

Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter

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Vol. 2 Issue 6 – November 2004

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The 46th Winter Bridge Nationals are Here

The **46th Winter Bridge Nationals**, under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India are being organized at **Waltair Club, Visakhapattanam from Dec 7 – 17, 2004**. This is one of the most important event for which every Bridge Player of India waits eagerly throughout the year and we hope to have large number of participants this year also to make the event successful.

It was nice to see both the Open & Ladies teams from India doing fairly well in the recently concluded 12th Bridge Olympiad at Istanbul, Turkey and we hope to see even better performance in the near future from Indian teams. Courtesy few of the Sponsors who have been taking their teams to ACBL and European Championships, many of the players in recent times have also got good exposure of the International Bridge Tournaments. We also see a surge in Prize money Tournaments being organized by various sponsors and Associations within India. This is a positive sign for the game and we hope that BFI along with all the Associations will keep this trend moving. Sponsors will surely play a big role in achieving this success.

The technological revolution brought by Internet and the advent of live Vugraph courtesy **Bridge Base Online** & **EcatsBridge** bridge sites has given us the opportunity to know the latest gadgets being followed by the TOP players of the world as well as to view and analyze each deal of important matches and understand the bidding & defensive methods of the opposition. We should try to include these gadgets into our systems and regularly update them. Countermeasures to tackle these new gadgets are also very important and top teams should regularly work on these aspects, if they want to be of World class. Now a days, you can find many Indian players playing regularly on BBO site and this is going to surely help them in practicing with their teammates on a regular basis on the net, without the necessity of moving out of their home.

Due to this technological revolution, now we have one of the greatest tools ever invented to analyze bridge hands. It is a software program known as Deep Finesse. Once a deal is entered into the program, you can learn the best line of play for both declarer and the defenders. The program is very practical – it analyzes according to the cards, as they are dealt, not according to what might have been. To see how it works, visit the www.deepfinesse.com site and enter the deal you want to study. You can try all manner of play methods or defense methods, and Deep Finesse will let you know if you're on the right track.

It was heartening to note that Mr. Fred Gitelman, who is the brain behind the free Bridge Base Online site and various Bridge Software Gitelman has been made Honorary ACBL Member of the Year in the just concluded Fall NABC at Orlando. His bridge programs have made a major difference for thousands of bridge players. He has also been active in promoting Junior bridge.

Coming back to Nationals, last year the semi-finals and final of the Winter Nationals were shown live on the Internet. It was thought that this would become a regular feature and the Bridge lovers will have the opportunity to see the top Indian teams in action. Alas - this year we will not be that lucky. The live broadcast costs quite a bit and unless some sponsor or BFI can take care of the expenses, it will not be possible for the organizing association to take care of this expense. Thinking on positive note, we hope that may be from next year onwards the live Vugraph becomes a regular feature with BFI & the organizing associations taking special interest in finding sponsors to achieve this.

With Best wishes to all the participants for success in Nationals.

- Editor

REVERSE FLANNERY

Most of the bridge players know about Flannery Convention, which was created to solve the bidding problem of the opening hand having minimum values and 5 hearts and 4 spades.

A responder faces similar problem when his partner opens one of a minor and responder bids one Spade holding 5 spades and 4 hearts. If opener now rebids his minor or bids 2C after one diamond opening, responder can not bid 2 hearts with minimum values as this would be atleast one round force and show much higher values. This some times leads to missing 4-4 heart fit.

Reverse Flannery convention is designed to solve above-mentioned problem of the responding hand.

A) What is Reverse Flannery

- Reverse Flannery is basically a jump bid of 2 hearts after 1C/D opening by responder and it shows 5 Spades and 4 or 5 hearts with 5-8 HCPs. The two heart response is not forcing. Opener with minimum hand either passes 2 heart or bids 2 spade to play.
- Similarly a jump bid of 2 Spades can be made holding 5 spades and 4+ hearts with 9-11 HCP.

Many partnerships play that bids of 2H and 2S both show 5-5 in both majors. Although this is playable but frequency of 5-5 hands is much less.

B) Further Developments after 2H or 2S Bid

Most of the time opener is able to place the final contract. However following is the rebid structure available to the opener:

- Pass or bid 2S to play
- 3 of Opener's minor is to play
- 2NT – Invitational
- 3 of Other minor is a Relay. Responder rebids:
 - 3 hearts – Shows 5-5 in majors
 - 3 of opener's minor (if available) – shows 3 cards
 - 3 Notrump shows 5 Spade 4 Hearts and check in the other minor
 - 4 other minor – Void with 5-4-4-0 distribution
 - 3 Spade – any other distribution

C) Other Benefits

Playing reverse flannery, opener opens One of a minor and responder bids one spade. When opener rebids his minor or 1NT, a bid of 2H by responder then is Game Forcing.

D) Examples:

West Responder ♠ AKxxx ♥ Qxxx ♦ xx ♣ Qx	East Opener ♠ Qx ♥ Kx ♦ AKxxxx ♣ xxx	West Opener ♠ x ♥ A10xx ♦ AQJxx ♣ Kxx	East Responder ♠ K10xxx ♥ KJxx ♦ xx ♣ xx	West Opener ♠ Qx ♥ AJ10x ♦ Qxxx ♣ Kxx	East Responder ♠ Axxxx ♥ Kxxxx ♦ xx ♣ x
East Opens 1D and west bids 2S (9-11 HCP and 5S and 4+H). Opener can pass and play in the best possible part.		Playing normal system the bidding would be 1D-1S-2D-Pass. However playing reverse flannery the bidding would be 1D-2H-Pass.		Playing reverse flannery, the bidding would be 1D-2H-Pass. Due to the higher level, it is slightly difficult for opponent's to balance.	

I have been playing the reverse flannery convention in the above-mentioned version with my regular partners and we would certainly recommend this for serious partnerships.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

Local Bridge News & Results

Delhi Bridge Association Tuesday Pairs Event - Results

02/11/2004 – 9 Tables

NS 1: S.N. Mathur – V.N. Puri	60.03%
NS 2: Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele	58.72%
EW 1: Vishwanathan – Ghare Khan	61.24%
EW 2: Ashim Kumar Ghosh – S.K. Uppal	56.86%

09/11/2004 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Col. K.K. Sabharwal – V.N. Puri	58.37%
NS 2: Sudhir Aggarwal – Amod Rele	55.52%
EW 1: A.K. Jha – S. Majumder	68.86%
EW 2: R.C. Consul – D.K. Mutreja	66.84%

16/11/2004 – 8 Tables

NS 1: Mrs. Kiran Nadar – Subhash Gupta	58.99%
NS 2: Ujjawal Gupta – Mrs. Sushma Gupta	56.81%
EW 1: Sudhir Aggarwal – R. Chakravarty	58.07%
EW 2: A.K. Sinha – T. Bhattacharya	56.09%

23/11/2004 – 11 Tables

NS 1: Prof. S.C. Gupta – Mrs. Mani Gupta	60.11%
NS 2: Daya Dhaon – Suraj Jain	59.49%
EW 1: Mrs. Chand Vir – R.K. Vir	64.61%
EW 2: Mrs. Sushma Gupta – Ujjawal Gupta	54.12%

30/11/2004 – 8 Tables

NS 1: A.K. Jha – A.K. Ghosh	57.14%
NS 2: Alison Beer – Marie Milsum	54.70%
EW 1: Vineet Chandra – Alok Khemka	62.30%
EW 2: Ms. Suni Chung – Mrs. Asha Sehgal	55.49%

DBA – Hindustan Times Saturday Team Event – Results

06/11/2004 – 14 Teams (Diwali Special)

1. **Subhash Gupta** – (Subhash Gupta, Joyjit Sen Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Sunil Bhatia)
2. **Asha Surana** – (Mrs. Asha Surana, R.S. Jasuja, D.K. Tewari, P.C. Gupta, N.K. Jain)
3. **Dr. Nikita Kamal** – (Dr. Nikita Kamal, Amarjit Wadhawan, Anand Bhatia, Narvir Singh)

13/11/2004 – 9 Teams

1. **Delhi Bridge Club** – (Mukesh Shivdasani, Sudhir Aggarwal, A.K. Ghosh, A.K. Jha)
2. **D.K. Tewari** – (D.K. Tewari, Sangram Guha, P.C. Gupta, N.K. Jain)

Delhi State Championships

The **Delhi State Championships** were held from 7th to 21st Nov 2004 at the **Delhi Bridge Association building (DBA)**. Each event is detailed below:

OPEN PAIRS EVENT:

The Open Pairs event was held on 7th Nov 2004.

19 pairs (10 tables) participated in the event. After playing elimination round of 30 boards (3 boards were played against each pair), 6 NS & 6 EW pairs qualified for the final. In the 22 boards final, each pair played 2 boards against all the other opponents. The winners were:

1. **R.C. Consul – J.B. Sengupta** **59.55%**
2. Dr. (Mrs.) Nikita Kamal – Amarjeet **58.18%**
3. Subhash Gupta – D.K. Tewari **55.45%**
4. Mrs. Asha Surana – R.S. Jasuja **51.00%**

MIXED PAIRS EVENT:

The Mixed Pairs event was held in the evening of 17th Nov 2004.

17 pairs (9 tables) participated in the event. In the 24 boards final (2 boards per round), the winners were:

1. **Mrs. Sushma Gupta – U. Gupta** **60.60%**
2. Mrs. Asha Sharma – D.P. Sharma **58.49%**
3. Mrs. Rita Bhargava – R. Bhargava **58.35%**
4. Mrs. S.L. Singla – Sanjiv Bery **52.55%**

TEAM OF FOUR EVENT:

The 2-day Team of Four event was held on 20th – 21st Nov 2004. 10 teams took part in this event. After playing a full league of 9 rounds, the following 4 teams qualified for the Semi finals:

1. **SONCHEL** – 176 VPs (Mukesh Shivdasani, Sudhir Aggarwal, Ravi Sawhney, A.K. Ghosh, A.K. Jha, R. Chakravarti)
2. **CSC (Aggarwal)** – 159 VPs (R.C. Aggarwal, C.S. Bedi, K.B. Sikand, Ganpat Rai, M.S. Sharma)
3. **DELHI BLUES** – 158 VPs (Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant, Sunil Bhatia, Ashok Bedi, Sham Sharma, B.M. Banda)
4. **D.K. Tiwari's Team** – 154 VPs (D.K. Tiwari, P.C. Gupta, N.K. Jain, Anand Bhatia)

In the 3*8 boards Semi finals played on 21st morning, **D.K. Tewari's** team beat SONCHEL by 67-53 (22-22, 22-17, 23-14) and **DELHI BLUES** beat CSC by 72-57 (25-22, 10-15, 37-20).

The 4*10 boards final was played on 21st afternoon and **DELHI BLUES** emerged victorious by defeating **D.K. Tiwari's team** by 19 IMPs (**80-61**). The score in favour of Delhi Blues was (9-9, 4-23, 44-8, 23-21).

Heartiest Congratulations to All the Winners

- Reported by Editor

Delhi Gymkhana Club Tournament

The **Delhi Gymkhana Club / Indian Glycol Open Bridge Tournament, 2004** was held at **Gymkhana Club, New Delhi** from **26th to 28th Nov 2004**.

The events are detailed below:

TEAM OF FOUR EVENT:

36 teams participated in the T-4 event. After 9 rounds of round robin (of 10 boards each), the following 8 teams qualified for the quarter finalists:

1. BATRA's	- 173 VPs
2. MORNING FOXES	- 165
3. AZURE (INDIAN GLYCOL)	- 157
4. FORMIDABLES	- 157
5. DELHI BRIDGE CLUB	- 157
6. TEWARI's	- 154
7. DELHI BLUES	- 151

VIRMANI's team (with 147 VPs) took the 8th slot, reserved for the best Gymkhana Club team.

The qualified teams were divided in 2 groups to play a round robin within their group and to select the 2 top teams from each group, which would qualify for the semi-finals. Group "A" had team numbers 1,4,5,8 & Group "B" the team numbers 2,3,6,7. The results are given below:

TEAM NAME (GROUP "A")	1	4	5	8	Total
1. BATRA's		9	12	25	46
4. FORMIDABLES	21		11	22	54
5. DELHI BRIDGE CLUB	18	19		08	45
8. VIRMANI	03	08	22		33

TEAM NAME (GROUP "B")	2	3	6	7	Total
2. MORNING FOXES		13	13	15	41
3. AZURE	17		18	18	53
6. TEWARI's	17	12		13	42
7. DELHI BLUES	15	12	17		44

In the 2*14 boards **Semi Finals, Formidables** beat DELHI BLUES (Paresh Gupta, T.C. Pant, Sunil Bhatia, Ashok Bedi, Sham Sharma & Dr. Ashwani Mehta) by 56 IMPs and **AZURE** beat BATRA's (B.N. Batra, S. Lahiri, V.K. Agrawal, B.K. Agrawal) by 58 IMPs.

In the 2*16 boards final, **AZURE (Indian Glycol)** team defeated **FORMIDABLES** (Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Sumit Mukherjee) by 8 IMPs (44-21, 5-20). The winners were represented by Major S.K. Hooda, Mrs. Bharti Dey, Rana Roy & Manas Mukherjee.

OPEN PAIRS EVENT:

84 Pairs played the First Elimination out of which 42 pairs qualified for the 2nd elimination round.

The 42 qualified pairs + 10 pairs (Team qualifiers) played the 2nd elimination round in 2 sections and out of that 24 Pairs qualified for the finals, where they were joined by the 6 pairs of losing Semi finalist from team event.

The 30 Pairs played the final and the winners were:

1. R.K. Bhansali – B. Prasad	60.83%
2. N.K. Gupta – Sandeep Thakral	60.24%
3. Inder Pal Singh – Vinod Sharma	59.88%
4. K.K. Shyamsunder – Sheik Naimuddin	59.40%
5. Pradeep Singh – S. Behura	56.55%
6. A. Virmani – Y. Tewari	56.07%

The Management committee & the Tournament Directors deserve all the praise for their commendable job in conducting the tournament smoothly.

Heartiest Congratulations to All the Winners

- Reported by Editor

Yeshwant Club Pairs Tournament

The 2nd **Yeshwant Club Open Pairs Prize Money Bridge Tournament** was held at **Indore** from **5th to 7th Nov 2004**. 63 Pairs participated in the tournament. The scoring was IMP. After elimination rounds, 24 Pairs played the finals and the winners were:

1. Montu Mukherjee – R. Roy	128.00
2. Ms. Kalpana Mishrta – Anil Padhye	125.00
3. S.K. Sharma – Puneet Gangal	106.00
4. Jitesh Agarwal – Dr. A. Vijayvargiya	94.00
5. K.R. Venkataraman – N.R. Kirubakaramoorthy	58.00
6. R.K. Majumder – Biman Chatterjee	43.00

Heartiest Congratulations to All the Winners

- Reported by Editor

AILBA - Weekly Results

05/11/2004 - 16 Pairs

1. Suraj Jain – Daya Dhaon
2. Mrs. Kunti Thakur – Mrs. Rekha Sarin
3. C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani

19/11/2004 - 7 Tables

- NS 1: Dr. R.L. Sanghi – Suraj Jain
 NS 2: P.K. Rajgariah – N.K. Jain
 EW 1: C.P. Mittal – S.A. Bijlani
 EW 2: K. Mubayi – V. Tuli

- Reported by Mrs. Shashi Jain, Secretary LBA

International Bridge News

The 12th World Bridge Olympiad, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN TEAMS

The Indian teams participated in both OPEN as well as WOMEN's Team Championships in the 12th World Bridge Olympiad held at Istanbul, Turkey from 23rd Oct to 6th Nov 2004. However, there was no participation in the Senior Bowl. The performance of both the Indian teams is detailed below:

OPEN TEAMS						WOMEN's TEAMS					
Round	Vs.	Result for India		Cumulative	RANK	Round	Vs.	Result for India		Cumulative	RANK
No.		IMPs	VPs	VPs		No.		IMPs	VPs	VPs	
1	Luxembourg	69-33	21-09	22		1	Italy	40-42	15-15	15	
2	Germany	25-15	17-13	39		2	Canada	61-05	25-03	40	
3	Switzerland	45-43	15-15	54	7	3	Finland	18-51	07-23	47	9/10
4	Kenya	60-50	17-13	71		4	Austria	50-56	14-16	61	
5	Lebanon	65-35	21-09	92		5	Russia	21-26	14-16	75	
6	Croatia	40-22	19-11	111	3	6	China	29-62	07-23	82	15
7	USA	13-33	11-19	122		7	Spain	26-59	07-23	89	
8	Tunisia	61-52	17-13	139		8	Sweden	25-30	14-16	103	
9	Singapore	75-26	25-05	164	5	9	Brazil	32-12	20-10	123	17
10	China	35-32	16-14	180		10	Australia	30-05	21-09	144	
11	Australia	24-82	04-25	184		11	Jordan	49-10	24-06	168	
12	Chile	79-40	23-07	207	7	12	Switzerland	54-43	17-13	185	12
13	Turkey	39-62	10-20	217		13	Kenya	55-01	25-03	210	
14	Martinique	26-19	16-14	233		14	Pakistan	39-26	18-12	228	
15	Estonia	35-32	16-14	249	7	15	Bulgaria	26-16	17-13	245	6
16	Bulgaria	41-60	11-19	260		16	Mexico	31-42	13-17	258	
17	Norway	38-73	08-22	268	9	17	Scotland	35-53	11-19	269	
						18	Turkey	45-68	10-20	279	10
						19	France	11-53	05-25	284	
						20	Hungary	35-28	16-14	300	
						21	Egypt	65-34	22-08	322	11

The Indian team for the OPEN TEAM event was represented by Pritish Kushari, Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Amar Nath Banerjee, Hassibul Hassan.

The Ladies team for the WOMEN's TEAM event was represented by Usha Kabra, Marianne Karmarkar, Geeta Lakhani, Ameeta Raythatha, Yvette Singapuri & Sheelu Thadani.

Mukul Chatterjee was the NPC and Ranjit Kumar Basu was the Coach.

India was in Group B of the open event and finished 9th out of the 18 teams in their group with a score of 268 VPs (Avg. 15.77 VPs). After 6 rounds they were unbeaten and holding the 3rd rank. Till 9th round also they were in with a fighting chance, but their 11th round match against Australia, which they lost badly by 25-4 was the turning point of the tournament for them and they never recovered from it. Overall it was a good performance by the Railway team but they could have surely played BETTER.

The Ladies team was in Group A. They surely gave a spirited performance but were a bit erratic. They had beaten some powerful teams but lost against some of the weaker opponents like Finland, Spain, Mexico, Scotland & Turkey. They could have qualified, if they would have won any 2 matches against these weaker opponents.

- EDITOR

OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - The Semi-Final & Finals

The line up for the Semi-finals in the Open team championships in which 72 Teams had participated was finalized. The line up was:

The Netherlands Vs. Russia & Italy Vs. China

In the first of the 6-session semi-finals of 96 boards between the Netherlands & the Russian teams, the Netherlands team took the first set 30-12 and consolidated their position in the second by outscoring the Russians 68-12. The Russians did well to take the 3rd set by 48-7 and reducing the lead to 33 IMPs only. But there onwards the young Netherlands team did not see back and won the next 3 sets 24-12, 30-8 & 36-24 to finally go to the Finals with a score of 195-116 and a win by 79 IMPs.

In the second semi-final, the Chinese team took the mighty Italians. The steady Chinese team performed well and was only 14 down at the half way stage. Italy won the first 2 sets by 27-19 & 28-22 and the Chinese team continued their competitiveness in the 3rd set, which was drawn 32-32. But the Italians are too strong a team and took the next 3 sets by 41-22, 23-18, 29-23 to add 30 more IMPs to their kitty and won comfortably by 44 IMPs. The Final score was 180 – 136 in favour of Italy.

So, after 11 days of play, the finals were set in the Open event. It was **Italy Vs The Netherlands**. The defending champions - Italian team was surely the favourite over the young Netherlands team in the Open series Finals, but the Italians were surely not taking the match for granted.

China & Russia played a 48-board playoff for the bronze medal.

In the playoffs among the losing semi-finalists, the Russian team earned the bronze medal by beating the Chinese team 106-84 in the Open series for third place. The Bronze medallist Russian team was represented by Alexander Doubinine, Andrei Gromov, Jouri Khokhlov, Max Khven, Georgy Matushko, Vladimir Rekunov, Boris Sazanov npc. The 4th placed Chinese team was represented by Meng Kong, Xiaoyi Li, Xin Li, Haojin Shi, Shaolin Sun, Zejun Zhuang, Jihong Hu npc.

THE FINALS – OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The 8-session, 128 boards finals between the defending champions Italy & the young team from the Netherlands started slowly with Italy taking a 2 IMP lead (37-35) in the first 16 boards. There were no fireworks in the next 16 boards also, which the Italians took by 5 IMPs (17-12).

Delicately poised before the start of the third session, the match exploded into life as more than 70 IMPs changed hands in the first eight boards of the 3rd set. It was Italy who struck first, and as is so often the case it was the opening lead, which effectively decided the outcome of many boards. The Italians finally took the set by 31 IMPs (67-36) to lead by 38 IMPs after 48 boards. They consolidated their position in the next set by comprehensively beating their opponents by 42 IMPs (44-2). The next set was a tie (35-35) and the Netherlands team gained 3 IMPs (49-46) in the 6th set. So Italy led by 77 IMPs after 96 boards and 32 more boards to go. The Italians did not give any chance to their opponents in the next set and won it by a further 17 IMPs (58-41) to lead by 94 IMPs. As a consolation the Netherlands team recovered 35 IMPs (41-6) in the last and final set and ITALY won the match comfortably by 59 IMPs (310-251) to take the GOLD.

So Italy repeats as Olympic champs. Four of the players who won the Open series of the World Bridge Olympiad for Italy have repeated as champions of the event with two new teammates. Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudia Nunes, Alfredo Versace, Maria Teresa Lavazza npc & Massimo Ortensi coach, represented the Gold medallist Italian team.

The Silver medallists, Netherlands team was represented by Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jan Jansma, Maarten Schollaardt, Ricco van Prooijen, Loek Jr.Verhees, Antoine van Hoof npc & Anton Maas coach

With this victory, Lorenzo Lauria overtook Bob Hamman for the No. 1 spot on the WBF master points list. Hamman had held the top spot since 1985. Lauria and three of his teammates in Istanbul – partner Alfredo Versace, plus Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin – were on the winning team in the 2000 Olympiad in Maastricht.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - The Semi-Final & Finals

The line up for the Semi-finals in the Women's team championships in which 41 Teams had participated was finalized. The line up was:

CHINA Vs. USA & RUSSIA Vs. ENGLAND

In the 6-session 96 boards semi-finals of the Women's series, Russia made it to the final with a surprisingly easy win over England. The Russian ladies beat England by 46 IMPs. They won 212-166 (38-33, 26-37, 60-21, 46-20, 25-13, 17-42).

In the second semi-final it was CHINA Vs. USA. The same teams had met in the final of the Venice Cup last year in Monte Carlo, where USA came out on top after a close battle. China has been trying to beat various American teams for more than a decade now and it was time to gain some long overdue revenge.

The veteran USA team, was tested by the Chinese women but won the first 2 sets by 24-17, 50-30 to take a 27 IMP lead after 32 boards. The Chinese team won the next 2 sets 45-38 & 25-22 to reduce the USA lead to 17 IMPs after 64 boards. The 5th set ended in a 20-20 tie and USA was carrying a tenuous 17-IMP lead into the final 16 boards. To the Americans' relief, it was a dull set. The boards were not conducive to swings as the session score of 19-9 in favour of USA indicates. So the USA team reached the Finals beating the Chinese team by 27 IMPs (173-146).

It was **RUSSIA Vs USA** in the Women's series Finals.

China & England played a 48-board playoff for the bronze medal.

In the playoffs among the losing semi-finalists, England took the bronze medal in the Women's series, defeating China 115-81. The bronze medallists were represented by Sally Brock, Michelle Brunner, Heather Dhondy, Rhona Goldenfield, Nicola Smith, Kitty Teltscher, Alan Mould npc, Christine Duckworth coach. The 4th placed Chinese team was represented by Ling Gu, Yi Qian Liu, Ping Wang, Wenfei Wong, Hongli Wang, Yalan Zhang and Xiaojing Wang npc.

THE FINALS - WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

It was no surprise to see the USA team in the Women's final, as they were the favourites before the tournament began. But their opponents, the team from Russia were surely something of a surprise, as they have not shown form in previous championships to suggest that they would be finalists here. However after reaching the finals and playing in such a good form, the USA team was not going to take them lightly.

In the 6-session, 96 boards finals, the USA team won the first set by 21 IMPs (54-33) and gained another 26 (47-21) in the second set. There was still a long way to go, but the Russians would not want to slip further behind as the third set got underway. They did exactly that and thrashed the USA team by 51 IMPs (77-26) to lead by 4 IMPs at half way stage. They did not see behind from that point onwards and comfortably took the next 2 sets 62-37 & 52-46 to take a 35 IMPs lead with only 16 boards to go. The experienced USA team tried very hard in the last set but could gain only 23 IMPs (49-26) and the tough, aggressive team of unheralded players from Russia are the gold medallists in the Women's series of the World Bridge Olympiad, fending off a final-set rally by an experienced team from the USA and beating them by 12 IMPs (271-259).

The victory by the Russian women was all the more impressive when you consider that on the way to the title, they defeated the Netherlands, essentially the same team that won The Venice Cup in 2000; Germany, mostly the same 2001 Venice Cup champions, and the USA, 2003 Venice Cup winners.

The winners (gold medallist) Russian team was represented by Olga Galaktinova, Victoria Gromova, Natalia Karpenko, Maria Lebedeva, Tatiana Ponomareva and Irina Vasilkova. Pavel Vorobei was non-playing captain.

The runners-up (Silver medallist) USA team was represented by Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow, Carlyn Steiner, Jill Levin npc and Jan Martel coach.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

2nd World Bridge University Championships

Total 15 teams participated in the 2nd World Bridge University Championships. They played a round robin of 15 rounds. After a very exciting last round, Poland was the strongest team and becomes the new University champion of the second FISU World University Bridge Championships. In the last round, Poland beat Italy by 25 to take the Gold medal. Belgium, in poll position till the last round, got only 16 to take the Silver medal, and USA took the bronze. The final rankings after 15 rounds were:

1 POLAND	284	9 ITALY	236
2 BELGIUM	276	10 DENMARK	226
3 U.S.A.	247	11 NETHERLANDS	210
4 TURKEY	246	12 GERMANY	188
5 CHINESE TAIPEI	245	13 UNITED KINGDOM	184
6 FRANCE	242	14 ROMANIA	170
INDONESIA	242	15 HUNGARY	149
8 SWEDEN	240		

Transnational Mixed Teams

130 Teams participated in the 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championships. The format of the event was that each team would play a 15 rounds Swiss league of 10 boards each. Thereafter the top four teams would play in the Semi Finals and the remainder of the teams would further play two more 10-board matches to decide the final ranking. The Semi Finals would consist of 2 x 16 board segments and the final would consist of 3 x 16 board segments.

The Germany-USA-France combination squad captained by Sabine Auken was the leader after 15 rounds. Auken was playing with Zia Mahmood, Paul Chemla and Catherine D'Ovidio. The following top four teams qualified for the semi-finals.

1. AUKEN S. - (GER-USA-GER) - (Ms SABINE AUKEN, ZIA MAHMOOD, P. CHEMLA, Ms C. D'OVIDIO)
2. ZHANG D. - (CHINA) - Y. LU, M. SUN, W. WANG, L. WANG, Z. FU, Q. ZHOU
3. BATOV V. - (BULGARIA) - V. BATOV, J. STEFANOV, Ms S. IVANOVA, Ms R. MIRCHEVA
4. ALLIX J. - (FRANCE) - J. ALLIX, A. HERTZ, E. MAUBERGUEZ, Ms J. RACZYNSKA, Ms V. REESS

The remaining teams played 2 more rounds of 10 boards each in the Swiss league and Final Ranking of Transnational Mixed Teams was as follows:

Rank	Players	Country	VPs
5	POPOVA D.	TUR - BUL	297
6	MAUD	EGY	296
7	SUE	FIN	295
8	FORNACIARI	ITA	294
9	HNATOVA D.	CZE	294
10	VAN CLEEFF	NTH - ISR	290
28	LAKHANI G.	IND - GRE	271
85	HANS S.	AUS	240
101	FRIENDSHIP	PAK - IND	218

In the 32 boards semi-final round of the World Transnational Mixed Teams. Auken (France/Germany) defeated Allix (France) by 56-43 (25-24, 31-19), while Batov (Bulgaria) knocked out Zhang (China) by 58-43 (46-6, 12-37).

In the 3 set (48 boards) World Transnational Mixed Teams Finals, Sabine Auken, Zia Mahmood, Catherine D'Ovidio and Paul Chelma easily dispatched the Batov team from Bulgaria in the final by 173-82. Auken led Batov 68-28 in the first set, took the second with comparative ease by 84-16 and finally gave some consolation to their opponent by losing the third set 21-38.

Lakhani G., an Indian - Greece combination team comprising LAKHANI GEETA, PROKOPIOU Y, RAYTHATHA A, IONYSSOPOULOS were ranked 28th in the event. **FRIENDSHIP**, an India - Pakistan combination comprising of GHAZI R. Ms KARMARKAR MMOINUDDIN K. Ms SINGAPURI were ranked 101. The team of Sartaj Hans, the Delhi player (now playing for Australian team) was ranked 85th.

- Reported by the Editor

- Courtesy WBF Bulletins & live Vu-graph from BridgeBase

The 2004 Fall NABC, Orlando

The 78th Fall NABC 2004 was held from 18th Nov to 28th Nov 2004 at Orlando, Florida. Details of all the important events are given below:

Women's Life Master Pairs:

A total of 78 Pairs participated in the Helen Sobel Smith Life Master Women's Pairs event. The event was won by Cynthia Hinckley and Diana Schuld. This is their first win in a North American championship. Hinckley and Schuld finished only nine points ahead of the runners-up from Israel, Migry Zur Campanile and Pamela Granovetter. Only five points further back were Lisa Berkowitz and Joann Glasson. Those numbers are only a small fraction of top on a board, which was 38. The top position holders were:

1. Cynthia Hinckley - Diana Schuld 1216.57
2. Migry Zur Campanile - P Granovetter 1207.89
3. Lisa Berkowitz - Joann Glasson 1202.95
4. Joyce Regan - Joan Sherman 1184.98
5. Nadine Wood - Terry Michaels 1184.54
6. Laurie Vogel - Gail Greenberg 1170.91
7. Marjorie Michelin - Sylvia Fay Caley 1162.29
8. Carlyn Steiner - Marinesa Letizia 1160.12

Life Master Pairs:

A total of 182 Pairs participated in the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs event. The event was won by the father-son combination of Richard Pavlicek and Richard Pavlicek Jr. Second place in the event went to Mark Aquino and Jonathan Green. With the victory, the younger Pavlicek racked up his first North American championship in an unrestricted event (he previously won the Mini-Spangold). The top position holders were:

1. Richard Pavlicek - Rich Pavlicek Jr. 3020.35
2. Mark Aquino - Jonathan Green 2984.89
3. Ken Cohen - Richard Katz 2931.22
4. Roger Bates - Vivian Kilstrup 2899.02
5. Allan Graves - Michael Gamble 2898.66
6. Armand Barfus - George Tornay Jr. 2890.71
7. Zia Mahmood - Michael Kamil 2888.87
8. Martin Schifko - Andreas Gloyer 2863.81

Open BOARD-A-MATCH Teams:

A total of 52 Teams participated in this event. With a session to go in the Victor Mitchel Open Board-a-Match Teams, the team captained by Peter Bertheau was well off the pace, lying in 22nd place. Thanks to a massive final set, wherein they scored 21 out of a possible 26, the team emerged as winners, edging the Roy Welland squad on the last round.

The final margin was less than half a board. The winners are Christal Henner-Welland and Mike Kamil, Swedish stars Bertheau and Fredrik Nystrom and Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes, members of the winning Italian team in the just completed World Bridge Team Olympiad in Istanbul.

With a round to go, the Welland team was in first place by .30 points, just ahead of the Joe Grue squad. Bertheau was in third place, .52 out of first. On the last round, Bertheau won both boards while the two teams ahead of them split their boards, allowing Bertheau to leapfrog into first. The final standings were:

1. Peter Bertheau, Fredrik Nystrom, Michael Kamil, Christal Henner-Welland, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes - 36.15
2. Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Zia Mahmood, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Michael Rosenberg - 35.67
3. Joe Grue, Brian Glubok, Curtis Cheek, Chris Compton, Adam Wildavsky, Gunnar Hallberg - 35.37
4. Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth, Paul Soloway, Eric Rodwell - 34.63

WOMEN'S BOARD-A-MATCH

A total of 20 Teams participated in this event. Captain Hansa Narasimhan of Los Altos Hills CA led five established stars to a strong victory in the Marsha May Sternberg Women's Board-a-Match Teams championship. They were in front by almost two and a half boards. In second place were the team led by JoAnn Sprung. Narasimhan learned bridge in India, and her team won the India women's championship just before she moved to the United States 15 years ago. She played with Levitina, whom she terms "a great player." They trained regularly on BBO online, carefully going over each hand after each session, three or four times a week. All five of Narasimhan's teammates have long histories of triumphs at the world and North American levels. The final standings were:

1. Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby, Jill Levin, Susan Picus - 38.06
2. JoAnn Sprung, Pam Wittes, Renee Mancuso, Kathleen Sulgrove, Peggy Sutherland, Karen Allison - 35.65
3. Valerie Westheimer, Judi Radin, Shawn Quinn, Mildred Breed, Stasha Cohen, Cheri Bjerkan - 34.31
4. Kathy Baum, Peg Waller, Candace Griffey, Joan Eaton - 34.27

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS:

A total of 208 Pairs participated in the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs event. The leaders at the end of first qualifying stage were Eric Greco and Geoff Hampson. Drew Casen and Jim Krekorian took a lead of 15.13 matchpoints into the semi-final stage. They were just ahead of a Ross Gabel and Jon Wittes. In third place were William Pettis and Beth Palmer, followed by Egyptians Tarek Sadek and Walid El Ahmady.

The first-day leaders, Eric Greco and Geoff Hampson, were still in contention in fifth place, followed closely by Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein. Two women's pairs, Debbie Rosenberg-JoAnna Stansby and Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim, were also within striking distance.

On the final day, Egyptian friends and business partners Tarek Sadek and Walid El Admady fought off a hard charge by Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein to win the event by about a quarter of a board. Sadek and Elahmady, who live in Cairo, posted a 61.61% game, just enough to finish ahead of Levin and Weinstein, who had a huge game at 69.46%. Drew Casen and Jim Krekorian were third. Top on a board was 51.

The Egyptians, who have finished second in the Cavendish Invitational Pairs two times – once to Levin and Weinstein – won their first North American championship together. Elahmady and Zia Mahmood won the six-session Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs last summer in New York. Sadek and Elahmady own a software company together and have been partners for 20 years. The final standings were:

1. Tarek Sadek - Walid Elahmady	1722.22
2. Robert Levin - Steve Weinstein	1708.38
3. Drew Casen - Jim Krekorian	1677.53
4. Eric Rodwell - Jeff Meckstroth	1628.95
5. David Berkowitz - Larry Cohen	1615.33
6. Jim Hall - Paul Meerschaert	1599.56
7. William Pettis - Beth Palmer	1593.50
8. Sabine Auken - Danielle Von Arnim	1592.35

REISINGER BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS:

A total of 26 Teams participated in this event. The team captained by Mike Passell, defending their championship from 2003 without last year's captain, Malcolm Brachman, took a lead of 4.5 boards after two qualifying sessions of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams. Brachman did not attend the Fall NABC because of illness. Passell racked up 38.5 points to 34 for the second-place Richard Schwartz squad.

Heading into the final two sessions the defending champs held a lead of nearly three boards. They ended the second day of qualifying with a score of 34.50. In second place at 31.66, were Roy Welland's team.

Entering the final day of play with nearly four boards behind, the Nick Nickell team put together two big sessions to win the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams by more than four boards. Second place went to the Richard Schwartz squad, who mounted their own last-day rally to come from 8.5 boards back to the runner-up spot. The team with Malcolm Brachman as non-playing captain finished third.

The winners are Nickell, Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. With the victory, Jeff Meckstroth claimed the 2004 Player of the Year title for winning the most masterpoints in platinum-point events. It was his second. Schwartz's teammates were Michael Becker, Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz, Andrea Buratti and Massimo Lanzarotti.

Nickell was captain of the team that won the Reisinger in 1993, 1994 and 1995 (with Bobby Wolff instead of Soloway). The current team are the reigning Bermuda Bowl champions and will try for their fourth victory in the event next year in Portugal. The Brachman team – Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco – led the Reisinger after both qualifying days and midway through the first final session. Nickell came on strong, however, scoring 19 out of 26 to take the lead. Their lead grew to as much as six boards during the second final session.

The final standings:

1. Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway - 36.88
2. Richard Schwartz, Michael Becker, Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz, Andrea Buratti, Massimo Lanzarotti - 32.50
3. Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco - 32.44
4. Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Zia Mahmood, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Michael Rosenberg - 30.41

*- Reported by the Editor
(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of FALL NABC)*

Italy's Lauria Now No. 1 in the World

Lorenzo Lauria of Italy has taken over the No. 1 position in the World Bridge Federation as a result of his remarkable series of performances in major European and world competition. He also has been very successful at North American championships.

He displaced Bob Hamman, who was the top player in the world in WBF rankings for 20 years. Lauria was a member of the victorious Italian team at the World Team Olympiad in Istanbul earlier this month. That victory moved him ahead of Hamman.

He has won two World Team Olympiads (2000 and 2004) and two Rosenblum Teams (1998 and 2002). Add to that four triumphs in the European Team Championships (1979, 1995, 1997 and 2002) three consecutive wins in the European Bridge League Challenge Cup (2002 to 2004) and a win in the International Olympic Committee Grand Prix in 1999. Strangely enough, he has never won a Bermuda Bowl, although he has three seconds (1979, 1983 and 2003).

His international career first blossomed in 1979 in the Bermuda Bowl in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His partner was the incomparable Giorgio Belladonna. The Americans were well ahead going into the final 16-board segment, but Lauria and Belladonna had a superb final set. They were sure they had overcome the Americans' lead, but they missed by 5 IMPs. Belladonna was so disappointed that he cried as he rode the elevator away from the playing area.

(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of FALL NABC)

UNDERSTAND LAWS OF DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE

LAW 14 MISSING CARD

➤ **A – Hand Found Deficient before Play Commences**

When three hands are correct and the fourth is found to be deficient before the play period begins, the Director makes a search for any missing card, and:

1. **Card Is Found** – If a card is found, it is restored to the deficient hand.
2. **Card Cannot Be Found** – If a card cannot be found, the Director reconstructs the deal, as near to its original form as he can determine, by substituting another pack.

➤ **B – Hand Found Deficient Afterwards**

When three hands are correct and the fourth is found to be deficient after the play period begins, the Director makes a search for any missing card, and:

1. **Card Is Found** – If a card is found among the played cards, Law 67 applies. If a card is found elsewhere, it is restored to the deficient hand, and penalties may apply (see 3., following).
2. **Card Cannot Be Found** – If a card cannot be found, the deal is reconstructed as nearly as can be determined in its original form by substituting another pack, and penalties may apply (see 3., following).
3. **Possible Penalties** – A card restored to a hand under the provisions of Section B of this Law is deemed to have belonged continuously to the deficient hand. It may become a penalty card (Law 50), and failure to have played it may constitute a revoke.

➤ **C – Play Completed**

When it is determined after play ends that a player's hand originally contained more than 13 cards with another player holding correspondingly fewer, the result must be cancelled (for procedural penalty, see Law 90).

HAND FROM FALL NABC

Suit preference

By Barry Rigal

Using a suit preference signal can make a difference in your match point score. Watch what happened on this deal from the second final session of the Life Master Open Pairs as Mark Aquino and Jonathan Green defended a doubled contract. Aquino and Green finished second in the event.

Board 8, Dlr: West, Vul: None

	♠ 863 ♥ T42 ♦ A9864 ♣ K2		
♠ K ♥ AQ98 ♦ KT3 ♣ AQ865	N W E S	♠ 942 ♥ K3 ♦ Q72 ♣ JT973	
	♠ AQJT75 ♥ J765 ♦ J5 ♣ 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Green</i>		<i>Aquino</i>	
1C	Pass	3C(1)	3S
4C	4S	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Preemptive

Green led the ♣A and Aquino followed with the jack. Green got the message and underled his ♥A-Q to Aquino's king. That unblocked the suit. Aquino returned a heart to the queen and Green cashed his ♥A as Aquino pitched a club. When Green led his last heart, declarer called for dummy's trump 8, but Aquino was able to overruff with the 9. Declarer guessed the spade situation correctly, but plus 300 still was worth 81 out of a possible 90 match points.

(Courtesy: Daily Bulletins of FALL NABC)

Tolani National Master Tourney

The **Tolani National Master Tourney 2004** was held at Mumbai from **20th Nov to 24th Nov**.

16 teams were locked in all play all round robin matches, after which 8 teams qualified to play the quarterfinals. The qualifiers were: **Indian Railways - A, Indian Railways - B, Formidables, Dhampur Sugar Mills, Tolani Shipping, Jimmy Mehta, Well Knit & Sunil Machar** teams.

Formidables, Wellknit, Jimmy Mehta & Sunil Machar lost their quarter final matches and both the Railway teams along with Dhampur Sugar Mills & Tolani Shipping reached the Semi-final stage.

In the 4*14 boards Semi-finals Indian Railways "A" beat Dhampur Sugar Mills by 79 IMPs and Indian Railways "B" beat Tolani Shipping by 29 IMPs.

The 4*14 boards final between both the Railways team was won by Indian Railway "A" who beat the Indian Railway "B" by 49 IMPs.

The winners were represented by **Pritish Kushari, Sumit Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Manas Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee & Hasan**. The Railways "B" team was represented by Saroj Bhattacharya, Ashim Mukherjee, Snehashish Roy, Gopinath Manna, Pranab Roy & Debbrat Bhattacharya.

Congratulations to the Winners

- Reported by Editor

WINTER NATIONALS

The **46th Winter Bridge Championships 2004** will be held from **7th to 17th Dec 2004** at **Waltair Club, Visakhapatnam**. The programme summary is as follows:

7th Dec: 1830 Hrs: Inauguration
1930 Hrs: Captains Meet
8 - 10th Dec: 16 Rounds of RR (T-4)
10th Dec: Categorized Pairs
10 - 11th Dec: 8 Rounds of T-4 Pre-QF
11th Dec: Pairs Elimination - I
12th Dec: T-4 QF & BAM Elimination - I
13th Dec: T-4 SF & Pairs Elimination-II
14th Dec: T-4 Finals & BAM Elim. - II
15th Dec: Pairs Elimination - III
16th Dec: BAM- Finals
17th Dec: Pairs Finals

Forthcoming Events

National

07-17th Dec'04 - Winter Nationals, Waltairs Club, Vizag
21-23rd Jan'05 - Presidents Cup, Baroda
28-30th Jan'05 - SREE Cement Tournament, Kolkata
17-20th Feb'05 - Seth Shrinivas Lohia Memorial Bridge Tournament, Kanpur

International

04-06th Dec'04 - Int'l Teams Tournament, Milan, Italy
12-24th Jan'05 - Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra, Australia
07-13th Feb'05 - 10th NEC Festival, Yokohama, Japan
19-26th Feb'05 - Gold Coast Congress, Surfer's Paradise, Australia
26-27th Feb'05 - 2nd White House Int'l Top Teams, Amsterdam, Netherlands
10-20th Mar'05 - ACBL Spring NABC, Pittsburg, USA

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.

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