



Date : 12-April-24

Day : 2

Day 1 Report



After 6 rounds of tough bridge **Dhampur Sugar Mills** (Ashok Goel, Vinay Desai, Sunit Chokshi, Swarnendu Banerjee, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare), with 99.29 VPs



were leading the field from **Rana** (Rana Roy, Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee, A K Sinha, Bijan Kumar Bandhopadhyay, Shambhu Ghosh and Biswajit Poddar) who had collected 95 VPs. Rana actually raced up the ladder collecting 40 VPs in their last two outings.

The lead line is flanked by the top table for Round 6 yesterday, Dhampur Sugar Mills and Shree Cements

The 16th placed team, Carpadian had collected 69.41 VPs. Extending this trend, we expect the qualification cut off to be around 92 odd VPs.

The complete result can be seen [here](#)

Today, after two more rounds of Swiss League, the top 16 teams will qualify for the pre-quarter finals. The remaining teams can play in the Board a Match organized for the non-qualifiers.

We urge all participants to give their entries for the match point pairs event which starts on Saturday.

We feature below some faces rarely seen in tournaments these days. Hope to see them more often



Amarnath Banerjee – Senior Player

Fighting a brave battle with cancer



Kalpana Misra



Soumalya Ghosh – lost in Mphasis!!!



Prajwal – son of Satya

Match Coverage – Mavericks Prodigies vs Arun Jain

We decided to cover this match featuring Mavericks Prodigies, the exciting new team on the block and Arun Jain.

In the closed Room, whose play we observed, we had Srinivasan Iyer, partnering Subir Majumdar facing the recent Vijya Jajoo Memorial Champs, Soumya Das and Jesal Dabriwala. In the open room, Joyrup Mukherjee and Sabyasachi Sadhukan faced Sapan Desai and R. Sridharan.

In Board 12, in the closed room, North South managed to compete to 3 ♦ after East West reached 3 ♣. In the open Room, Joyrup and Sadhukan failed to compete conceding 6 imps.

Board 13	♠ Q 10 7 3		
Both Vul	♥ K Q 4		
IMPs	♦ Q 9 5		
	♣ J 7 2		
		♠ A 6	
♠ 9 5		♥ 10 9 8 6 3	
♥ A J 5		♦ 10 7 3 2	
♦ A K J		♣ 8 6	
♣ A K 10 9 4			
	♠ K J 8 4 2		
	♥ 7 2		
4 ♥ West	♦ 8 6 4		
Lead: ♠ 7	♣ Q 5 3		

In Board 13, both rooms would have reached 4 ♥ by West after reasonably similar auctions. Basically, 2 Hearts and a spade have to be lost. There are two options for finding the 10th trick. The simpler one is the ♦ finesse. There is an additional chance if declarer tests the clubs and finds them 3-3. In the closed room, the declarer took the diamond finesse fairly early

and, when that lost, had no chance. In the open room, declarer would presumably have tested the clubs and found them 3-3 which allowed him to pitch his diamond losers in good time. +12 Imps to Arun Jain

Board 15 fetched the Prodigies their only significant gain in this match when, in the closed room, Srinivasan bid an aggressive 3NT after his partner overcalled 2 ♣ after East had opened 1 ♥. Looking at ♠ 976 ♥ AQJT3 ♦ 8 ♣ T84, he probably was hoping for a 6 card suit from partner and could see 8 tricks with some play for the 9th. Unfortunately, partner turned up with ♠ Q2 ♥ T ♦ K8432 ♣ AQJ62 and 8 tricks was the limit of the hand. In the other room, North probably overcalled 2NT with 5-5 in the minors and they played in 4 ♣ making 10 tricks.

Board 16 saw fortune favoring the brave. See the hand below and decide for yourself whether you would have bid the slam or not

West	North	East	South	Board 13	♠ A 10 5 4
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Both Vul	♥ 6
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦ ¹	IMPs	♦ K 9 8
Pass	4 ♥ ²	Pass	4 NT		♣ K Q 10 4 3
Pass	5 ♣ ³	Pass	6 ♠		♠ Q 9
All pass					♥ J 10 9 8 3 2
					♦ J 10 7 5
					♣ 2
					♠ K J 8 3 2
					♥ K Q
					♦ A 3
					♣ A J 9 6

1. Help suit	
2. Help with a splinter	
3. 1 Key Card	

♠ 7 6
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ Q 6 4 2
♣ 8 7 5

6 ♠ South

After North has shown help in diamonds along with a heart splinter, you have enquired for key cards and North has shown 1. What do you do?

Those who asked for the queen and found it missing, opted to stay out of the slam. Srinu contemplated asking for the trump queen and then thought better of it and bid the slam anyway. And he was rewarded when West, after cashing the ♥ A, led a spade. At any rate, most declarers in 6 ♠ opted to finesse against East and then didn't have to.

We will end our coverage of this match with board 18. While not much happened on the board at the table itself, we were hard pressed to find many in the field bidding a grand slam which was cold.

Board 19	♠ K J 10 8
E-W Vul	♥ K 6
IMPs	♦ Q 9 7 6 2
	♣ K 7
	♠ 3
	♥ 10 8 5 4
	♦ 5 3
	♣ J 10 8 6 4 2
	♠ A Q 7 6 5 2
	♥ A 9 3
	♦ A K 10 8
	♣ —

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

6 ♠ South

See if you can bid it with your favorite partner!

Bols Bridge Tips – Courtesy IBPA



No Indian bridge player needs an introduction to Zia Mahmood. He is one of the leading personalities of the bridge world. He has represented Pakistan several times in world competition and was a major contributor to that country's silver medals in the 1981 Bermuda Bowl and 1986 Rosenblum Teams.

A Regular columnist of The Guardian, he has also written two books; the highly successful *Bridge My Way*, described by Omar Sharif as the best bridge book ever, and his latest *Ask Zia: Your Top 50 Bridge Questions Answered*

His piece for the Bols Competition was titled '**The Panther Double**'.

You love bridge, just like the rest of us addicts. But have you ever thought about which part of the game excites you most? It could be a delight in fine bidding, the indulgent pleasure of a well-played hand, the artistic beauty of a killing defence, or perhaps a combination. They do all have an irresistible charm.

Actually, for myself, there is a fourth, even greater, attraction: the psychological game. I find it fascinating. Surprisingly, although countless books have been published on bidding and play, almost nothing has appeared on this subject. Which is a good introduction to my BOLS tip, one which comes straight from the heart.

Psychological bridge can come in many guises but the satisfaction from a successful coup is always jumbo-sized. Just ask any declarer who ever deflected the opponents from attacking his weakest suit by playing it first. Or any adventurer on his way to slam who cue-bid a control he didn't have and successfully stopped the killing lead.

What bliss, an incomparable ecstasy that lingers on long after the event. The great advantage of these plays, unlike improvements to card play technique which can take years to perfect, is that they can be adopted instantly by any average player. Take my tip: I call it the Panther Double. This is a psychological penalty double, based not on the evidence of your cards but on 'other' factors: the timing, the opponents' bidding or their table action.

You can use the double whenever the following situations exist, and you have the slightest excuse.

1. The Impossible sounding auction

As West, you hold ♠ 976 ♥ AQJT3 ♦ 8 ♣ T84

The Auction

West	North	East	South
(you)	LHO	partner	RHO
-	-	-	1 ♠
P	2 ♠	P	P
3 ♥	3 ♠	P	4 ♠

The opponents stopped in 2 ♠ and now North has punished South for competing. Something went wrong! Double them. You have a great lead and the one time in ten that they will make will be adequately compensated by the juicy penalties of the other nine

2. You want your opponents to run

This is great for poker players. It starts with a familiar auction where the opponents struggle into a contract where you know they are about to get lucky and make: DOUBLE. The fear of a large number will help remove them to a 'safer' resting place.

I was playing with David Berkowitz, the American champion, in the Vanderbilt tournament. He held: ♠ J43 ♥ KT3 ♦ JT4 ♣ JT95

Sitting East, with South the dealer, he heard the following auction:

West	North	East	South
(me)	LHO	David	RHO
-	-	-	1 ♣
1 ♥	2 ♥ ¹	Double	2 ♠
P	3 ♣	P	3 ♥ ²
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
P	P	Double ³	P
P	3 ♣	Double ⁴	All Pass

1. Club Fit, but denies four spades
2. Looking for 3NT
3. Complete bluff
4. Much happier

David could see that four spades on the 4-3 fit would make with the friendly trump break. He also knew that the opponents did not know this, so he doubled. A bad break might mean declarer losing control and conceding a large penalty, so South reasonably ran to the 'safety' of the known club fit.

Brilliant — yet all he needed to do was listen carefully to the auction and have the courage to make a Panther Double. You don't need to look as sleek as a panther to bid like one.

3. Invitational auctions

This is my personal favorite. Whenever a limited hand accepts an invitation, the Panther should be ready to pounce at the slightest excuse. That excuse may be as flimsy as the fact that the last bid was made after a lengthy hesitation, strongly suggesting an overbid, or at least a tight contract.

West	North	East	South
(You)	LHO	Partner	RHO
-	-	-	1NT
P	2NT	P	3NT ¹
P	P	Double	All Pass

1. After a pause

The double, by increasing the stakes, places considerable pressure on the declarer who will proceed to misplace the high cards. In addition, his mind, filled with images of ghosts and bad breaks, will be unable to function clearly.

If the sequence above is for the more adventurous, the more common limited auction where the defender can foresee bad lies for breaks for declarer is impossible to resist. Now the prey is helpless; it almost feels unsporting to pounce.

Armed with your new toy you decide to sit in on a high-stake rubber bridge game, as East.

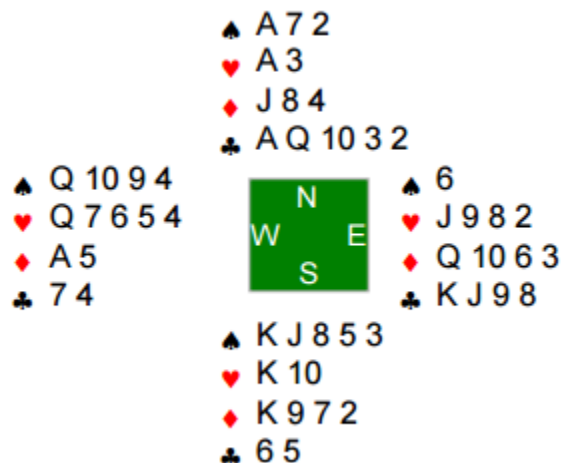
Naturally you pick up your typical hand: ♠ 6 ♥ J982 ♦ QT63 ♣ KJ98

and hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
(partner)	LHO	(you)	RHO
-	-	-	P
P	1 ♣	P ¹	1 ♠
P	2 ♠	P	3 ♦
P	3NT	Double ²	4 ♠
Double	All Pass		

1. The boring hand becomes a little less boring when North bids clubs
2. The Panther Double: the auction is limited and more, both suits break badly. It's time to pounce. They will run.

This is fun because the complete hand is



Partner leads the seven of clubs and declarer finesses, losing to the king. South wins the heart return in hand to play the ace of spades and another spade. When you show out he wins the king while you throw a diamond. He now tries the ace of clubs and a club ruff and partner overruffs. West cashes the queen of spades and exits with a heart to dummy's ace. Declarer, desperate, and with no more entries to dummy, tries a diamond to his king. West wins and South's only other trick is his last trump.

South ends up making three spade tricks, two hearts and one club; down four and +800 for East-West. Perhaps declarer could have done better but most humans don't perform well under pressure.

Now be honest. If you had picked up that insignificant looking East hand before reading this article would you have allowed your 800 to slip by? Life has no guarantees and I admit that sometimes the Panther Double can backfire. But you don't have to worry. If your partner screams at you after such a disaster, blame me!

Schedule of Events for Teams

Date	Time	Session
Friday, 12 April, 2024		Swiss League Qualification
	10:00	Swiss League Round 7
	11:30	Swiss League Round 8
		Top 16 Teams to Qualify for Knock Outs
	12:45	Lunch
		Swiss Teams Pre Quarter Finals 3 * 10 Boards
	01:45	Pre Quarter Finals R1
	03:20	Pre Quarter Finals R2
	04:45	Tea Break
	05:00	Pre Quarter Finals R3
		Swiss Teams Quarter Finals 3 * 10 Boards
		Quarter Finals R1
Saturday, 13 April, 2024		Swiss Teams Quarter Finals 3 * 10 Boards
	10:00	Quarter Finals R2
	11:30	Quarter Finals R3
		Pre Registered Pairs of Losing Quarter Finalists will join Session 2 of Pairs Elimination
	01:00	Lunch
		Swiss Teams Semi Finals 4 * 10 Boards
	01:45	Semi Finals R1
	03:20	Semi Finals R2
	04:45	Tea Break
	05:00	Semi Finals R3
	06:35	Semi Finals R4
Sunday, 14 April, 2024		Swiss Teams Finals 4 * 12 Boards
	09:30	Finals / Play Offs R1
	11:30	Finals / Play Offs R2
	01:00	Lunch
	02:00	Finals / Play Offs R3
	03:45	Tea Break
	04:00	Finals R4

Schedule of Events for BAM and Pairs

Date	Time	Session
Friday, 12 April, 2024		Board A Match 2* 18 Boards
	01:45	BAM S1
	04:45	Tea Break
	05:15	BAM S2
Saturday, 13 April, 2024		Pairs
	10:15	Match Point Pairs Elimination S1
	01:00	Lunch
	02:00	Match Point Pairs Elimination S2
	04:30	Tea Break
	05:00	Match Point Pairs Elimination S3
Sunday, 14 April, 2024		Pairs
	09:30	Match Point Pairs Finals (26 Boards) S1
	10:00	IMP Pairs (22/24 Boards) S1
	01:00	Lunch
	02:00	Match Point Pairs Finals (26 Boards) S2
	02:00	IMP Pairs (22/24 Boards) S2