

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

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Congratulations to Formidables & MICSS Teams They will represent India at BFAME & Bermuda Bowl 2005

Indian Selection Trials 2005 - Open Teams

The selection trials for choosing the Indian open team to represent the country in the Bermuda Bowl 2005, to be held at Estoril, Portugal from 22nd Oct to 5th Nov 2005 was played at Chennai from 26th Feb 2005 to 2nd Mar 2005.

Railways, who had won nearly all the TOP tournaments of 2004 and also represented the country in the 2004 Bridge Olympiad, were seeded directly to the finals. The teams challenging Railways in the selection trials were Formidables, Agsar Paints, Dhampur Sugar Mills & Wellknit. As already detailed in the last Newsletter, Formidables beat Agsar Paints by 11 Imps in the 64 boards semi-final to play the 96 boards Finals (6 * 16 boards) against Indian Railways on 1st & 2nd Mar 2005.

The final started well for the Formidables team, who won the first set 37-16. They consolidated their position by winning the second set 10-5. However, Railways came back strongly in the last set of first day and not only cleared their deficit of 26 IMPs, but took a lead of 13 IMPs by taking the 3rd set 52-13.

On the second day, Formidables came back with a bang and took the 4th set by 40-13, again taking a 14 IMPs lead. They added another 7 IMPs (41-34) in the 5th set and it came to the final 16 boards, with Formidables leading with 21 IMPs. Railways tried very hard in the last set but Formidables were not going to give it up that easily after coming so close to winning. The 14-14 score of the last set meant that FORMIDABLES became the new champ.

They will first represent India in the 13th BFAME Championships 2005 event to be held from 28th Apr to 7th May 2005 at Dhaka. The BFAME winners and the runners-up will represent their countries from WBF Zone-4 in the BERMUDA BOWL 2005, to be played at Estoril, Portugal in October 2005. The final score:

Team Name	Boards 1-16	Boards 17-32	Boards 33-48	Boards 49-64	Boards 65-80	Boards 81-96	Total
FORMIDABLES	37	10	13	40	41	14	155
INDIAN RAILWAYS	16	05	52	13	34	14	134

The winning **FORMIDABLES** team is represented by Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tiwari, K.R. Venkatraman & Sunit Chokshi. The runner-up Railways team is represented by Pritish Kushari, Sumit Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Manas Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee & Hasibul Hasan.

Indian Selection Trials 2005 - Women's Teams

4 Teams (Hema Deora's, MICSS, Chennai & Manyvar) entered the Selection trials for choosing the Ladies Team to represent India. After a double round robin, MICSS & Manyvar met in the 64 boards finals. It was an exciting & thrilling final and MICSS (Bimal Sicka, Feroza Chothia, Indira Sonawalla, Shaila Mahajan, Geeta Lakhani & Amita Raithathe) beat Manyvar by one IMP. They will represent India at BFAME.

- Reported by Editor

Forcing Notrump (Part – 3)

Last month we discussed briefly, the re-bids of opener and responder playing Forcing Notrump. We continue our discussion on special sequences, which we would like to recommend for serious partnerships.

C) Rebids by Opener after responder rebids 2NT

The responder's rebid of 2NT shows a balanced or semi-balanced invitational hand with 10-12 HCP. The opener now can decide to play in a part-score or game in a particular denomination. In certain hands opener will need responder's cooperation to make a decision after opener describes his hand to responder. There are basically five sequences which are possible:

- 1) 1H-1NT-2C-2NT-? 2) 1H-1NT-2D-2NT-?
 3) 1S-1NT-2C-2NT-? 4) 1S-1NT-2D-2NT-? 5) 1S-1NT-2H-2NT-?

The types of hand which opener can hold fall broadly into five types:

Minimum opening hands (where opener wants to sign-off) : 1. 5-5 distribution 2. 6-4 distribution
 Game Forcing hands : 3. 5-5 distribution 4. 6-4 distribution and 5. 5-4-3-1 type distribution

Playing normal methods it is not possible to show all these type of hands at the right level. Our general recommendation is what we call : **Weak minor and strong major** i.e. whenever opener rebids his minor he shows a weak hand of 5-5 distribution wanting to play in a part-score. When opener rebids his original major he shows 6-4 distribution GF hand and if he rebids his second major, he shows 5-5 distribution GF. To show other types of hands containing Fragment we generally use new minor as a puppet and for weak 6-4 hands (second suit minor) opener must transfer into his original major. The complete structure is as follows:

1H-1NT-2C-2NT- ? 3C = 5-5 to play 3D = Puppet to 3H, After 3H Pass = 6-4 Weak 3S = 5-5 GF 3N = D Fragment (1-5-3-4) 3H = 6-4 Game Forcing 3S = Fragment (3-5-1-4), GF	1S-1NT-2C-2NT- ? 3C = 5-5 to play 3D = Puppet to 3H, After 3H 3S = 5-5 GF 3N = D Fragment (5-1-3-4) 3H = Puppet to 3S, After 3S Pass = 6-4 Weak 3N = H Fragment (5-3-1-4) 3S = 6-4 Game Forcing	1S-1NT-2H-2NT- ? 3C = Puppet to 3D, After 3D 3H = 5-5 Weak 3S = 6-4 Weak 3N = C Fragment (5-4-1-3) 3D = D Fragment (5-4-3-1), GF 3H = 5-5 Game Forcing 3S = 6-4 Game Forcing
1H-1NT-2D-2NT-? 3C = Puppet to 3D, After 3D 3H = 6-4 Weak 3S = 5-5 GF 3N = C Fragment (1-5-4-3) 3D = 5-5 to play 3H = 6-4 Game Forcing 3S = S Fragment (3-5-1-4), GF	1S-1NT-2D-2NT-? 3C = Puppet to 3D, After 3D 3H = H Fragment (5-3-1-4) 3S = 5-5 GF 3N = C Fragment (1-5-4-3) 3D = 5-5 to play 3H = Puppet to 3S, to play 3S = 6-4 Game Forcing	Important : Whenever opener's second suit is a minor – the new minor bid is a puppet and after puppet the rebid of 3S by opener shows 5-5 Game Forcing hand and 3NT shows minor suit Fragment.

D) Rebids by Responder after Opener raises the Forcing Notrump

When opener raises the Forcing Notrump, he promises balanced hand containing 18 – 19 HCP. The further bidding can be natural however we recommend transfer bids. The transfer bid allows responder to control the auction and stop in a part-score. Also on many hands it will make opener (the stronger hand) declarer.

- **All suit bids**, at the three level are transfers including bidding the opener's major.
- **Transfer to opener's major**, shows 3-card support. If responder then bids 3NT, shows scattered values and gives opener the choice of game contract. If after transfer responder bids a new suit, he shows a good side suit and 3-card limit raise values. After transfer bidding 4major is to play.
- **Jump to 4 of opener's major**, shows a balanced 3-card limit raise hand without a side suit.
- **3NT**, is natural to play.

The above suggested methods although artificial are quite effective. In our next bulletin we will cover rebids by responder after opener rebids his major suit at two level.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event - Results

01/03/2005 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Daya Dhaon – Suraj Jain	63.92%
NS 2: Amod Rele – Sudhir Aggarwal	56.90%
EW 1: Ujjwal Gupta – Mrs. Sushma Gupta	63.68%
EW 2: Joyjit Sen Sharma – A.K. Jha	58.96%

08/03/2005 – 10 Tables

NS 1: Prog. S.C. Gupta – Mrs. Mani Gupta	63.58%
NS 2: Alok Kumar – Pradeep Agrawal	62.22%
NS 3: D.K. Tewari – R.C. Consul	60.06%
EW 1: Vinay Bansal – A.M. Prasad	57.93%
EW 2: D.K. Mutreja – A. Mandal	57.23%
EW 3: S.K. Uppal – Suresh Kumar	56.30%

15/03/2005 – 14 Tables

NS 1: D.P. Sharma – Mrs. Asha Sharma	68.50%
NS 2: V.N. Puri – Duleep Mutreja	57.13%
NS 3: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – M.P. Agarwala	55.36%
EW 1: S.N. Mathur – M.S. Sharma	67.33%
EW 2: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	57.76%
EW 3: Vinay K. Bansal – Sanjay Agrawal	56.91%

22/03/2005 – 10 Tables

NS 1: Amarjit Wadhawan – Narvir Singh	63.51%
NS 2: Shashi Jain – Mrs. Suman Bansidhar	55.06%
EW 1: A.K. Sinha – R.C. Aggarwal	62.81%
EW 2: V. Ravindran - Joy Sen Sharma	61.00%

29/03/2005 – 12 Tables

NS 1: Amod Rele – Sudhir Aggarwal	74.62%
NS 2: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – M.P. Agarwala	55.56%
EW 1: Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja	63.61%
EW 2: Subhash Gupta – Joy Sen Sharma	61.07%

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

19/03/2005 – 8 Teams

1. **P.C. Gupta** – (P.C. Gupta, D.K. Tewari, V.N. Puri, R. Chakravarty)
2. **A.K. Jha** – (A.K. Jha, A.K. Ghosh, S. Dharni, D.K. Mutreja)

AILBA - Weekly Pair Event Results

04/03/2005 - 26 Pairs

1. Mrs. Meera Khurana – R.C. Tandon
2. P.K. Rajgariah – Ujjwal Gupta
3. T. N. Krishnamurty – P.C. Gupta
4. Mrs. Rajeshwari Gupta – Mrs. Sushma Gupta
5. Mrs. Kity Varshnei – Mrs. Roopa Kochar

11/03/2005 - 13 Tables

- NS 1: Suraj Jain – Daya Dhaon
 NS 2: Mrs. Nina Thadani – Aditya Prasad
 NS 3: Mrs. Urmil Agarwal – Mrs. Brij Judge
 EW 1: S.K. Agarwal – S.A. Bijlani
 EW 2: Mrs. Rekha Sarin – Miss P.N.R. Ostby
 EW 3: Mrs. Rajeshwari Gupta – N.K. Jain

18/03/2005 - 8 Tables

- NS 1: D.D. Gulhati – Aditya Prasad
 NS 2: Mrs. Shashi Jain – S.A. Bijlani
 EW 1: Mrs. Suman Bansidhar – N.K. Jain
 EW 2: Amarjit Wadhawan – Narvir Singh

23/03/2005 - 7 Tables

- NS 1: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – N.K. Jain
 NS 2: Suraj Jain – Daya Dhaon
 EW 1: Mrs. Promila Saraf – R.M. Gupta
 EW 2: Mrs. Asha Sharma – D.P. Sharma

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA



Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant & Subhash Gupta at
Balijee Tournament in Lahore



Secretary, DBA and T.C. Pant with
Mr. Mazhar Jafri, Vice President, WBF

All India Rama Jain Tournament

The 24th Mrs. Rama Jain memorial Times National Bridge Championship was held at Delhi Bridge Association (DBA) Building, New Delhi on 5th & 6th March 2005. In all 44 Pairs from 16 states participated in the event. Shri Prasanna Hota, Secretary of the Ministry of Health & Family welfare inaugurated the event. Addressing the bridge fraternity the DBA President, Shri M.D. Dalmiya recalled that Mrs. Rama Jain herself was an excellent bridge player.

The tournament was played over 2 days in 4 sessions. All the 44 pairs played 2 boards against each opponent. The leaders after first session (20 boards – with top 21) were Ashok Goel – Sandeep Thakral (Times Sponsor pair) with a score of 261.95 (62.37%). Second were Sandeep Saha – Pradeep Saha with a score of 258.08 (61.45%).

The pair of Keizad Anklesaria & Sapan Desai scored a massive 74.03% score (342 in 22 boards) in the second session. The Karnataka pair of Uttam Gupta – Sheikh Naimuddin was 2nd with a score of 315 (68.18%). The leaders at the end of first day (after 2 sessions i.e 42 boards) were Keizad Anklesaria–Sapan Desai (Guj) - 582.39, Uttam Gupta – S. Naimuddin (Kar)- 537.71 & B.S. Pradhan – B.K. Patnaik (Orissa) - 527.11.

Subhash Gupta – Sunit Chokshi (Times Sponsor pair) won the 3rd set with a score of 309.94 (67.09%). 2nd position was taken by V.M. Lal – Raju Tolani of Maharashtra with a score of 302.33 (65.44%).

Keizad Anklesaria – Sapan Desai were able to retain their top position with a score of 833.45 at the end of 3rd session. Trailing behind them was Uttam Gupta – S. Naimuddin with a score of 808.84. 3rd was Subhash Gupta – Sunit Chokshi with 784.26.

D.N. Lenka – B.M. Behera (from Orissa) won the last set with a score of 317.00 (68.61%). Another Orissa pair B.S. Pradhan – B.K. Patnaik came 2nd with a score of 289.00 (62.55%).

The leaders could get a score of only 240 (51.95%) and were pushed to 2nd position by the Karnataka pair of Uttam Gupta – S. Naimuddin, who scored 273 points (59.09%) in the last set. The final rankings (after 86 boards):

1. Uttam Gupta – S. Naimuddin (Kar) - 1081.84
2. Keizad Anklesaria–Sapan Desai (Guj) - 1073.45
3. Ashok Goel – Sandeep Thakral - 1048.51
4. J. Pratihari – A. Rout (Orissa) - 1038.96
5. Subhash Gupta – Sunit Chokshi - 1033.76
6. V.M. Lal – Raju Tolani (Maharashtra) - 1029.75
7. B.S. Pradhan – B.K. Patnaik (Orissa) - 1019.28
8. Kiran Nadar – B. Satyanarayana - 1017.92
9. Sunil Machhar –Ashok Kulkarni (Mah) - 1011.73

Shri Kamalakara Rao, President BFI graced the occasion. Shri M.D. Dalmia, President – DBA, gave away the prizes to the winners. **Heartiest Congratulations to all the Winners.**

- Reported by Editor

Selection Trials at DBA for Summer Nationals (Team of Four)

The selection trials for representing Delhi team at the Summer Nationals for T.P. Khosla Trophy (Team of Four) were held at DBA on 12th & 13th March.

13 Teams participated for the selection trials and played an all play all round robin. After completion of round robin (13 rounds with one bye round of 8 boards each), the following TOP 4 teams went through to the Semi-finals.

1. ACES - 241 VPs
2. COSMOS - 236 VPs
3. SHAM SHARMA's Team - 232 VPs
4. Dr. ASHWANI MEHTA's Team - 217 VPs

The line up for the 24 boards (3*8 boards per session) semi-finals was:

ACES Vs. Dr. Ashwani Mehta's team
COSMOS Vs. Sham Sharma's team.

In the first semi-final, ACES beat Dr. Ashwani Mehta's team by 3 IMPs (47-44) in a tough match. ACES won the first set 19-6 but Ashwani's team recovered 3 IMPs in the 2nd by winning the set 12-15. Trailing by 10 IMPs before the final set, Ashwani's team tried their best but could only recover 7 IMPs, when they won the last set 23-16. Ashwani's team was represented by Dr. Ashwani Mehta, Sunil Bhatia, N.K. Gupta, Ashok Bedi, Vijay Goel & Sukamal Das.

In the second semi-final, COSMOS beat Sham Sharma's team by 29 IMPs (68-39). Sham Sharma's team started well by taking the first set 31-20. However, COSMOS recovered well and took the second set by 29-3 to take a lead of 15 IMPs with last set to go. They consolidated their position in the third set by taking the set 19-5 for a comfortable 29 IMPs victory and a place in the FINALS. Sham Sharma's team was represented by Sham Sharma, P.C. Gupta, D.K. Tewari, N.K. Jain, R.C. Consul & J. B. Sengupta.

The 3*10 boards final was played between ACES & COSMOS teams on 13th March 2005 from 1800 Hrs. onwards.

COSMOS took a 7 IMPs (27-20) lead in the first set, but ACES came back winning the second set by 37-20 and taking a 10 IMPs lead before the final set. The final set was turned out to be totally one sided when ACES trounced their opponent by 40-4 in the third set to win the finals comfortably by 46 IMPs (97-51). The COSMOS team was represented by Joyjit Sen Sharma, Duleep Mutreja, Amarjit Wadhawan, A.K. Narang, Anukool Mandal & Rajesh Jain.

The ACES team represented by Subhash Gupta, Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant, Sudhir Aggarwal & Amod Rele will represent DELHI in the T-4 event of the Summer Nationals 2005 at JAIPUR for T.P. Khosla Trophy.

Heartiest Congratulations to all the Winners.

- Reported by Editor

Vasant Vihar Club Tournament

Vasant Vihar Club organized their Annual Bridge Tournament at the club premises on Sunday the 28th March 2005. Sponsored by Jaypee group, the tournament had 2 events. A Mixed Pairs event was played before noon and an open Pairs event was played in the afternoon. The results are as follows:

Results – Mixed Pairs (Total 30 Pairs):

- Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja 65.87%
- Mrs. Asha Sehgal – T.C. Pant 61.08%
- Mrs. Beneeta Chandra –S. Aggarwal 58.98%
- Mrs. Vimla Jain – Narendra Chopra 56.77%
- Mrs. Madhu Kochar – M.P. Agarwala 54.19%
- Malti Kapoor – S.J. Singh 53.56%
- Mrs Kunti Thakur - Narvir Singh 52.85%
- Mrs. (Dr.) Nikita Kamal - Amarjit 52.58%
- Mrs. Mani Gupta – Prof. S.C. Gupta 52.22%
- Mrs. Chitra Naraindas–Dr. R.L.Sanghi 51.60%

Results – Open Pairs (Total 34 Pairs):

- Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Narvir Singh 62.65%
- Mrs. Shashi Jain – Ajay Sinha 59.15%
- Sukamal Das – Vijay Goel 59.00%
- C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani 57.13%
- Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja 55.73%
- Daya Dhaon – Sanjiv Bery 55.67%
- P.C. Gupta – D.K. Tiwari 55.65%
- Ravi Sawhney – S. Sunderrajan 54.99%
- Hans Verma – Bidani 54.70%
- T.C. Pant – R.C. Consul 53.55%

The event was very well organized and well conducted by Mr. S.N. Mathur & Mr. J.S. Anand.

Dr. Gupta, the President of Vasant Vihar Club and Mr. S.G. Bose Mullick gave away the prizes to the winners.

Heartiest Congratulations to all the Winners.

- Reported by Editor



**Indian Players at Wagah Border
For the Balijee Tournament at Lahore**

Interesting Deal From RAMA JAIN Bridge Tournament

Board: 30, Dir: East, Vul: None

	♠ A9862 ♥ AK94 ♦ K ♣ KJ6	
♠ Q5 ♥ T86 ♦ 7653 ♣ Q853	N W E S	♠ JT43 ♥ J532 ♦ QT8 ♣ 74
	♠ K7 ♥ Q7 ♦ AJ942 ♣ AT92	

The bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1D (1)
Pass	1S	Pass	2C
Pass	2H	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

(1) – Precision 11-15 HCP with min. 2 carder ♦

The bidding may have differed a bit, but mostly all the pairs played the hand in 6NT with South as declarer. However, there were a few pairs who played in 6NT from North side. In one case, where the declarer played from North, he received the Club 7 lead, giving him enough hints to take the club finesse and get 4 club tricks. East got squeezed immediately, and had to give either a spade or a heart trick for declarer to score his 12 tricks.

But at most of the places, the lead was ♥10 by West. On this lead South takes the trick with ♥Q, plays to the ♣K and to ♣9, losing to the queen. Now West may continue with heart or may shift to ♠Q. The hand always makes now as East gets automatically squeezed. If West continues with heart you should cash the Ace & King of Hearts and play the clubs. The last six card position is South: K7,-,AJ94,-; North: A986,9,K,-; West: Q5,-,7653,-. East can either keep JT,J,QT8,- giving all spade trick or if he throws a heart, declarer can come up with the DK and cash the good heart on which East again gets squeezed in diamonds and spades. The key play is to retain the ♦K as entry. In case West shifts to spade, take with Ace of Spade, play clubs and the last 7 cards position is South: K,7,AJ9xx,-; North: 986,AK9,K,-; West: Q,86,7653,-. If East keeps J, Jxx, Q10x,- all spades are good and declarer can discard the heart on Ace of Diamond. If he keeps 2 spades, he gets squeezed when the 4th heart trick is played.

However if the initial lead is ♠Q, the squeeze is no more there and the contract makes only if the declarer takes the club finesse correctly.

- Reported by Editor

INTERESTING DEALS

Indian Selection Trials @ Chennai

The following interesting hand came in the semi-final match between Formidables & Agsar Paints on 28th Feb 2005.

	♠ AJx ♥ T87xx ♦ x ♣ QTxx		
♠ Qx ♥ KQJxxxx ♦ KQJxxxx ♣ Jxxx	N W E S	♠ Kx ♥ AJ9xxx ♦ xx ♣ Kxx	
	♠ T9xxxx ♥ KQ ♦ Axx ♣ Ax		

West	North	East	South
2D	3D	1H	1S
All Pass		Pass	4S

South bid 1S over East's 1H and raised it to game when partner showed a good fit. The lead was ♦K taken by Ace in hand. Seeing the dummy it was clear that West does not have hearts and now the contract depends on how to avoid giving the lead to East so that he can not give a heart ruff to partner.

If you play a trump to Ace and a low trump, the ruff can be avoided but then you will have a extra diamond loser beside the sure shot spade, a heart and a club loser, as you can not ruff it on table nor it can be discarded.

The winning play was to assume the ♣K with East and ♣J with West. You can now play a spade to the Ace and play ♠Q from dummy. If South does not cover, your club loser goes and if he covers take it with Ace and play a low club towards the ten. West can take the ♠J, and whatever he returns, you have the control to discard one diamond on the ♣10 and one can be ruffed to make the contract.

The 2nd Hand is from the FINAL between Railways & Formidables.

	♠ AQxxx ♥ J ♦ Axx ♣ J7xx		
♠ KTxx ♥ Txxxxx ♦ KTxx ♣	N W E S	♠ Jx ♥ KQ8x ♦ Qxx ♣ QTxx	
	♠ xx ♥ A9x ♦ J9x ♣ AK98x		

As North-South, Kushari – Sumit Mukherjee of Railways reached the excellent contract of 5C in the open room. The lead was ♦2 won by East with ♦Q. If East returns a diamond, declarer has no play as he has to give 2 diamonds and a club unless declarer can take the impossible first time finesse of ♣J or ♣7. East (Sunit) however switched to a club and South hopped up with the Ace getting the bad news in clubs. The play requires perfect timing now for making the contract.

After taking the ♣A, play a spade to the Queen and cash the spade Ace. Now play a spade from dummy. If East ruffs low, you can overruff and if he ruffs with either ♣Q or ♣10, you can discard a diamond from hand. At best he can play another club to reduce your trumps, but now you are in control as you can ruff both the hearts in dummy and a diamond in hand.

To avoid this, East may be discarding a diamond or a heart on the 3rd spade. In this case, you can ruff small in hand and play the suit which is being discarded i.e. if East discards a diamond, immediately play a diamond to the Ace and play the 4th spade. If East ruffs high, you can discard the losing diamond otherwise ruff low and now play a heart and ruff a heart in the dummy. East will have no answer, when you play the winner 5th spade and you will be able to score your contract.

Unluckily South mistimed and went down one.

In the Closed room the bidding was:

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

(1) - Relay (2) – Max. 14 HCP (3) – Further enquiry of the distribution of hand

West led a small heart won by East with the ♥Q and it seemed that the contract will go down. However, East led back a low heart blocking the heart suit in his hand, when declarer played the ♥9.

West continued with the hearts and declarer after taking the Ace, played the ♣A and after getting the bad break, played a low club to the Jack in dummy. East took with the queen and cashed the 4th heart. Declarer now has only 8 tricks (2 spades, a heart, a diamond & 4 clubs) and the contract would have gone down but for East, who again faltered and instead of returning diamond, returned a passive club.

Declarer ran all his clubs and in the last 4-card position poor West not knowing the diamond position got pseudo squeezed in Spades and diamonds. He kept the ♦K discarding a spade and declarer was through after taking the spade finesse.

- Reported by Editor

Balijee International Bridge Championship

A REPORT

The 8th Balijee Bridge Tournament was organised at Lahore Gymkhana Club, Lahore, Pakistan from 20th to 23rd March 2005. The tournament is hosted by Mr. Ajaz Ahmed, the Chairman of Yummy Milk Products (Pvt) Ltd. and the sponsors of this event in memory of his beloved father – Mr. Mohammad Iqbal, who loved the game of Bridge and was known as “Balijee” in Bridge circle.

The Punjab Bridge Association had sent invitation to teams from Delhi Bridge Association (DBA) & Delhi Gymkhana Club and it was heartening to see the keenness of players from Delhi to visit Lahore for this tournament. In all 6 teams from India (Formidables – the team which is going to represent India in BFAME, 3 teams from DBA and 2 teams from Delhi Gymkhana) participated in this tournament.

The contingent of Delhi players consisted of players from DBA - Mr. R.R. Gupta, Mr. S.N. Mathur, Mr. Hans Verma, Mr. R.K. Gupta, Maj. Gen. A.L. Suri, Dr. R.L. Sanghi, Mr. Paresh Gupta, Mr. T.C. Pant, Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal, Mr. Sham Sharma, Mr. M.S. Sharma, Mrs. Rajkumari Agarwal, Mrs. Rashmi Agrawal, Dr. Usha Thakur Kothari. The chief-de-mission was Mr. R.R. Gupta. The Gymkhana Club was represented by Mr. Ambuj Jain, Mr. Arun Kumar, Mrs. Urmil Agarwal, Mrs. Beneeta Chandra, Mr. Ashok Singh, Brig. R.N. Batra, Mr. Anand Virmani, Mr. Ravi Sawhney, Mrs. Veena Vishwanathan, Mrs. Brij Judge, Mrs. Rita Choksi, Mr. Kawaljit Singh, Mr. Deepak Prakash & Mr. A.R. Anand. The Formidables team was represented by Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Mr. B. Satyanarayana, Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. Raju Tolani, Mr. Sunit Chokshi & Mr. K.R. Venkatraman.

Most of the players preferred to go to Lahore via the Wagah border. The Indian contingent got the taste of Lahori hospitality from Wagah border itself, where the organizers had arranged for a bus, which took us to Lahore. The Sunfort Hotel in the Liberty Market area, where we all were put up (again courtesy Lahore Gymkhana) was very very comfortable.

The tournament started on 20th March with a 3-session Pair event in which 76 Pairs took part. Mr. Ihsan Qadir, the Chief Tournament Director in his message to all the players specifically mentioned about the need to promote friendship and harmony through Bridge and asked them to work towards the “Bridge for Peace” slogan of WBF President

The leaders at the end of first session of Pairs were Subhash Gupta – K.R. Venkatraman from India (387). They were followed by Sultan Siddique – Rashid Jafer (355.5) from Karachi, Sudhir Aggarwal – Paresh Gupta (348.5) from Delhi.

The second session started after a sumptuous lunch hosted by the host at his residence. It also gave chance to all the Indian players to intermingle with



The Host talking to the Players at the lunch party

their hosts and Pakistan Bridge fraternity and make new friends. The warmth and hospitality of Lahorians made all of us feel at home.

Subhash – Venky must have enjoyed their Biryani too much as they ate all their opponents in the second session and had a lead of more than 100 points at the end of second session. The leaders at the end of 2nd session were: Subhash Gupta – K. R. Venkatraman (766.20), Sultan Siddiqui – Rashid Jafer (674.43), Gulzar Bilal – Perwaiz Mirza (663.00), Fehmina Hussain – Tahir Abbas (635.93) & Sudhir Aggarwal – Paresh Gupta (626.63).

The 2nd day started with the last session of Pairs and it was quite thrilling as most of the pairs made their last efforts to overcome the deficit of the earlier sessions. However, it didn't surprise anyone, when Subhash – Venky from India were declared the final winners of the Pair event. Their performance throughout the 3 session event was so consistent that there was a difference of 100 points (more than 3 boards) between them and the second position holder. The final standings were:

1. Subhash Gupta – K.R. Venkatraman 1105.20
2. Pervaiz Mirza – Gulzar Bilal 997.00
3. Sultan Siddiqui – Rashid Jafer 984.43
4. Tahir Masud – Munir Ataulhah 978.00
5. Maj. Gen. Suri – Sham Sharma 974.00
6. Fehmina Hussain – Tahir Abbas 964.00

The Delhi Bridge Association pair of Maj. Gen. Suri & Sham Sharma had a dream 3rd session, where they scored 70% plus to jump from 25th to 5th position.

Special prizes were given to the ladies pairs. The pair of Abeda Ali – Shanaz Pirzada won the first place. The Indian pair of Beneeta Chandra – Urmil Aggarwal finished second, Rehana Saigol and Zeenat Azwar clinched the third place and Khalida – Riffat and Goga – Farida claimed the 4th & 5th prizes respectively.

The 2nd day ended with a fantastic party thrown by Lahore Gymkhana club for all the participants.



Mr. Ihsan Qadir, the CTD, with some of the Indian Players at the Gymkhana Club party

The Team of Four event:

The main T-4 event started after lunch on the 2nd day. 33 Teams from various parts of Pakistan along with Indian teams participated in this event. It was a 8 rounds round-robin of 20 boards each.

Formidables the top Indian team started with a bang defeating Challengers 25-5 in the first round. At the end of 5 rounds Munir with 107 led the challenge. They were closely followed by Munir (103), Formidables (96) and the defending champions, Punters (93).

On the last day the final 3 rounds were played and with one round to go, it was the GIANTS team leading with 136 VPs. Munir with 132 & Formidables with 129 were trailing them. But Formidables comprising K.R. Venkatraman, Subhash Gupta, Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Sunit Chokshi & Raju Tolani showed why they are aptly named "Formidables" when they beat last year's champions – the Punters team by 25-4 and scored 154 VPs as their final tally to take the top berth and the rich purse of Pakistani Rs. 140,000.

Giants team from Karachi (Shahin Iqbal, Masud Mazhar, Azhar Kareem, Hamid Zaman, Maj. Akhtar Zaidi & Hasan Jawad) could only get 16 VPs in their last match against Solox and had to satisfy with 2nd place with 152 VPs. Munir (145), Solox (142) & Delhi Bridge Association "A" (141) were ranked 3rd to 5th respectively. The DBA "A" team was represented by Mr. R.R. Gupta, Mr. Hans Verma, Mr. R.K. Gupta, Mr. S.N. Mathur, Mr. M.S. Sharma & Dr. R.L. Sanghi.

At the conclusion of the tournament, Mr. Mazhar Jafri, Vice President, World Bridge Federation gave the farewell address to the sponsors, organizers and the participants. He again re-iterated the motto of WBF to have "Bridge for Peace and Bridge for Friendship" and informed that the pleasure of seeing substantial number of bridge players from India responding to the organiser's invitation will go a long way in contributing to promotion of peace and friendship between India and Pakistan.



The Game in Progress

Mrs. Rehana Saigol, President Pakistan Bridge Federation thanked the organizers and all the players.

Mr. R.R. Gupta, Vice-President, Delhi Bridge Association in his address informed that he and the fellow bridge players from India have been overwhelmed with the warmth and love showered on them by each and every bridge player of Pakistan that words can not express the gratitude to them. He also informed that this visit will lead to more exchanges of bridge players of the two countries and particularly of Delhi Bridge Association and the Punjab Bridge Association.

Mrs. Kiran Nadar has also promised to invite the top Pakistani teams for the HCL tournament to be held in New Delhi from 12th to 15th August 2005.

One person who impressed one and all with his multi-faceted work was the CTD, Mr. Ihsan Qadir. Not only he excelled as an competent Tournament Director but also as a top organizer of the event. Contingent from India were greatly impressed by his organizational capability. Mr. Qadir's team also deserve a pat in the back for their excellent conduct of the tournament. Mrs. Abeda Ali did an excellent job of editing the bulletins of the tournament.

A special word of praise for Fehmina Hussain, who has taken the task of promoting and teaching bridge to the youngsters in Pakistan. She has already trained a young team, which may make their debut in near future.

Our special thanks to Mr. Jehangir for co-ordinating all the minute details of the Indian contingent and also to Mr. Sarfaraz (The bus driver), who was always happy to lend a helping hand to all the members of the Indian contingent at Lahore.

K.R. Venkatraman aptly summarized the feelings of all Indian players – "All of us from India are so happy being here in Lahore that we only wish that these ties are fostered for ever". WELL DONE LAHORIANs.

- Reported by Editor

INTERESTING DEAL Lahore Gymkhana Tournament

Subhash Gupta – K.R. Venkatraman swept their opponents in the Open pairs and they were part of the winning Formidables team in the team of four event. Why Mr. Gupta is known as "Guruji" can be seen from the following deal:

	♠ AKxxx ♥ 9xx ♦ K ♣ xxxx		
♠ Jxxx ♥ Jxx ♦ Qxx ♣ AKT	N W E S	♠ xxx ♥ QTxx ♦ 9xxx ♣ Qx	
	♠ Q ♥ AKx ♦ AJTxx ♣ Jxxx		

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

The bidding may be slightly different, but most of the players were either in 3 Clubs or 3 NT contracts. Seeing the hands double dummy there seems to be only 7 top tricks, which may even get reduced if the lead is diamond as it cuts the communication between dummy and the hand. Similarly on a Heart lead there is no chance of the contract making. However the defenders took a different view of the bidding and West led the ♣K and shifted to a diamond once the first trick held. Now declarer's communication for taking the spade trick is virtually disconnected, but not for Guruji.

He promptly led a low club from dummy taken by East with the ♣Q. East shifted to a heart taken by declarer with Ace and now played the ♥J from hand, defenders took the ♥Q (the 3rd trick taken by defence) and played another heart, taken by the Ace. Now Subhash played all the diamonds except one and the last five card position became: West - Jxx, J,-,K; Dummy - AKxx, -, -,x; East - xxx, QT,-,-; Declarer - Q,x,x,xx. On the last diamond West had to keep 3 spades and the club hence he discarded the Heart Jack. A small spade was discarded from dummy and now East was in problem. He could either keep 3 spades and the heart Queen or 2 spades and 2 hearts. It did not matter any further as Guruji played the ♠Q and gave the club to West, who had to give the last 2 tricks perforce to the dummy. If West would have kept the heart and only 2 spades, in that case East is required to keep 3 spades and a heart. Now after cashing ♠Q, East can be thrown with the heart and will give the last 2 tricks perforce.

- Reported by Editor

INTERESTING DEAL Vasant Vihar Club Tournament

The following deal came in the Mixed Pairs event at the Vasant Vihar Club annual tournament held on 27th mar 2005.

	♠ AKxx ♥ xx ♦ K642 ♣ Kxx		
♠ xx ♥ QTxxxx ♦ Axx ♣ Qx	N W E S	♠ Qxx ♥ xx ♦ QTx ♣ ATxxx	
	♠ JTxx ♥ AKJ ♦ J9x ♣ Jxx		

The bidding at the table of your editor (sitting South) went as follows

West	North	East	South
2H	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West opened a weak 2H and N-S Pair reached the 3NT contract. It wasn't an attractive dummy for me as I expected a better hand, but I was lucky to get a heart lead from West. The trick was won in hand with the ♥J and the spade finesse lost to East's queen. East returned another heart taken by me with the King. Now I played a diamond towards the King, which won the trick, when West refused to take the Ace. A low diamond was played from dummy and East put the Ten overtaken by Jack and West took the Ace and returned another heart. Heart King was taken and Spade King and Jack were cashed and Diamond 9 was played from hand. East took the trick with Queen but was forced to play to the ♣K to give me my 9th trick (3 spades, 3 Hearts, 2 diamonds & a club).

However, Mr. Amod Rele who did not get the favourable lead of heart played the hand beautifully. He received the spade lead and took it in dummy with Ace and immediately played a low diamond towards hand, East played low and he inserted the ♥9. West refused to take the trick and Amod now played a low diamond towards the dummy's King. West again ducked and Amod was able to get 3 diamond tricks with a combination of Kxxx against J9x. Now it was simple. West continued further with Spade and declarer took the ♠K, cashed the diamond winner and 2 top hearts and threw East with the ♠Q. East was forced to return the club and Amod was through with his 9 tricks consisting of 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and a club.

- Reported by Editor

Lahore Memoirs



The Team of Four Champions



The Team of Four Winners with their Trophies

13th BFAME Championships

Bangladesh Bridge Club will hold the 13th BFAME Championships 2005 from 28th Apr to 7th May 2005 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. The winner & runner-up of the event will represent Zone-4 in Bermuda Bowl 2005.

SUMMER NATIONALS

The Summer Nationals under the auspices of BFI will be held at Jaipur from 2nd to 10th April 2005. Both, the T-4 event (for T.P. Khosla Trophy) & the IMP Pairs (for Agarwala Trophy) will be played as per the following schedule:

- 2nd Apr – 1830 Hrs. – Inauguration
– 1930 Hrs. – Captains' Meet
- 3rd & 4th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – T.P. Khosla Trophy (T-4 qualifying rounds in 2 groups – Top 4 teams to qualify from each group)
- 5th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – Qualifying rounds Contd.
– 1200 Hrs. – QF Roundrobin (5 rounds)
- 6th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – QF Roundrobin (2 rounds) –
Top 4 teams to qualify for Semi Finals
– 1200 Hours – SF Knockout (T-4)
– 1400 Hrs. – Agarwala Trophy (Pairs QF – 2 out of 5 sessions)
- 7th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – T-4 Finals (4 * 16 boards)
– 0930 Hrs. – Agarwala QF – (3 sessions)
- 8th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – Agarwala SF – 3 Sessions
(Top 16 Pairs to qualify for the Finals)
- 9th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – Agarwala Finals (8 * 8 boards)
- 10th Apr – 0930 Hrs. – Agarwala Finals (7 * 8 boards)

DELHI BRIDGE SCHEDULE

1. Pair event is played at DBA on every Tuesday evening from 1830 Hrs. onwards.
2. Team event is played at DBA on every Saturday from 1430 Hrs. onwards.
3. The Ladies Bridge Association holds an Open Pairs tournament on every Friday at PHD House commencing at 1430 Hrs.

Forthcoming Events

National

02-10th Apr'05 – Summer Nationals at Jaipur
12-15th Aug'05 – HCL Tournament at New Delhi

International

28th Apr – 7th May'05 – 13th BFAME Championships,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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