

67<sup>th</sup>

# ASHOK RUIA MEMORIAL WINTER NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL ● 1<sup>ST</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025



Venue Sponsored by Mr. H. M. Bangur, Executive Director and Chairperson, Shree Cement Ltd.

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## Kamna Sharma and Richa Shriram top the Qualifiers' list

Twenty-two pairs contested the **AMLA RUIA WOMEN CUP Elimination Stage** for women's IMP Pairs, which was the opening event of the 67<sup>th</sup> Winter Nationals Bridge Championships. Kamna Sharma and Richa Shriram who coincidentally started with number 1 as their Pair Number finished the 42-board all play all elimination with rank 1.



Kamna Sharma (wearing a shawl) and Richa Shriram

They had a score of +32 IMPs at the time of first break which was after six rounds. They built steadily on that position and finished with a score of +136 IMPs. The second place finishers Rupa Bakeri and Aparna Sain were way behind that score on +69 IMPs. Vasanti Shah-Bharati Dey finished third with +68 IMPs and Ramani Menon-Ekta Chadha were fourth with +61 IMPs. These massive positive scores pushed the qualification way down to below zero. Twelfth, that is, the last spot went to Rekha Mody and Vandana Tulsidas with a score of -8 IMPs.

[For full results, click on this link.](#)

Twelve Pairs have qualified for the finals on Tuesday. There will be 11 rounds of five deals each in an all-play-all final that starts at 10 A.M.

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## Tuesday's Events

The final of the **AMLA RUIA WOMEN CUP IMP Pairs** will be played today, that is, **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025** starting at **10 AM**. **ASHOK RUIA SENIOR TEAMS** event will also commence at the same time. The first six rounds will be played today.

**Women's Pairs Strata**, which will start at **10:15 AM**, will also be played today, **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025**.

**THE PHOENIX MIXED PAIRS CUP** elimination event will be played on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025**; for the detailed schedules, please click the link below.

[The detailed schedule of the entire championships.](#)

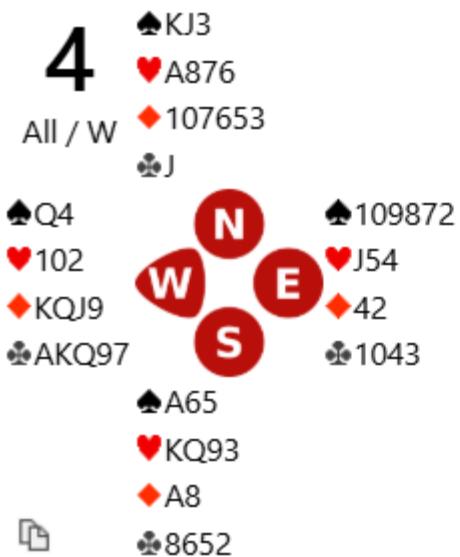
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## Sadhana Gupta-Savleen Thadani find a perfect spot on Board 4

One of the features of the **AMLA RUIA WOMEN CUP Elimination Stage** was the large variability one got to see in the contracts played and the resulting scores. Examine board 4 from the first session. [This was the score table.](#)

NS	WE	Con	Dec	Lead	Tr	Score		Result	
						NS	WE	NS	WE
22	2	2♣	W	♦5	=	90	-6.00	6.00	
1	3	2♥	S	♣A	+1	140	0.00	0.00	
4	21	2♣	W	♣J	-1	100	-1.00	1.00	
5	20	4♥	S	♣A	+1	650	11.00	-11.00	
19	6	2♦	E	♣2	-2	200	2.00	-2.00	
18	7	2♣	W	♦10	=	90	-6.00	6.00	
17	8	2♠	W	♣J	-1	100	-1.00	1.00	
16	9	1♥	N	♦4	+1	110	-1.00	1.00	
10	15	2♠	W	♣J	-2	200	2.00	-2.00	
14	11	3♥	S	♣A	=	140	0.00	0.00	
12	13	2♦	W	♠3	-4	400	6.00	-6.00	

The board was played on 11 tables. In the score table, we have four Heart suit contracts, from level 1 to level 4; three two Club contracts; two 2♦ contracts; and two 2♠ contracts. That comes to seven different contracts. We also have seven different scores. Let us examine the deal now.



	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	8	8	10	9	5
S	8	8	10	9	5
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
W	5	5	2	4	7
E	5	5	2	4	7

The par contract is a Heart game for North-South. Sadhana Gupta-Savleen Thadani were able to reach that spot in a convincing manner. West dealt and opened 1♣, a la Standard American. North and East passed. Savleen Thadani bid 1Nt in the balancing position. Sadhana Gupta Staymaned 2♣ and raised Savleen's 2♥ rebid to four. On the lead of the ♣A, Savleen managed to score 11 tricks for a score of +650 and a gain of eleven IMPs.

Vidhya Patel and Kalpana Gurjar played the deal as East-West. Vidhya opened a strong 1♣ and rebid 2♣ on partner's negative 1♦ response. North led the ♣J. Vidhya won a top Club and immediately played the ♦K. On a Club continuation from South, there seems to be no route to eight tricks. An alternative play that is available is to play a trump to ♣T at trick two and pull a Diamond from Dummy. If South goes up with the ♦Ace, all your troubles

will be over. I suggested that to Vidhya. ‘koi bhi small hi khelega naa, diamond pay’, she retorted. She had a point. Besides, if the Diamonds were 4-3, her play would have worked, so she definitely had a point in playing the ♦K.

We should not be seeing too many tables that ended up in a pointed suit contract (Spades or Diamonds) but we do have four out of 11 tables playing there. We should also not be seeing a 1♥ contract in the table. Every player may not want to take a shot at a Heart suit game here, however, raising partner’s suit with a 4-card support should not be a difficult thing to do although some might feel it is a daring bid to make. We would like to see bolder bidding from women following the first part of Rixi Marcus’ advice ‘**Bid Boldly, play safe**’.

On that note, Savleen Thadani was quick to answer yes when I asked whether she was getting into auction if East had responded 1♠ on 1♣. She richly deserved that 11 IMP gain for that boldness.

We will cover more deals from the finals of the **AMLA RUIA WOMEN CUP** in tomorrow’s issue.