

ISSUE No: 3, Friday, 10th December 2004

THE RACE HOTS UP AS THEY ENTER THE HOME STRETCH

GROUP A			GROUP B		
<u>Sr.No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>VictoryPoints</u>	<u>Sr.No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>VictoryPoints</u>
1	IndiaBlues	263	1	Mhota - Nagpur	263
2	NalcoOrissa	253	2	Irani	259
3	SriLanka	252	3	"Radhey, Mumbai"	250
4	Ashutosh S Sammelan	251	4	Trambak Rubber	249
5	Kakatiya	243	5	Tolani Shipping	248
6	Dhanpur Sagar	241	6	Railway - A	243
7	Railway - B	241	7	Fornicables	243
8	Asgar Chennai	239	8	OSRC - B Orissa	241
9	Aloke Daga WB	239	9	Naimuddins - BLR	236
10	C V Rao	238	10	SNChatterjees IV	235
11	Arijit Ghas	235	11	SNDMC WB	235
12	M Ghosh WB	235	12	Calutta Bridge Club	233
13	Mitrawihar Nasik	234	13	Monotona	232
14	Pankaj Kapadia	233	14	Nest International	232
15	Blue Team, BLR	232	15	R P Guptas - IV	230
16	Akshay - HYD	231	16	Ashok Kulkarni	230

SCHEDULE OF PLAY (10-12-2004), RUIA TROPHY, SWISS LEAGUE AND PQF MATCHES					
Round 15	-	09.30 - 10.45 a.m.	PQF Round 1	-	02.00 - 03.30 p.m.
Round 16	-	11.15 - 12.30 p.m.	PQF Round 2	-	04.00 - 05.30 p.m.
Lunch break	-	12.30 - 02.00 p.m.	PQF Round 3	-	06.00 - 07.30 p.m.
16 TEAMS QUALIFY FOR ROUND OF 32			PQF MATCHES WILL BE 12 BOARDS		

"A GOOD PLAYER, BUT A MADCAP"

I had heard of him before but have not had the pleasure of meeting him. Out of the blue on the first day morning, a young man of around thirty gave me details of a deal. He himself had played and refused to give me his name. I managed to find the name all right and it is Swarnendu Banerjee, "a good player, but a madcap," as two good friends from Kolkata told me. "He could have become top class. That he has not, is Indian Bridge's loss," added another Kolkataan.

♠ K 8 6 4		♠ Q 9 3									
♥ A Q 5		♥ K J 6 3									
♦ J 9 8 6 3		♦ 7 4									
♣ K		♣ A Q 8 5									
♠ 10 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 5 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 8 4 2		♥ 9 7									
♦ A 10 5 2		♦ K Q									
♣ J 7 2		♣ 10 9 6 4 3									

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥*
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	

When East asked, three hearts was explained as a help suit bid as per partnership understanding. When I asked Swarnendu, he replied that he had used the bid strategically to prevent a heart lead. Perfectly valid as per rules and ethically too.

Winning the club lead with the ace, East shifts to a diamond taken by West who returns another diamond. Winning in hand, Swarnendu ruffs a club and plays the jack of diamonds, ruffed with the nine by East, over-ruffed with the jack. Another club is ruffed in dummy and the trumps drawn with the King and Ace in that order. Swarnendu now end plays with a club and poor East has to surrender.

There are a couple of good points in the deal. One is the strategic bid of three hearts, what is so great about it, many of us are likely to say. More often not, the bid will not even occur to us on the table. The other is the inference that Swarnendu drew after East unwittingly asked the meaning of the bid, thereby belying his interest in the suit.

Anil Pachye suggests shifting to a heart by West

on winning with the diamond ace. Will that shift beat the contract? You be the judge.

A RARE GESTURE

Although the following deal is well bid and played well, what really prompts me to include it in these columns is the keenness shown by the declarer's (R.N. Subramaniam of Aparajita Team of Chennai) opponents, Bipradas and Swapan of Lawrence Club - they sent to me a signed note requesting me to publish a deal taken from Round 7 although it was played by their opponent! In Issue No: 1, I had said something about "endearing camaraderie" that Bridge produces. Most certainly, Bipradas and Swapan are wonderful examples of that camaraderie.

North : **R.N. Subramaniam** (Aparajita)
 South : **Narayana Iyer** (Aparajita)
 East : **Swapan** (Lawrence Club)
 West : **Bipradas** (Lawrence club)

♠ A Q 5 4		♠ 8 3									
♥ Q 8 3		♥ 9 6 4 2									
♦ 7 5		♦ Q 6									
♣ A J 6 4		♣ K Q 10 9 3									
♠ J 9 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 6 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 10 7		♥ A K 5									
♦ J 8 4 3		♦ A K 10 9 2									
♣ 8 7 2		♣ 5									

Contract: 7 ♠ by North

Lead : ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT*	Pass	1 ♣*
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	3 ♣*
Pass	5 ♠****	Pass	4 NT
			7 ♠

- * 16+, Precision
- ** 12-15
- *** Splinter
- **** Two key cards plus trump queen

Club lead won by the ace, spade ace and queen cashed, diamond ace and king cashed, diamond ruff, heart to the ace, second diamond ruffed, ruffed a club, last trump drawn and claimed.

Well bid by Iyer and equally well played by Bhaskar, which is how, R.N. Subramaniam is known to the Chennai Bridge fraternity.

SECTION A - 9th ROUND

MAYA MIRA (145 VPs) and INDIAN BLUES (133) met on Table No:1.

The end result was 15-15 and some of the swing deals are outlined as below:

OPEN ROOM :

N,S : M/s. Samir Basak & P. Barchan (Maya Mira)
E, W : M/s. Sandip & J.M. Shah (Indian Blues).

CLOSED ROOM :

N,S : M/s. Ashok Ruia & S.K. Iyengar (Indian Blues).
E, W : M/s. Sukumar Das & Vijay Goel (Maya Mira)

Deal 5:

♠ Q 8 7 5 ♥ A J ♦ K Q 5 ♣ 10 8 7 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K J 9 4 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ A J 2 ♣ J 3	♠ 3 ♥ K 10 9 4 2 ♦ 10 7 4 3 ♣ Q 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 6 2 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ A K 9 2											

OPEN ROOM BIDDING :

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Contract : 4♥ by W
Lead : ♦ K
Result : -2

Closed room pair played in 2♥ making three. A swing of 6 IMPs in favour of Maya Mira.

Deal 6 :

♠ K J ♥ A 7 6 5 3 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 9 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ — ♦ J 5 3 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5	♠ A 8 4 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ A 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ Q 10 6 ♥ J 10 8 4 2 ♦ A K Q 7 2 ♣ —											

OPEN ROOM BIDDING :

East	South	West	North
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	D'BLE
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Contract : 7♥ D'BLE by W

Mr. J.M. Shah executed the contract going down two as all the five hearts are loaded in North hand.

In closed room, Maya Mira's pair played in 4♥ by East going one down, which is always makeable. A swing of 9 IMPs in favour of Maya Mira.

Deal 7:

♠ K 9 6 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ A Q J 10 7 ♣ A 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ K 8 5 3 ♣ 10 9 6 3	♠ J 8 7 3 ♥ J 5 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ K J 5 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ Q 10 5 4 ♥ 10 9 8 4 2 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 8 4											

OPEN ROOM BIDDING :

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	

Contract : 4♥ by N
Lead : ♦ 2
Result : -1

CLOSED ROOM BIDDING :

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Result : With East going down by 6, Indian Blues picked-up 12 IMPs.

A GREAT OLD MAN



It is not every day that writers like me get an opportunity to interview an extremely likeable, erudite and venerable eighty seven year old man who still plays Bridge.

Honoured at the hands of the Chief Secretary only on last Tuesday, A. Radhakrishna Murthy, all of 87 years, did his BA (Hons) in Philosophy from the Andhra University in the year 1937. His namesake, the former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan taught him Logic in those days. Master, as Radhakrishna Murthy is popularly known took up the job of a Lecturer in 1937 itself in a private college in Vijayawada. The Government took over the College in 1958 and promoted him as a Principal. On retirement in 1975, he served for two years as the founder Principal of the Siddhartha Arts College, Vijayawada.

He took to Bridge in 1950 and has a shelf full of trophies. Six times winner of Andhra Bridge Association Championships, three times winner of Andhra Pradesh Bridge Association Championships, Fateh Maiden Trophy winner twice, South Zone Championships winner four times, Kakinada Gold Cup winner five times, Holkar Trophy runner up in the Hyderabad Nationals of the early sixties with Dr. Santasiva Rao as partner, Theta Beta Club Gold Medal winner with the late P.R. Sastri as partner - the list goes on.

Two incidents remain fresh in his mind even today. M.C. Chagla, former Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, and a Central Minister later, while inaugurating the Delhi Nationals in 1965 said that Bridge probably helped him make better judgments as a Judge. The second one concerns the legendary Victor Mollo. For the Guntur Nationals souvenir, 'Master' had requested for an article and Mollo promptly sent him one and said in a covering note that he treated that article as a repayment to India as he was once a room-mate of V.K. Krishna Menon!

As I stood up and sought his blessings before taking leave of the great man, he picks up the nearest thing that he can lay his hands on and gives it to me - an orange!

What a grand old man! And what a privilege it was for me! I will always cherish the twenty odd minutes I spent with him.

Will you defend this way?

(Courtesy B.N.Pansrapuria)

You are East looking at xx, AQx, AQJ9xx, K10 and you are in six diamonds. Dummy comes down with AKQxx, xxx, xx, AJx and the lead is a spade suspiciously looking a singleton. You win on the table and finesse in diamonds which holds. What next? To my mind (I am no great Bridge Player) a 3-2 diamond break will give you a good chance of making the contract. I would have cashed the ace of diamonds and if the king does not come down and then play a low spade towards the table. If IHO ruffs, my two hearts can go away on the spades, with the ace of clubs as entry. If RHO ruffs, I still retain a few squeeze chances.

♠ J 10 9 6 3		♠ 5 4									
♥ 7		♥ A Q 3									
♦ 8 4		♦ A Q J 9 6 2									
♣ Q 9 8 6 4		♣ K 10									
♠ A K Q 8 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 9 8 5		♥ K J 10 6 4 2									
♦ 10 5		♦ K 7 3									
♣ A J 3		♣ 7 5 2									

This is the amazing thing that happened at the table. Declarer won the first trick at the table, finessed in diamonds which held and then played a low spade which South ruffs and exits with a club, on which North plays the eight of clubs. Certain that he needs to take the diamond finesse once more, and that South is out of trumps, East crosses to dummy in clubs and to discard his hearts on what is seemingly un-trumpable spade winners (before taking the second trump finesse; there is no further entry to the table) declarer played his second spade winner discarding a heart. Lo and behold, South turns up with the trump king!



In the Swiss Rounds, Balas (Vijayawada) and Silarka Tejas seen in Action

A View of Open Room during the Play



PENALTY CORNERED!

The two Nagarajs from Bangalore, KS and N, are two of the finest gentlemen I have ever known. They are here as Tournament Directors NSquared, as I call N. Nagaraj, had this story to tell.

There was an opening lead-out-of twin situation, and the Director was promptly summoned. In a contract of four spades, the out of turn card was the ten of hearts. On hearing the different options, the offender's partner led a diamond won by declarer who played trumps on the second round of which the offender discarded club nine. Penalty card number two! On the third round of trumps, offender discarded club six, penalty card number three! NSquared gave up, as he himself said "I was penalty cornered!"

KS has the following suggestions to make to all players and he calls them "Do's and Don'ts"

- ☞ Please beat the table five minutes before starting time.
- ☞ Fill the curtain card (Truscott) first
- ☞ Please put the played boards inside the bag after the match is over, please ensure that you do that one again.
- ☞ As far as possible, dummy should avoid leaving the table (all of us know what happened to Italy in the very last board of the Bermuda Bowl finals)
- ☞ Please do not discuss at the table after you have finished your game - this disturbs others who are still playing.
- ☞ WBF rules specifies that all players must use word "please" Director please, volunteer please etc.,

Are these difficult to follow?

DOWN MEMORY LANE

The joy in the face of a lady, and that too an aristocratic lady like Kalpana Misra, is a delight to behold. Her team had just managed to qualify for the pre-quarterfinals in the Pure Nationals; in the RQF, her team hit a purple patch storming through to the quarterfinals as the top qualifier. Even now I can visualize Kalpana animatedly discussing something with Dr. N.P. Tolani with a gleam in her eye, even as the list of quarterfinals was about to be announced.

On the other hand, the sorrow in the face of a lady, that too a magnanimous lady like Kiran Nedar, leaves an inerascable mark in the memory of the beholder. I was watching Kiran going through an agonizing last set (she graciously opted to sit out) as her team Formidables were playing Railways in the Ruia Trophy

Finals of the Bangalore Nationals Formidables lost in the finals of the Kolkata and a third time in Luckhiana.

Kalpana is playing for Agsar Paints team here at Vizag. Will either of these gracious ladies win the Ruia Trophy this time around? How about a Formidables Agsar Paints final? Time will tell.

VERY IMPORTANT

Bridge Federation of India has formed a disciplinary committee, specially to oversee all disciplinary matters. Mr. Yatish Chandra will be the Chairman and Arjit Guha will be the Member-Convenor of this committee. The other members already appointed are K. Suryanarayana, Mrs. Jerco Mango and N.R. Kirubakara Murthy. The Chairman is empowered to co-opt more members. The minimum quorum for a meeting shall be five.

AN APOLOGY

The names of Associate Chief Tournament Directors - Sarvasri K.P. Newatia and P. Bhattacharya and Associate Director Cdr. D.Y. Ogale (Retd.) were missed inadvertently in the list of Directors in the Issue No.1. We apologize for the lapse.

EAST ZONE BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The East Zone Bridge Championships will be held at NALCO, Angul in Orissa, on 12th 13th and 14th February, 2005.

Free transport from Bhubaneswar to Angul and free boarding and lodging will be provided to all participants. Mr. G. Upadhyaya, Chairman and Managing Director is the Chief Patron. Please contact Rajendra Kanungo (0674-2311559) or Mr. Arijit Guha at 033-24405665 (R) 033-24642958 (O).

Ranjit Roy, **Orissa Bridge Association**