

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

Editor: T.C. Pant

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President: M.D. Dalmia

Hon. Secretary: R.K. Gupta

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INDIAN RAILWAYS ARE THE CHAMPIONS IN SUMMER NATIONALS

The 35th Summer National Bridge Championships were held at The Lawrence School, SANAWAR in Kasauli from 18th to 26th June 2004. In all, 38 Team from all parts of India participated in the T.P. Khosla Team of Four event. True to their current ranking (they are going to represent India this year in the Bridge Olympiad at Istanbul, Turkey), the Indian Railways team finally won the coveted trophy beating Delhi in the Finals.

Congratulations to Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee & Habibul Hasan. **Our best wishes to you all for the Olympiad.**

Considering the fact that the Delhi team was not boasting of big name of Indian Bridge, it was a very satisfactory performance by its team members. The Delhi team comprising of Ashok Goel, N.K. Gupta, Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant, Sudhir Aggarwal & Amod Rele surely deserves a pat on the back. Other teams to perform well were the four-member team of UTTAR PRADESH and the East Zone team (NALCO), both reaching the semi-final stage playing a very steady game.

Maharashtra 'B', Tamilnadu 'A', Karnataka & West Bengal 'A' played very well till the league stage, but could not sustain their fire power in the Quarter finals. The performance of Gujrat & Andhra Pradesh was very good till the last few rounds of league but they could not sustain the tempo in the last few rounds and could not reach the QF stage.

The AGARWALA Pairs (one of the toughest Pairs event of India) was won by the evergreen Kamal Mukherjee with another Kamal (Roy). The Bengal pair with the winning score of 467 IMPs was given a tough fight by the Maharashtra pair of V.M. Lal – Suhas Vaidya with 460 IMPs.

The performance of Delhi in AGARWALA Pairs was also worth mentioning. 5 Pairs qualified to the Finals (last 16 pairs). The event also had some big upsets, as many of the top Indian pairs could not cross over the Semi final stage.

All in all it was a well-organized tournament and all credit goes to Mr. Arvind Gupta, the organizing secretary from Himachal Bridge Association.

Lastly, on the personal front, it is a proud moment for me to take out this month's Newsletter edition, as this is the first issue of Vol. 2. I hope the Bridge fraternity would continue to support the Newsletter team in our endeavor, and the Delhi Newsletter team will be able to deliver the goods.

- **Editor**

Message from Mr. R.K. Gupta – Hon. Secretary, DBA

Dear Mr. T.C Pant & Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Delhi Bridge Newsletter team for completing one year of their monthly Newsletter. The Newsletter has renewed the interest of the Delhi Bridge fraternity. You have not only been covering the National & International events in detail, but your columns on new conventions & Bridge laws are highly appreciable and educative for new comers. My Best Wishes to you both and please keep up the good work in future.

Local Bridge News & Results

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event - Results

01/06/2004 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Ganpat Rai – K.B. Sikand	65.63%
NS 2: Sham Sharma – R.C. Consul	60.42%
EW 1: Mrs. Urmil Aggarwal – A. Chandra	64.58%
EW 2: S.K. Agrawal – Ved Prakash	58.33%

08/06/2004 – 12 Tables

NS 1: Sham Sharma – R.C. Consul	64.37%
NS 2: N.K. Jain – Suraj Jain	55.31%
EW 1: J.B. Sengupta – D.K. Mutreja	64.33%
EW 2: T.C. Pant – Paresh Gupta	60.26%

15/06/2004 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Vijay Kumar – R. Chakravarty	55.90%
NS 2: Sham Sharma – R.C. Consul	55.90%
EW 1: V.N. Puri – K.B. Sikand	59.03%
EW 2: T.C. Pant – Paresh Gupta	54.86%

22/06/2004 – 8 Tables

NS 1: A.K. Jha – A.K. Bala	61.11%
NS 2: R. Chakravarty – Vijay Kumar	59.52%
EW 1: Chitra Roy – Bhavana Naraindas	53.57%
EW 2: Gopal Saxena – Ajay Tankha	53.17%

29/06/2004 – 13 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Asha Surana – Raghubir Jasuja	55.93%
NS 2: Mrs. Madhu Kochar – M.P. Agarwala	55.40%
NS 3: Jan Sorensen – Suni Chung	54.78%
EW 1: Urmil Aggarwal – Ashok Chandra	62.78%
EW 2: Gopal Saxena – Ajay Tankha	58.61%
EW 3: T.C. Pant – Paresh Gupta	55.83%

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

05/06/2004 – 13 Teams

- EXPLORER** – (M.S. Sharma, Vijay Kumar, R. Chakravarty, Ved Prakash)
- SONCHEL** – (Mukesh Shivdasani, Sudhir Aggarwal, Subhash Gupta, Sunil Bhatia)
- COSMOS** – (A. Mandal, A.K. Upadhyay, Mrs. Shashi Jain, Dr. R.L. Sanghi)

12/06/2004 – 13 Teams

- EIL** – (A. Mandal, A.K. Ghosh, A.K. Guha, A.K. Mishra, S. Majumder)
- Vijay Goel** – (Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, Kingshuk Bhattacharya, Sandeep Thakral)
- Toppers** – (R.C. Consul, A.K. Narang, Sham Sharma, M.M. Shingloo, R.S. Jasuja)

13/06/2004 – 7 Teams (Month Special – 48 Boards)

- Tewari** – (D.K. Tewari, T.C. Pant, P.C. Gupta, J.B. Sengupta)
- EIL** – (A.K. Ghosh, A.K. Jha, A.K. Mishra, S. Majumder, V. Ravindran)

19/06/2004 – 10 Teams

- DK Tewari** – (D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta, Anand Bhatia, J.B. Sengupta)
- TRISHUL** – (J.D. Gupta, Mrs. Madhuri Modwel, A.K. Sinha, Anil Jain)

26/06/2004 – 8 Teams

- EXPLORER** – (Dr. Goel, R.K. Gupta, Vijay Kumar, R. Chakravarty)
- JOY** – (Joy Sen Sharma, Duleep Mutreja, V.N. Puri, Dr. Moghe, V.K. Mutreja)

ALL INDIA LADIES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION - Weekly Results

04/06/2004 - 14 Pairs

- Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Mrs. Kathy Litvak
- Vijay Kumar – Alok Khemka
- P.K. Rajgarhia – N.K. Jain

11/06/2004 - 18 Pairs

- S.A. Bijlani – Sham Sharma
- Mukabi - Tuli
- Mrs. Shashi Jain – Deepak Arora
- Dr. R.L. Sanghi – Suraj Jain

18/06/2004 - 19 Pairs

- Suraj Jain – Dr. R.L. Sanghi
- J.S. Bakshi – Mrs. Meera Bakshi
- Mrs. Asha Surana – Raghubir S. Jasuja
- Daya Dhaon – N.K. Jain

25/06/2004 - 19 Pairs

- S.K. Agarwal – Amarjit Wadhawan
- Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Madan Seth
- Mrs. Pramila Saraf – Rajiv Ananad
- Sham Sharma – Sunil Bhatia

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

VASANT VIHAR CLUB 'MAK' Bridge Pairs Tournament

From June 2004 onwards, Vasant Vihar Club will hold a monthly Bridge Pairs tournament with attractive prizes. **The event will be held on the last Sunday of every month from 1500 Hrs. onwards.**

This month's tournament was held on 27th June 2004, in which 28 Pairs participated. The event was sponsored by 'MAK'.

Results:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. C P Mittal - S A Bijlani | 65.25% |
| 2. Dr R L Sanghi - Suraj Jain | 63.74 |
| 3. Dr. Nikita Kamal - Amarjeet | 59.48 |
| 4. D Mutreja - Joyjit Sen Sarma | 57.69 |
| 5. Brig D N Khanna - Deepak Gulhati | 57.01 |
| 6. Ms Poonam Datta - P K Rajgarhia | 56.18 |

- Reported by Editor

AILBA WEEKLY TOURNAMENT

The All India Ladies Bridge Association, which used to hold Pair's tournament on alternative Fridays is pleased to announce that this will be a Weekly affair now. All the Bridge enthusiasts are welcome at PHD House on every Friday at 1430 Hrs.

AILBA were not able to have it earlier on weekly basis due to non-availability of playing arena. All credit goes to Mr. P.K. Rajgariah, for arranging the space at PHD House for the event on every Friday afternoon.

- Information by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

CHELMSFORD CLUB TOURNAMENT

Chelmsford Club will hold an Open Pairs Bridge Tournament on Sunday, the 11th July at 1430 Hrs.

The Prize money is well over Rs. 10,000/-. Entry fee is Rs. 300 per pair. Entries can be given on the spot or to Mr. Sham Sharma.

- Reported by Editor

CENTRAL SECT. CLUB TOURNAMENT

Central Secretariat Club holds an open Pair event on every Monday commencing at 1800 Hrs. You may contact Mr. Harbhajan Singh or Mr. Y. Punj for the same.

- Information by Mr. Y. Punj

HCL Prize Money BRIDGE Tournament 2004

**Team of Four Duplicate
for
"The Naresh Tandan Trophy"**

&

**Open Pairs Event
for
"The Neena Bonerjee Trophy"**

12th - 15th August 2004

**VENUE
Hotel Claridges
Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi**

Total Prize Money: Rs. 7.5 Lacs

ENTRY FEE:

**T-4: Rs. 5000/-
(Rs. 1000 for each additional
member)**

**Pair: Rs. 1200/- for first elimination &
Rs. 800 from those qualified to
play the 2nd Elimination**

Entries Close on

**Team of Four: 11th Aug'04 at 2000 Hrs.
Pairs: 13th Aug'04 at 1500 Hrs.**

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SUMMER BRIDGE NATIONALS

A Complete Report

The 35th Summer National Bridge Championships were held from 18th to 26th June 2004 at the Lawrence School, Sanawar in the surrounding of picturesque Kasauli valley. The chief guest Rani Chandresh Kumari, Hon'ble Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh, inaugurated the tournament. The organizing secretary Shri Arvind Gupta, welcomed the dignitaries on the dais.

The program started with Shri A.K. Puri, IPS & Chairman, Organising committee welcoming the chief guest and all the participants. In her address to the participants, the Hon'ble chief guest informed that in her younger days, she herself was an avid Bridge player. Lack of time does not allow her to play the game any more. She also encouraged the participants by watching the game for over an hour.

The tournament started on 19th June with the **Team of Four event for the T.P. Khosla trophy**. 38 teams participated, which is one of the highest participation of teams in Summer Nationals. The teams were grouped into 2 sections of 19 teams each and had to play a total of 19 rounds in an "all play all" round robin of 8 boards each, with each team getting a bye round. The participating teams were:

Team No.	Team Names	
	SECTION A	SECTION B
1	WEST BENGAL 'B'	TAMIL NADU 'B'
2	RAILWAYS	ANDHRA PRADESH 'A'
3	MAHARASHTRA 'B'	KARNATAKA
4	DELHI	C.R.S.B.
5	MAHARASHTRA (VIDARBHA)	HIMACHAL 'B'
6	WEST ZONE	PUNJAB
7	UTTARANCHAL	MEGHALAYA
8	MAHARASHTRA 'D'	C.S.I.R
9	ORISSA	HARYANA
10	B.F.I.	J & K
11	P.S.P.B.	O.F.S.C.B.
12	BIHAR	D. A. E.
13	T.P. KHOSLA (SPONSORS)	MADHYA PRADESH
14	JHARKHAND	GUJARAT
15	HIMACHAL 'A'	EAST ZONE
16	A.I.E.S.C.B.	MAHARASHTRA 'A'
17	ANDHRA PRADESH 'B'	UTTAR PRADESH
18	TAMIL NADU 'A'	WEST BENGAL 'A'
19	CHANDIGARH	RAJASTHAN

At the end of the first day (after 7 rounds), the top 6 teams were:

Section A

1. T.P. KHOSLA (SPONSORS) - 145 VPs
2. TAMILNADU 'A' - 135
3. MAHARASHTRA 'B' - 133
4. WEST ZONE - 131
5. DELHI - 130
6. ANDHRA PRADESH 'B' - 129

Section B

1. GUJRAT - 143 VPs
2. WEST BENGAL 'A' - 136
3. EAST ZONE - 132
4. ANDHRA PRADESH 'A' - 128
5. MADHYA PRADESH - 125
6. KARNATAKA - 123

At the end of Day 2 (after completion of **16 rounds**) **Maharashtra 'B' & Karnataka** took the lead in their respective sections. The top 6 teams were:

Section A

1. MAHARASHTRA 'B' - 301 VPs
2. TAMILNADU 'A' - 295
3. RAILWAYS - 289
4. T.P. KHOSLA (SPONSORS) - 279
5. ANDHRA PRADESH 'B' - 277
6. DELHI - 275

Section B

1. KARNATAKA - 301 VPs
2. WEST BENGAL 'A' - 295
3. EAST ZONE - 293
4. GUJRAT - 282
5. UTTAR PRADESH - 278
6. TAMIL NADU 'B' - 263

At the end of 18 rounds, the top 3 teams had consolidated their positions and in the last round the fight in both the sections was mainly for the 4th position. DELHI & ANDHRA PRADESH 'B' in Section A and GUJRAT & UTTAR PRADESH in Section B were fighting it out for the last slot. As it turned out DELHI had an easy victory against their last round opponent, whereas AP 'B' lost their match. So DELHI & UP both went through to the last QF stage. The 4 teams to reach the quarterfinals from each section were:

Section A

1. MAHARASHTRA 'B' - 352 VPs
2. TAMILNADU 'A' - 346
3. RAILWAYS - 345
4. DELHI - 334

Andhra Pradesh 'B' with 327 VPs were placed 5th.

Section B

1. KARNATAKA - 362 VPs
2. WEST BENGAL 'A' - 343
3. EAST ZONE - 340
4. UTTAR PRADESH - 334

Gujrat with 329 VPs were placed 5th.

The Quarter Finals:

The quarter finalists played a complete round robin of 7 rounds with each other, with the top 4 teams of the RR to qualify for the Semi-finals. The QF results were:

1. DELHI - 119 VPs
2. EAST ZONE - 115 VPs
3. RAILWAYS - 114 VPs
4. UTTAR PRADESH - 109 VPs
5. KARNATAKA - 106 VPs
6. MAHARASHTRA 'B' - 97 VPs
7. WEST BENGAL 'A' - 93 VPs
8. TAMILNADU 'A' - 86 VPs

The topper DELHI team won their matches against KARNATAKA by 23-7, TAMILNADU 'A' by 19-11, RAILWAYS by 19-11, WEST BENGAL 'A' by 18-12, and EAST ZONE by 17-13. They lost to MAHARASHTRA 'B' by 9-21 and to UTTAR PRADESH by 14-16.

The **Karnataka** team was represented by S. Naimuddin, M.J. Shah, K.M. Shyamsundar, K. Durgadas, C.M. Kulkarni & Uttam Gupta.

Maharashtra 'A', were represented by Mrs. Kalpana Mishra, Anil Padhye, Sunil Machhar, Raju Tolani, Vinay Desai & Suhas Vaidya.

Tamilnadu 'A' were represented by N. Niranjan, R. Kannan, S.K. Chari, K. Krishnakumar, K.R. Venkataraman & S.R.C. Sekar.

West Bengal 'A' were represented by Kamal Mukherjee, Sudhir Ganguly, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Shibnath Dey Sarkar & Sukamal Das.

The Semi Finals:

DELHI choose UTTAR PRADESH as their opponent and the second semi final was between both the teams from EAST i.e. RAILWAYS Vs. EAST ZONE

In the 4*10 boards semi-finals, **Delhi** beat **Uttar Pradesh** by 94-40 (C/O 0-1, 23-16, 1-11, 40-10, 30-2) and **Railways** beat **East Zone** by 110-36 (C/o 4-0, 27-23, 21-0, 36-3, 22-10).

So it was **DELHI Vs. RAILWAYS** in the 4*16 boards FINAL.

The Semi-finalists **U.P.** team was represented by I.K. Agarwal, G. Agarwal, Sushil Agarwal & Kr. Vijay Anand Singh and the **East Zone** team was represented by A. Rout, J. Pratihari, B.S. Pradhan, P. Beure, D.N. Lenka, B.M. Behara.

The Finals:

In the 4*16 boards **Team of Four finals for the T.P. Khosla** trophy, **RAILWAYS** beat **DELHI** by 154-110 (71-24, 26-28, 28-24, 29-34). The Railways team had an excellent start to the final by taking 47 IMPs lead in the first set. Delhi tried to salvage some prestige by taking 2 IMPs in the 2nd set but Railways kept their momentum going by taking 4 IMPs in the third set and just conceding 5 IMPs in the last set.

It was nice to see the Railways team, which is going to represent India in the Bridge Olympiad this year, winning the event comfortably and keeping their current billing intact as the best team of India. Well played - Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee & Habibul Hasan. **Our best wishes to you all for the Olympiad.**

The **Delhi team** also gave a spirited performance and should have the consolation of loosing to the best team in India. Ashok Goel, N.K. Gupta, Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant, Sudhir Aggarwal & Amod Rele represented the Delhi team.

In the 2*16 boards match for the 3rd & 4th position, **East Zone** beat **Uttar Pradesh** by 112-77 (49-46, 63-31) to take the 3rd position.

The AGARWALA PAIRS:

66 Pairs took part in the first elimination round (quarter final) of the Agarwala Pairs, out of which 30 pairs went through to the semi-final round. The leaders of the qualifiers were:

1. S. SAHA - C S MAJUMDER 136.00
2. A SADHU - B TODI 121.00
3. KIRAN NADAR - B SATYANARAYNA 117.00
4. C M KULKARNI - K DURGA DAS 113.00
5. K K KUMAR - KRV RAMAN 106.00
6. M V SUBBA RAO - M D CHOUDHARY 104.00
7. S MACHHAR - G MANNA 97.00
8. K KABRA - P HEGDE 96.00

These qualifiers were joined by 10 pairs who played in the semi-finals & finals of the T.P. Khosla trophy in the 3-session semi-final.

The Semi Finals:

The Railways team had kept their top ranking intact in the Team of four finals, but there were enough upsets in the semi-finals of the Agarwala Pairs.

40 Pairs played the semi-final round of the Agarwala Pairs in a grueling 3 sessions (78 boards) play. The leaders of the individual sessions were:

First Session: (26 Boards)

1. Kamal Mukherjee - Kamal Roy 71 IMPs
2. Kiran Nadar - B. Satyanarayana 67 IMPs

Second Session: (26 Boards)

1. T.C. Pant - Paresh Gupta 48 IMPs
2. Sunil Machhar - G. Manna 46 IMPs

Third Session: (26 Boards)

1. V.M. Lal - Suhas Vaidya 62 IMPs
2. Sudhir Aggarwal - Amod Rele 53 IMPs

The leaders of the Semi-final event were:

1. Kiran Nadar - B. Satyanarayana 138 IMPs
2. Sunil Machhar - G. Manna 123 IMPs
3. Kamal Mukherjee - Kamal Roy 92 IMPs
4. V.M. Lal - Suhas Vaidya 88 IMPs
5. Sudhir Aggarwal - Amod Rele 87 IMPs

The top upsets of the semi-finals were Subhash Gupta – Kingshuk Bhattacharya (18th rank), Kalpana Mishra – Anil Padhye (22nd), Sumit Mukherjee – D. Majumder (23rd), Manas Mukherjee – H. Hassan (26th), Pritish Kushari – Amarnath Banerjee (27th) & Raju Tolani – Vinay Desai (29th).

Delhi Pairs put up a creditable performance, as there were 5 pairs out of the qualified 16 in the finals.

The Finals:

The 16 qualifiers of the Agarwala Pairs final played 15 rounds of 8 board matches in 2 days. 8 rounds were played on the penultimate day & the next 7 on the final day of the tournament. Each pair was eligible to gain or lose maximum 25 IMPs in one round.

At the end of 8 rounds the leading pairs were:

1. K KRISHNA KUMAR - K R VENKATRAMAN	253
2. A SADHU - B TODI	251
3. V M LAL - SUHAS VAIDYA	239
4. K MUKHERJEE - K K ROY	236
5. S Saha - C B Majumder	233
6. S GANGULY - S SARKAR	233
7. S MACHHAR - G MANNA	231
8. T C PANT - PARESH GUPTA	204

At the end of 8 rounds, K KRISHNA KUMAR - K R VENKATRAMAN with 253 IMPs were the leaders. However, after the completion of the complete 15 rounds, the pair from Bengal, **KAMAL MUKHERJEE – KAMAL ROY**, were the final winners with 467 IMPs (+92 score). The Mumbai Pair of V M LAL- SUHAS VAIDYA with 460 IMPs (+85 Score) came second.

The final rankings:

1. Kamal K. Mukherjee - Kamal K. Roy	467 IMPs
2. Vinay Mohan Lal - Suhas Vaidya	460
3. Alok Sadhu - Vibhash Todi	448
4. T C Pant - Paresch Gupta	433
5. Subrata Saha - C. S. Majumder	425
6. K K. Kumar - K R Venkataraman	419
7. Sunil Machhar - Gopi Nath Manna	402
8. Kiran Nadar - B Satyanarayana	389
9. Badal Das - Pranab Bardhan	377
10. S Ganguly - S De Sarkar	376
11. Sudhir Aggarwal - Amod Rele	374
12. Sanat Roy - Shakti Pada Roy	374
13. Sushil Agrawal - Indresh K Agrawal	346
14. R S Jasuja - A Surana	318
15. R C Consul - A K Narang	255
16. R Talajia - I Rajee	198

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Virbhadra Singh gave away the prizes to the winners.

The organizers had a special word of praise for the Editor and Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal - the Delhi players who along with their computer operator Mr. Rajpal were instrumental in doing the complete scoring of the Nationals and production of Daily Bulletins, besides playing on all days of the tournaments.

- Reported by Editor

Some Interesting Hands From Summer Nationals

1. Scientific Bidding

The following hand came up in the Round 3 of Agarwala Trophy final. This hand clearly shows why scientific bidding at higher level is important. The laydown 24 HCP Grand Slam was bid only at 2 tables out of 8 and at both the tables the auction was similar.

Dir: South, Vul: Both,

	♠ K10xx ♥ AKx ♦ 10x ♣ xxxx	
	N W E S	
	♠ AQJxxxx ♥ x ♦ AKxxx ♣	

Playing Standard System, Amod Rele and Sudhir Aggarwal holding the North-South cards, bid the hand as follows:

S	W	N	E
Amod		Sudhir	
1S	P	3D(1)	P
5C(2)	P	5S(3)	P
6D(4)	P	7S(5)	

- 1) Bergen Raise, 10-12 HCP with 4-card spade
- 2) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
- 3) 2 Keycards without the Queen
- 4) Specific suit ask (looking for doubleton or Queen)
- 5) Happy to bid Grand

The surprising part is that all the pairs who were playing Precision system could not bid this lay down Grand Slam, which of course should be bid playing any system provided you have methods.

2. Double Dummy Play

Dir: East, Vul: EW,

	♠ K10xx ♥ J10 ♦ xxxxx ♣ xx	
♠ J8xx ♥ Axx ♦ Jxx ♣ Jxx	N W E S	♠ 9xx ♥ Q87x ♦ Kxx ♣ AQx
	♠ AQ ♥ K9xx ♦ AQ ♣ Kxxxx	

(Continued on Page 11)

International Bridge News

The European Bridge Teams Championships 2004, Malmö, Sweden

The 47th European Bridge Teams Championships, 2004 and the 10th Swedish Bridge Festival were held at Malmo, Sweden from June 19th to July 3rd 2004. In all 33 European countries participated in the Open Team, 22 in the Women's Team and 16 in the Senior Team Championships. The list of teams is as follows:

Open Teams:

SNO	Country	SNO	Country
1	AUSTRIA	18	LATVIA
2	BELGIUM	19	LITHUANIA
3	BULGARIA	20	NETHERLANDS
4	CROATIA	21	NORWAY
5	CZECH REP.	22	POLAND
6	DENMARK	23	PORTUGAL
7	ENGLAND	24	ROMANIA
8	FAROE ISL.	25	RUSSIA
9	FINLAND	26	SAN MARINO
10	FRANCE	27	SCOTLAND
11	GERMANY	28	SERBIA/ MONTENEGRO
12	GREECE	29	SPAIN
13	HUNGARY	30	SWEDEN
14	ICELAND	31	SWITZERLAND
15	IRELAND	32	TURKEY
16	ISRAEL	33	WALES
17	ITALY		

Women's Teams:

SNO	Country	SNO	Country
1	AUSTRIA	12	IRELAND
2	CROATIA	13	ISRAEL
3	CZECH REP.	14	ITALY
4	DENMARK	15	LEBANON
5	ENGLAND	16	NETHERLANDS
6	FAROE ISL	17	NORWAY
7	FINLAND	18	POLAND
8	FRANCE	19	SCOTLAND
9	GERMANY	20	SPAIN
10	HUNGARY	21	SWEDEN
11	ICELAND	22	TURKEY

Senior Teams:

SNO	Country	SNO	Country
1	GERMANY	9	ISRAEL
2	FRANCE	10	NETHERLANDS
3	POLAND	11	CZECH REP.
4	DENMARK	12	FINLAND
5	ENGLAND	13	WALES
6	SWEDEN	14	SWITZERLAND
7	NORWAY	15	SCOTLAND
8	ITALY	16	IRELAND

In open teams, after 11 rounds, Italy with two big wins, maintained their position at the top of the table, but they were hotly pursued by Sweden, who recorded two maximums and Poland, another team to score heavily. These three begin to break clear of the pack, as they were more than a match clear of fourth-placed Greece. The top 8 teams after 11 Rounds in Open Teams:

1 ITALY	231.50
2 SWEDEN	226.50
3 POLAND	224.00
4 GREECE	195.50
5 BELGIUM	194.00
6 RUSSIA	191.50
7 TURKEY	189.50
8 WALES	181.50

After 7 rounds in Women's teams, two victories, allied to a heavy defeat for France, put Sweden's women on top of the table. France dropped to second, while Austria were third. These three were clear of Netherlands, England & Germany, and the contest between these teams for those precious Venice Cup places promised to go down to the wire. The top 8 teams after 7 Rounds in Women's Teams:

1 SWEDEN	146.00
2 FRANCE	144.00
3 AUSTRIA	134.00
4 NETHERLANDS	120.00
5 ENGLAND	118.00
6 GERMANY	116.00
7 IRELAND	113.00
8 NORWAY	111.00

At the end of 16 rounds, Italy was continuing with their quest to win the championships and Netherlands were pushing hard to be in the first six. The top 8 teams in Open Teams were:

1 ITALY	332.00
2 SWEDEN	327.50
3 POLAND	283.00
4 RUSSIA	279.50
5 BELGIUM	279.00
6 NETHERLANDS	278.00
7 TURKEY	272.50
8 GERMANY	267.00

At the end of Round 11, the French ladies went to the TOP position. The top 8 teams in Women's Teams were:

1 FRANCE	206.00
2 SWEDEN	202.00
3 NETHERLANDS	199.00
4 ENGLAND	194.00
5 AUSTRIA	193.00
6 GERMANY	189.00
7 SPAIN	186.00
8 NORWAY	178.00

At the end of Round 6, the top 8 teams in Senior Team Championships were:

1 GERMANY	121.00
2 FRANCE	119.00
3 POLAND	117.60
4 DENMARK	114.00
5 ENGLAND	112.00
6 SWEDEN	110.00
7 NORWAY	94.00
8 NETHERLANDS	93.00

Women's Team Championships - SWEDEN CROWNED CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the new European Women's Champions, Sweden, represented by Kathrine Bertheau, Catarina Midskog, Pia Andersson, Linda Långström, Catharina Forsberg, Maria Grönkvist, with Anna Järup, NPC and Bror Bjerner, Coach. It is Sweden's fourth win, following victories in Beirut, 1962, Dublin, 1967, and Menton 1993, where Linda Långström & Catarina Midskog were members of the winning team.

The silver medals are in the hands of the Netherlands, Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend, Femke Hoogweg, Wietske van Zwol, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, with Ed Franken, NPC and Chris Niemeijer, Coach.

France, Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniéle Gaviard-Allouche, Christine Lustin, Sylvie Willard, NPC Gérard Tissot, collect the bronze.

Austria and Israel secured the remaining Venice Cup places.

Women's Team - Final Rankings

1 SWEDEN	402.00
2 NETHERLANDS	395.00
3 FRANCE	377.00
4 AUSTRIA	370.00
5 ISRAEL	361.50
6 GERMANY	358.00
7 ENGLAND	347.00
8 FINLAND	344.00
9 POLAND	343.00
10 SPAIN	333.00
11 NORWAY	332.00
12 ITALY	319.00
13 TURKEY	309.00
14 DENMARK	304.00
15 CZECH REP.	291.50
16 IRELAND	290.00
17 HUNGARY	275.00
18 SCOTLAND	274.00
19 CROATIA	260.00
20 ICELAND	218.00
21 FAROE ISLANDS	180.00
22 LEBANON	179.00

OPEN Team Championships - SIX IN A ROW FOR ITALY

They won in Vilamoura, Montecatini, Malta, Tenerife and Salsomaggiore, and now by winning here in Malmö, Italy, represented by Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace, Maria Teresea Lavazza, NPC and Massimo Ortensi, Coach, breaks its own record by winning the European Open Team Championship for the sixth time in a row, Italy's eighteenth victory overall. It is Lorenzo Lauria's sixth victory, and he joins Kenneth Konstam in second place on the all time list, four victories behind the legendary Giorgio Belladonna.

Norberto Bocchi & Giorgio Duboin becomes the first pair to achieve five consecutive wins, while Fulvio Fantoni & Claudio Nunes are experiencing the thrill of their first.

Sweden: Johan Sylvan, PO Sundelin, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindqvist, Peter Bertheau, Fredrik Nyström Jan Kam-ras, NPC, Per-Ola Cullin & Tobias Törnqvist, Assistants, are the runners-up.

Poland: Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Apolinary Kowalski, Piotr Tuszynski, Bartosz Churmski, Mariusz Puczynski, Wojtek Siwiec, NPC, just pipped Russia for the last place on the podium.

England came back from a disastrous start to earn a first ever appearance in the Bermuda Bowl, leaving the Netherlands in limbo.

Open Team - Final Rankings

1 ITALY	657.00
2 SWEDEN	614.50
3 POLAND	590.50
4 RUSSIA	589.50
5 ENGLAND	586.00
6 NETHERLANDS	583.00
7 TURKEY	561.00
8 GERMANY	557.00
9 DENMARK	545.00
10 FRANCE	545.00
11 ICELAND	538.50
12 GREECE	526.50
13 BELGIUM	524.50
14 ISRAEL	516.00
15 FINLAND	511.50
16 BULGARIA	496.50
17 NORWAY	484.00
18 AUSTRIA	477.00
19 CROATIA	474.50
20 HUNGARY	474.00
21 SCOTLAND	467.00
22 SERBIA/MONTENEGRO	456.00
23 SWITZERLAND	446.00
24 WALES	443.50
25 LATVIA	442.00
26 ROMANIA	426.00
27 SPAIN	425.50
28 IRELAND	421.50
29 PORTUGAL	408.50
30 LITHUANIA	383.50
31 CZECH REP.	382.00
32 FAROE ISLANDS	381.00
33 SAN MARINO	287.50

(Continued on Page 11)

INTERESTING HANDS FROM European Team Championships

Stripping the opponent

Sabine Auken of Germany demonstrated her playing skills on this board from Germany's match with Croatia in the Women's Team championships.

Board 12, Dlr: West, Vul: NS

	<p>♠ AQT73 ♥ 3 ♦ K5 ♣ AQ542</p>		
<p>♠ 2 ♥ JT72 ♦ QJT74 ♣ J96</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</p>	<p>♠ 9654 ♥ 9854 ♦ 983 ♣ K3</p>	
	<p>♠ KJ8 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ A62 ♣ T87</p>		

West	North	East	South
	<i>Auken</i>		<i>Von Arnim</i>
Pass	1S	Pass	2C(1)
Pass	2H(2)	Pass	2S(3)
Pass	2NT(4)	Pass	3C(5)
Pass	3S(6)	Pass	6S All Pass

- (1) - 2C Artificial game force (2) - 2H Clubs
 (3) - 2S Relay (4) - 2NT Maximum (5) - 3C Relay
 (6) - 3S 5-5

East led the three of diamonds and Sabine won in hand and drew trumps in four rounds, discarding a club from dummy. West had to find three discards, and was under pressure. A club was out of the question, so it was a question of which red cards to dispose of.

Knowing her partner could look after the third round of diamonds she elected to part with three diamonds. Confident that West was 1-4-5-3, declarer realised the contract could be made regardless of the location of the king of clubs. She played four rounds of hearts, ruffing the last one in hand and then played a diamond to the ace and a diamond. With all her exit cards removed East had to lead into the club tenace.

The Bulletin Editor of the European Bridge Championships told Sabine that her play had been matched by someone in the Open series and invited her to guess, the clue being that his name began with B and ended in i. Bocchi! No, Balicki! 'Great' said Sabine, 'I am so pleased I played like Balicki.' When we told Cezary he said 'Great, I am so pleased I played like Sabine!'

Special Splinter

by Roman Krzemien (Poland)

According to the dictionary of insulting quotations there is a Czech saying that one should never trust a Pole. An unfor-tunate member of the Czech team picked up:

♠ -
 ♥ A J 10 8 2
 ♦ K J 5 4
 ♣ Q 10 3 2

and listened to the auction:

West	North	West	South
	<i>Balicki</i>		<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1C*	Pass	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	4D*
Pass	4H*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5D*	Pass	6S

When he asked about the auction he learnt that 1C was the Polish Club, 4D a splinter bid, 4H promised a first or second round control in hearts, 4NT asked for aces - or keycards as they are known nowadays - and 5D promised one. Looking for a safe lead he opted to trust that Zmudzinski was short in diamonds and lead a small diamond.

	<p>♠ KJ62 ♥ K7 ♦ QT63 ♣ K94</p>		
<p>♠ - ♥ AJT82 ♦ J54 ♣ T32</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</p>	<p>♠ 94 ♥ 9543 ♦ 972 ♣ J865</p>	
	<p>♠ AQT8753 ♥ Q6 ♦ A8 ♣ A7</p>		

Declarer asked for the queen and claimed twelve tricks.

Unheard Melody

Bridge is full of might have beens. This classic example comes from the match between Italy and Poland.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	<p>♠ 93 ♥ KJ2 ♦ K98653 ♣ 98</p>		
<p>♠ K62 ♥ Q87643 ♦ A ♣ J43</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</p>	<p>♠ AJT7 ♥ ♦ QJT742 ♣ Q65</p>	
	<p>♠ Q854 ♥ AT95 ♦ ♣ AKT72</p>		

West	North	East	South
	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	Pass	1D	Dble
Rdbl	1H*	1S	2C
Pass	Pass	2D	2H
Pass	Pass	3D	All Pass

Bocchi bid One Heart because a pass would have suggested defending One Diamond redoubled. Why he didn't double Three Diamonds must remain a mystery.

Three Diamonds went two down, enough for a flat board as in the other room the contract was Two Diamonds doubled down one.

At the time the commentators suggested that the reason Zmudzinski passed Two Hearts was that he knew his partner would remove the double - a classic case of VCD - VuGraph Commentators Disease, 'being wise before the event'.

However, that may not be the reason, as you cannot defeat the contract.

Say West leads the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffs and plays three rounds of clubs. As long as the ruff is with the jack of hearts the defenders will be helpless. Now you lead a spade and in due course you will score a ruff in dummy and, thanks to the preponderance of trumps in the West hand all three trumps in hand.

The importance of ruffing with the jack of hearts is that if West subsequently wins an early spade trick then a trump exit will run to the South hand, whereas a ruff with the two will result in a fatal blockage.

A stepping-stone End-play

By Svend Novrup

Maybe you do not win a long championship by executing coups and squeezes - but it helps! Board 1 in Round 14 caused problems in many matches, and we have heard of pairs who, sitting North/South, were happy to get a plus score in their game contract.

Well, against Lithuania in the Open series, Hedin Mouritzen from the Faroe Islands landed a small slam by means of a rare guest at the bridge table, a stepping-stone end-play that undoubtedly is one of the best achievements of the championships so far.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ AKJ43 ♥ AQJ93 ♦ AQ ♣ 9	
♠ Q7 ♥ KT862 ♦ 73 ♣ Q864	N W E S	♠ T986 ♥ 754 ♦ J642 ♣ KT
	♠ 52 ♥ ♦ KT985 ♣ AJ7532	

West	North	East	South
	Hedin		Jóannes
	2C	Pass	3C
Pass	3S	Pass	5S
Pass	6S	Pass	Pass
Pass			

An extremely difficult hand to bid, and probably you will not consider 6S to be the top spot to end up in but good slams are slams that make! 3C showed a hand with HHxxxx in clubs and almost no side strength, so Jóannes Mouritzen thought that he had to do something extra on the next round. He felt like bidding 6S but, as Hedin never refuses an invitation, he bid only 5S (pard, you have to take care of the top trumps yourself!) putting the responsibility on the shoulders of Hedin!

East, who expected to see CAQxxxx in dummy, led a shrewd C10, a lead chosen at several tables(!). Hedin won CA, planned the play and started his voyage towards 12 tricks: DQ, heart ruff, DA, heart ruff, club ruff, SA, SK, SJ, and HA, hoping for the HK to drop. Probably he was happy that this was not the case, as he now had to play for the stepping-stone variation in this position:

	♠ 4 ♥ QJ ♦ ♣	
♠ KT ♥ ♦ Q ♣	N W E S	♠ T ♥ J6 ♦ ♣
	♠ ♥ KT ♦ ♣ J	

East was put on lead with the last trump while the CJ was discarded from dummy, and he had to lead away from the DJ.

One admiring fan later on, breathless from admiration, asked Hedin: -How did you know to finesse for the DJ? Hedin had a prosaic answer to that: - If East had held a non-diamond, he probably would have cashed it!

None better!

by Jon Sveindal

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ J9743 ♥ QJ42 ♦ 6 ♣ J87	
♠ AQ ♥ AT5 ♦ AQT7 ♣ AK42	N W E S	♠ 852 ♥ 8 ♦ KJ53 ♣ QT953
	♠ KT6 ♥ K9763 ♦ 9842 ♣ 6	

West North East South

<i>Brogeland</i>		<i>Sælensminde</i>	
	Pass		Pass
2C*	Pass	2D*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3S	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
6C	Pass	7D	All Pass

This may well be the best bid hand of this tournament, and Brogeland/Sælensminde (Norway) was the only pair to bid to the near waterproof grand slam.

Brogeland showed his 22-24 NT, and Sælensminde showed minors with 3S. Thinking about how to get as much information as possible later in the bidding, Brogeland preferred diamonds as trumps. Following the 4H splinter bid, Sælensminde showed his diamond key card, and Brogeland bid 6C, asking for third round control!

Having previously defined his hand, he knew that Sælensminde would not bid seven without something extra. The jack of diamonds and the fifth club was what he needed. The play was no challenge. Two hearts were ruffed - and Sælensminde claimed six trump tricks, two major aces and five club tricks. Another pair bid Seven Clubs (which won when the spade finesse was on), at 13 tables small slams were bid, and at 17 tables matters rested in games.

Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of European Team Championships

(Continued from Page 8)

The Nils Jensen European Senior Teams Championship goes to Denmark: Georg Norris, Steen Møller, Peter Lund, Jens Auken, Dahl Flemming PC, they are joined on the podium by Poland: Jacek Korpetta, Janusz Radecki, Kazimierz Omernik, Krzysztof Sikorski, Janusz C. Nowak NPC, Wlodek Stobiecki Coach, and France: Paul Chemla, José Damiani, Albert Faigenbaum, Christian Mari, Jean-Louis Stoppa, François Stretz, Yves Aubry NPC. Germany takes the fourth Senior Bowl spot in Estoril. Israel was convincing winners of Senior Teams B Final.

SENIOR TEAMS FINAL RANKING – FINAL B

1 DENMARK	397.00
2 POLAND	382.10
3 FRANCE	381.00
4 GERMANY	377.00
5 SWEDEN	372.00
6 ITALY	365.00
7 NETHERLANDS	330.50
8 ENGLAND	328.00

Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of European Team Championships

(Continued from Page 6)

The above hand came up in the Quarter Final of T.P. Khosla Trophy, in the match between Railways & Delhi.

The bidding:

S	W	N	E
Sumit	Amod	Amar Nath	Sudhir
			P
1C	P	P	1N
All Pass			

After the above bidding the Sudhir became declarer in 1NT contract. The lead was a small club and declarer put up the Jack, which held. The contract certainly seemed hopeless with not more than 5 tricks possible. However declarer didn't lose his heart and went about the play trying to collect as much tricks as possible. The bidding gave some clues about South's hand. Since North passed 1C, maximum he could have was approx. 4 HCP. Therefore, declarer next played a small spade towards 9. South cashed both the Spades and then trying to prevent endplay played ♥K. Declarer won the ♥K with Ace and continued small heart to the Queen and then ♥8. South won the heart 8 with 9 and played back small heart to declarer's ♥7.

By now it was very clear that North has spade King and heart Jack and all the balance points are with South. Therefore, the endplay of South continued when declarer, next played small diamond towards the Jack. South could win two diamond tricks but had to play a club into AQ, giving declarer his well-deserved 7th trick.

At most of the other tables North – South played in 1NT contract making 8 – 10 tricks.

- Reported by Editor

STOP Press NEWS

The contract has been signed for the **2005 Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup and the Transnational Open Teams** – which are all to be held in **Estoril, Portugal, from 22nd October – 5th November 2005**, with the Transnational teams planned to start on Monday 31 October, so another date for your diaries. Should be a wonderful venue.

Also dates for the biggest event in the WBF Calendar, the **World Bridge Championships 2006**, which has all the pairs and teams events and is really really exciting have also been declared. It is going to be from **10 – 24 June 2006 in Verona, Italy** – a fabulous venue so that is another date you should note!

By Anna Gudge (EcatsBridge June Newsletter)

BRIDGE Tit-Bits

KIBITZ: The word derives from a German verb Kiebitzen, which means – “to look on, especially in an annoying way, while others are playing cards”.

The word for this activity got derived from the German word “Keibitz”, which is a little bird having the reputation for being noisily imitative.

- Submitted By Mr. Deepak Yashpal

5TH ALL INDIA CHATTISGARH BLACK DIAMOND TOURNAMENT

The 5th All India Chattisgarh Black Diamond Trophy (Chief Minister Cup) will be held at Railway Sanskrit Niketan, Bilaspur from 20th to 22nd Aug 2004.

Free boarding to all the teams & free lodging to 20 out station teams on first cum first serve basis will also be provided.

There will be 3 events viz. Team of Four - “Chief Minister Cup”, BAM – “Black Diamond Cup” & Pairs – “Santosh Dey Memorial Cup”. The total prize money is Rs. 85,000/- plus.

(By kind courtesy of Mr. Sujit Roy of Bilaspur District Contract Bridge Association)

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. Additional Team event held on first or third Sunday of every month.
4. The Ladies Bridge Association holds an Open Pairs tournament on every Friday at PHD House commencing at 1430 Hrs.
5. Central Secretariat Club holds an open Pair event on every Monday at 1800 Hrs.
6. Vasant Vihar Club holds their monthly tournament on last Sunday of the month at 1500 Hrs.

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Technical Consultants:

Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. B. Satyanarayana

TOURNAMENT at GOA

The programme of GOA Tournament 2004 is as follows:

- 23/7 2-00 pm Inauguration
2-30 pm League 4 rounds
- 24/7 9 -00 am League 5th round
11-00 am S/F & FINAL KNOCK-OUT
League 6th & 7th round -- (for 5th & 6th rank)
2-30 pm Pairs elimination
5-45 pm B.A.M. elimination
- 25/7 9-00 am Pairs Final
1-30 pm B.A.M. Final

VENUE : PARK INN RESORT –CANDOLIM,GOA
OPP.-CARMO LOBO, BEHIND DONA ALCINA HOTEL

(By kind courtesy of Anant Madhusudhan Bhagwat, Mumbai.)

TOURNAMENT at KOLKATA

All India SREE CEMENT Bridge Tournament will be held under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India at Bengal Rowing Club, KOLKATA from 28th to 30th Jan 2005.

Forthcoming Events - 2004

National

- 23-25th Jul – Goa Bridge Festival, Candolim, Goa
12-15th Aug – HCL Prize Money Tournament, Delhi
20-22nd Aug – Chattisgarh Black Diamond Trophy (Chief Minister Cup), Bilaspur, Chattisgarh
23-26th Sep – All India K.N. Modi, Nainital
01-03rd Oct – Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad
29-31st Oct – Golcha Tournament, Jaipur
05-15th Dec – Winter Nationals, Waltairs Club, Vizag

International

- 8th – 18th July – Summer NABC, New York City
8th – 10th Sep – The Generali Master World Individual Championship, Verona, Italy
23rd Oct – 6th Nov – World Bridge Olympiad, Istanbul

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