

All India **HCL** Bridge Tournament 2008

Hotel Radisson, NOIDA

4th – 7th September 2008

(Sponsor: HCL Corporation Ltd.)

*Under the auspices of
Bridge Federation of India*

Daily Bulletin

Editor: T. C. Pant

Bulletin No. 1: Thursday, 4th Sep 2008

WELCOME

Ladies, Gentlemen and Dear Bridge friends,

On behalf of Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Mr. Shiv Nadar and the members of the organizing committee, let me once again extend a very warm welcome to you from all over the country to the 6th HCL All India Prize Money Tournament, to commemorate **Shri Naresh Tandan** and **Mrs. Neena Bonarji**.

As you would have noticed in the tournament brochure, the total prize money this year has been increased to Rs. 12,50,000/- and we should take this opportunity to thank Mrs. and Mr. Nadar for their generosity.

Due to Ramazan, we are disappointed that many players from Pakistan could not come. We, however, extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Masood Mazhar's team, which has managed to grace this tournament and hope they return with pleasant memories.

This is the year of World Championships for the Teams. However for the first time in the history of organized bridge, these championships are being held in Beijing under the auspices of World Mind Sport Games (which will include other mind sports like Chess, Draughts etc). Teams from India will be representing the country in the Open, Women's, Senior's and youth categories. Let's wish them all the very best.

Few of our players have excelled during recent past at the international level and let's all pay them a humble tribute and hope that some of our bright stars will keep the Indian flag flying.

At the European championships, the Texan Aces team captained by G. Venkatesh (from USA) which included J M Shah, P. Sridhar, Krishna Kumar (KK), Sumit Mukherjee & Badal Das reached the finals but unfortunately had to be content with the silver medals only - a rare feat nonetheless, considering the no. of great teams and players playing there.

Mr. G. Venkatesh and Mr. J M Shah also distinguished themselves by winning the prestigious Yeh Bros. Cup pair event in China, which today is the largest sponsored prize money tournament in the world.

Our own Sunit Chokshi (the young and the restless) paired up with Mr K. R. Venkatraman and won the nationally rated Wernher Open Pairs event at the North American Summer Championships, held at Las Vegas, USA - another first for an Indian pair. No money but lots of master points.

Mr. Vijay Goel dominated the SAARC championship, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka by winning both the events - Open teams as well as pairs. His partner was Asim Mukherjee and the team mates were - Kamal Mukherjee, Sumit Mukherjee and Badal Das.

How could the ladies be far behind - Bimal Sicka, Hema Deora, Yvettee Singapuri and Marianne Karmakar were determined to bring the women's team trophy from SAARC and they did just that in a very convincing fashion.

Mr. Arun Jain's team (Arun Jain, K. Krishnakumar, DK Tewari, PC Gupta, Manas Mukherjee & Subroto Saha) won the Balijee's annual fiesta at Lahore, breaking the 3-year winning streak of the Formidables.

Let us all put our hands together and applaud their achievements.

An added feature this year at this tournament - DEALING Machine, which helps us duplicate the boards faster and avoids the human error. I am sure this experiment will be successful and we will be using the pre dealt deals more and more in the coming years as per the best international practices.

We also have made provision to webcast matches LIVE on BBO from quarter finals onwards. Mr Bharat (Buddy) Shah and his colleague Mahesh, besides managing the vu-graph, have also been instrumental in launching a website, which is exclusively devoted to this tournament (www.hcl-bridge.com) and it should bring this tournament closer to becoming truly international in not too distant a future.

Please be courteous to the participants, who may be a little less adept at this form of competitive version of bridge.

Wishing all of you a very successful tournament - on and off the table.

Subhash Gupta - Organizing Secretary

The 2007 Champions



The 2007 Winners of "Naresh Tandan Trophy" for T-4 Event: Rana Roy, Bivas Todi, Subrata Saha, Subir Majumdar & Manas Mukherjee with the chief Guest Nawab of Pataudi

HCL Bridge Tournament 2008 - Curtain Raiser

The 6th Edition of the *HCL* Prize Money Bridge Tournament will be held at Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, India from 4th to 7th September 2008. With total prize money of Rs. 12.5 lacs (approx. 30,000 USD), this tournament is currently the highest Prize Money Bridge Tournament of India. It attracts teams from every part of India as well as from our neighbors Pakistan. Like previous years, we are again expecting around 70 teams to participate in this year's event.

The first edition of the tournament in 2003 attracted 35 teams & 89 Pairs; in 2004 this increased to 46 teams and 127 pairs; in 2005 there were 70 teams & 176 Pairs, which even exceeded the expectation of the organizers. In 2006, we had 62 Teams & 144 Pairs and last year we had a record 73 teams & 160 Pairs. All the top Indian teams participate in this tournament, which is an ample proof that this is one of the most favorite tournament of Bridge fraternity in India.

The tournament is the brainchild of Mrs. Kiran Nadar - one of the top Indian players. She is member and sponsor of the "**FORMIDABLES**" team, which has not only won many laurels at National level but has represented India umpteen times in International events. As you all are aware, the "**FORMIDABLES**" team comprising of **Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajesh Dalal, K.R. Venkatraman & Sunit Chokshi** will be representing India in the OPEN BRIDGE TEAMS in the 1st World Mind Sports Games to be held at Beijing, China from Oct 3 – 18, 2008.

Mr. Shiv Nadar, husband of Mrs. Kiran Nadar is the Chairman of HCL (Hindustan Computers Ltd) – the famous IT Company of India, which is the sponsor of this prestigious event.

The event consists of the Team of Four as well as Open Pairs event.

The "**Team of Four**" Trophy of the tournament has been instituted in the name of **Late Shri Naresh Tandan** (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father), whereas the "**Open Pair**" Trophy of the tournament is instituted in the name of **Late Mrs. Neena Bonarji** by Nisha, daughter of the late Mrs. Neena Bonarji. Mrs. Kiran Nadar had played with Mrs. Bonarji as partner and Teammate over the years.

Like last year, we will have live vu-graph of the Team event from quarter-final onwards on BBO. The deals for the quarter-finals, semi-finals & final of the Team of four event and the deals of the Pair final will be computer dealt. **Best of luck to all the participants for this 2008 edition of the event.**



Late Shri Naresh Tandan (Mrs. Kiran Nadar's Father) in whose memory the HCL Bridge Tournament's "Team of Four" Trophy has been instituted.



Late Mrs. Neena Bonarji in whose memory her daughter Nisha has instituted the HCL Bridge Tournament's "Open Pair" Trophy

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Mrs. Kiran Nadar

Organising Secretary:

Mr. Subhash Gupta

Members:

Ravi Sawhney, Arun Jain, T.C. Pant,
Sudhir Aggarwal, Paresh Gupta

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Mr. Arun Jain	- Chairman
Mr. Ravi Sawhney	- Convener
Mr. Kamal Mukherjee	- Member
Mr. B. Prabhakar	- Member
Mr. K.R. Venkatraman	- Member
Mr. Anand K.S. Samant	- Member
Mr. Raju Tolani	- Member
Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal	- Member

Chairman can co-opt any other member, if necessary.

TEAM OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Pranab (Ranju) Bhattacharya, CTD
Mr. V.K. Sharma
Major B.H. Iyer
Mr. D. Roy Choudhury (GORA)

EVENT PRIZES

Team of Four

Winner	Rs. 300,000
Runner-up	Rs. 150,000
Losing SFinalists	Rs. 75,000 each
Losing QFinalists	Rs. 50,000 each
9 th to 12 th Position	Rs. 15,000 each

Pairs

Winner	Rs. 125,000
Runner-up	Rs. 80,000
Third	Rs. 50,000
Fourth	Rs. 30,000
Fifth	Rs. 25,000
Sixth	Rs. 20,000
Seventh	Rs. 15,000
Eighth	Rs. 12,500
Ninth	Rs. 10,000
Tenth	Rs. 7,500
Eleventh	Rs. 5,000
Twelfth	Rs. 2,500

Note: TDS will be deducted as per the prevailing IT rules.

Today's Schedule (Thursday 4th Sep 2008)

0830 – 0930 Hrs. -	Entries for Team of Four Event
1000 – 1115 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 1 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1135 – 1250 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 2 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1250 – 1350 Hrs. -	Lunch Break
1350 – 1505 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 3 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1525 – 1640 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 4 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1640 – 1710 Hrs. -	Tea Break
1710 – 1825 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 5 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)
1845 – 2000 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 6 of 10 boards each – Pre-determined draw)

TRANSFER – THE FUTURE (Part 1)

In August 2003 – during the FIRST HCL Tournament, I wrote an article – Magical World of Transfer. In that article I suggested various sequences where transfers can be used. Certainly I had not played all those bidding ideas myself. However during last 5 years, I have played many of the transfer ideas with my partners - Amod Rele and Vinod Sharma. Believe it or not, in my opinion transfers are indispensable.

In the earlier days most of the bidding was natural. However the world changed with Jacoby Transfer convention, for responding to No-trump Opening. Today it is possible to use transfer responses in almost any situation. We are not very far from the days where every thing will be a transfer. Transfers are becoming popular world over and many bridge players are using them in their bidding arsenal.

Advantages of using Transfer

- The main advantage of using transfers over No-trump openings is to make opener declarer most of the time. The No-trump bidder almost always has the stronger hand and therefore it is better to have the opening lead come up to his high cards and tenaces. It also keeps the stronger hand concealed.
- By using transfers, responder is able to show various types of hand that are difficult to show using standard methods (e.g. weak or inv or GF).
- By using transfers in competition, you can make opener declarer thereby putting overcaller on the opening lead who has to lead away from his high cards.

Various Transfer Conventions

Now a days the transfer bids can be used in a number of situations. Some of them are listed below:

- **Transfer Positive responses to Artificial 1C Opening** – In a modification to standard responses to Precision 1C to allow opener to be declarer, many experts use transfer responses.
- **Transfer responses to Natural 1C Opening** – Transfer responses can also be played over Standard 1C. In responding to 1C, Walsh response style bypasses the Diamond suit to bid a major unless the responder has an opening hand. This concept is used in transfer responses.
- **Transfers over Opponent's Takeout Double** – In this convention after 1H/S opening and opponent's takeout double, bids of 1NT/2C/D/H are transfers to 2C/D/H/S. Transfer to opener's major suit is generally played as a sound raise where as direct raise is preemptive.
- **Transfer Responses over Opponent's Overcall** – After partner opens with any one level suit bid and RHO makes a one or two level overcall, the responder can use transfers to a good effect.
- **Transfers after re-bid of suit at 2-level** – Transfer bids can also be used by responder after opener rebids his suit at the 2-level after 1-level response.
- **Transfer response to Major suit opening bids** – In responding to 1H/S opening bid, 3-card support with 5-7 HCP is shown via Forcing NT as 1M-2M response is constructive. However it is possible to play transfer to major at the two level as two way.
- **Transfer Pre-emptive opening bids** – 2NT and 3C can be used as transfer bids which can show normal preempts or two suiter hand (good suits) with 6-card shown minor and any other 5-card suit.
- **Transfer over 1NT and 2NT bids** – Major suit transfers (Jacoby transfer and Texas transfer) and minor suit transfers are used over 1NT and 2NT Openings or 1NT and 2NT rebids (if initial bids were artificial).
- **Transfers in Lebensohl** – In standard Lebensohl there are no transfers that makes responder declarer in many situations. In Transfer Lebensohl the bids from 2NT to 3H are transfers and responder can bid many hands better and this also helps in making 1NT opener declarer in many contracts.
- **Transfers after 1NT re-bid** – Most of the tournament bridge players play 2-way checkback after opener rebids 1NT (over 1 level response by the Responder). However it is much better if transfers are used.
- **Transfers after 2NT re-bid** – Transfer bids are used by responder after jump re-bid of 2NT or raise of forcing NT by opener.

I have mentioned some of the sequences where transfers can be adopted by any regular partnership. We will discuss these sequences during next days. *(Will be contd in next bulletin)*

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal, Delhi Bridge Association)

HCL Bridge Tournaments - A brief History

1st HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT – 18th to 21st Dec 2003

35 teams comprising players from all over India participated in the first HCL Tournament held at Hotel Claridges, New Delhi from 18th to 21st Dec 2003. Formidables, Agsar Paints, Well Knit, Tolani Shipping, DSM & MONOTONA were some of the top teams who participated in the tournament.

Team of Four Event:

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 were : **AZURE (183 VPs), Tolani Shipping(183), Formidables (182), Agsar Paints (175), Phoenix (175), Calcutta Bridge Club(173) , WELLKNIT (170), MAYA-MIRA (165)**

In the 4*14 boards Quarter Finals **AZURE** beat MAYA-MIRA **134-32** (69-12, 65-20, third set conceded); **CALCUTTA BRIDGE CLUB** beat Tolani Shipping **119-83** (C/O 0-10, 41-28, 32-36, 46-9); **Formidables** beat Phoenix **114-79** (19-36, 54-18, 41-25) and in a very tough tussle between both Chennai teams **WELLKNIT** beat Agsar Paints by **77-71** (43-32, 9-20, 25-19).

In the first of the 3*16 boards semi-final, **WELLKNIT (C.R. Badrinath, R. Krishnan, J.M. Shah, P. Sridhar, Sundarram, R. Venkatesh)** beat AZURE (Surender Hooda, Mrs. Rita Chokshi, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Sumit Mukherjee & Shibnath Dey Sarkar) by **125 – 96 IMPs (55-21, 25-23, 45-52)**. In the second semi-final, **CALCUTTA BRIDGE CLUB (B. Todi, Kamal Roy, S. Lahiri, Alok Sadhu, A.B. Chakravarty, B. Saha)** beat Formidables (Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupt, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Chokshi & K.R. Venkatraman) by **107- 100 IMPs (47-31, 31-29, 29-40)**.

In the 4*16 boards final **CALCUTTA BRIDGE CLUB** finally prevailed over WELLKNIT by **1 IMP** in a ding-dong battle which went right up to the last session. The final score was **147-146 (32-44, 37-20, 37-50, 41-32)**.

The winners of the Pairs event were:

1. B. Satyanarayana – Kiran Nadar 536.00
2. Sumit Mukherjee – B. Das 517.37
3. R.A. Agarwal–Mukund Jaganathan 516.97
4. P. Kushari – D. Roy 515.53

2nd HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT – 12th to 15th August 2004

The 2nd All India HCL Bridge Tournament was held at Hotel Claridges, New Delhi from 12th to 15th August 2004.

Total 46 Teams & 127 Pairs participated in the Team of Four & Open Pairs tournament, comprising players from all over India. Agsar Paints, Formidables, WELLKNIT, Tolani Shipping, DSM & MONOTONA were some of the top participating teams.

Team of Four Event:

DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS Team with **195 VPs**, topped the 10 rounds Round-Robin stage. **Agsar Paints** with **193 VPs** were second.

The quarter finalists were: **Dhampur Sugar Mills(195 VPs), Agsar Paints (193), WELLKNIT (192), Formidables (176) , Pankaj Kapadia's IV (174), MONOTONA (171), Lucknow Blue (171),GUPTA's Bangalore (166)**.

In the 4*14 boards Quarter Finals **Dhampur Sugar Mills** beat **GUPTA's Bangalore 114-73** (20-38, 27-23, 67-12); **Agsar Paints** beat **Lucknow Blues 135-84** (27-24, 48-46, 60-14); **WELLKNIT** beat **Pankaj Kapadia's IV 98-89** (42-33, 24-31, 32-25) and **Formidables** beat **Monotona** by **127-68** (51-18, 29-12, 47-38).

In the first of the 3*16 boards semi-final, **WELLKNIT** beat **Dhampur Sugar Mills** by **85-71** IMPs (c/o **3-0,16-17, 21-41, 45-13**) and **Agsar Paints** beat Formidables by **121.5- 113** IMPs (c/o **13.5-0,41-29, 33-39, 34-45**).

In the 4*16 boards final, **WELLKNIT (R. Krishnan, A.S. Vishwanathan, Krishna Kumar, R. Venkatesh & J.M. Shah)**, beat **AGSAR PAINTS** (N.R. Kirubakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, P. Sridhar, Anil Padhye & S. Sunderram) by **142 - 81** (C/O: **0-3, 30-29, 38-7, 27-23, 47-19**).

The winners of the Pairs event were:

1. Subhash Gupta-Rajeshwar Tewari 561.00
2. R.A. Agrawal - Goutam Biswas 537.00
3. Badal Das - Sumit Mukherjee 534.00
4. P.C. Gupta - D.K. Tewari 525.50

3rd HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT – 12th to 15th August 2005

The 3rd All India HCL Bridge Tournament was held at Hotel Radisson, NOIDA from 12th to 15th August 2005.

Total 70 Teams & 176 Pairs comprising of players from all over India along with 3 teams from Pakistan participated in the tournament. Agsar Paints, Formidables, Well Knit, Tolani Shipping, DSM, RADHEY, J.P. Goenka, Alok Daga, Dipak Poddar and PAK I were some of the top teams participating.

Team of Four Event:

J.P. GOENKA's Team with **194 VPs**, topped the 10 rounds Round-Robin stage. **Ratanlal Kejriwal M.C.** with **185 VPs** were second.

The quarter finalists were: **J.P. Goenka (194 VPs)**, **Ratanlal Kejriwal M.C. (185)**, **PUSHPAK (184)**, **Dhampur Sugar Mills (182)**, **Manas Saha's IV (179)**, **Pankaj Mehta (174)**, **PAK I (173)** & **PALOOKAS (170)**

In the 4*14 boards Quarter Finals **Dhampur Sugar Mills** beat **Manas Saha's IV 180-56** (35-15, 80-26, 65-15); **PAK 1** beat **PUSHPAK 100-74** (37-10, 41-20, 22-44); **J.P. Goenka** beat **PALOOKAS 133-80** (51-25, 32-34, 50-21) **Ratanlal Kejriwal Memorial Club** beat **Pankaj Mehta 126-83** (29-43, 60-30,37-10).

In the 3*16 boards semi-finals, **J.P. Goenka** beat **Dhampur Sugar Mills** by **107-101 (37-29, 35-25, 35-47)** and **PAK I** beat **Ratanlal Kejriwal M.C.** by **108-69** (c/o **3-0,54-22, 41-24, 10-23**)

J.P. Goenka's Team (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alok Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar & Sumit Mukherjee) beat the **PAK I** team (Tahir Masood, Sarfaraz Khan, Munir Ataullah, Khurshid Hadi & Abdul Rehman Allana) by 79 IMPs in the 4*16 boards Team of Four Finals. The score was **171-92 (34-27, 37-14, 67-13, 33-38)**.

The winners of the Pairs event were:

1. J. Biswas – T.K. Roy 523.57
2. Rajesh Dalal – Anil P. Padhye 520.50
3. R.A. Aggarwal – Ajit Chakradeo 520.33
4. Sunit Chokshi – K.R. Venkatraman 516.74

4th HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT – 12th to 15th August 2006

The 4th All India HCL Bridge Tournament with total prize money of approximately 9.7 lacs was held at Hotel Radisson, NOIDA from 12th to 15th August 2006 under the auspices of **Contract Bridge Association**.

Total 62 Teams & 144 Pairs comprising players from all over India along with the DATA STEEL team from Karachi, Pakistan, participated in the Team of Four & Open Pairs tournament,. Formidables, Tolani Shipping, Dhampur Sugar Mills, SHREE RADHEY, J.P. Goenka, Alok Daga, MONOTONA and Manyavar were some of the top participating teams.

Team of Four Event for "Naresh Tandan Trophy":

Dhampur Sugar Mills Team (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Kamal Roy, Debashish Roy, Sandeep Thakral & R. Venkatesh) with **190 VPs**, topped the 10 round - Round-Robin stage. **SHREE RADHEY** (V.M. Lal, P. Bafana, Ashok Vaidya & Raju Bhiwandkar) with **187 VPs** were second.

The quarter finalists were: **DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS (190 VPs)**, **SHREE RADHEY (187)**, **MANAS SAHA'S IV (185)**, **MAHESHWARI, ALLAHABAD (182)**, **J.P. GOENKA (176)**, **PANKAJ MEHTA (172)**, **NEST INN (170.7)** & **MAHARAJA (170)**.

Quarterfinal Stage:

In the 3*12 boards Quarter Finals **Dhampur Sugar Mills** beat Maharaja team (S. Lahiri, Amal Kundu, Kalyan Choudhury, Suman Sengupta, Mrinal Mukherjee & Samir Pal) by **105-56** (C/O: 12-0, 57-12, 24-27, 12-17); **Shree Radhey** beat Pankaj Mehta's team (Pankaj Mehta, Punit Gangal, A.B. Chakravarty, Bhavesh Saha, Pradeep Anand Singh & S. Bandopadhyay) by **120-83** (C/O: 0-5, 80-8, 17-37, 23-33); **Manas Saha's IV** beat Nest Inn (N.R. Kripakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, R. Krishnan, P. Sridhar, J.M. Shah & Uttam Gupta) by **92-77** (33-23, 19-20, 40-34) and **J.P. GOENKA** beat MAHESHWARI (I.K. Agarwal, B.N. Rastogi, Sushil Agarwal, V.K. Agarwal, B.K. Agarwal, A.K. Sinha) by **74-58** (C/O: 3-0, 31-18, 7-27, 33-13).

Semi-final Stage: (3*14 Boards)

In the first semi-final, **J.P. Goenka** beat Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Kamal Roy, Debashish Roy, Sandeep Thakral & R. Venkatesh) by **144-87 (48-55, 42-19, 54-13)**.

In the second semi-final, **Manas Saha's IV** beat Shree Radhey (V.M. Lal, R.G. Bhiwandkar, P. R. Bafna, Ashok Vaidya) by **124-69 (28-35, 35-24, 61-10)**.

Team of Four Final:

In the 4*16 boards final, **J.P. GOENKA (J.P. Goenka, Pritish Kushari, Alok Sadhu, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar & Sumit Mukherjee)** beat **MANAS SAHA'S IV** (Manas Saha, Snehashish Roy, Debabrata Majumder, Santanu Chowdhury, Pranab Roy, Kaustabh Nandi) by **150 - 109 (39-34, 61-37, 20-29, 30-9)** to win the "Naresh Tandan Trophy" and the first prize of Rs. 2.5 Lacs. The loser got Rs. 1.2 Lacs.

J.P. Goenka's team was leading by a solitary 5 IMPs margin in the first set but in the second set, they consolidated their position with another 24 IMPs to lead by 29 IMPs at half-way stage. Manas Saha's team was able to recover back 9 Imps in the 3rd set and the match was well poised for the final set with Goenka's team leading with 20 IMPs. However, there was no more hiccups and the strong Goenka team added a further 21 IMPs to win the match by 41 IMPs.

OPEN PAIRS Event for "Neena Bonarji Trophy"

144 pairs participated in the Open Pairs event. These pairs went through two grueling eliminations rounds and the 32 finalists played an all-play-all 62 boards final.

The winners of the Pairs event were:

1	Prem Chand R Bafna - Ashok Vaidya	535.50
2	Kiran Nadar - B Satyanarayana	532.50
3	Suhas Vaidya - R Sridharan	512.50
4	Jagadish Biswas - Sankar Prasad Ghosh	512.00

5th HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT – 16th to 19th August 2007

The 5th All India HCL Bridge Tournament with total prize money of approximately Rupees 10 Lacs (one Million) was held at Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, India from 16th to 19th August 2007, under the auspices of **Bridge Federation of India**.

The tournament broke its old record of 70 participating teams in the team of four event, with **73 teams** from all parts of India along with DATA STEEL & CANDYLAND teams from Karachi, Pakistan taking part in the **Team of Four** event. A combined India-Pak team BEEZEE also participated in the tournament. **160 Pairs** participated in the **OPEN PAIRS** event.

Dhampur Sugar Mills, Formidables, Tolani Shipping, Shri Radhey, J.P. Goenka, Alok Daga, Shree Cement, Texan Aces, Wellknit and Manyavar were some of the top Indian teams which participated in the tournament.

Team of Four Event for "Naresh Tandan Trophy":

SHREE CEMENT Team (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subroto Saha, Subir Majumdar & Bivas Todi) with **194 VPs**, topped the 10 rounds - Round-Robin stage. **KHANDELWAL** (Rajeev Khandelwal, Himani Khandelwal, N.K. Gupta & Sandeep Thakral) with **190 VPs** were second.

The quarter finalists were: **SHREE CEMENT (194 VPs)**, **KHANDELWAL (190 VPs)**, **J.P. GOENKA (184 VPs)**, **MANYAVAR (184 VPs)**, **TEXAN ACES (181 VPs)**, **MAHESHWARI**, **ALLAHABAD (180 VPs)**, **CANDYLAND (173 VPs)**, **SHREE RADHEY (172 VPs)**

Quarterfinal Stage:

In the 3*14 boards Quarter Finals, **SHREE CEMENT** beat Maheshwari, Allahabad team (Govind Prasad Agarwal, Sushil Agarwal, I.K. Agarwal, B.N. Rastogi, A.K. Sinha & Kr. Vijayanand Singh) by 90-47 (40-04, 20-30, 30-13); **KHANDELWAL** beat CANDYLAND team from Karachi, Pakistan (Masood Mazhar, Muhammed Ismail, Mubashir Puri, Hamid Mohiuddin, Khalid Mohiuddin, Sapan Desai) by 110-42 (CO: 8-0, 19-13, 55-12, 28-17); **J.P. GOENKA** beat SHREE RADHEY team from Mumbai (V.M. Lal, R.G. Bhiwandkar, Jitu Solani, Ajit Chakradeo) by 79-55 (CO: 9-0, 34-34, 11-07, 25-14) and **MANYAVAR** beat TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, K. Krishnakumar, P. Sridhar, S. Sunderram, J.M. Shah, Sandeep Karmarkar) by 114-89 (30-26, 34-14, 50-49).

Semi-final Stage:

In the first of the 3*16 boards semi-final, **SHREE CEMENT** beat Manyavar (Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Rajesh Dalal, Anil Padhye) by **102-88 (CO: 6-0, 26-45, 32-19, 38-24)**. In the second semi-final, **J.P. Goenka** beat KHANDELWAL (Rajeev Khandelwal, Himani Khandelwal, N.K. Gupta & Sandeep Thakral) by a solitary **IMP**. The score line in favor of GOENKA team was 121-120 (CO: 0-8, 45-24, 23-44, 55-44) with 2 VP penalty to GOENKA team.

Team of Four Final:

It was **J.P. GOENKA Vs. SHREE CEMENT** in the 4*16 boards FINALS of Team of Four event, with **SHREE CEMENT** having a carry over of 4 IMPs in the finals. Every body was eager to know whether J.P. Goenka's team, which had won this event consecutively for the last 2 years, can make their hat-trick.

It was not to be as **SHREE CEMENT (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subrata Saha, Subir Majumdar, Bivas Todi)** beat **J.P. GOENKA** (J.P. Goenka, Badal Das, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee, Debbrata Majumdar) by **57 IMPs** to win the "**Naresh Tandan Trophy**" and the **first prize of Rs. 2.5 Lacs**. The runners-up got Rs. 1.2 Lacs.

J.P. Goenka's team won the first set by a solitary IMP but Shree Cement took the second set by 13 IMPs to lead by 16 IMPs at half way stage. In the third set Shree Cement completely overpowered the Goenka team and comfortably won the set by 29 IMPs to lead by 45 IMPs. They further added another 12 IMPs to comfortably win the final by 57 IMPs. The score in favor of SHREE CEMENT was 174-117 (CO: 4-0, 50-51, 28-15, 51-22, 41-29).

OPEN PAIRS Event for "Neena Bonarji Trophy"

160 pairs participated in the Open Pairs event. These pairs went through two grueling eliminations rounds and the 32 finalists played an all-play-all 62 boards final.

The winners of the Pairs event were:

1	S. SUNDERRAM - P SRIDHAR	529.79
2	Mrs. Kiran Nadar - B. Satyanarayana	529.21
3	C S Majumdar - S Basak	520.71
4	A.K. Sinha - B N RASTOGI	515.21
5	Raju Tolani - A Khare	509.00
6	Sunit Chokshi - K R Venkatraman	508.29
7	Archie Sequeira - Arun Bapat	498.75
8	K K ROY - A SADHU	494.07

- *Reported by Editor*

"Out-Duboining" Giorgio

- by Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India

(This is an extract from a chapter taken from Jay's forthcoming book, "The Romance of Bridge," due for publication later this year = Editor)

Board#2 of the 17th and last round of the recently concluded 49th European Championships at Pau, France presented us with a gorgeous analytical exercise, partially double dummy though *it may seem to be*. Among eighteen tables, eleven E-W played in three no trumps, nine of them with East as declarer, and two with West as declarer. Both Wests went down one, whereas eight Easts made the contract. On the table where Germany's Josef Piekarek was East as declarer, Giorgio Duboin of Italy (South) made an almost inconceivable lead and defeated the contract. It is worth mentioning that Germany was on top of the field at the end of the penultimate sixteenth round with a tally of 281 vps and Italy was seventh on 254 VPs and in danger of being knocked out for next year's Bermuda Bowl. Italy, however easily won the match 25-5 and both teams have indeed qualified.

Board 2, Round 17, Dealer East, NS vulnerable

♠KQJT5	♠	♠A
♥96	♥	♥KJ42
♦AT964	♦	♦QJ
♣Q	♣	♣JT9863
	♠9876432	
	♥QT3	
	♦K3	
	♣K	

Josef Piekarek-Alexander Smirnov as East and West respectively, had bid thus: 1C-1S-2C-2D-2NT-3NT. *Giorgio led the king of diamonds, ostensibly cutting off all communications.* Josef made the mistake of winning on the table after which he played on clubs to somehow scrape through with eight tricks, down one.

Let us now go through the dream sequence. You are East and you duck the diamond king. The best defence for Giorgio is to continue diamonds which you win on the table with the ace (smothering your second diamond honour) and cash the ten of the suit, jettisoning the ace of spades. You now have four diamond tricks and three or four spade tricks depending on what Giorgio discards on those diamonds when you cash them.

At the end of eighth trick (one to defence, seven to you), Giorgio has the option to keep three spades, the queen of hearts and the king of clubs *OR* two spades, queen-ten of hearts and the king of clubs.

Both end positions are fascinating, *IF you have taken care to keep the same number of cards North has kept in hearts-clubs; if North holds on to three hearts and two clubs, you must also come down to that and if he has two hearts and three clubs, you must have an identical holding.* If Giorgio is holding on to 3-1-0-1, you leave the spade ten winner in dummy and play a heart; North cannot go up with the ace, because then both king and jack in hearts (there is a second heart in dummy as well) will make trick numbers eight and nine. *So, he has to duck, you go up with the king (your trick number eight, four diamonds, three spades and the heart) dropping Giorgio's queen and play a club to his king.* As is clear, North cannot afford to overtake the club king with the ace, because that also will give you nine tricks. *And, if North allows South's club king to hold, Giorgio has only spades and dummy's ten will be your ninth trick.*

*In the second end position where Giorgio is holding on to 2-2-0-1, you cash the ten of spades as well (your trick number eight), discarding whatever suit North discards, and **then play a heart.*** Giorgio may get an undeserved spade trick all right, but your king of hearts *OR* the jack of clubs must make with the choice left to North!

Tell me, my dear reader, how many times do you or I get an opportunity to 'out-Duboin' Giorgio Duboin at the Bridge table? *What a great feeling of triumph it would be when you or I nullify his brilliant lead?*

WE WELCOME
ALL THE
PARTICIPANTS TO THE
HCL BRIDGE
TOURNAMENT 2008
&
WISH THEM
"BEST OF LUCK"

MEMOIRS OF PREVIOUS HCL BRIDGE TOURNAMENTS



J.P. Goenka's Team (Badal Das, Sumit Mukherjee, Shib Nath Dey Sarkar, Pritish Kushari & Alok Sadhu) - The Team of Four Winners with the Chief Guest – Mr. Kapil Dev, the famous Indian Cricketer (2005)



The PAK I Team (Abdul Rehman Allana, Tahir Masood, Khurshid Hadi, Munir Ataullah & Sarfaraz Khan) - The Team of Four Runner-up with the Chief Guest – Mr. Kapil Dev, the famous Indian Cricketer and Mrs. Kiran Nadar (2005)



The Chief Guest with Mrs. Kiran Nadar (2005 Edition)



Mr. Sunit Chokshi taking the Prize from the Chief Guest (2005 Edition)

Kiran:
Subhash, Can
we ever win
my own
tournament?



Subhash:
Let's hope
this time...

INVITATION

All participants are cordially invited for Cocktails & Dinner at the venue on Friday the 5th Sep 2008 at 2000 Hrs.

REQUEST TO PLAYERS

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

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Pick & Drop Bus facility is available to participants from HOTEL ROYALE PARK (Sector – 6), NOIDA.

For further information please contact Mr. PARESH GUPTA (09818599321) or the registration desk at the venue.

Entries For Pair Event

You are requested to give entries for "Open Pairs" latest by 1530 Hrs. on Friday (5th September 2008)

Entry Fee – Rs. 1200 (Per Pair) for first elimination & Rs. 800 from those qualified to play the 2nd elimination.



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. T.C. Pant.

NO SMOKING



Playing area is totally a "Non-Smoking" Zone. Please refrain from Smoking in the Playing Area.

LUNCH COUPONS

Participants will be provided their Lunch coupons each day on their tables itself.

IMPORTANT

Please keep your cell phones OFF or in SILENT mode, while the play is in progress. Director will impose penalties on players, whose cell is found ringing during play hours.

Tomorrow's Schedule (Friday, 5th Sep 2008)

0900 – 1530 Hrs. -	Registration for Pairs Tournament
0900 – 1015 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 7 of 10 boards – Actual draw)
1035 – 1150 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 8 of 10 boards – Actual draw)
1210 – 1325 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 9 of 10 boards – Actual draw)
1325 – 1415 Hrs. -	Lunch
1415 – 1530 Hrs. -	T-4 (Round 10 of 10 boards – On Actual draw)
1615 – 1815 Hrs. -	T-4 (Quarter Finals – Session 1 – 14 Boards)
1830 – 2030 Hrs. -	T-4 (Quarter Finals – Session 2 – 14 Boards)
1700 – 1945 Hrs. -	Pair Elimination 1 – Session 1 – 20 / 22 Boards
2000 Hrs. -	Cocktails & Dinner