C. Pant, Duleep Mutreja, A.K. Jha, Joyjit Sen Sarma, A. Mandal)
- ACES** – (Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Subhash Gupta, Ashok Goel, Sudhir Aggarwal)
- MS SHARMA** – (M.S. Sharma, S.N. Mathur, Amarjit Wadhawan, Dr. Nikita Kamal, K.G. Sharma)

12/04/2008 – 16 Teams

- SUBHASH** – (Suhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal, Mrs. Kiran Nadar – B. Satyanarayana)
- APEX** – (V.N. Puri, A. Tankha, V.K. Mutreja, S.N. Mathur)
- JANUS** – (Mrs. Chitra Roy, Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas, Alok Khemka, Dr. Tushar Moghe)

19/04/2008 – 15 Teams

- FRIENDS** – (R. Nanda, Ravi sawhney, B.S. Gupta, J.B. Sengupta, R.C. Consul)
- ARUN JAIN** – (Arun Jain, Sunil Bhatia, D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta)
- PATRIOTS** – (Narvir Singh, Mrs. Kunti Thakur, Mrs. Beneeta Chandra, Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal)

26/04/2008 – 15 Teams

- COSMOS** – (Duleep Mutreja, A. Mandal, Rajesh Jain, Joyjit Sen Sarma, Sudhir Aggarwal)
- ARUN JAIN** – (Arun Jain, Sunil Bhatia, D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta)
- PATRIOTS** – (Narvir Singh, Mrs. Beneeta Chandra, Mrs. Kunti Thakur, S. Sunderrajan)

Indian Oil Monthly Pairs Bridge Tournament

48 Pairs (12 Tables in 2 sections) participated in the Indian Oil sponsored Pairs Bridge tournament held at Indian Oil Bhavan, Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi on Sunday, 13th April 2008.

The winners of the 2-session (18 boards per session) event were:

NS1: Mrs. Shashi Jain – Mrs. Sarita Sharma	379.15
NS2: Alok Khemka – Mrs. Bhavna Naraindas	360.88
NS3: Dr. Nikita Kamal – Amarjit Wadhawan	357.29
NS4: Daya Dhaon – Dr. Rajeev Anand	345.70
NS5: Prof. S.C. Gupta – Mrs. Mani Gupta	322.58
EW1: R. Nanda – B.S. Gupta	370.24
EW2: R.C. Consul – J.B. Sengupta	365.43
EW3: Subhash Gupta – Sham Sharma	352.46
EW4: P.C. Gupta – S.R. Gupta	349.04
EW5: D.P. Sharma – Mrs. Asha Sharma	346.62

- Reported by Mr. Amarjit Wadhawan

Interesting Deal From DBA Tuesday Pairs - 1st April 2008

The following interesting deal came across on Weekly Tuesday Pairs event at Delhi Bridge Association on 1st April 2008.

	♠KTxxx ♥ ♦AQT9 ♣AKxx	
♠A98x ♥T987xx ♦Jx ♣J	N W E S	♠Jxx ♥Kx ♦K8x ♣Q98xx
	♠Q ♥AQJxx ♦76xx ♣Txx	

(Hands rotated for the ease of readers)

Bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1C(1)	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2D
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) – Precision 16+ HCPs

On the bidding, West had a lead problem. His natural heart lead was stopped by South's heart bid (which turned out to be a boom for him as the contract would have been easy to make on a heart lead) and the other major lead was stopped by North's Spade bid. The passive diamond lead would have been the best but he tried a innovative ♣J.

This made the things a bit easy for the declarer, as he could now have at least one entry through ♣10 to his hand, considering ♣Q with East. Declarer won the trick with the Ace and played a low spade to the Queen in hand. West again made the things easy for West by taking the trick with Ace and now played the ♦J to queen, won by East with the King. East rightly hoping for the ♣10 with partner, now played the ♣Q and declarer after winning the trick with Ace, played the ♠K and spade back. East won with the jack and returned another club and declarer scored all the remaining tricks for an absolute TOP.

If we further evaluate the hand, on ♦J lead, declarer would have again taken the finesse losing to East's King and East can return back a passive diamond, not giving anything away. Declarer can only count one spade, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs as his TOP tricks. His only hope for extracting more tricks are - if the opponents open the heart suit for him or the clubs are divided 3-3 or spades with one of the opponents are either Ax or Jx. Considering the 5-1 spade fit.

Let us take the case if he plays a low spade to hand.

If West wins the trick he now shifts to the ♠J (he does not have diamonds and heart or spade play will not be fruitful). Declarer is again in control (as again the position of ♣Q can be guessed now, unless West had led the ♠J from ♠QJ, which may win a prize for him). He wins the trick with Ace, plays the ♠K, cashes a top diamond and a low spade back. When the ♠J comes down, he has minimum 3 spades, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs for his 8 tricks and based on the assumption that the ♣Q is with East, he can negotiate any return from East. In fact, there are far more chances that declarer will be relieved of all the agonies as East may lead the ♣Q on the hope of partner having the ♣10. This will again give the declarer 10 tricks.

So actually speaking the initial ♠J lead from West was not harmful. The mistake was West's not ducking the spade queen. Let us see what happens if West ducks the trick. Knowing that ♣10 can be a vital entry to hand, he may like to play the ♥A & then ♥Q trying to establish an extra trick in hearts. East wins the trick with the King and as he can not open another suit, will continue clubs. What card he plays now? Knowing well that he will get another entry in diamond, he may like to play the ♣Q hoping partner to have the ♣10. If he plays ♣Q, that's end of defense as the trick can be won in dummy as declarer can now play ♦A and ♦Q back, getting 1 spade, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs for 9 tricks. But if East returns ♣9, declarer is forced to win with the ♣10 and he is now forced to cash the ♥J as there are no more entries to hand. When he takes the diamond finesse, East wins with the King and East returns a spade to West's Ace, and West can cash 3 more heart tricks for down 2. If the ♥J is not cashed, then east after winning the ♦K plays the ♣Q and now declarer has only one trick each in spade & heart, 3 in diamond and 3 in club for one trick short.

- Reported by Editor

AILBA Friday Pairs Event - Results

04/04/2008 – 10 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Kamla Mehra–Mrs. Madhuri Modwel	57.4%
NS 2: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – Subodh Jain	55.8%
EW 1: Mrs. Asha Sharma – D.P. Sharma	59.5%
EW 2: Mrs. Asha Sehgal – S.K. Agarwal	55.8%

11/04/2008 – 10 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal – Arun Kumar	65.0%
NS 2: A.K. Narang – Col. S.P. Arvind	56.5%
EW 1: Mrs. Asha Sehgal – Mrs. B. Naraindasl	56.5%
EW 2: Daya Dhaon – N.K. Jain	55.3%

18/04/2008 – No Game

25/04/2008 – 9 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	66.1%
NS 2: Mrs. Shashi Jain – G.N. Mehra	53.4%
EW1: Mrs. Madhu Agarwal–Mrs. Kavita Dhawan	57.9%
EW 2: Mrs. Suman Khanna – R.C. Khanna	57.4%

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

The 39th Summer National Bridge Championship 2008

RAILWAYS ARE THE T.P. KHOSLA CHAMPIONS

The 39th Summer National Bridge Championships 2008 organized by Ordnance Factories Sports Control Board under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India were held at **Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu Estate (Near Ooty), Nilgiris, Tamilnadu** from 7th to 13th April 2008.

The tournament started with the **Team of Four event** for the **T.P. Khosla** trophy in which 31 teams participated. The teams were grouped into 2 sections with 15 teams in Group 'A' & 16 teams in Group 'B'. The teams played an "all play all" round robin of 10 boards each, with one bye round played by each team of group "A".

Following is the list of participating teams in the Team of Four event:

	GROUP - A	GROUP - B
T#	TEAM NAME	TEAM NAME
1	HIMACHAL	MAHARASHTRA (V)
2	ASSAM	TAMILNADU
3	DRDO	A.P.S.B.A. "A"
4	SOUTH ZONE	WEST BENGAL "A"
5	KERALA	UTTAR PRADESH
6	ANDHRA PRADESH – B	LADIES TEAM
7	RAJASTHAN	GOA
8	OFSCB-A	GUJARAT (BHARUCH)
9	ORISSA	UTTARAKHAND
10	WEST BENGAL – B	KHOSLA TEAM
11	KARNATAKA	D.A.E.
12	WEST ZONE	CHHATTISGARH
13	INDIAN RAILWAYS	DELHI
14	MAHARASHTRA – B	P.S.P.B.
15	GUJARAT	O.F.S.C.B. "B"
16		MAHARASHTRA "A"

On day 1 (after 7 rounds) Maharashtra "B" (134), Indian Railways (128), Andhra Pradesh "B" (127) & Orissa (126) were holding the top 4 positions in Group "A", whereas West Bengal "A" (139), Uttar Pradesh (127), Tamil Nadu (121) & Maharashtra (V) with 120 held the top 4 positions in Group "B".

At the end of Day 2, after completion of **14 rounds**, Indian Railways with 269 VPs was leading in Group "A". Maharashtra "B" & West Zone with 244 each and Andhra Pradesh "B" with 237 were holding the 2nd to 4th positions and West Bengal "B" with 235 were trying hard to reach the last-4 stage in Group "A". In Group "B", **West Bengal "A"** with 263 VPs was leading. Uttar Pradesh with 252, Tamilnadu with 242, Delhi with 237 & A.P. S.B.A. "A" with 232 were ranked 2nd to 5th respectively in Group "B".

The last round of the Round-Robin stage was played on the day 3, after which the top four teams from each group entered the last eight stage.

INDIAN RAILWAYS (294) & WEST BENGAL "A" (283) topped the Section "A" & "B" respective at the end of the elimination round robin. The top four teams of each group qualified for the quarterfinals.

INDIAN RAILWAYS (294 VPs), WEST ZONE (266), MAHARASHTRA "B" (260) & WEST BENGAL "B" (252) were the 4 teams to reach the quarterfinals from Group "A".

The qualifiers from Group "B" were **WEST BENGAL "A"** (283 VPs), Uttar Pradesh (262), Tamilnadu (261) & A.P. S.B.A. "A" (256).

Orissa (248) in Group-A & Delhi (248) in Group "B" were the unlucky one not to qualify.

The complete round-robin results are given on the next page.

Quarter-Finals:

In the 3*10 boards quarterfinals played in the afternoon of 3rd day, the results were as follows:

INDIAN Railways (A1) beat ANDHRA PRADESH "A" (B4) by 77-44 (7-9, 38-23, 32-12). The Andhra Pradesh "A" team was represented by C V RAO, M D CHOUDHURY, G VEERABHADRA RAO, Y NAGESHWARA RAO, RAMESH KUMAR, K SRINIVAS.

West Zone (A2) lost to **TAMILNADU (B3)** by 53-66 (19-15, 20-18, 14-33). West Zone was represented by DIPAK PODDAR, M ATAHVALE, JITU SOLANI, ANAL SHAH, R SRIDHARAN, KS ANAND SAMANT.

WEST BENGAL "A" (B1) beat WEST BENGAL "B" (A4) by 62-52 (18-33, 8-19, 36-0). West Bengal "B" was represented by PARTHA SARATHI MUKHERJEE, PRANAB BARDHAN, BHAVESH SAHA, JOY NARAYAN ROY, SANJIB MAJUMDER, SHIB NATH DE SARKAR.

In the last QF, **UTTAR PRADESH (B2)** beat Maharashtra "B" (A3) by 65-54 (22-11, 35-3, 8-40). Maharashtra "B" were represented by KALPANA MISRA, AVINASH GOKHALE, ANAND MEHTA, SUHAS VAIDYA, KAUSTIBH BENDRE, ANIL P PADHYE.

Semi-Finals:

In the 3*10 boards semi-finals, **Indian Railways** beat Uttar Pradesh 69-48 (9-35, 47-8, 13-5). Kunwar Vijayanand Singh, Pradeep Anand Singh, Indresh Agarwal, Sushil Agarwal, B.N. Rastogi & Govind Agarwal represented the Uttar Pradesh team.

In the other semi-final, **West Bengal "A"** beat Tamil Nadu 73-50 (15-17, 38-12, 20-21). The Tamilnadu team was represented by R KANNAN, N NIRANJAN, N R KIRUBAKARAMURTHY, K KRISHNAKUMAR, K R VENKATRAMAN, R KRISHNAN.

FINAL ROUND-ROBIN SCORES AT A GLANCE

39th Summer Nationals - T.P. KHOSLA Trophy

ROUND ROBIN - After 15 Rounds

SECTION - A

T#	Name of the Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Bye	TOT
13	INDIAN RAILWAYS	22	25	20	25	22	24	18	20	25	13	14	18		6	25	17	294
12	WEST ZONE	24	19	22	25	16	16	25	11	21	15	14		12	14	15	17	266
14	MAHARASHTRA – B	16	12	25	23	20	12	15	14	17	16	19	16	24		14	17	260
10	WEST BENGAL – B	22	13	24	21	17	12	14	25	8		21	15	17	14	12	17	252
9	ORISSA	20	16	25	14	12	21	18	25		22	13	9	1	13	22	17	248
6	ANDHRA PRADESH – B	11	18	23	21	16		10	25	9	18	18	14	6	18	22	17	246
11	KARNATAKA	22	23	20	16	12	12	13	18	17	9		16	16	11	17	17	239
2	ASSAM	14		17	10	25	12	18	22	14	17	7	11	3	18	16	17	221
4	SOUTH ZONE	14	20	23		17	9	22	20	16	9	14	4	5	7	21	17	218
7	RAJASTHAN	20	12	15	8	21	20		13	12	16	17	2	12	15	17	17	217
5	KERALA	16	0	22	13		14	9	12	18	13	18	14	8	10	17	17	201
15	GUJARAT	14	14	8	9	13	8	13	25	8	18	13	15	5	16		17	196
8	OFSCB-A	23	8	14	10	18	3	17		5	5	12	19	10	16	5	17	182
1	HIMACHAL		16	2	16	14	19	10	7	10	8	8	6	8	14	16	17	171
3	DRDO	25	13		7	8	7	15	16	4	6	10	8	10	1	22	17	169

ROUND ROBIN - After 15 Rounds

SECTION - B

T#	Name of the Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOT
4	WEST BENGAL "A"	25	19	13		13	25	15	25	21	13	20	21	25	16	13	19	283
5	UTTAR PRADESH	14	14	20	17		14	10	25	24	10	16	25	19	14	20	20	262
2	TAMILNADU	19		16	11	16	18	16	19	14	14	15	20	19	25	22	17	261
3	A.P.S.B.A. "A"	13	14		17	10	14	16	16	23	21	19	24	10	15	24	20	256
13	DELHI	17	11	20	1	11	16	20	22	17	10	13	25		24	25	16	248
10	KHOSLA TEAM	20	16	9	17	20	19	9	18	12		20	23	20	15	20	9	247
1	MAHARASHTRA (V)		11	17	4	16	16	16	23	14	10	24	25	13	19	13	20	241
7	GOA	14	14	14	15	20	20		22	16	21	10	22	10	8	23	12	241
16	MAHARASHTRA "A"	10	13	10	11	10	25	18	20	14	21	18	18	14	14	15		231
9	UTTARAKHAND	16	16	7	9	6	11	14	19		18	19	17	13	22	25	16	228
11	D.A.E.	6	15	11	10	14	14	20	20	11	10		14	17	20	21	12	215
14	P.S.P.B.	11	3	15	14	16	14	22	25	8	15	10	22	6		17	16	214
6	LADIES TEAM	14	12	16	4	16		10	17	19	11	16	15	14	16	9	3	192
15	O.F.S.C.B. "B"	17	8	6	17	10	21	7	13	1	10	9	17	0	13		15	164
12	CHHATTISGARH	5	10	6	9	3	15	8	21	13	7	16		5	8	13	12	151
8	GUJARAT (BHARUCH)	7	11	14	3	2	13	8		11	12	10	9	8	4	17	10	139

Final:

In the 4*14 boards **Team of Four finals for the T.P. Khosla trophy, INDIAN RAILWAYS** beat **WEST BENGAL "A"** by 19 IMPs. Railways team started well and won the first set by 16 IMPs. West Bengal team recovered 5 IMPs in the second set but Railways team kept the pressure to take the 3rd set by another 15 IMPs to lead by 26 IMPs with final 14 boards to play. The Bengal team tried their best recovering 7 IMPs in the last set, but that was not enough to beat the opponents. The final score line in favour of **INDIAN RAILWAYS** 146-127 (38-22; 45-50, 31-16, 32-39)

The winners **Railways** team was represented by **MANAS MUKHERJEE, SUMIT MUKHERJEE, SUBIR MAJUMDER, AMAR NATH BANERJEE, DEBABRATA MAJUMDER, GOPINATH MANNA.**

The runners-up **WEST BENGAL "A"** team was represented by **JAGDISH PRASAD GOENKA, PRITISH KUSHARI, ALOK SADHU, BADAL DAS, SWARNENDU BANERJEE, KAMAL KUMAR ROY.**

**WELL PLAYED INDIAN RAILWAYS.
CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL.**

The AGARWALA PAIRS

80 Pairs participated in the Open Pair event for the **Agarwala Trophy** and the pair of **Amarnath Banerjee – Gopinath Manna** of Indian Railways won the event by a wide margin of 122 IMPs. It was icing on the cake for the duo, who were also part of the Indian Railways team, which won the T.P. Khosla trophy. Pranab Bardhan & Shib nath Darkar of West Bengal were the runners-up.

66 Pairs took part in the first elimination round (quarter final) of the Agarwala Pairs consisting of 3-sessions. The pairs were divided in 3 sections of 11 Pairs each and played 9 rounds of 2 boards each in each session The scoring was IMP based. The event leaders were:

1. Y. K. RAO - K. KARNUKARA REDDY	90.00
2. R.L. DUDHANE - FINTON LEWIS	88.00
3. K RAMESH - H.A. KHER	85.00
4. MRS. S. VASANTH - MRS. SUBHADRA RAO	79.00
5. A.R.D. SEQUEIRA - ARUN BAPAT	76.00

There were a total of 54 Pairs in the 2nd elimination round. The pairs were divided in 3 sections of 9 Pairs each and played 9 rounds of 2 boards each in the 3-session event. The event leaders were:

1. PRANAB BARDHAN - S N DE SARKAR	106.00
2. JOY NARAYAN ROY - SANJIB MAJUMDER	93.00
3. P.R. DAS - S. CHOUDHURY	77.00
4. PRABIR PAUL - BHABESH SAHA	68.00
5. B.K. SATYAN - RAJEEV PARASAR	62.00

6 pairs who played in the semi-finals & finals of the T.P. Khosla trophy joined the 26 qualifiers from the quarterfinal round for a grueling 2-session all play all 62 boards semi-final round. The top 16 qualifiers for the final were:

1. Suhas Vaidya – Kaustubh Bendre	92.00
2. R.L. Dudhane – Finton Lewis	75.00
3. T.R. Krishnan – R. Kannan	63.00
4. Pranab Bardhan – S.N. De Sarkar	60.00
Alok Sadhu – Badal Das	60.00
6. Manas Mukherjee – Sumit Mukherjee	56.00
7. G.V. Rao – M.D. Choudhary	48.00
8. K. Vijaykumar – K. Divakar Reddy	42.00
9. Prabir Paul – Bhabesh Saha	41.00
A.N. Banerjee – G.N. Manna	41.00
11. D.K. Poddar – M. Athavale	31.00
12. A.K. Baliar Singh – P.K. Nayak	23.00
13. Swarnendu Banerjee–Pritish Kushari	22.00
14. D.N. Lenka – B.C. Mallick	17.00
15. A.R.D. Sequeira – Arun Bapat	10.00
16. B.K. Satyan – Rajeev Parasar	8.00

The 16 finalists of the Agarwala pairs played 15 rounds of 8 board matches against all the opponents. At the end of 9 rounds, A N BANERJEE - GOPINATH MANNA with 355 IMPs were the leaders. ALOK SADHU - BADAL DAS with 310 IMPs were second and K VIJAYKUMAR - K D REDDY with 306 IMPs were 3rd.

The final ranking at the end of 15 rounds:

Rank	Pair Name	Score
1	A N BANERJEE - GOPINATH MANNA	554.00
2	PRANAB BARDHAN - S N DE SARKAR	432.00
3	K VIJAYKUMAR - K D REDDY	419.00
4	SUHAS VAIDYA - K M BENDRE	405.00
5	DIPAK PODDAR - M ATHAVALE	402.00
6	ALOK SADHU - BADAL DAS	401.00
7	A K BALIAR SINGH - P K NAYAK	399.00
8	S. BANERJEE - PRITISH KUSHARI	394.00
9	PRABIR PAUL - BHAVESH SAHA	386.00
10	T R KRISHNAN - R KANNAN	384.00
11	G V RAO - M D CHOUDHURY	377.00
12	R L DUDHANI - FINTON LEWIS	363.00
13	M. MUKHERJEE-SUMIT MUKHERJEE	354.00
14	B K SATYAN - RAJEEV PARASAR	280.00
15	A R D SEQUEIRA - ARUN BAPAT	265.00
16	D N LENKA - B C MALLICK	229.00

Congratulations to Amarnath Banerjee – Gopinath Manna, the Winners of the Agarwala Pairs.

At the Prize Distribution Ceremony, Dr.(Smt.) Kajal Ghosh, President, All India Ordnance Factories Women Welfare Association did the honours in the presence of Shri Sudipta Ghosh, DGOF & Chairman Ordnance Factory Board, Mr. Y. Kamalakara Rao, President, Bridge Federation of India, Shri A.M. Naik, Member, Ordnance Factory Board and Mr. J.P. Sharma, General Manager, Cordite Factory, Aruankadu. Bridge enthusiasts and Cordite Factory employees.

Heartiest Congratulations to the Organizers for a well conducted event.

- Reported by Editor

5th SAARC Bridge Championships

The **5th SAARC Bridge Championships** were hosted by the **Bridge Federation of Sri Lanka** at **GALDARI Hotel, COLOMBO** from **23rd to 27th April 2008**. Teams from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and host Sri Lanka participated in the championships.

In an impressive opening Ceremony. Mr. D.P. Senaweera, Chairman of the organizing committee and Secretary of SAARC Bridge Association, welcomed all the participants and officials to the tournament and after that the traditional lamp was lighted by the top officials of Bridge Associations of SAARC countries participating in this tournament. Mr Ravin Basnayke, the Managing Director of the Citibank then declared the tournament open.

Mr. Ihsan Qadir Chief tournament Director took oath on behalf of the Tournament Directors and the organizers that the tournament will be conducted impartially and in the true spirits of sports. Mr. Fritz Perara one of the senior Bridge player from Sri Lanka took oath on behalf of the bridge Players, assuring that the spirit of sportsmanship would be upheld for the glory of the game.

The Tournament started off with the 2-session **Open Pairs for Citibank Trophy**. 52 pairs participated in the event and were divided in 2 sections of 13 tables each. In the 1st session the NS players of each section played 2 boards each against all the 13 EW pairs of their own sections, whereas in the 2nd session, the EW pairs of Sections "A" & "B" were swapped.

The leaders after Session -1 (26 boards) with TOP 25 on a board were:

1. Feroze Ahmed–Moazzem Hossain (B'Desh) 414.00
2. Masood Mazhar – Tariq Rashid (Pakistan) 403.50
3. Ashim K. Mukherjee – Vijay Goel (India) 399.00
4. R.N. Subramanian – P. Asokan (India) - 392.00

With another excellent score of 63.62% in the 2nd session, it was **Ashim Kumar Mukherjee – Vijay Goel** from India, who won the event comfortably with a final score of 812.50. The final result:

Rank	Player Name (Country)	Score
1	A.K. Mukherjee - Vijay Goel (IND)	812.5
2	Manas Mukherjee – Rana Roy (IND)	774.0
3	Sumit Mukherjee - Badal Das (IND)	756.0
4	Feroze Ahmed - Moazzem Hossain (BD)	755.0
5	Bimal Sicka - Hema Deora (IND)	747.0
6/7	A. Jaysinghe - D. Soysa (SL)	741.0
6/7	P. Sudhakara Rao - K. Srinivas (IND)	741.0
8	Anthea De Alwis - Edward Perara (SL)	737.5
9	R.N. Subramanian - P. Asokan (IND)	736.5
10	Dr. Bomsli Wadia - Tinoo Bhansali (IND)	729.0

Manas Mukherjee – Rana Roy from Kolkata, India were 2nd with a score of 774.00. They were lying on the 16th position (351.50) at the end of 1st session but a massive 65% in the second session turned the tables for them. It turned out to be the day of "Mukherjees" with the 3rd position also going to Sumit Mukherjee – Badal Das from Kolkata, India. They also recovered quite well in the 2nd set scoring 58.38% in the 2nd set along with their joint 10/11th position score of 376.50. The 4th position went to Feroze Ahmed–Moazzem Hossain from Bangladesh.



Ashim Mukherjee & Vijay Goel from India, the Winners of the Open Pairs Event receiving the Citi Bank Trophy from Mr. Ashantha De Mel, Chairman, Petroleum Corporation & ex-Sri Lankan cricketer

Team of Four event for OPEN Teams:

The following 15 Teams - Sri Lanka (7 Teams), India (6 Teams), Pakistan (1 Team) & Bangladesh (1 Team) participated in the OPEN teams event:

Team #	Team Name	Country
1	President's	India
2	Jagirdar	India
3	Boaz	India
4	SLT Mobitel	Sri Lanka
5	Multiform	Sri Lanka
6	Data Steel	Pakistan
7	Asoka's	Sri Lanka
8	Bangla Desh White	Bangladesh
9	Ryan's Express	India
10	Ashantha's	Sri Lanka
11	SARAFS	India
12	Anton's	Sri Lanka
13	Nanda's	Sri Lanka
14	Karu's	Sri Lanka
15	Maya Meera Sneha	India

The format in the OPEN teams was an all-play-all league. Each team played 15 rounds of 10 board matches with one bye round as there was odd number of teams. The TOP 4 teams from the league were to qualify to the 2*12 boards semi-finals, and the semi-final winners qualified to play a 3*12 boards final.

At the end of Day one (after 5 rounds), **Anton's team** (Anton Selvanayagam, Rasika Karnatilakhe, Rex Perara, Asanka Amarsinghe) from Sri Lanka and **Boaz's Team** (P.D. Boaz, P. Narayan Iyer., V. Suryanarayana, R.N. Subramanian and P. Asokan) from Chennai, India led in the OPEN Teams with a score of 105 VPs (from a possible 125). Data Steel from Pakistan with 91 and Jahagirdar from India with 90 occupied the 3rd & 4th positions respectively.

At the end of Day Two (after 10 rounds), **SARAF's team** from India with a score of **192 VPs** were the leaders. The SARAF team had an excellent day and amassed 106 VPs (out of possible 125) with scores of 25, 21, 24, 25 & finally a loss with 11 VPs.

Just 1 VP behind were the SAARC defending champions "Maya Meera Sneha" team comprising of Kamal Mukherjee, Vijay Goel, Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das, Ashim Mukherjee. BOAZ team which led on Day 1 was in 3rd position with 178 VPs and the 4th position was taken by Ryan's Express with 170.

The Round-Robin league of the OPEN Team event finished at the end of the 3rd day and the defending SAARC team champions **MAYA MEERA SNEHA from India** topped the all-play-all 15-rounds league with a score of **296 VPs** to reach the Semi-final stage.

SARAF's team from India were second with a score of **280 VPs**. **DATA STEEL** from Pakistan came 3rd with **274 VPs**.

The last semi-final position was decided on a tie-break, when "Bangla Desh White" and "Ashanta's" teams finished at **255 VPs** each. The tie break went in favor of the "Ashanta's" team from Sri Lanka. They had gained 445 IMPs and lost 281 (Ratio 1.58) in comparison to Bangladesh's gain of 427 and loss of 306 IMPs (Ratio 1.4).

As per the Condition of Contest of the Tournament, the TOP ranked team had the choice to choose their opponents and the leaders MAYA MEERA SNEHA from India choose ASHANTA's team from Sri Lanka. The line-up for the 2 session semi-final (12 boards each) was:

MAYA MEERA SNEHA Vs. ASHANTA's and SARAF's Team Vs. DATA STEEL.

THE SEMI-FINALS: (2*12 Boards):

In the first semi-final, **MAYA MEERA SNEHA** team from **India** beat ASHANTA's team from Sri Lanka by 39-31 (CO: 0-6, 26-14, 13-11). It was a tough low scoring match, with IMPs being traded at a premium. The losers were represented by **Ashanta De Mel (Cap), Dr. H.H.J. Keerthisena, D. Senaweera, Fritz Perara, K.P. Baskaran.**

In the second semi-final, **DATA STEEL** team from Pakistan easily beat the SARAF's team from India by 79.66-34 (CO: 2.66-0, 26-26, 51-8). The SARAF team fought well in the 1st set but the 2nd set was totally one way with the Pakistan team in full control. **The losing semi-finalists were represented by Sudhakar Rao, Manas Mukherjee, Subroto Saha, S.K. Majumder, Rana Roy, K. Srinivas.**

So it was the defending Champions **MAYA MEERA SNEHA** team Vs. **DATA STEEL** in the finals of SAARC Championship.

THE FINALS: (3*12 Boards):

It turned out to be a nail biting final with the defending champions **MAYA MEERA SNEHA (MMS)** from India winning the match narrowly by 12 IMPs. The score in favour of the Indian team was **50-38 (CO: 9-0, 3-4, 26-14, 12-20).**

There were hardly any exchange of IMPs in the first set. The second set yielded 12 IMPs to the MMS team. With a deficit of 20 IMPs **DATA STEEL** came out with all guns blazing in the last set but were only able to reduce the margin by 8 IMPs.

Thus Vijay Goel's team (**MAYA MEERA SNEHA**) from India were able to defend their title at Colombo again. The winners were represented by **Kamal Mukherjee, Vijay Goel, Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das and Ashim Mukherjee.**

It turned out to be an icing on the cake for Vijay Goel – Ashim Mukherjee, who earlier had won the OPEN PAIRS vent for CITI Bank Trophy.

The runners-up **DATA STEEL** from Pakistan were represented by **Tariq Rasheed Khan (Cap), Rashid ul Ghazi, Shauq Hussain, Javed Khalid, Masood Mazhar & Tehsin Gheewala.**

For deciding the 3rd & 4th positions, the SARAF's Team beat ASHANTA's team by a solitary IMP (56-55).



Open Championship Runners up DATA STEEL Team from Pakistan
From L to R: Masood Mazhar, Rashid-ul-Ghazi, Tariq Rasheed Khan, Javed Khalid, Shauq Hussain & Tehsin Gheewala with Mr. Liyanagamage

Team of Four event for LADIES Teams:

The following 5 Teams - Sri Lanka (3 Teams) and 1 each from India & Pakistan participated in the Ladies Team event:

Team #	Team Name	Country
1	Fainza	Sri Lanka
2	Pakistan Ladies	Pakistan
3	Mahes's	Sri Lanka
4	Ladies India	India
5	Glorys	Sri Lanka

The format in the **LADIES** event was a Triple Round-Robin. Each round-robin consisted of 5 matches of 10 boards each to be played in a day. As there was odd number of teams hence every team had a bye round per round-robin. The TOP 2 teams after the league qualified for the finals.

"Ladies India" – the women's team from India comprising of Hema Deora, Bimal Sicka, Marianne Karmarkar & Yvette Singapuri took the leaders position with a score of 98 VPs after the completion of first round-robin.

"Pakistan Ladies" comprising of Rubina (Teeta) Agha, Abida Ali, Najm Abid, Neelofer Aslam, Zeenat Azwer & Dinaz Dubash were second with a score of 93 VPs.

The Indian team maintained their TOP position at the end of 2nd round-robin. They gathered 91 VPs in their 5 matches along with the 1st round-robin carry over of 98 VPs for a total of 189 VPs. "Pakistan Ladies" scored 90 VPs in the second round robin for a total of 183 VPs and were placed in the 2nd position.

Team "Fainza" from Sri Lanka with a score of 169 were in the 3rd position. The other 2 Sri Lankan teams – GLORYs & MAHESH's were in 4th & 5th positions with a score of 138 & 91 respectively.

In the third round-robin matches (5 matches of 10 boards) the Indian team scored 96 VPs for a final tally of **285 VPs**, which secured them the TOP position in the triple round robin event and a berth in the final. The Indian team was represented by Hema Deora, Bimal Sicka, Marianne Karmarkar & Yvette Singapuri with M. Choudhary (npc).

There was a big surprise in store on the 3rd day when Pakistan Ladies who were in comfortable position to qualify for finals had a horrible last round losing 25-3 to the **FAINZA** team from Sri Lanka and were ousted from the final. With this big win, FAINZA with a tally of **258** occupied the 2nd position and qualified to meet the **"Ladies India"** team in the 2-session Final of 12 boards to finalize the champion of the SAARC Women's Team event. The **"FAINZA"** team from Sri Lanka was represented by Fainza Careem (Cap), Shanti Rasiah, Rose Pieris and Anthea De Alwis.

"Pakistan Ladies", "GLORYs" & "MAHESH's" teams were on 3rd to 5th positions respectively with score of **249, 229 & 134 VPs**.

In the 2*12 boards Ladies Team Final, The **"LADIES INDIA"** team beat **FAINZA** team from Sri Lanka by 38 IMPs. The score in favour of the Indian team was 85-47 (CO: 6-0, 50-24, 29-23).

The winners were represented by **Hema Deora, Bimal Sicka, Marianne Karmarkar & Yvette Singapuri with M. Choudhary (npc)**. The runners-up were represented by **Fainza Careem (Cap), Shanti Rasiah, Rose Pieris and Anthea De Alwis**.



Winner's of SAARC Ladies Championship "Ladies India" team from India
From L to R: Yvette Singapuri, Marianne Karmarkar, Hema Deora & Bimal Sicka receiving their award from Mrs. Leisha de Silva Chandrasena



Runners up, SAARC Ladies Championship, Fainza's Team from Sri Lanka represented by Dr. Rose Peiris, Shanti Rasiah, Anthea de Alwis receiving their award from Mrs. Leisha de Silva Chandrasena

CONSOLATION PAIRS:

A consolation Pair event was also played on the last day for the non-finalist teams. The winners were:

1. H.R. Talukdar – Zahid Sajjad 133.00
2. P. Narayan Iyer – V. Swyanarayana 132.00
3. P.S. Rodrigo – B.A. Silva 128.50

Congratulations to all the Winners and the organizers for a wonderful tournament.

- Reported by Editor

Some interesting Deals from SAARC 2008

Rd 1 - Open Teams - SARAF's Vs. DATA STEEL

Board 2, Dealer: E, Vul: NS

♠A92 ♥AQT84 ♦J65 ♣J3 ♠QT8 ♥J2 ♦973 ♣AKQT8 ♠J ♥963 ♦AKT842 ♣972	N W E S	♠K76543 ♥K75 ♦Q ♣654	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
		2D(1)	Pass
2H(2)	DBL	2S	3D
3S	4D	All Pass	

(1) – Multi – Either weak 2 in majors; strong hand in one of the minor suit or balanced 22-23.

East (Rashid-ul-Ghazi) made the ball rolling with multi Two-diamonds and West (Tehsin Gheewala) bid the perforce 2H asking partner to describe his hand. However this bid gave a chance for North (Manas Mukherjee) to DBL and East now clarified his weak two in spades. South (Subroto Saha) showed his good diamonds and North tried again by bidding 4D over Three Spades. If South now bids Four Hearts, it would have been ice cold, courtesy the diamond Queen falling. However the contract was not reached on either table. The funniest part was that EW preferred defending Four diamonds but if NS reaches game in hearts, they may have tried a save in Four spades, which does not have any defense.

Board 5 turned out to be good for Data Steel, when the EW pair of Saraf's team overbid the hand.

Board 5, Dealer: N, Vul: NS

♠98643 ♥Q9 ♦AT ♣QT74 ♠ ♥KT42 ♦KQ98753 ♣J2 ♠AT52 ♥A6 ♦42 ♣A9653	N W E S	♠KQJ7 ♥J8753 ♦J6 ♣K8	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
	Pass	1H	DBL
3S(1)	DBL	4H	All Pass

(1) - Splinter

After partner's PASS, South doubled to show his values and four spades and West splintered in spades. The splinter was doubled but it also helped the opponent in not venturing to four spades contract considering the possible bad break.

East got an excellent chance of making the contract after South led the club Ace and backed a low club to declarer's King. A small heart was played and South did well by hopping up with Ace and playing another club, declarer discarding a diamond from dummy and ruffing in hand. Declarer now played another heart and when South played low, he had to decide whether to go with the adage "Nine Never" or take heart finesse.

South's not ducking the Ace in the first opportunity made him to take finesse and he could not avoid another diamond trick for down 1 and +50 to NS. But they gained 6 IMPs on the board when EW were doubled in Five hearts (It seems either Four spades was not doubled or West with void took a unilateral decision to go to five level) in closed room for +300 to NS and gain of 6 IMPs to Data Steel.

RD 6 - OPEN TEAMS (ANTON's Vs. MAYA MEERA SNEHA)

Board 29, Dealer: N, Vul: Both

♠K7 ♥AKQT32 ♦T32 ♣T7 ♠QT93 ♥J64 ♦K54 ♣KQ4 ♠AJ6 ♥9875 ♦Q76 ♣J86	N W E S	♠8542 ♥ ♦AJ98 ♣A9532	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
	1H	Pass	2H
All Pass			

In the open room, the NS pair (Badal Das – Kamal Mukherjee) of Maya Meera Sneha team bid as above. There were 8 straight forward tricks in Two Hearts contract for +110. But their partners in the closed room (Vijay Goel – Sumit Mukherjee) were one up on them when they played in Four spade contract, which is not easy to reach. The execution of the hand was perfect. After ruffing the opening lead in dummy, a low spade was played and once the finesse of 9 brought the King it was all over for the defense +620 gave a gain of 12 IMPs to them.

The last board of the set was a freakish hand (See Board 30 on next page). East opened the hand as 2S (showing any 2-suiter with 5-9 HCPs) and West's 3C was natural non-forcing bid. Can anyone blame poor North for bidding 3H with his 7-carder suit. As it turned out, East was more than happy to pass this and the contract went 4 down for +200 to EW. Was it a good score? It wasn't as EW in the closed room, bid and made 3NT for +400 and 5 IMP to MMS.

Board 30, Dealer: E, Vul: None

♠93 ♥AJ98543 ♦A3 ♣J5 ♠A7642 ♥ ♦Q5 ♣AKT876	N W S E	♠5 ♥KQT76 ♦KJ8742 ♣Q ♠KQJT8 ♥2 ♦T96 ♣9432	
----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
		2S(1)	Pass
3C	3H	All Pass	

Can 3NT be made on spade lead. Declarer can duck once and take the 2nd trick with Ace. Play the DQ, which is ducked and the continuation won by North. On heart return the contract is easy to make but if North returns a club, East's entry to dummy is shut-off as he has to win in hand to enjoy diamonds. But as it turns out, declarer has got 1 trick each in black suit and after cashing 5 diamond tricks, he plays the HK and will again get 2 tricks in either Heart or Club. At many tables EW played in 5D and were one down on diamond lead.

RD 3 of RR2 - LADIES TEAMS (PAKISTAN LADIES Vs. GLORY's)

Board 16, Dealer: W, Vul: EW

♠KQ6543 ♥965 ♦9 ♣AJ3 ♠J2 ♥KJ8 ♦J742 ♣KT92	N W S E	♠A8 ♥QT72 ♦AKT5 ♣654 ♠T97 ♥A43 ♦Q863 ♣Q87	
----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
1NT	2S	All Pass	

North (Abida Ali) with 10 good points preferred not to open the hand as weak 2 in spade because partner (Teeta Agha) was not a passed hand and came late in the bidding. Eight tricks were there for the taking and She scored an extra trick with diamond queen when opponents tried to cash their top diamonds.

In the closed room their opponents overshot to 3S, which went down on correct defense for 5 well earned IMPs to the Pakistan Ladies team.

ROUND - 11 OPEN TEAMS (ANTON's Vs. ASANTHA's)

The following deal is from the match between the two best Sri Lankan Teams playing in the tournament.

Board 12, Dealer: W, Vul: NS

♠KJ4 ♥T96 ♦T4 ♣AQT87 ♠986 ♥AKJ53 ♦QJ5 ♣62	N W S E	♠AT532 ♥8 ♦AK97 ♣J43 ♠Q7 ♥Q742 ♦8632 ♣K95	
----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
1NT(1)	Pass	2H(2)	Pass
2S	Pass	3NT	Pass
4S	All Pass		

(1) - 10-13 HCPs (2) - Transfer to spades.

This turned out to be a lucky board for Anton's team. West (Rasika Karnatilakhe) with 5-3-3-2 distribution opened a weak 1NT and became declarer in four spades. Now there was no way for North to lead a club from AQ holding. Instead the passive ♥T was led and declarer was able to discard 2 clubs on hearts. He had to give only 2 spades and a club for +420 and a gain of 10 IMPs as in the other room the contract was played from other side and was defeated.

Anton's team had an excellent chance of gaining some more IMPs on board 16.

Board 16, Dealer: W, Vul: EW

♠AKJ73 ♥Q93 ♣KQJ54 ♠AQJT7 ♥QT9 ♦4 ♣AT87	N W S E	♠953 ♥42 ♦AKJT86 ♣32 ♠K8642 ♥865 ♦762 ♣96	
-----------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	--

W	N	E	S
1S	DBL	2NT(1)	Pass
3C	3H	Pass	Pass
3S	All Pass		

(1) - 2NT - Good raise to 3 Spades

EW did well to stop in 3S as NS defended the hand well. After cashing ♥A, North shifted to ♣K, which was ducked and the ♣Q continuation was won by the Ace. Declarer played back the ♣T to ♣J, ruff by 9 and over ruff by spade King.

South returned back a heart and North won the trick with Jack and played another club, which was ruffed and over ruffed. Declarer went 1 down. Declarer could have made the contract, if he discards the losing heart on the play of ♣T, ♣J. Now declarer can ruff one heart in dummy and can ruff a diamond with 7 for 6 tricks in trumps and 2 diamond plus the club Ace. In closed room their opponents reached to Five level and were doubled but went only one down on a friendly defense, thus gaining 3 IMPs on the board.

OPEN TEAMS Semi Final – Session 1 (DATA STEEL Vs. SARAF's)

Board 1, Dealer: N, Vul: None

	N		
♠KQJT74			
♥Q943			
♦9			
♣Q5			
♠632	W	E	♠A5
♥75			♥JT8
♦8			♦AKQJ764
♣AJ98743			♣T
	S		
			♠98
			♥AK62
			♦T532
			♣K62

W	N	E	S
	2S	2NT	Pass
3S	DBL	3NT	DBL
All Pass			

This board turned out to be an interesting one when over North's (Shauq Hussain) 2S opening, East (Sudhakar Rao) bid 2NT. South (Javed Khalid) preferred passing and West (Srinivas) bid 3S. The bid was quite ambiguous – may be he was hoping to play in clubs? The bid was doubled and when partner again bid 3NT, West had nothing further to say. South with his excellent values doubled but there was no defense as there were top 9 tricks for the declarer.

In the other room, NS played in 4S doubled, which went only 1 down for a 10 IMP pickup for the SARAF team.

The DATA STEEL team recovered back 14 IMPs on board 5 with some good pressure bidding.

Board 5, Dealer: N, Vul: NS

	N		
♠Q642			
♥6			
♦A64			
♣AKQJ4			
♠AJ98	W	E	♠7
♥Q73			♥AK9854
♦8532			♦9
♣T6			♣98532
	S		
			♠KT53
			♥JT2
			♦KQJT7
			♣7

W	N	E	S
	1C	2H	DBL
3H	4H	5H	6D
Pass	Pass	6H	DBL
All Pass			

East (Sudhakar Rao) overcalled a weak two in hearts and his partner tried to further pre-empt the opponents by bidding 3H. North's (Shauq Hussain) 4H turned out to be a master stroke as East thought that North is void in the suit. South also may have thought the same and bid 6D. It was West's chance to falter now. He did not double the contract, which would have gone 2 down. This prompted East to think that the contract is makeable and he took out to 6H, which got promptly doubled. 4 down for -800 along with their partner's 4S down 1 gave 14 IMPs back to Data Steel. As it turns out, 4S, 5C or 5D by North-South, all are down but the pressure bidding prompted EW to unnecessary throw the points.

OPEN TEAMS Final – Session 1 (MAYA MEERA SNEHA Vs. DATA STEEL)

Board 6, Dealer: E, Vul: EW

	N		
♠K98754			
♥K42			
♦87			
♣93			
♠63	W	E	♠Q2
♥QJT9653			♥A7
♦5			♦AJT9432
♣AT6			♣72
	S		
			♠AJT
			♥8
			♦KQ6
			♣KQJ854

W	N	E	S
		1D	2C
2H	2S	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pas	4S
All Pass			

In the closed room, East (Badal Das) opened a light 1D and South (Rasid-ul-Ghazi) overcalled 2C. West (Sumit Mukherjee) with his good hearts bid 2H and North (Tehsin Gheewala) bid 2S. It was daring on the part of East to bid 3H vulnerable but that did not stop NS to reach an excellent contract of Four Spades.

Unluckily for NS, with the layout of cards, the defense could have taken them one down, if West is given the diamond ruff. But the defense was friendly when East cashed the Heart Ace and played back a heart. If declarer follows the famous adage "Nine Never", he could have cashed the ACE & KING of trumps in that order and when the trumps behaved, could have played a club. He only gives one trick each in heart, diamond and club. But north played back a diamond after winning the trick with heart King, and now East did not miss the bus, he played back a diamond for West to ruff and cash their club trick for down one. In the other room, the contract of 3NT went 4 down giving 4 IMPs on the board to DATA STEEL.

- Reported by Editor

ART OF GUESSING

Whenever you watch an expert play a contract, you wonder how he sometimes makes plays of dropping singleton king outside or finesses queen even with nine cards.

Is it an intuition or a good guess? Actually there are so many inputs available and if one tries to figure out, these guess situations nearly become certainty.

Lets find out. With no intervention from opponents you are a declarer in four spades.

♠ K 10 X X
♥ A X X
♦ X X
♣ K Q J X

—
♠ Q J 9 X X
♥ X X
♦ K J X
♣ A X X

(Pass)-1D-1S-2S-4S

LEAD H KING

You have one spade and one heart loser and may be two diamond losers. The lead is marked with heart K Q with LHO, don't play diamonds, duck the first heart, win the continuation, knock out the trump ace, LHO happens to win it, Now the whole picture is clear.

LHO who has not taken part in the bidding produced nine HCPS, therefore he can not have diamond ace as he would have opened the bidding. So you can confidently play low diamond to king and make your contract therefore NO GUESS.

Hand 2

Contract six spades and opening lead is club queen.

♠ K 10 X X
♥ X X
♦ A X X X
♣ K X X

—
♠ A J 9 X X
♥ A K Q
♦ K J X
♣ A X

You may have one spade loser and if diamond queen finesse is wrong then total two losers.

- 1) Win club
- 2) Cash three hearts discarding club.
- 3) Spade to king if both follows, then cash second club and finesse the spade if RHO follows. if RHO discards then win the second spade and play the third spade to end play LHO.

Even if you lose to the doubleton queen, LHO is end played.

Finesses are avoided by an expert but here it ensures the contract, so NO GUESS.

LHO's hand is: ♠ x ♥ x x x ♦ Q x x x ♣ Q J 10 X X

As the cards are, finesse works and you make six.

HAND 3

Dealer East

♠ A Q J X X X
♥ X X
♦ K Q X
♣ J X

—
♠ 10 9 X X
♥ A Q X
♦ J X X
♣ K X X

BIDDING

1H- P- P-X
P -IS- P-2 H
P- 2N-P-4S

Hx IS LED.

You have 1 diamond loser, 1 spade, if finesse loses and one or two club losers.

IF RHO has club Ace then you are safe even if spade finesse does not work. However if club Ace is with your LHO and spade finesse is off then you are down.

KEY CARD ANALYSIS

Here two cards decide the fate of contract namely spade king and club Ace, they are known as Key Cards.

Your LHO has passed one heart bid therefore if spade king is under finesse then club Ace with RHO as with seven HCP he would not pass, therefore spurn off the spade finesse as RHO has solitary king you make your contract, surprising all the kibitzers.

RHO: ♠ K ♥ K J X X X ♦ A 10 x x ♣ Q x x

So NO GUESS.

HAND 4

West Dealer

♠ A 10 X X
♥ K J X
♦ Q 10 X
♣ K X X

—
♠ K Q J X X
♥ A 9 8
♦ J X X
♣ Q X

BIDDING:

PASS-1D-PASS-1S

PASS-2S-PASS-4S

LEAD DIAMOND ACE

You have two diamonds and one club losers. Heart loser can be avoided, if H finesse works or if somebody wins club Ace and the H loser goes on the club winner. However if defence is OK then you have to manage the loser in heart. LHO after diamond Ace plays the diamond King and third diamond.

You remove trumps and play club but nobody takes club Ace but LHO produces the Ace when the second club is played.

After diamond A K and club Ace he can not have heart queen, therefore although finesse is 50% it is 100% going to fail.

I take reverse finesse in heart hoping LHO has H 10, so NO GUESS.

LHO: ♠ x x ♥ 10 x x ♦ A K x x ♣ A 9 X X.

HAND 5

♠ X
♥ J 10 X
♦ J X X
♣ A J 10 X X X
+++
♠ A 10 X X
♥ K X X
♦ A X X
♣ K Q X

Contract: 3NT, LEAD SK

You are in 3 NT and the SK lead comes. You duck and win the continuation as RHO produces spade Jack.

Now you rattle 6 clubs and after that play H jack from dummy RHO plays low. Now what - Play low or let it run?

Is it a guess? Well you may think so but there is no guess as if RHO has H Ace, don't you think one will hop up with Ace and play spade, so RHO does not have H Ace.

LHO ♠ KQ98X ♥ AXX ♦ XXX ♣ XX

I conclude this article with a hand played by one of the best players India has produced namely, J. M. Shah.

♠ 10 9 8 X
♥ K Q X X X
♦ Q
♣ Q 9 X

♠ K Q 7 X
♥ A X
♦ A K 10 X X
♣ A X

Dealer: South and the bidding:

1D-1H

2S-3S

4C-4H

4N-5C

6 S

4C and 4H were cue bids.

Lead Club Jack.

Analysis:

Club loser can be pitched on diamond A, K. If LHO has both Ace and Jack of spades then you are one down however if they are divided then you have to guess.

Play:

- 1) Club queen covered by king, Ace taken.
 - 2) Diamond queen unblocked.
 - 3) Heart to Ace, on diamond A K both clubs are discarded
- RHO playing High Low in diamonds, LHO three cards Jack comes down
- 4) Club ruff and spade to King all follow.
 - 5) Heart to King and spade RHO plays small you play small and lefty takes Ace now you claim the contract.

HOW GUESS WAS SOLVED?

If RHO had spade Ace he would have hopped up with spade Ace and given diamond ruff to his partner at first opportunity so NO GUESS.

LHO: ♠ Ax ♥ x x x ♦ J x x ♣ J 10 8 x x .

- by Prakash Dalvi

THE WINTER NATIONALS 2008

The 50th (Golden Jubilee) Winter National Bridge Championships will be held at Kamala Nagar, Kanpur from 12-21 November 2008.

Teams sending their entries before 15th August 2008 will be given adequate concession. Please contact the undersigned for the same.

- Kailaspat Newatia

THE WORLDWIDE SIMULTENOUS PAIRS BRIDGE CONTEST - 2008

The World Bridge Federation (WBF) is conducting the World Wide Bridge Simultaneous Pairs 2008 for all clubs throughout the World on Friday 6th June 2008 and Saturday 7th June 2008.

The event is played in 2 different sessions and players can participate in either or both of these events. The scoring of the event is done across all the participants throughout the world.

Delhi Bridge Association will have this tournament as per the following schedule:

Friday 6th June 2008: Starting at 1830 Hrs.
Saturday 7th June 2008: Starting at 1000 Hrs.

UBHAYAKAR TROPHY 2008

The National Pairs at Home for N.P. UBHAYAKAR TROPHY - 2008 will be held at all the centres in India on the last Sunday of June (22nd June). The event will be played in 2 sessions of 24 boards each. The first session will start at 1030 Hrs. and the second at 1500 Hrs.

- Reported by Mr. Niranjana Ubhayakar (CTD)

MADHAVA PRASAD MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The famous Corbett Park tournament will be played in the memory of Late Shri Madhava Prasadji as "MADHAVA PRASAD MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT" at Garjia (Corbett Park) from 26th to 29th June 2008.

Contact: Mr. Arvind Prasad - 9810112634
Email: arvind.prasad@leisurehotels.in

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Mr. S.N. Mathur, Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal

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 every Friday at FRIENDS CLUB, Friends Colony (West), from 1400 Hrs organized by the Ladies Bridge Association. **Contact: Mrs. Shashi Jain – 0120-2512470.**
3. Open Pairs tournament on the first Sunday of every month in the evening at Vasant Vihar Club. **Contact: Amarjit Wadhawan - 09811452647**
4. A monthly Pairs event, sponsored by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd held every 3rd Sunday afternoon at IOC Bhavan, Yusuf Sarai. **Contact: Amarjit Wadhawan - 09811452647**

Tournament at Dehradun

Uttanchal Bridge Association is organizing their Annual Dehradun Club Open Bridge Tournament at Dehradun on 14th & 15th June 2008.

Forthcoming Events 2008

National

- 03-04 May: Sponsored Event for Selection Trials of Indian Team
06-11 May: Selection Trials of Indian Team
22 Jun: National Pairs at Home - N.P. Ubhayakar Trophy
26-29 Jun: Madhava Prasad Memorial Bridge Tournament (Corbett Park), GARJIA
04-07 Sep: HCL Tournament, NOIDA
12-21 Nov: 50th Winter Nationals, Kanpur

International

- 08 - 11 May: Cavendish Invitational, Las Vegas
06-07 Jun: Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs, Clubs Worldwide
14-28 Jun: 49th European Championships, Pau France
03-17 Oct: World Championships, Beijing, China

CONTACT US:

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

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