



Date : 14-April-24

Day : 4 Close

Formidables win the All India Shree Cement Bridge Tournament

Formidables (Kaustubh Bendre, Sayantan Kushari, Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy, Sumit Mukherjee and Rajeshwar Tewari) scored an emphatic win over **Arun Jain** (R Sridharan, Sapan Desai, Subir Majumdar and J Srinivasan Iyengar) to retain their title of All India Shree Cement Bridge Tournament Champions. After sharing the first session, they won each of the remaining sessions by 17, 14 and 21 imps.

In the play offs for 3rd place Pradeep emerged triumphant with an emphatic, 37 imp win over Bangur Cement

[Match Point Pairs Finals](#)

116 pairs played the MP Pairs elimination over 3 sessions of 18 boards each. The event was won by **Arun Bapat and Swarnendu Banerjee** with **Binod Shaw and Sanjit Dey** in second place. **Mithun Mukherjee and Rajesh Jain** secured 3rd place, less than one match point behind

IMP Pairs Finals

70 pairs played the IMP Pairs elimination over 2 sessions of 22 boards each. The event was won by **Tapas Dasgupta and SK Mondal**. Veteran **Manas Mukherjee and Anirban Mitra** were in second place with **Biplab Down and Bidyut Goswami** in 3rd position.

As a matter of fact, the top two pairs were in a tie which had to be broken. The third placed pair was also in a tie with 4th placed Soham Sarkar and Subashree Basu.

Bols Bridge Tips – Courtesy IBPA



Gabriel Chagas was 23 when he first appeared on the world bridge scene. He represented Brazil in several Bermuda Bowls and won the team Olympiad in 1979

His piece for the Bols Competition was titled '**The Value of Small Cards**'.

In bridge, and other card games, attention has always focused on high cards. You start by counting points, or honour tricks, but as you improve you appreciate intermediate cards: Q1098, 10987, Q987 have potential, while Q432, AK432 and even AKQ432 show signs of fragility.

For the defenders, the small cards have great significance. As leads and signals they will often show length, or attitude, or a desire for some other suit. And the declarer will attempt to decode them in the light of other information he has available.

The rare situation in which a defender discards an ace is highly meaningful; often an indication that he has all winners and that a shift is desirable. The common situation in which a defender plays or discards a deuce can be given more precise meaning.

Many experts play a mixture of count and attitude according to circumstances. Consider the situation in which your partner leads a strong honour holding and you have 842. I suggest that the normal play should be the four followed by the eight to show an odd number of cards. This preserves the deuce for special purposes, perhaps a suit preference to the low-ranking suit.

When the deuce seems to suggest an impossible or absurd shift, the corollary must be that the deuce-player had no choice.


Perhaps he has a singleton, or a doubleton honour that cannot be wasted.

This, of course, applies to the lowest missing card not in view. If the two is in the dummy, your three is obviously low and has special power. However, your play of the three does not have a special meaning when the declarer follows with the deuce. Otherwise you would be overexposed to falsecarding.

The small trumps, too, are not given the attention they deserve. They are often crucial for entry purposes, and in rare situations are needed for endplays. Careless players frequently lose contracts by routinely ruffing with the lowest trump: one very seldom loses by saving that card.

The modern trend toward upside-down count and upside-down attitude signals often permits a defender with a doubleton to play his small card and preserve an intermediate card. 'We prefer to keep the high cards to score tricks,' they say, thus showing a deplorable contempt for the small cards.

Opportunities for the declarer to make proper use of small cards are often missed. The following example is a 'small-card adventure' in the manner of Geza Ottlik. North-South overbid to 6NT after a Precision Club opening was countered by a 'Crash' overcall to show two suits of the same colour.

Board 5	♠ J 5
N-S Vul	♥ 9 7 6 5
	♦ A J 3
	♣ K J 5 3
	
	♠ A 10 8
	♥ A K J
	♦ K 4 2
6 NT South	♣ A 10 8 6

The heart two was led and East played the queen. South won with the king, cashed the ace, and was still not sure whether West held the red suits or the black suits. But to come close to twelve tricks, he had to assume that West held the diamond queen and he began by finessing in that suit.

It might not seem to matter which small diamond South led, but South showed proper respect for small cards by leading the four. Believe it or not, preserving the deuce was

the key to success.

When the diamond jack held, South felt sure that West had a red hand, not a black hand. So the club jack was led and East covered with the queen. South won with the ace, led to the king, and took the marked finesse of the eight.

South could now place West, fairly confidently, with an original 3-4-5-1 distribution; the lead suggested a four-card heart suit, and a six-card diamond suit would have been bid or led. He needed to score his twelfth trick in the spade suit and had to make a guess at the location of the king and the queen.

There was a way to endplay West in the unlikely event that he had the king and the queen. Direct play would produce the extra trick if East had both key cards. But thanks to his ownership of the diamond deuce, South found a way to have a good chance of success if East's five spades included the nine and one of the king or queen. The position was in fact this

Board 5
N-S Vul

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

N
E

♠ A 10 8	♠ —
♥ A	♥ —
♦ K 2	♦ —
♣ 10	♣ —

W
S

The club ten was led, putting pressure on West. He could not part with a heart, and a spade discard would have permitted a low spade lead. So West gave up the diamond ten, apparently safely.

But this gave South an extra entry to the dummy. He led the diamond king to the ace and played the spade jack.

With the diamond three available as a further entry to the dummy, it did not matter whether or not East covered with the queen. When he did so, South took the ace, led to the diamond three, and finessed the spade eight (The intra – finesse, another tip of Chagas). The complete deal was:

Given the accuracy of the distributional assessment, this small-card play is about as likely to succeed as playing East for the king and queen of spades; and vastly more aesthetic.

The defenders must also give more attention to the small cards. To illustrate this, put yourself in the East seat in the following hand; you are defending Six Hearts

West	North	East	South	Both Vul	♠ A J 5
Pass	2 NT	3 ♠	1 ♥		♥ 8 6 5 3
Pass	4 ♠	Dbl	4 ♦		♦ K 5 4 3
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	5 ♥		♣ A 2

					♠ K Q 7 6 4 3
					♥ 10
					♦ 10 6
					♣ K J 10 4

6 ♥ South
Lead: ♠ 10

Your partner leads the spade ten, and dummy's jack is played. You win with the queen and return the king. South follows suit and wins with dummy's ace, obviously relieved that your partner has a second spade.

Five rounds of trumps now force a lot of discards. You give up two spades and the jack and ten of clubs, and your partner, after following to three rounds, discards two clubs.

Dummy parts with a club, and South cashes the ace, queen and king of diamonds, putting the lead in dummy in this end position:

Both Vul	♠ 5		
	♥ —	♠ 7	
	♦ 5	♥ —	
	♣ A	♦ —	♣ K 4

The club ace is cashed and South plays the queen.

He follows with the diamond five, and you remember that your partner followed three times.

You give up the spade seven.

Unfortunately, declarer produces the deuce of diamonds and scores the last trick with the spade five.

You quickly blame the bad light for your slight misplay. The complete deal was:

Both Vul

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

6 ♥ South	♠ 9 2	♥ A K Q J 2
Lead: ♠ 10	♥ A K Q J 2	♦ A Q 7 2
	♦ A Q 7 2	♣ Q 9
	♣ Q 9	

In real life, would you be paying the required attention to the diamond pips?

My BOLS tip is aimed at defenders as well as declarers:

Watch the small cards, as they tell you the story of the hand.

Images of the Day



Rounak Ghosh – Pinaki Banerjee /
Bhabesh Saha – Satyabrata Mukherjee



Kingshuk Bhattacharjee – Satyabrata Lahiri/

Shouvik Das Arnab B Roy



Aniruddha Bhattacharjee - P S Mukherjee

Rakesh Sharma – Umesh Singh



Meenu Dugal - Anindra Sarkar

Mithun Mukherjee – Rajesh Jain



Subhashish Gope – Dipanjal Khan
Binod Shaw – Sanjit Dey



Wrik Chakraborty – Pritam Das
Somnath Mitra – Apurba Bhattacharya



Somnath Samaddar – KRS Mani
Chancel Dass – Ashish Pan



Sukalyan Sarkar – Rajendra Sirohia
Pradeep Dey – Abhirup Ghosh



BBO operators, Abhishek Roy,
Subrata Adhikary and Ashim Paul.



The Dealing Team – Mr. and Mrs. Chetan Rawal

Tail Piece

With this, dear friends, we come to the end of our coverage of the 7th Shree Cement Tournament. We hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as we have enjoyed presenting it to you.

Do send us your feedback. We take it very seriously and will do our best to improve.

Adios and Au revoir!