



BONUS®

# 5<sup>TH</sup> ASIA BRIDGE CUP GOA INDIA



TAJ CIDADE DE GOA HORIZON | 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026

Bulletin - 2, 23 June 2026

Editor: Mark Horton, Soham Sarkar, Shouvik Das  
Layout Editor : Bhola Nath Das

## Opening Salvos Fired as Asia's Bridge Elite Battle for Continental Glory

The 5th Bonus Asia Cup Bridge Championships began yesterday with 46 teams competing across four categories — 15 Men's, 10 Women's, 13 Mixed, and 8 Senior Teams. The opening day delivered competitive bridge and several significant ranking movements, setting the stage for an exciting week ahead.

With leaders established but margins remaining narrow in every category, Day 2 promises another intense round of action as teams continue their pursuit of qualification and championship honours.

### Men's Teams

China took the early lead with **64.09 VPs** after a consistent start across the first four rounds. Hong Kong China A surged into second place following a commanding 20–0 victory over Thailand in Round 4, finishing on **56.21 VPs**, while India A stayed among the front-runners with **55.85 VPs**. Korea and Chinese Taipei rounded out the top five, with Bangladesh A and Japan also remaining in contention.

**Top 5 after Round 4:** China (**64.09 VPs**), Hong Kong China A (**56.21 VPs**), India A (**55.85 VPs**), Korea (**50.67 VPs**), Chinese Taipei (**48.87 VPs**).

### Women's Teams

Indonesia leads the Women's Championship with **44.52 VPs** after key wins against the Philippines and India B. China moved into second on **43.47 VPs**, aided by a 20–0 victory over Australia A, while Hong Kong China B held third with **34.78 VPs**. Japan climbed to fourth ahead of Hong Kong China A.

**Top 5 after Round 3:** Indonesia (**44.52 VPs**), China (**43.47 VPs**), Hong Kong China B (**34.78 VPs**), Japan (**30.92 VPs**), Hong Kong China A (**29.57 VPs**).

### Mixed Teams

The Mixed event produced the closest contest of the day, with China A leading on **53.98 VPs**, only **0.28 VPs** ahead of Chinese Taipei on **53.70 VPs**. Hong Kong China A recovered well to claim third with **50.22 VPs**, while China B and India A remained within striking distance. Less than eight VPs separate the top six teams.

**Top 5 after Round 4:** China A (**53.98 VPs**), Chinese Taipei (**53.70 VPs**), Hong Kong China A (**50.22 VPs**), China B (**47.87 VPs**), India A (**47.37 VPs**).

### Senior Teams

Japan leads the Seniors with **51.29 VPs**, narrowly ahead of Thailand on **50.05 VPs**. India B sits third with **44.71 VPs** after a steady opening day, while Australia and Bangladesh complete the top five. With the leading teams closely packed, the race for qualification remains wide open.

**Top 5 after Round 4:** Japan (**51.29 VPs**), Thailand (**50.05 VPs**), India B (**44.71 VPs**), Australia (**42.72 VPs**), Bangladesh (**42.17 VPs**).

## PAIRS EVENT REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for the Asia Cup Pairs Event is now open to all players, captains, and coaches.

**Last Date: 25 June 2026, 7:00 PM**

Please submit your entries on the Championship Website at the earliest.

### Outside Food:

Consumption of outside food is permitted only in the Cascade Area and not in the playing halls, meeting rooms, or hotel lobby.



## DAY-2 SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2026

### TEAM OF FOUR EVENT

TIME	EVENTS	TBL	CAT.	BBO MATCHES
0930 - 1130 Hrs.	R-5 (Men / Mixed); R-4 Women; RR1-5 Seniors	2 15	MEN WOMEN	HONG KONG CHINA B Vs. SINGAPORE CHINA Vs. INDIA B
1150 - 1350 Hrs.	R-6 (Men / Mixed); R-5 Women; RR1-6 Seniors	4 21	MEN MIXED	CHINA Vs. HONG KONG CHINA A SINGAPORE Vs. AUSTRALIA A
1450 - 1650 Hrs.	R-7 (Men / Mixed); R-6 Women; RR1-7 Seniors	1 31	MEN SENIORS	KOREA Vs. JAPAN INDIA B Vs. JAPAN
1710 - 1910 Hrs.	R-8 (Men / Mixed)	3 23	MEN MIXED	INDIA A Vs. BANGLADESH B INDIA A Vs. HONG KONG CHINA B

1350 - 1450 — LUNCH BREAK | 1650 - 1710 — TEA BREAK

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*Prasad Keni (BFI President), Franck Riehm (WBF President), Debasish Ray (BFI Secretary),  
H. M. Bangur (Chief Guest), NRK Moorthy (WBF Council Member)*

## IMPORTANT LINKS

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[!\[\]\(0f848bbd71cef6b345273b16f905912a\_img.jpg\) CHAMPIONSHIP SITE](#)

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[!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1\_img.jpg\) FULL SCHEDULE](#)

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[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b\_img.jpg\) ALL RESULTS](#)

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# OPENING CEREMONY



# RESULTS - MEN

## Round 1

1	HONG KONG CHINA B	HONG KONG CHINA A	16	26	7.03	12.97
2	BANGLADESH A	BANGLADESH B	32	19	13.72	6.28
3	INDIA A	INDIA B	33	17	14.42	5.58
4	CHINA	SAUDI ARABIA	52	18	17.63	2.37
5	CHINESE TAIPEI	SINGAPORE	36	11	16.21	3.79
6	THAILAND	JAPAN	23	45	4.34	15.66
7	KUWAIT	AUSTRALIA	42	5	18.04	1.96
8	KOREA	BYE			12	0

## Round 2

1	KOREA	HONG KONG CHINA A	29	17	13.48	6.52
2	HONG KONG CHINA B	BANGLADESH B	41	48	7.84	12.16
3	BANGLADESH A	INDIA B	16	40	3.97	16.03
4	INDIA A	SAUDI ARABIA	44	31	13.72	6.28
5	CHINA	SINGAPORE	54	5	19.38	0.62
6	CHINESE TAIPEI	JAPAN	28	27	10.33	9.67
7	THAILAND	AUSTRALIA	26	42	5.58	14.42
8	KUWAIT	BYE			12	0
















## Round 3

1	KOREA	BANGLADESH B	45	22	15.85	4.15
2	HONG KONG CHINA B	INDIA B	36	14	15.66	4.34
3	BANGLADESH A	SAUDI ARABIA	33	24	12.71	7.29
4	INDIA A	SINGAPORE	54	17	18.04	1.96
5	CHINA	JAPAN	46	29	14.64	5.36
6	CHINESE TAIPEI	AUSTRALIA	26	25	10.33	9.67
7	KUWAIT	HONG KONG CHINA A	9	37	3.28	16.72
8	THAILAND	BYE			12	0

## Round 4

1	KOREA	INDIA B	13	15	9.34	10.66
2	HONG KONG CHINA B	SAUDI ARABIA	21	34	6.28	13.72
3	BANGLADESH A	SINGAPORE	20	15	11.58	8.42
4	INDIA A	JAPAN	25	26	9.67	10.33
5	CHINA	AUSTRALIA	21	13	12.44	7.56
6	THAILAND	HONG KONG CHINA A	1	72	0	20
7	KUWAIT	BANGLADESH B	12	26	6.04	13.96
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	BYE			12	0

## RANKING AFTER 4 ROUNDS

1		CHINA	64.09
2		HONG KONG CHINA A	56.21
3		INDIA A	55.85
4		KOREA	50.67
5		CHINESE TAIPEI	48.87
6		BANGLADESH A	41.98
7		JAPAN	41.02
8		KUWAIT	39.36
9		HONG KONG CHINA B	36.81
10		INDIA B	36.61
11		BANGLADESH B	36.55
12		AUSTRALIA	33.61
13		SAUDI ARABIA	29.66
14		THAILAND	21.92
15		SINGAPORE	14.79



"No, it's not my ex-husband. Worse — my ex-bridge partner."

# RESULTS - WOMEN

## Round 1

11	HONG KONG CHINA B	HONG KONG CHINA A	40	25	14.19	5.81
12	INDIA A	INDIA B	24	37	6.28	13.72
13	AUSTRALIA B	AUSTRALIA A	24	24	10	10
14	INDONESIA	PHILIPPINES	31	20	13.23	6.77
15	CHINA	JAPAN	20	33	6.28	13.72











## Round 2

11	HONG KONG CHINA B	INDONESIA	20	40	4.74	15.26
12	INDIA A	HONG KONG CHINA A	15	31	5.58	14.42
13	AUSTRALIA B	CHINA	16	47	2.81	17.19
14	PHILIPPINES	INDIA B	29	18	13.23	6.77
15	AUSTRALIA A	JAPAN	33	9	16.03	3.97

## Round 3

11	HONG KONG CHINA B	PHILIPPINES	30	7	15.85	4.15
12	INDIA A	JAPAN	19	30	6.77	13.23
13	AUSTRALIA B	HONG KONG CHINA A	19	17	10.66	9.34
14	INDONESIA	INDIA B	48	24	16.03	3.97
15	CHINA	AUSTRALIA A	62	0	20	0

## RANKING AFTER 3 ROUNDS

1		INDONESIA	44.52
2		CHINA	43.47
3		HONG KONG CHINA B	34.78
4		JAPAN	30.92
5		HONG KONG CHINA A	29.57
6		AUSTRALIA A	26.03
7		INDIA B	24.46
8		PHILIPPINES	24.15
9		AUSTRALIA B	23.47
10		INDIA A	18.63

## Lets Bridge to JORDAN

### PROGRAM OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 23 SEP	06:00 PM 07:00 PM	RECEPTION & REGISTRATION OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 1
THURSDAY 24 SEP	10:00 AM 04:00 PM	TRIP (1) OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 2
FRIDAY 25 SEP	04:00 PM 08:00 PM	OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 3 MID-FESTIVAL DINNER
SATURDAY 26 SEP	11:00 AM 05:00 PM	MIXED PAIRS - SESSION 1 MIXED PAIRS - SESSION 2
SUNDAY 27 SEP	09:30 AM 04:00 PM	TRIP (2) OPEN TEAMS - SESSION 1
MONDAY 28 SEP	12:00 PM 08:00 PM	OPEN TEAMS - SESSION 2 GALA DINNER

### ENTRY FEES

EVENT	GUEST	Jordanian
Open Pairs	Per Person 150 \$	Per Person 60 JD
Mixed Pairs	Per Person 120 \$	Per Person 50 JD
Open Teams	Per Person 150 \$	Per Person 60 JD

### FOR MORE INFO

Ma'moun Kotob: +962 77 0000 330  
Raed Darwish: +962 79 6665 565  
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### ACCOMMODATION:

**SINGLE ROOM 138 \$**  
**DOUBLE ROOM 155 \$**

## PRIZES

Open Pairs	Guest	Jordanian
1st Pair	4000 \$	1600 JD
2nd Pair	3000 \$	1200 JD
3rd Pair	2000 \$	800 JD
4th Pair	1000 \$	500 JD
5th Pair	800 \$	400 JD
6th Pair	600 \$	300 JD
7th - 10th Pair	400 \$	200 JD
11th - 14th Pair	200 \$	100 JD
Best Ladies	200 \$	100 JD
Best Improved	100 \$	50 JD
First Session 1	100 \$	50 JD
First Session 2	100 \$	50 JD
First Session 3	100 \$	50 JD

Mixed Pairs	Guest	Jordanian
1st	2000 \$	1000 JD
2nd	1200 \$	600 JD
3rd	1000 \$	500 JD
4th	800 \$	400 JD
5th	600 \$	300 JD
6th	400 \$	200 JD
7th - 10th Pair	200 \$	100 JD
Best Improved	100 \$	50 JD
First Session 1	100 \$	50 JD
First Session 2	100 \$	50 JD

Teams	Guest	Jordanian
1st	1600 JD	1600 JD
2nd	1200 JD	1200 JD
3rd	800 JD	800 JD
4th	600 JD	600 JD
5th	500 JD	500 JD
6th	400 JD	400 JD
7th	300 JD	300 JD
8th	200 JD	200 JD
Best Ladies	100 JD	100 JD

# RESULTS - MIXED

## Round 1

21	CHINA B	CHINA A	22	49	3.45	16.55
22	AUSTRALIA A	AUSTRALIA B	25	11	13.96	6.04
23	INDIA A	INDIA B	43	26	14.64	5.36
24	HONG KONG CHINA B	HONG KONG CHINA A	14	33	4.94	15.06
25	CHINESE TAIPEI	JAPAN	34	9	16.21	3.79
26	THAILAND	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	29	8	15.46	4.54
27	SINGAPORE	BYE		12		0

## Round 2

21	SINGAPORE	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	43	8	17.77	2.23
22	AUSTRALIA A	CHINA A	40	43	9.03	10.97
23	INDIA A	AUSTRALIA B	46	32	13.96	6.04
24	HONG KONG CHINA B	INDIA B	42	19	15.85	4.15
25	CHINESE TAIPEI	HONG KONG CHINA A	46	13	17.49	2.51
26	THAILAND	JAPAN	15	29	6.04	13.96
27	CHINA B	BYE		12		0

## Round 3

21	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	24	17	12.16	7.84
22	CHINA B	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	32.17	7	16.21	3.79
23	INDIA A	CHINA A	29	40	6.77	13.23
24	HONG KONG CHINA B	AUSTRALIA B	21	33	6.52	13.48
25	CHINESE TAIPEI	INDIA B	15	22	7.84	12.16
26	THAILAND	HONG KONG CHINA A	19	50	2.81	17.19
27	AUSTRALIA A	BYE		12		0

## Round 4

21	SINGAPORE	HONG KONG CHINA A	13	34	4.54	15.46
22	CHINA B	JAPAN	32	7	16.21	3.79
23	AUSTRALIA A	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	12	28	5.58	14.42
24	HONG KONG CHINA B	CHINA A	10	21	6.77	13.23
25	CHINESE TAIPEI	AUSTRALIA B	22	15	12.16	7.8
26	THAILAND	INDIA B	14	7	12.16	7.84
27	INDIA A	BYE		12		0

## RANKING AFTER 4 ROUNDS

1		CHINA A	53.98
2		CHINESE TAIPEI	53.70
3		HONG KONG CHINA A	50.22
4		CHINA B	47.87
5		INDIA A	47.37
6		SINGAPORE	46.47
7		AUSTRALIA A	40.57
8		THAILAND	36.47
9		HONG KONG CHINA B	34.08
10		AUSTRALIA B	33.40
11		INDIA B	29.51
12		JAPAN	29.38
13		UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	24.98



# RESULTS - SENIORS

## Round 1

31	INDIA B	INDIA A	9	35	3.62	16.38
32	JAPAN	MALAYSIA	31	5	16.38	3.62
33	THAILAND	BANGLADESH	16	13	10.97	9.03
34	CHINESE TAIPEI	AUSTRALIA	23	37	6.04	13.96

## Round 2

31	MALAYSIA	INDIA B	20	50	2.96	17.04
32	BANGLADESH	JAPAN	57	22	17.77	2.23
33	AUSTRALIA	THAILAND	44	27	14.64	5.36
34	INDIA A	CHINESE TAIPEI	41	28	13.72	6.28

## Round 3

31	INDIA B	BANGLADESH	43	18	16.21	3.79
32	JAPAN	AUSTRALIA	45	8	18.04	1.96
33	THAILAND	INDIA A	35	22	13.72	6.28
34	CHINESE TAIPEI	MALAYSIA	44	6	18.17	1.83

## Round 4

31	AUSTRALIA	INDIA B	38	31	12.16	7.84
32	INDIA A	JAPAN	14	31	5.36	14.64
33	MALAYSIA	THAILAND	2	59	0	20
34	BANGLADESH	CHINESE TAIPEI	25	20	11.58	8.42

## RANKING AFTER 4 ROUNDS

1		JAPAN	51.29
2		THAILAND	50.05
3		INDIA B	44.71
4		AUSTRALIA	42.72
5		BANGLADESH	42.17
6		INDIA A	41.74
7		CHINESE TAIPEI	38.91
8		MALAYSIA	8.41

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**JUNE 27, 2026**

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## The Analyst's Chair

By Mark Horton

This deal from the second round was a tough assignment:

**Board 22. Dealer East. E/WVul.**

♠ AK764 ♥ Q762 ♦ A10 ♣ 42	♠ 108532 ♥ J8 ♦ KJ86 ♣ 86		♠ Q ♥ AK4 ♦ 97542 ♣ KQ75
	♠ J9 ♥ 10953 ♦ Q3 ♣ AJ1093		

Suppose South leads a club at trick one (the ♣J/10 for example).

Having won the opening lead you might consider unblocking the ♠Q, crossing to the ♥Q and cashing the ♠AK. If the suit breaks 4-3 you give up a spade and will be home. If the spades are 5-2 you still have the chance that hearts will be 3-3.

As the cards lie that won't work.

A fair alternative is to play a diamond to the ten at trick two. If North wins and play a club you duck the ♣8 (or cover the ♣6). If the defenders exit with a diamond you win in dummy, unblock the ♠Q and then play on hearts. When the suit fails to divide you cash the ♠AK and then exit with a heart forcing South to surrender a trick to the ♣K/Q.

The man on the Clapham Omnibus is still calculating the odds and considering to what extent the opening lead might affect your choice of lines.

For example on a heart lead, suggesting the suit will not be breaking, you cannot afford to play for a 3-3 diamond break. The winning line is to establish a club trick and eventually endplay North to surrender an extra trick in one of the pointed suits. Only 9 declarer's brought home the contract, 7 after a club lead.

# 23<sup>rd</sup> HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

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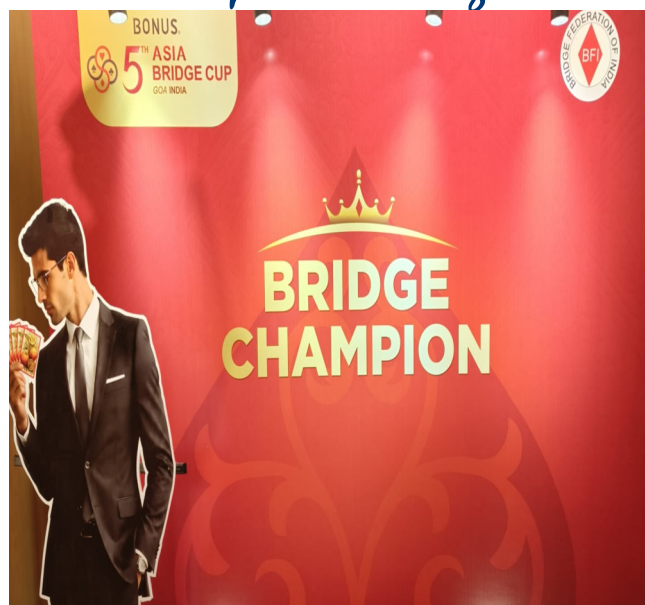
- 02<sup>nd</sup> - 04<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | Mixed IMP Pairs Event (N K Gupta Memorial)
- 05<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | Team of Four Gold (Naresh Tandan Trophy)
- 05<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | Team of Four Silver (Mohini Tandan Trophy)
- 07<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | Open MP Pairs (Neena Bonarji Trophy)
- 09<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | IMP Pairs
- 11<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | Swiss Teams
- 11<sup>th</sup> OCT 2026 | ProAm Pairs

REGISTRATION FOR ALL EVENTS WILL START FROM

**1ST JULY 2026**

<https://hcl-bridge.com/> | @hclbridge

## Champion's Lounge



# Lets Goa!!!

By Mark Horton

Reading the Weekend section of *The Times* on Saturday I observed that the section on food and drink featured a report entitled **Indian Summer: Lighter curries perfect for warm weather**. I plan to try the recipe for Goan fish curry tonight! Meanwhile, I note that the temperature in Goa is expected to reach a high of 25°—which will match the temperature here in **Shrewsbury!**

## Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 9 3 2 ♥ Q 7 4 2 ♦ A K ♣ Q J 6 4		♠ K 10 4 ♥ J ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 4 3 ♣ 7 2	♠ Q 7 6 5 ♥ 10 6 3 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ K 8 3
♠ A J 8 ♥ A K 9 8 5 ♦ 7 ♣ A 10 9 5			

## Chinese Taipei v Singapore Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Lin	Teo	Chung
—	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

West led the ♣Q and when it held switched to the ♠2. That did declarer no harm, and he took East's ♠Q and played two rounds of clubs, ruffing in dummy. A spade to hand was followed by three rounds of hearts, declarer securing eight tricks, +110.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Ke	Ho	Robinson
—	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♥6 and having won in dummy declarer played a diamond, West winning with the ♦K and switching to the ♣Q. Declarer took dummy's ♣A, pitched a club on the ♥K, ruffed a club and played a diamond, West winning and returning the ♣6. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♦Q and then played the ♦9, East discarding the ♠7.

Could declarer find the lady?

When he cashed the ♠K and continued with a spade to the jack the question was answered in the affirmative!

It was a great start for **Singapore**, leading by 10 IMPs.

## Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 8 4 ♥ A J 10 6 5 3 ♦ K ♣ K J 3		♠ K Q 9 6 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ Q J 5 2	♠ A 10 ♥ A K 8 ♦ Q J 9 8 3 2 ♣ 6 3
♠ 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A Q J 10 8 5 2 ♣ Q 10 6			

## Chinese Taipei v Singapore Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Lin	Teo	Chung
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West led the ♠2 and when declarer played dummy's ♠9 East won with the ♠10 and switched to the ♦Q. Declarer won with the ♦A, crossed to dummy with the ♣Q and played the ♠K, finishing with 10 tricks, +130.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Ke	Ho	Robinson
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

1♦ Precision, 0+♦ 11-15

West led the ♥J and when it held he switched to the ♠8 for the king and ace. When East returned the ♦2 declarer escaped for one down, -100, still 6 IMPs for **Chinese Taipei**.

**Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**

♠ KJ7  
♥ KQ8  
♦ Q9  
♣ AKJ105

♠ 862  
♥ A2  
♦ AJ5432  
♣ Q3

♠ Q10  
♥ J654  
♦ K107  
♣ 8762

♠ A9543  
♥ 10973  
♦ 86  
♣ 94



**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

♠ J2  
♥ A10842  
♦ K  
♣ J6532

♠ 10874  
♥ 5  
♦ QJ7  
♣ AQ1098

♠ AQ6  
♥ KJ73  
♦ A10854  
♣ K

♠ K953  
♥ Q96  
♦ 9632  
♣ 74



**Chinese Taipei v Singapore  
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Lin	Teo	Chung
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT*	All Pass	

2NT 20-21  
3♣ Puppet Stayman  
3NT No major

East led the ♣6 for the nine, queen and ace and declarer continued with the ♠J. When East covered with the ♠Q declarer played dummy's ♠3, West following with the ♠6. When East returned the ♣8 declarer emerged with nine tricks, +400.



*Derek Lee, Singapore*

The system card indicates that EW were playing Reverse Smith (a peter in spades would suggest there was no future in clubs). Perhaps West should play the ♠8 on the first round of the suit just in case partner cannot read the ♠6.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Ke	Ho	Robinson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

East led the ♦7 and West won with the ♦A and returned the ♦4, East winning and switching to the ♠Q. Declarer won with the ♠K, cashed the ♣AK, drew trumps and played the ♠J, +130 but 7 IMPs for **Chinese Taipei**, now ahead 20-10.

**Chinese Taipei v Singapore  
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Lin	Teo	Chung
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ Stayman

South led the ♦6 and declarer took North's ♦K, unblocked the ♣K, crossed to dummy with a diamond, cashed a diamond and the ♣AQ and then played a spade for the queen and king, taking 10 tricks, +430.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Ke	Ho	Robinson
Pass	2♥*	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	All Pass

2♥ 6-10, 5♥/♠+4♣/♦

South led the ♥6 and North won and returned the ♥4 South winning with the ♥9 and continuing with the ♥Q. Declarer won, unblocked the ♣K and played the ♦4, North winning the defenders third and last trick, +430.



*Wei Ho, Chinese Taipei*

On Board 10 West held ♠AKQ10974 ♥J42 ♦62 ♣7 and Derek Lee opened 4♠.

Partner's ♠62 ♥975 ♦AQ4 ♣Q10632 was only enough for nine tricks, -100.

In the replay Sun Lee started with 3♥ to show spades. North, facing a passed partner bid 3♠ for takeout with

his ♠3 ♥AQ86 ♦K973 ♣K854 and when South bid 4♣ with ♠J85 ♥K103 ♦J1085 ♣AJ9 a hopeless 5♣ was the result, -300 giving **Chinese Taipei** 9 IMPs.

**Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

♠ AKQJ94	♠ 5 2	♠ 1087
♥ AQJ7	♥ 10 8 4 3	♥ 9
♦ —	♦ A 10 8 4	♦ K 9 7 6 5 3
♣ K 6 2	♣ J 10 4	♣ A Q 3

♠ 6 3	♠ 1087
♥ K 6 5 2	♥ 9
♦ Q J 2	♦ K 9 7 6 5 3
♣ 9 8 7 5	♣ A Q 3

**Chinese Taipei v Singapore**

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Lin	Teo	Chung
1♣*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1♣ 16+ any  
2♣ 8+, Diamonds, unbalanced or 5332



Sean Teo, Singapore

After a positive response, the partnership employs relays.

North led the ♥8 for the king and ace and declarer had an easy route to all the tricks, +1010.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Ke	Ho	Robinson
1♠	Pass	INT*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- INT Forcing
- 4♣ Control
- 5♦ Exclusion Blackwood

North led the ♣J and declarer won with dummy's ♣A, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and crossruffed the red suits to take all the tricks, an honourable push.



After the setback on the Sun Wei Lee, Chinese Taipei opening deal **Chinese Taipei** had given up only one more IMP, going on to win 36-11, 16.21-3.79VP.

**GOA'S SHIGMO PARADE**



Shigmo parade is Goa's vibrant spring festival, celebrated mainly by the Hindu community with great enthusiasm. The Shigmo Parade is the highlight of the festival, featuring colorful floats, traditional folk dances, music, and performances depicting scenes from mythology, history, and Goan culture. Participants wear bright costumes and march through the streets, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The parade symbolizes the arrival of spring, the victory of good over evil, and gratitude for a successful harvest season. It also serves as an important platform for preserving and showcasing Goa's rich cultural heritage and community spirit.

# The Archaeology Of Bridge

## History Revisited

### From China With Love

AD 1120: According to a Chinese encyclopedia of 1678, playing cards were invented in China in the reign of the Emperor S'eun-Ho. They probably had four suits—coins, strings of coins, Myriads of strings of coins and flowers. The game was called Chinese Money.



Ancient Chinese Playing Cards

### Gift From The Orient

1295: Marco Polo returned to Venice from the Court of Kublai Khan and according to some accounts, brought playing cards to Europe. Other writers say that cards were brought by gypsies from India.



Marco Polo

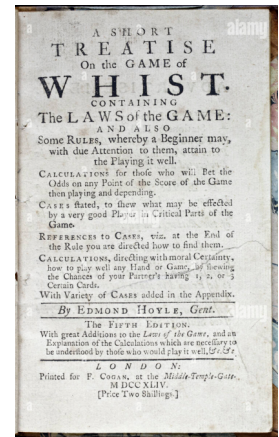


Early European Playing Cards



### The First Book On Card Play And Rules Of Whist

1742: Edmond Hoyle, a London barrister, (c.1679-1769) wrote rules for a new kind of whist and the first book on card play. His *Short Treatise* was sensational running into several editions and printed in several languages. A Bestseller



### The Yarborough - A Rubber Bridge Nightmare:

1754: The Earl of Yarborough made a practice of offering odds of £1000 to £1 against being dealt a whist hand with no card higher than a nine (the mathematical odds being 1827 to one). Thus was born the Yarborough hand.



### The Birth Of The Sandwich

The Fourth Earl of Sandwich (1718-92), wished to take food without leaving the whist table. His cooks put some meat and who knows what else between two slices of bread and served him on the table, solving the problem with the comestible. Thus was born the ubiquitous Sandwich.



- Club, BLT, Toasted, Grilled ..... Thank the Earl

## Seconds Away – Round 2

By Mark Horton

In Round 2 we pay a visit to the Mixed Teams for the match between India A and Australia B.

### Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 10873 ♥ 3 ♦ J1082 ♣ A973		♠ Q5 ♥ Q ♦ AKQ95 ♣ Q10854	♠ J4 ♥ KJ1065 ♦ 643 ♣ KJ6
		♠ AK962 ♥ A98742 ♦ 7 ♣ 2	

### India A v Australia B

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
O'Shea	R Khandelwal	Brown	H Khandelwal
—	—	—	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♥ 3-8,4-4+♥+♠  
 2NT Relay

West led the ♦J and declarer won with dummy's ♦A, pitched a club on the ♦K and ran the ♥Q (East should cover). A spade to the ace was followed by the ♥A, but when West discarded declarer had only nine tricks, -100.

One way to make 10 tricks is to ruff a club at trick three, cross to the ♠Q, pitch a spade on the ♦Q, ruff a club, cash a top spade and ruff a spade with the ♥Q.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Satyannarayana	Moore	Nadar	Langdon
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When East led the unlucky ♥J declarer won with the ♥Q and played four rounds of diamonds, West winning and switching to the ♣7. East won with the ♣J and returned the ♥10, but declarer could win in dummy and cash out for +600 and 12 IMPs to **Australia B**.

On the next deal East held a modest ♠J982 ♥Q93 ♦76543 ♣Q and saw the opponents bid 1♦-2♣-2NT-3NT. Leading a diamond (dummy held ♠76 ♥K104 ♦KJ ♣AJ9832) gave declarer time to take 12 tricks, but Kiran Nadar led the ♠2 which gave **India A** 3 IMPs when partner turned up with ♠KQ43 ♥J875 ♦108 ♣K65.



Mrs. Kiran Nadar, India

### Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 108743 ♥ 9 ♦ 942 ♣ AKJ6		♠ K52 ♥ Q432 ♦ J1073 ♣ 72	♠ A6 ♥ K10875 ♦ 85 ♣ 10954
		♠ QJ9 ♥ AJ6 ♦ AKQ6 ♣ Q83	

### India A v Australia B

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
O'Shea	R Khandelwal	Brown	H Khandelwal
—	—	2♦*	Dble
Rdbl*	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	
2♦	Weak two in either major, 0-7		
Rdbl	Bid your suit		

Here's a little question.

If East has spades (which could be a five-card suit at this vulnerability) should she bid 2♠ over North's 2♥? North led the ♣2 for the queen and ace and when declarer exited with a diamond South won with the ♦6

and played the ♣8. That set up a club ruff and there was still time to prevent declarer from ruffing a diamond, four down meaning -800.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Satyanarayana	Moore	Nadar	Langdon
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♠8, East winning and returning the ♣10 for a rapid one down, -100 and 14 IMPs to **IndiaA**.

**Board 19. Dealer South. E/WVul.**

♠ AK764	♠ 10853	♠ Q
♥ Q762	♥ J8	♥ AK4
♦ A10	♦ KJ86	♦ 97542
♣ 42	♣ 86	♣ KQ75
	♠ J9	
	♥ 10953	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ AJ1093	



**India A v Australia B**

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
O'Shea	R Khandelwal	Brown	H Khandelwal
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠A and when South followed with the ♠10 he switched to the ♦6. With two trump tricks to come that was -200.

Although it did not matter here, West might have bid 5♣ over 4♠, the idea being to help partner if the opponents bid on to 5♠.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Satyanarayana	Moore	Nadar	Langdon
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♣9 and declarer won with dummy's ♣J and played a heart for the queen, king and ace. North cashed the ♠A, but fatally continued with the ♠Q and away went the losing diamond, +620 and 13 IMPs to **IndiaA**.

**Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.**

♠ J4	♠ 1075	♠ 96
♥ J109853	♥ 6	♥ AKQ74
♦ 1093	♦ AQ4	♦ J72
♣ 92	♣ J107653	♣ AQ8
	♠ AKQ832	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K865	
	♣ K4	



**India A v Australia B**

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
O'Shea	R Khandelwal	Brown	H Khandelwal
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	All Pass	

West led the ♣9 and East took the ♣A and returned the ♣8 which meant declarer took the rest, +680.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Satyanarayana	Moore	Nadar	Langdon
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	3♦
4♥	4♠	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South cashed the king and ace of spades before switching to the ♥2. Two rounds of trumps ending in dummy were followed by a diamond and North took the ♦A and continued with the ♦Q. When it held he switched to the ♣5 for -1100 and 9 IMPs to **Australia B**.



B. Satyanarayana, India

**Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.**

♠ J10854		♠ 32
♥ 5		♥ Q9764
♦ Q862		♦ 1095
♣ QJ8		♣ 1072
♠ AK76		
♥ K10832		
♦ KJ74		
♣ —		

♠ Q9		
♥ AJ		
♦ A3		
♣ AK96543		

**Closed Room**

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Satyannarayana	Moore	Nadar	Langdon
1♥	Pass	3♥	4♣
4♥	5♣	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♣Q and declarer ruffed and played the ♥K, South winning and exiting with the ♥J. Declarer won in dummy and ran the ♦10, one down, -100 and 5 IMPs to **Australia B** back in the lead for the first time since the opening deal, 32-29.

**India A v Australia B**

**Open Room**

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
O'Shea	R Khandelwal	Brown	H Khandelwal
1♥	Pass	4♥	5♣
5♥	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Rachel Langdon, Australia

West led the ♠A and switched to the ♥3 for the queen and ace. Declarer exited with the ♠Q, took the diamond return with dummy's ♦Q and was one down, -100.

They recovered 2 IMPs with a careful defence on Board 25 and on Board 26 NS held ♠KJ6 ♥984 ♦Q1065 ♣974 opposite ♠A109 ♥AKQ105 ♦A2 ♣KQ10. India stopped in a regulation 3NT, declarer collecting 11 tricks for +660 but Australia got all the way to 5♥. With West holding ♠8743 ♥632 ♦KJ8 ♣A63 that was not fatal, but declarer misjudged the play and went one down to hand **India A** 13 IMPs, enough for them to win 13.72-6.28.



Nikolas Moore, Australia

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# The Orient Express

By Mark Horton

In Round 3 of the Men's Teams the leaders, China, faced off against sixth placed Japan.

♠9. Declarer won and played a spade, but East won and cashed the ♣Q allowing West to pitch a spade. That meant three down, -800 still 12 IMPs to Japan.

## Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ QJ3	
	♥ J108	
	♦ 52	
	♣ 109732	
♠ 984		♠ AK2
♥ A732		♥ KQ954
♦ J9764		♦ 10
♣ A		♣ KQ85

	♠ 10765	
	♥ 6	
	♦ AKQ83	
	♣ J64	



Yang Cai, China

## China v Japan Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harada	Ju	Yokoi	Jun Shi
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

- 2♣ Reverse Drury
- 4♣ Control
- 4♦ Control

South led the ♦A and continued with the ♦K, declarer ruffing, crossing to dummy's ♥A, cashing the ♥K, unblocking dummy's ♣A, crossing to the ♠A, pitching a spade on the ♣K, ruffing a club, returning to hand with the ♠K, ruffing a spade and playing a diamond, +1430.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cai	Koike
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Dble*
Rdbl	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

- 1♣ 16+, any
- Dble Diamonds or majors

East led the ♦10 and declarer won with dummy's ♦A and now does best to play a spade. When he continued with dummy's ♦K East discarded the ♥5 and the defenders had the tempo. East won the spade continuation and played the ♣K, West winning performance and playing the

## Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K2	
	♥ Q94	
	♦ Q9754	
	♣ AJ10	
♠ QJ3		♠ A65
♥ KJ1065		♥ A82
♦ 2		♦ AK10863
♣ 9653		♣ 4

	♠ 109874	
	♥ 73	
	♦ J	
	♣ KQ872	



## China v Japan Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harada	Ju	Yokoi	Jun Shi
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣*	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

- 4♣ Control

North led the ♣A and switched to the ♦4, declarer winning in dummy and playing a heart to the jack. North won and exited with a heart, declarer winning with dummy's ♥8 and ruffing a diamond. The ♠J was covered by the king and ace and declarer continued with a spade to the queen and a club ruff. When he failed to cash dummy's ♦K he was two down, -200.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cai	Koike
—	—	1♣*	1♦*
Dble	2♣*	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

- 1♣ 16+ any
- 1♦ Hearts or ♠+♣

North led the ♠K, which did declarer no harm. Having won with dummy's ♠A declarer exited with a club, South winning and returning the ♠7. Declarer won with the ♠J, ruffed a club, cashed the ♥A and played the top diamonds, overruffing South's ♥7, ruffing a club, ruffing a diamond, cashing the ♥K and playing the ♠Q. North could ruff but the ♥J was the game going trick, +620 and 13 IMPs to China.

### Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 94		
♥ 987		
♦ J32		
♣ AQJ32		
♠ J3		♠ Q2
♥ 1065432		♥ AK
♦ Q1075		♦ AK84
♣ K		♣ 109875
	♠ AK108765	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ 96	
	♣ 64	



### China v Japan

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harada	Ju	Yokoi	Jun Shi
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠4 and South won, cashed the ♠A and played a third spade. Declarer discarded the ♣K, and ruffed in dummy as North pitched a diamond, cashed the ♥K, ruffed a club, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a club, crossed to dummy with the ♦K, ruffed a club and played the ♦10. North ruffed and played the ♣A and that meant two down, -200.

Note the pretty variation - South could have ruffed the ♣A and played a spade, ensuring a trick for North's ♥9.



Zheng Jun Shi, China

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cai	Koike
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It was Terence Reese who suggested that a doubleton queen was an excellent holding in a notrump contract. It was a clever tactical move by East. When South led the ♥Q declarer had 10 tricks, +630 and another 13 IMPs went to China.

### Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 6542		
♥ A92		
♦ 952		
♣ 542		
♠ K93		♠ AJ10
♥ J87		♥ KQ543
♦ AKJ1063		♦ Q
♣ 7		♣ AK98
	♠ Q87	
	♥ 106	
	♦ 874	
	♣ QJ1063	



## China v Japan

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harada	Ju	Yokoi	Jun Shi
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6NT	All Pass

4NT RKCB  
5♣ 1 keycard

South led the ♣Q and declarer won and claimed 12 tricks, +1440.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cai	Koike
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

1♣ 16+ any  
4NT RKCB  
5♣ 1 keycard

North led the ♥A and **Japan** rejoiced to the tune of 17 IMPs tying the score at 29-29.



Yuki Harada, Japan

## Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K 10 8 5 4 3		
♥ 3		
♦ 9 4		
♣ A 10 5 3		
♠ A 2		♠ 6
♥ Q 8 6 2		♥ A K J 4
♦ A 10 5 2		♦ Q J 8 3
♣ J 7 4		♣ K Q 9 8
	♠ Q J 9 7	
	♥ 10 9 7 5	
	♦ K 7 6	
	♣ 6 2	

## China v Japan

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harada	Ju	Yokoi	Jun Shi
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

There were only five losers, two down, -500.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cai	Koike
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1NT	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ 16+ any

South led the ♠Q and declarer won in dummy, cashed the ♥AK and played the ♦Q, covered by the king and ace. A low club saw North take the ♣A so now there were 12 tricks, +680 and 5 IMPs for **China**.

On Board 11 NS held ♠QJ102 ♥AQ73 ♦A82 ♣A6 facing ♠A8 ♥J42 ♦10954 ♣A6. Both teams took 10 tricks in no trumps, but only **China** was in game, giving them 6 IMPs.

On the next deal the same thing happened, Japan stopping in 1NT while China climbed to 3NT. An unlucky spade lead from ♠KJ843 ♥QJ32 ♦3 ♣K75 cost the defenders a vital trick and **China** pocketed another 6 IMPs.

They had overcome the disaster on Board 17 to win 46-29, 14.64-5.36.

# The Death Of The Bidding Box

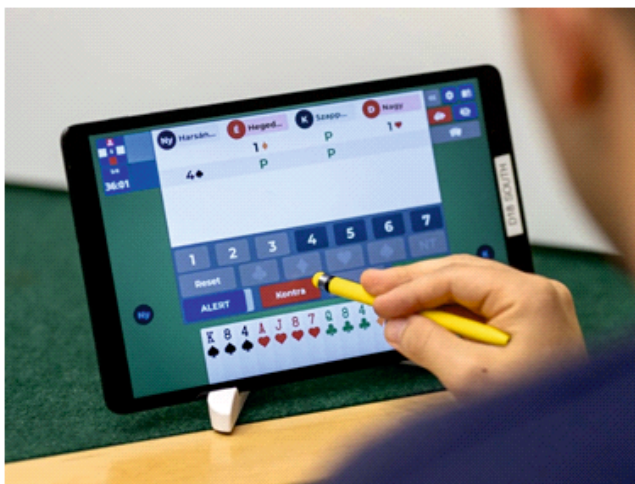
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