

# Inaugural All India **HCL** Bridge Tournament

Hotel Claridges, New Delhi

18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2003

(Sponsor: HCL Corporation Ltd.)

## Daily Bulletin

Editors : T. C. Pant, Subhash Gupta, Sudhir Aggarwal

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003

Courtesy : All Participants

### AZURE & Tolani Shipping teams top the Round Robin in T-4

**AZURE** Team (Surender Hooda, Mrs. Rita Chokshi, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Sumit Mukherjee & Shibnath Dey Sarkar) and **Tolani Shipping** (R.A. Agarwal, R. Bhiwandkar, Arvind Vaidya & Dr. J. Mukund) with 183 VPs, topped the 10 rounds Round-Robin stage to finalize the quarter-finalists. The quarter finalists are:

- |    |                             |   |                              |
|----|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | <b>AZURE</b>                | - | 183 VPs (VP Product – 29053) |
| 2. | <b>Tolani Shipping</b>      | - | 183 VPs (VP Product – 28894) |
| 3. | <b>Formidables</b>          | - | 182 VPs                      |
| 4. | <b>Agsar Paints</b>         | - | 175 VPs (VP Product – 28452) |
| 5. | <b>Phoenix</b>              | - | 175 VPs (VP Product – 26247) |
| 6. | <b>Calcutta Bridge Club</b> | - | 173 VPs                      |
| 7. | <b>WELLKNIT</b>             | - | 170 VPs                      |
| 8. | <b>MAYA-MIRA</b>            | - | 165 VPs                      |

The first 3 teams had the right to choose their opponents as per the priority of their ranking in the round robin stage.

The Quarterfinal line up is:

- |    |                        |     |                             |
|----|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. | <b>AZURE</b>           | Vs. | <b>MAYA-MIRA</b>            |
| 2. | <b>Tolani Shipping</b> | Vs. | <b>Calcutta Bridge Club</b> |
| 3. | <b>Formidables</b>     | Vs. | <b>Phoenix</b>              |
| 4. | <b>Agsar Paints</b>    | Vs. | <b>Well Knit</b>            |

2 rounds of the 3\*14 boards quarter-final is already over and except for Azure Vs. Maya-Mira match, which is turning out to be one sided, all other matches are very much alive for tomorrow's last session. **Azure** is leading by 102 IMPs (69-12, 65-20); **Tolani Shipping** is leading by 1 IMP (C/o – 10-0, 28-41, 36-32); **Formidables** is leading by 19 IMPs (19-36, 54-18) and **Wellknit & Agsar Paints** have tied at 52-52 (43-32, 9-20). So let us see who finally makes to the Semi-final stage. The last 14 boards are going to be real crucial.

The Pairs Tournament also started yesterday evening with 89 Pairs taking part in the event. There will be 2 elimination rounds. The first session of the first elimination is already over and the second session will continue tomorrow morning. We look forward for some scintillating play from the participants in Quarter Final as well as Pair event.

## **EKRENS 2 DIAMOND**

Pre-emptive bidding is one of the important aspects of bidding structure. Still most partnerships neglect one area of bidding – responding to opening preempts. In one of the earlier articles in this Bulletin, we presented Ogust convention for responding to weak two hearts or spades opening bid. We continue our effort in this article with the help of one of the best preemptive openings – **Ekrens 2 Diamond**.

### **A) What is Ekrens 2 Diamond**

The Ekrens 2 Diamond is an Opening bid of 2D showing at least 4-4 in major suits and 5-10 HCPs. This convention is named after Mr. Bjørn Olav Ekren who originated this convention. In original version of this convention minimum requirement is 8 cards (4-4) and there is no requirement regarding points in major suits. However we recommend minimum 9 cards in majors (4-5 or 5-4 or 5-5) and also the points should be concentrated in major suits only.

Ekrens 2D's power is to show defined suits quickly. Used with discipline this is a formidable weapon. The biggest strength of this convention is that frequently the final contract will be reached quickly, may be in one round only – even before opponents can communicate their strength or distribution. This makes defending an Ekrens opening difficult.

### **B) Responses and Rebids after Ekrens 2 Diamond Opening**

There are various methods of responding to Ekrens 2D which are presented below. You can choose the method best suitable/liked by your partnership.

<p>2D – ?            2H/S = To play            2NT = Relay            3C = To play            3D = Inv. with 3-3 in majors            3H/S = Preemptive raise            3NT = to play            4H/S = to play</p> <p>Other meanings of 3C and 3D            3C/D = Natural, forcing</p> <p>3C = Invitational in Hearts            3D = Invitational in Spades            Opener bids next suit as transfer and then passes or bids game</p>	<p><b>Simple response</b>            2D – 2NT – ?            3C = Min 5 hearts 4 spades            3D = Max 5 hearts 4 spades            3H = Min 5 spades 4 hearts            3S = Max 5 spades 4 hearts            3N = Max 5-5</p> <p><b>Alternate response</b>            2D – 2NT – ?            3C = Max hand                3D=relay                3H/S= agrees trump, GF            3D = Min 5H-5S or 5H-4S            3H = Min 5S-4H</p>	<p><b>Recommended response</b>            2D – 2NT – ?            3C = Min (3D=relay, 3H/S=to play)            3D = Max 5 H – 5 S – 2 D – 1 C            3H = Max 5 H and 4 S            3S = Max 5 S and 4 H            3N = Max 5 S – 5 H – 1 D – 2 C            4C = Max 5 S – 5 H – 0 D – 3 C            4D = Max 5 S – 5 H – 3 D – 0 C            4H = Max 6H – 5S or 6S – 5H</p> <hr/> <p>2D – 2NT – 3C – 3D – ?            3H = 5 H and 4 S            3S = 5 S and 4 H            3N = 5 S – 5 H &amp; 2D-1C or 1D-2C            4C = 5 S – 5 H – 0 D – 3 C            4D = 5 S – 5 H – 3 D – 0 C</p>
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In case you play multi 2D and would like to play Ekrens, then we suggest Opening bid of 2 Heart for this.

### **C) Defending Against Ekrens 2 Diamond Opening:**

Defending Ekrens 2 Diamond opening is not easy. However we can bear in mind that chances of a major suit game are remote. The defence should look for playable 3NT game or minor suit game or slam. The following is the recommended defence against Ekrens 2 Diamond:

- Double – Shows a balanced hand of at least 15HCP.
- 2H/2S/3C/3D – Natural, good one suited hand.
- 2NT – Strong semi balanced hand, minor suits oriented. Responder can pass or bids
  - 3C/D/3NT – To play.
  - 3H/S – Stopper showing for 3NT although can be advance cue bids looking for minor suit slam.
  - 4C/D – Invitational
- A pass first and then double shows 12 – 14 HCP.

 We highly recommend Ekrens 2D or 2H opening bid, but with discipline to reap the benefits. In case of any clarification please contact us.

*(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)*

## DEAL OF THE DAY

This deal occurred in the round robin match between AZURE Vs. Formidables

Vul: N-S

	♠ Axxx ♥ Qx ♦ AKQx ♣ K8x	
♠ K9xx ♥ KJTxx ♦ ♣ QJ9x	N W     E S	♠ QT ♥ xxx ♦ JTxxx ♣ xxx
	♠ Jxx ♥ A9x ♦ 98xx ♣ ATx	

Bidding:

Venkatraman	Sumit Mukherjee	Sunit Chokshi	Surender Hooda
W	N	E	S
	1C	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Venky led the H10, won in dummy by HQ and DA was cashed, west discarding a small club after long thought. After getting bad news in Diamonds, declarer played a low spade won by East's Q and returned a heart ducked by South.. The continuation was taken by declarer with Ace, dummy discarding a low spade and diamonds K & Q were cashed. Declarer had given 2 tricks and the last 6 cards position was:

North: Ax, -,x,K8x      East: 10, -, JT, xxx      South: Jx, -, 9, A10x      West: K9,K,-,QJ9

When declarer played the last diamond, West gets squeezed as he has to un-guard spade or clubs or throws his good heart. Declarer can have 1 spades & 3 club tricks or 2 spades & 2 club tricks depending on whether West discards a CLUB or a SPADE. East can only take his last 2 diamonds.. In case West throws Heart declarer plays A & King of clubs and returns a club back to West, forcing him to play the Spade and the last 2 tricks.

NICELY DONE.Mr. Hooda.

## Today's Schedule

0900 – 1100 Hrs.	-	T-4, Quarter Finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session of 14 boards
1000 – 1230 Hrs.	-	Pairs Elimination I – Session 2 (20 Boards)
1120 – 1330 Hrs.	-	T-4, Semi Finals, 1 <sup>st</sup> Session of 16 boards
1300 – 1415 Hrs.	-	Lunch
1400 – 1630 Hrs.	-	Pairs Elimination II – Session 1 (20 Boards)
1430 – 1640 Hrs.	-	T-4, Semi Finals, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session of 16 boards
1645 – 1915 Hrs.	-	Pairs Elimination II – Session 2 (20 Boards)
1700 – 1910 Hrs.	-	T-4, Semi Finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session of 16 boards
1930 Hrs.	-	Dinner & Cocktails

### INVITATION

All the participants are cordially invited for Dinner & Cocktails today at 1930 Hrs. in Hotel Claridges.

### REQUEST TO PLAYERS

All players are requested to adhere to the scheduled timings of the game to avoid any penalties.

### IMPORTANT

Please Switch off your Cell Phones, while the Play is going on.

### REQUEST TO PLAYERS

You are requested to enter the scores correctly in the pick up slips. It is responsibility of North to fill the score, however E-W pair is requested to check the entry. This will help us in processing the scores faster.



Submit your "BEST BID", "BEST PLAYED" or "BEST DEFENDED" hand of the day and win an attractive prize of Rs. 500.

Entries should be submitted to Mr. Subhash Gupta or Mr. T.C. Pant

Yesterday's winner for the "BEST PLAYED HAND" is Mr. Surender Hooda of AZURE Team.

### PAIRS Elimination I (Session 1) Toppers List

#### Section A:

1. Narvir Singh – Daya Dhawan	56.14%
1. C.S. Majumder – S. Das	56.14%
2. Nikita Kamal - Amarjeet	55.68%

#### Section B:

1. Kamal Mukherjee – Ashok Goel	60.87%
2. D.S. Jadon – D.N. Kashyap	59.79%
3. R.P. Airan – P.C. Jain	59.74%

#### Section C:

1. Raju Tolani – Vinay Desai	60.00%
2. B. Roy – M.L. Jain	59.17%
3. Anal Shah – G. Manna	58.68%

### Tomorrow's Schedule (Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003)

0900 – 1110 Hrs. -	T-4 Finals, Session – I (16 boards)
0900 – 1330 Hrs. -	Pairs, Finals - Session I (32 Boards)
1130 – 1340 Hrs. -	T-4 Finals, Session – II (16 boards)
1330 – 1430 Hrs. -	Lunch
1430 – 1640 Hrs. -	T-4 Finals, Session – III (16 boards)
1430 – 1900 Hrs. -	Pairs, Finals – Session II
1700 – 1910 Hrs. -	T-4 Finals, Session – IV (16 boards)
1930 Hrs. -	Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony