

**ALL INDIA *HCL* BRIDGE TOURNAMENT**  
**4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
**HOTEL RADISSON, NOIDA**

*Under the auspices of*  
*Bridge Federation of India*

**Summary Report**

The 6<sup>th</sup> All India HCL Bridge Tournament was held at Hotel Radisson, NOIDA, India from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2008 under the auspices of **Bridge Federation of India**. With total prize money of Rupees 12.5 Lacs (approx. 30,000 USD), this tournament is currently the highest Prize Money Bridge Tournament of India.

The Tournament had 2 events - the Team of Four event for the "**Naresh Tandan Trophy**" and the Open Pairs event for the "**Neena Bonarji Trophy**".

As expected the response to the tournament was excellent with **72 teams** from all parts of India along with GIANTS team from Karachi, Pakistan participating in the Team of Four event. The Indian OPEN, SENIOR & YOUTH teams bound for Beijing, China for the 1<sup>st</sup> Mind Sports Games in October, also participated utilizing the opportunity to sharpen their skills playing against TOP Indian teams.

Texan Aces, Dhampur Sugar Mills, Formidables, Tolani Shipping, J.P. Goenka, Shree Cement, Wellknit, Sunil Machhar and Maya Meera Sneha were some of the top Indian teams which participated in this prestigious tournament.

**Team of Four Event for "Naresh Tandan Trophy":**

**Round Robin Stage:**

The event comprised of 10 rounds of round robin (each 10 boards) resulting in the top 8 teams to qualify for the quarterfinals.

At the end of first day (after 6 rounds), **SHREE CEMENT**, comprising of Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subroto Saha, Subir Majumder, Vibash Todi & S. Lahiri led the event with **124 VPs**. They beat Merrut Blue in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by 25-0; beat Transparent, Pune in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by 19-11; lost 14-16 to Maya Meera Sneha in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, beat Spartans by 24-6 in the 4<sup>th</sup> round, beat Punjab Bridge Association in the 5<sup>th</sup> round by 23-7 and beat Alok Daga by 19-11 in the 6<sup>th</sup> round to take the day's top honours.

**MAYA MEERA SNEHA** were in the second place with **122 VPs**. DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS & ARUN JAIN (117), RAJJAN, Allahabad (115), Texan Aces & Alok Dahga (111), Formidables & Sunil Machhar (107) were holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> positions respectively.

After playing 4 more rounds on the second day, **MAYA MEERA SNEHA** Team (Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, A. K. Mukherji, Yu Rong, C. S. Majumdar, Samir Basak) with **199 VPs**, topped the 10 rounds - Swiss league, to finalize the quarter-finalists. **DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS** (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, P. Kushari, D. Majumder, Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das) with **188 VPs** were second and the first day's leaders **SHREE CEMENT** with **183 VPs** were third. The quarter finalists were:

1.	<b>MAYA MEERA SNEHA</b>	-	<b>199 VPs</b>
2.	<b>DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS</b>	-	<b>188 VPs</b>
3.	<b>SHREE CEMENT</b>	-	<b>183 VPs</b>
4.	<b>BIMAL SICKA</b>	-	<b>182 VPs</b>
5.	<b>PROMILA SARAF</b>	-	<b>177 VPs</b>
6.	<b>TEXAN ACES</b>	-	<b>176 VPs</b>
7.	<b>SUNIL MACHHAR</b>	-	<b>175 VPs</b>
8.	<b>INDIA SENIORS</b>	-	<b>170 VPs</b>

There was a 3-way tie for the last place, which went in favour of INDIA SENIORS with multiple quotient of 27631. RAJJAN, ALLAHABAD (26348) & WELLKNIT (26087) had to satisfy for the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> positions. The final team rankings were as follows:

<b>RANK</b>	<b>TEAM NAME</b>	<b>V.P.s</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>TEAM NAME</b>	<b>V.P.s</b>
1	MAYA MEERA SNEHA	199	37	ONGC	147
2	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	188	38/39	LUCKNOW	146
3	SHREE CEMENT	183	38/39	MERRUT BLUE	146
4	BIMAL SICKA	182	40/42	PANKAJ MEHTA, MORADABAD	145
5	PROMILA SARAF	177	40/42	INDIAN YOUTH TEAM	145
6	TEXAN ACES	176	40/42	FRIENDS	145
7	SUNIL MACHHAR	175	43	PRADEEP PRAKASH	144
8	INDIA SENIORS	170	44	GUPTA'S TEAM, KARNATAKA	143
9	RAJJAN, ALLAHABAD	170	45/46	AMDABAD NANO	141
10	WELLKNIT	170	45/46	NAGBAGAN CARD CLUB	141
11	ALOK DAGA	169	47/53	INTERNATIONAL	140
12	KHANDELWALS	168	47/53	P.K. JANA	140
13	HEXAGON	166	47/53	KAMLESH GUPTA'S IV	140
14/15	GIANTS	165	47/53	JADON'S FOUR	140
14/15	RAJASTHANS PRIDE	165	47/53	PATRIOTS	140
16/18	MANGO	164	47/53	ALPHA	140
16/18	FORMIDABLES	164	47/53	SKY	140
16/18	TOLANI SHIPPING LTD.	164	54	APEX	137
19	ARUN JAIN	163	55	CEN. SEC. CLUB, NEW DELHI	136
20	TRANSPARENT, PUNE	162	56/57	PRAYAS	134
21	ESCAPE INDORE	161	56/57	KINNG	134
22/23	SHAHANA	160	58/59	ANGREZANDY	131
22/23	BEGINNERS R S	160	58/59	COSMOS	131
24/25	TEAM SECURE	159	60	PUNJAB BRIDGE ASSOCIATION	130
24/25	ACES	159	61	THE FORCE	128
26	J.P. GOENKA	158	62/63	HIMACHAL BRIDGE ASSOC.	127
27	PODDAR DEVELOPER	157	62/63	HIMACHAL TIGERS	127
28	WARDEKAR	156	64	DESIRE	126
29	CEN. SEC. CLUB (RCA)	155	65	SHASHI GUPTA	124
30	SPARTANS	154	66	ARNAB'S IV	123
31/32	ASHA	153	67	IOCL	122
31/32	RED KNIGHT, BANGALORE	153	68	AMATEURS	121
33	C.B.S. BILASPUR	152	69/70	I.K. KEJRIWAL	119
34	BOAT HOUSE CLUB LTD. NAIN	150	69/70	AJAY - FOUR	119
35/36	TITANS	149	71	SECL	99
35/36	KUMARASHMA	149	72	NBA BHC -3	93

Formidables, J.P. Goenka, Tolani Shipping, Wellknit, Poddar Developer, Arun Jain, Alok Daga & Khandelwals were some of the top teams, which did not qualify for the quarterfinals.

The qualified teams had the right to choose their opponents as per the priority of their ranking in the round robin stage. **The Quarterfinal line up was:**

- |           |                            |            |                      |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>MAYA MEERA SNEHA</b>    | <b>Vs.</b> | <b>PROMILA SARAF</b> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS</b> | <b>Vs.</b> | <b>INDIA SENIORS</b> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>SHREE CEMENT</b>        | <b>Vs.</b> | <b>SUNIL MACHHAR</b> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>BIMAL SICKA</b>         | <b>Vs.</b> | <b>TEXAN ACES</b>    |

### Quarterfinal Stage:

In the 3\*14 boards Quarter Finals, **MAYA MEERA SNEHA** beat PROMILA SARAF Team (Mrs. Promila Saraf, P. Sudhakara Rao, B. Venkateswarlu, Sankar Acharya, Mrinal Mukherjee, Gobind Singha) by 55 IMPs; **DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS** beat INDIA SENIORS team from (Maj. Surender Hooda, Ashok Vaidya, V.M. Lal, P.R. Bafna) by 62 IMPs, the opponents conceding the last set; **SUNIL MACHHAR** beat SHREE CEMENT team from Kolkata (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subroto Saha, Bibash Todi, S. Lahiri & Subir Majumder) by 100 IMPs and **TEXAN ACES** beat BIMAL SICKA (Jagdish Biswas, Sandip Dutta, Kamal Naguri, Dibyendu Shee, Tapan Roy, Swapan Some) by 24IMP. The scores:

Tbl#	Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards					TOTAL
				C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	Pen	
1	<b>MAYA MEERA SNEHA</b>	Vs	<b>PROMILA SARAF</b>	0-0	41-57	63-14	31-9	0-0	135-80
2	<b>DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS</b>	Vs	<b>INDIA SENIORS</b>	0-0	21-15	56-0	WD	0-0	77-15
3	<b>SHREE CEMENT</b>	Vs	<b>SUNIL MACHHAR</b>	1-0	22-55	17-45	28-68	0-0	68-168
4	<b>BIMAL SICKA</b>	Vs	<b>TEXAN ACES</b>	0-0	30-25	27-52	28-32	0-0	85-109

### Semi-final Stage:

The Semi final line up was: **MAYA MEERA SNEHA Vs. TEXAN ACES & DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS Vs. SUNIL MACHHAR.**

In the first of the 3\*16 boards semi-final, **TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M.. Shah, P. Sridharan, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari, B. Prabhakar)** beat MAYA MEERA SNEHA (Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, A. K. Mukherji, Yu Rong, C. S. Majumdar, Samir Basak) by **15 IMPs**. In the second semi-final, **SUNIL MACHHAR (Sunil Machhar, Anil Padhye, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Suhass Vaidya, Vinay Desai)** beat DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, P. Kushari, D. Majumder, Sumit Mukherjee, Badal Das) by **4 IMPs**. So today, we all hope to witness an interesting tussle in the 4\*16 boards **FINALS** of Team of Four event between **TEXAN ACES & SUNIL MACHHAR teams**. The semi-final scores:

Tbl #	Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards					TOTAL
				C/O	1-16	17-32	33-48	Pen	
1	<b>MAYA MEERA SNEHA</b>	Vs	<b>TEXAN ACES</b>	0-0	21-60	35-14	39-36	0-0	95-110
2	<b>DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS</b>	Vs	<b>SUNIL MACHHAR</b>	0-0	15-41	51-28	35-36	0-0	101-105

It was **TEXAN ACES Vs. SUNIL MACHHAR** in the 4\*16 boards FINALS of Team of Four event. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the history of the tournament that no Bengal team is in the finals. Earlier in 2004, the finalists were WELLKNIT & AGSAR PAINTS.

In the totally one-sided 4\*16 boards final, **TEXAN ACES** easily beat **SUNIL MACHHAR** by **102 IMPs**, with MACHHAR team conceding the match after 3 sessions. TEXAN ACES won the first set by 15 IMPs and consolidated their lead to 47 IMPs at the half-way stage. In the third set the TEXAN ACES completely overpowered their opponents winning the set by 55 IMPs and forcing the opponents to concede the match. The scores:

Team Name	Vs	Team Name	Boards						TOTAL
			C/O	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	Pen	
TEXAN ACES	Vs	SUNIL MACHHAR	0-0	50-35	38-06	56-01	WO	0-0	144-42

**Congratulations to the TEXAN ACES (G. Venkatesh, J.M. Shah, P. Sridharan, S. Sunderram, Rajeshwar Tewari, B. Prabhakar), for winning the "Naresh Tandan Trophy" for the Team of Four event and the first prize of Rs. 3 Lacs.** The loser **SUNIL MACHHAR (Sunil Machhar, Anil Padhye, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Suhas Vaidya, Vinay Desai)** received a prize of Rs. 1.5 Lacs.

The final rankings:

- 1 **TEXAN ACES**
- 2 **SUNIL MACHHAR**
- 3/4 **MAYA MEERA SNEHA**
- 3/4 **DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS**
- 5/8 **PROMILA SARAF**
- 5/8 **INDIA SENIORS**
- 5/8 **SHREE CEMENT**
- 5/8 **BIMAL SICKA**
- 9/10 **RAJJAN, ALLAHABAD**
- 9/10 **WELLKNIT**
- 11 **ALOK DAGA**
- 12 **KHANDELWALS**

The semi-finalists received a prize of Rs. 75,000 each and the quarter-finalists a prize of Rs. 50,000 each. The 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> position teams received a prize of Rs. 15,000 each.

### **OPEN PAIRS Event for "Neena Bonerjee Trophy"**

A record 170 pairs participated in the Open Pairs event. These pairs went through two grueling eliminations rounds.

**Elimination – 1:** 150 Pairs (excluding the qualified pairs for the T-4 event) participated in the first elimination round. They were put in six sections and after playing 2 sessions of 22 boards each, 62 qualified Pairs went through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> elimination round. The toppers in their respective sections were:

#### **Combined Section A & B**

##### **North-South (52 Pairs)**

- |                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. ARD Sequeira – Arun Bapat     | 570.55 |
| 2. Dr. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja | 534.74 |

**East West (52 Pairs)**

1. K. Bhattacharya–Debashis Bose 555.26
2. Jayanto Sarkar – Dibyendu Das 538.76

**Combined Section C & D****North-South (52 Pairs)**

1. N.P. Kabiraj – A. Ganguly 562.38
2. Dr. K.L. Bandi – Ramesh Agrawal 530.38

**East West (52 Pairs)**

1. P. Roy – B. Roy 571.76
2. J.B. Sengupta – R.C. Consul 554.86

**Combined Section E & F (48 Pairs)****North-South (44 Pairs)**

1. Murli Manohar – Alok Sinha 524.74
2. Masood Mazhar – Hamed Mohiuddin 516.42

**East West (48 Pairs)**

1. S.P. Ghose – A. Daga 536.62
2. Prabir Kr. Paul – A. Bhattacharya 511.85

**Elimination – 2:** The 62 qualifiers were joined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> elimination round by the 10 losing quarterfinalist pairs of the team event. The 72 pairs were put into 3 sections and played a 2-session (22 boards each) elimination round from which the top 12 NS & 12 EW pairs qualified for the Pairs Finals.

After the first session Subhash Gupta – Rajesh Dalal (67.12%) and H. Bos – B. Berkers (61.36%) were leading in the North-South & East-West positions respectively. The 24 qualifiers to the finals were:

North-South:			East-West		
1	Subhash Gupta - Rajesh Dalal	833.12	1	Alok Sadhu - Keyzad Ankleswaria	850.70
2	D K Tiwari - P C Gupta	820.90	2	H Bos - B Berkers	839.64
3	B K Agrawal - V K Agarwal	795.95	3	Venkataraman - Sunit Choksi	829.33
4	S Saha - S Lahiri	792.80	4	R Krishnan - R Venkatesh	804.37
5	Dr. Asha Surana - R S Jasuja	787.75	5	S Sadhak - S Majumder	802.64
6	Sudhir Aggarwal - Vinod Sharma	785.51	6	Manas Mukherjee - Rana Roy	799.94
7	A S Gupta - V Krishnan	785.51	7	R P Aeron - R B Goyal	785.91
8	Tapas Mukherji - Swapan Dey	781.90	8	Anurag Mahota - Pravin Kashlekar	768.38
9	Masood Mazhar - Hamed Moiuddin	770.24	9	S P Ghose - A Daga	758.34
10	Gobind Singha - V Todi	768.13	10	Jitesh Agrawal - Dr. Anil	756.80
11	Kr. Vijayanand Singh - S Behuria	765.40	11	D Santra - A B Chakraborty	735.60
12	K Chandermouli - C M Vasudev	762.36	12	Indresh Agrawal- Pradeep A Singh	732.37

The qualifiers were joined by the six losing semi-finalists pairs and 2 pairs of Sponsor's quota to constitute the final 32 for the FINALS.

**Open Pairs Final:** The 32 Pairs played 2 boards against each other in the 2-session all-play-all final.

The leaders at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> session (32 boards with top on a board 15) were:

<b>1</b>	<b>Gobind Singha - Vibhas Todi</b>	<b>296.86</b>	<b>61.85%</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Alok Sadhu - Keyzad Ankleswaria</b>	<b>295.54</b>	<b>61.57%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Subrota Saha - Satyabrata Lahiri</b>	<b>275.38</b>	<b>57.37%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sukamal Das - Vijay Goel</b>	<b>275.33</b>	<b>57.36%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>K R Venkataraman - Sunit Choksi</b>	<b>271.17</b>	<b>56.49%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Ashim Mukherjee - Yu Rong</b>	<b>269.74</b>	<b>56.20%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Dipak Santra - A B Chakraborty</b>	<b>267.74</b>	<b>55.74%</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Kiran Nadar - B Satyanarayana</b>	<b>265.62</b>	<b>55.34%</b>

**Subroto Saha – Satyabrata Lahiri** scored an excellent 56.89% score in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session (30 boards) to win the open pairs event for **“Neena Bonarji Trophy” and the first prize of Rs. 1.25 Lacs.** Sudhir Aggarwal – Vinod Sharma who were not in the TOP 8 in the first session, scored an emphatic 58.33% to top the second session and jump to the second position and a prize of Rs. 80,000/-.

### The final ranking:

Rank	Pair Name	Score	Rank	Pair Name	Score
<b>1</b>	<b>Subrata Saha - Satyabrata Lahiri</b>	<b>531.38</b>	17	Asha Surana - R S Jasuja	460.26
<b>2</b>	<b>Sudhir Aggarwal - Vinod Sharma</b>	<b>517.76</b>	18	H Bos - B Berkers	459.46
<b>3</b>	<b>Debabrata Majumdar - Pritish Kushari</b>	<b>515.43</b>	19	Badal Das - Sumit Mukherjee	451.46
<b>4</b>	<b>Gobind Singha - Vibhas Todi</b>	<b>511.86</b>	20	P R Bafna - V M Lal	451.04
<b>5</b>	<b>Kiran Nadar - B Satyanarayana</b>	<b>505.62</b>	21	B K Agrawal - V K Agarwal	450.76
<b>6</b>	<b>Alok Sadhu -Keyzad Ankleswaria</b>	<b>498.04</b>	22	Vijay Anand Singh - S Behuria	450.60
<b>7</b>	<b>Sukamal Das - Vijay Goel</b>	<b>497.83</b>	23	Sujit Sadhak - Sanjiv Majumder	449.10
<b>8</b>	<b>Dipak Santra - A B Chakraborty</b>	<b>494.24</b>	24	R Krishnan - R Venkatesh	446.46
9	Tapas Mukherji - Swapan Dey	491.24	25	Jitesh Agrawal - Anil Vijaybhargia	442.11
10	K R Venkataraman - Sunit Choksi	488.67	26	D K Tiwari - P C Gupta	440.62
11	Ashim Mukherjee - Yu Rong	486.24	27	S P Ghose - Alok Daga	434.47
12	Manas Mukherjee - Rana Roy	483.00	28	Ashok Kumar Goel - Kamal Mukherjee	430.04
13	C S Majumdar - Samir Basak	475.57	29	Anurag Mohota - Pravin Kachelkar	427.14
14	Indresh Agrawal - Pradeep A Singh	475.40	30	T C Pant - Sunil Bhatia	418.46
15	Subhash Gupta - Rajesh Dalal	470.26	31	Masood Mazhar - Hamed Mouiddin	392.07
16	K Chandermouli - C M Vasudev	462.03	32	R P Airon - R B Goyal	376.38

### CONSOLATION PAIR EVENTS

36 Pairs participated in the Consolation pair event held on 6<sup>th</sup> afternoon for non-qualifiers. There were total 6 prizes totaling Rs. 11,500. The winners were:

<b>1. SR Malhotra – YP Punj</b>	<b>(Rs. 5000)</b>
<b>2. Namit Sharma – Alok Kumar</b>	<b>(Rs. 3000)</b>
<b>3. Arun Jain – Prasun Kr. Mukherjee</b>	<b>(Rs. 2000)</b>
<b>4. R.K. Mazumder – Arup Dutta</b>	<b>(Rs. 1000)</b>
<b>5. Arijit Hazara – Soumya Das</b>	<b>(Rs. 500)</b>

The prize distribution function was graced by Mr. Shiv Nadar, the HCL supremo.

**(Reported by T.C. Pant)**