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**S D Associates and Cogito lead in the Senior Semifinals; Keyzad-Anklesaria-Vidhya Patel top the Phoenix Mixed Pair Elims.**



Vidhya Patel and Kalpana Gurjar, with Amla Ruia Women Cup

The **Phoenix Mixed Pairs** elimination concluded today after five crisp sessions of 10 boards each, producing a tightly contested leaderboard and a clear set of front-runners for tomorrow's finals. At the top of the table stand **Keyzad Anklesaria – Vidhya Patel**, who delivered consistent quality throughout to finish with an impressive **113.54**. In second place, the experienced duo of **Sailaja Tahiliani – Pradip Ghosh** closed strongly to post **85.42**, while **Vasanti Shah – Anirban Mitra** claimed third on **79.17** after a steady day's work.

In the Semifinals of the Ashok Ruia Senior Teams event, after two sessions **S D Associates and Cogito** are ahead in their respective matches.

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## Thursday's Events

The third session of the Semi-Finals will be played starting 10 A.M. on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. The final of the Phoenix Mixed Pairs will also start at 10 A.M. on Thursday. [Here is the link to the detailed Schedule.](#)

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## ASHOK RUIA SENIOR TEAMS

### Swiss League

After the end of the seventh round of the Swiss league that was played on Wednesday morning, **S D Associates** finished miles clear of the field with an emphatic **107.48 VPs**, stamping their authority on the Senior Teams event. **Cogito** claimed second place on **86.23 VPs**, narrowly ahead of **Dr. S.S.S.M. (85.15 VPs)** and **Shree Cement (85.10 VPs)**, the two teams virtually inseparable on the final table.

The middle of the leaderboard was a battleground all evening, and **Easy Bridge** (81.93), **USBC** (75.70), and **Hemant Jalan** (75.29) held their nerve to secure comfortable qualifying spots. The last berth, however, went right down to the wire—**Juthika**, on **74.83 VPs**, clung on to eighth place by the slimmest of margins, edging out **Aristos** (73.05) and a tightly packed chasing group. The top eight teams advanced to the Quarterfinals. The full Swiss League rankings and the link to the results are available in the bulletin.

### Quarterfinals

The Quarterfinals produced a mix of commanding victories and gritty contests. **S D Associates** delivered the day's most emphatic performance, overwhelming **USBC** with a powerhouse display across all three segments to win by a massive **124.5 – 39** margin. The Swiss League toppers barely put a foot wrong, dominating from the opening boards to the finish.

On the adjoining table, **Cogito** proved too steady and too accurate for **Juthika**, pulling ahead segment by segment before closing out a confident **63 – 49** win.

The upset of the round came courtesy of **Easy Bridge**, who stunned the higher-ranked finishers **Dr. S.S.S.M.** with a spectacular final segment. Trailing after the first 20 boards, Easy Bridge erupted with a **61–3** burst in Segment 3, flipping the match on its head for a dramatic **114 – 40** victory.

The tightest match unfolded between **Shree Cement** and **Hemant Jalan**, where momentum swung repeatedly. A late surge from Hemant Jalan in the final segment proved decisive, helping them edge through **83 – 76** after a superb recovery from their slow start.

Four teams now advance to the Semi-Finals — each carrying a very different story, but all with an eye on the Ashok Ruia Senior Teams title.

## Semifinals

Two segments into the Semifinals, the picture is beginning to take shape — at least at one table. **S D Associates** have seized control of their match against **Hemant Jalan**, building steadily on their handsome carry-over to lead **58.5 – 38** after 20 boards. With their form holding strong across both segments, they will go into the final set with a comfortable cushion but still needing to close the deal.

At the second table, **Cogito** have been nothing short of dominant. Their sharp card play and accurate judgement have propelled them to a commanding **73 – 30** advantage over **Easy Bridge**, giving them a massive lead heading into the final stretch.

One segment remains — 20 boards that will determine who steps into the Ashok Ruia Senior Teams final.



Marianne Karmarkar arranging her cards while Sandeep looks at the ceiling for help and inspiration



WBBA President Monica Jajoo playing the Mixed Pairs Elimination

# The real reason why 6♦ failed

Examine the deal below and the results from 8 tables where the deal was played in the Quarter-Finals of the Ashok Ruia Senior Teams.

11

None / S

♠Q7

♥KJ7

♦102

♣AK10753

♠A964

♥Q1042

♦4

♣QJ86

♠8

♥A63

♦AKQJ983

♣92

♠KJ10532

♥985

♦765

♣4

W

N

E

S

♣

9

♣

21

♣

15

♣

23

♣

12

♣

7

Table	Home	Away	Con	Dec	Lead	Tr	Score		Ind
							NS	WE	
1	9	23	6♦	S	♠A	-1		50	-7
			6♦	S	♠A	=	920		12
2	2	22	6♦	S	♠A	=	920		12
			3NT	N	♠J	-2		100	-8
3	21	12	6♦	S	♣Q	-1		50	-7
			6♦	S	♠A	=	920		12
4	15	7	6♦	S	♠A	-1		50	-7
			3NT	N	♠J	-2		100	-8

On three tables, the 6♦ contract went down. South had solid Diamonds; South is ruffing the second round of Spades; no opponent has a Club void; the ♥Queen is well-placed; and the ♣QJ are sitting under ♣AKT. Even the paranoid declarers won't miss a heartbeat on the issue of Heart finesse because if South removes trumps, cashes ♣AK, and ruffs a Club, and then proceeds to cash the remaining trumps, West will be squeezed in Hearts and Clubs and the ♥Q will show up when the Declarer plays ♥A and back. How on earth did the contract go down, and that too, on three tables?

You have to look elsewhere for the real reason behind the debacle. This was deal eleven, the very first deal after the lunch break. The following sweets were on the menu.



Can you really blame the Declarers for not getting the conduction right? [Here is a link to the results of Board 11.](#)



## Ashok Ruia Senior Teams Swiss League Results

Seven rounds of 10 deals each were played starting Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 morning. Six rounds were played on Tuesday. The seventh and the last round was played on Wednesday morning. At the end of seven rounds, the 23 participating teams finished in the following position. Each round was scored on a 20-0 VP Scale. First eight teams qualified for the Quarterfinals. Click on the team name to get its round-by-round score.

Rank	Team Name	Penalties +/-	Score VP Score
1	<a href="#">S D Associates</a>		<b>107.48</b>
2	<a href="#">Cogito</a>	-2.00	<b>86.23</b>
3	<a href="#">Dr.S.S.M.</a>		<b>85.15</b>
4	<a href="#">Shree Cement</a>	-1.00	<b>85.10</b>
5	<a href="#">Easy Bridge</a>	-1.50	<b>81.93</b>
6	<a href="#">USBC</a>	-1.00	<b>75.70</b>
7	<a href="#">Hemant Jalan</a>		<b>75.29</b>
8	<a href="#">Juthika</a>	-1.00	<b>74.83</b>
9	<a href="#">Aristos</a>		73.05
10	<a href="#">Aspirants</a>	-1.50	70.45
11	<a href="#">Mix N Match</a>	-1.00	70.27
12	<a href="#">Mahabir</a>	-3.50	69.79
13	<a href="#">Dassbridge</a>	-1.00	69.03
14	<a href="#">Sarbeswar Vi</a>	-1.50	64.97
15	<a href="#">Yarborough</a>	-1.00	64.55
16	<a href="#">Ekdalia</a>	-3.00	64.09
17	<a href="#">Miracle</a>	-2.00	61.57
18	<a href="#">Indian Chain</a>	-1.50	58.67
19	<a href="#">Sixty Plus</a>	-3.00	57.39
20	<a href="#">Black Jack</a>	-2.00	50.80
21	<a href="#">Guha &amp; Friends</a>	-3.50	47.34
22	<a href="#">Usha Kiran</a>	-3.00	36.45
23	<a href="#">Mani</a>	-4.50	25.02

## Phoenix Mixed Pairs Elimination Results

Mixed Pairs Elimination was played in five sessions each of 10 boards. Here are the results after 50 boards. Twenty six pairs will qualify for the Phoenix Mixed Pairs finals. Click on the title to get the overall results. Click on the Pair ID to get the Pair's results.

Place	ID	Player Names	Score
1	<a href="#">31</a>	<b>Keyzad Anklesaria – Vidhya Patel</b>	<b>113.54</b>
2	<a href="#">33</a>	<b>Sailaja Tahiliani – Pradip Ghosh</b>	<b>85.42</b>
3	<a href="#">53</a>	<b>Vasanti Shah – Anirban Mitra</b>	<b>79.17</b>
4	<a href="#">16</a>	<b>Bindiya Kohli – T V Ramani</b>	<b>65.63</b>
5	<a href="#">24</a>	<b>Usha Kabra – Gopinath Manna</b>	<b>59</b>
6	<a href="#">39</a>	<b>Monica Jajoo – Sumit Mukherjee</b>	<b>56.25</b>
7	<a href="#">41</a>	<b>Prasad V Keni – Fernanda Soares</b>	<b>54.17</b>
8	<a href="#">11</a>	<b>Shambhu Nath Ghosh – Jesal Dabriwala</b>	<b>51</b>
9	<a href="#">7</a>	<b>Kamna Sharma – Abhijit Pal</b>	<b>45</b>
10	<a href="#">13</a>	<b>Ramani Menon – Jenish Shah</b>	<b>42</b>
11	<a href="#">45</a>	<b>Soham Sarkar – Kalpana Gurjar</b>	<b>40.63</b>
12	<a href="#">54</a>	<b>M M Lule – Sunanda Jakatdar</b>	<b>39</b>
13	<a href="#">15</a>	<b>Mini Agarwal – Swapan Some</b>	<b>32</b>
	<a href="#">36</a>	<b>Puja S – Goutam Pore</b>	<b>32</b>
15	<a href="#">14</a>	<b>Savleen Thadani – Sunil Kumar Sinha</b>	<b>31.25</b>
	<a href="#">37</a>	<b>Arya Chakraborty – Reena Pal</b>	<b>31.25</b>
17	<a href="#">22</a>	<b>Paban Agarwal – Kalindi Mewar</b>	<b>26.04</b>
18	<a href="#">32</a>	<b>Deepika Mehta – Joyrup Mullick</b>	<b>26</b>
19	<a href="#">38</a>	<b>Shefali Poddar – Pradip Dey</b>	<b>25</b>
20	<a href="#">8</a>	<b>Aditi Jhaveri – Biswajit Poddar</b>	<b>23.96</b>
21	<a href="#">48</a>	<b>Deepa Jacob – Prosenjit Manna</b>	<b>23</b>
22	<a href="#">23</a>	<b>Ruchira Raina – D P Acharya</b>	<b>21</b>
23	<a href="#">40</a>	<b>Sukanta Das – Veena Bobb</b>	<b>20</b>
	<a href="#">56</a>	<b>Kiran Nadar – Bachiraju Satyanarayana</b>	<b>20</b>
25	<a href="#">18</a>	<b>Vandana Toolsidas – Satrajit Gupta</b>	<b>10.42</b>
26	<a href="#">20</a>	<b>Rajul R Dalal – Aparna Sain</b>	<b>9.38</b>
27	<a href="#">21</a>	<b>Madhur (Daisy) Singh – Badal Das</b>	<b>9</b>
28	<a href="#">35</a>	<b>Sandeep N Karmarkar – Marianne Karmarkar</b>	<b>6.25</b>
29	<a href="#">6</a>	<b>Aditi Sahastrabuddhe – Biswadip Roy</b>	<b>5.21</b>
30	<a href="#">17</a>	<b>Ekta Chadha – S M Moin</b>	<b>4</b>
31	<a href="#">49</a>	<b>Anant Vikram Somani – Rupa Bakeri</b>	<b>2.08</b>
32	<a href="#">25</a>	<b>Meenal Thakur – Kamal Kabra</b>	<b>-7</b>
33	<a href="#">1</a>	<b>Sanjib Basak – Subhasree Basu</b>	<b>-11</b>
	<a href="#">26</a>	<b>Bharati Dey – Ashis Malhotra</b>	<b>-11</b>
35	<a href="#">30</a>	<b>Manjoo Moitra – Ranjan Bose</b>	<b>-18</b>
36	<a href="#">2</a>	<b>Kavita Ajmera – Debabrata Majumder</b>	<b>-19.79</b>
37	<a href="#">52</a>	<b>Shalini Nopany – Moloy Kumar Mondal</b>	<b>-21</b>
38	<a href="#">12</a>	<b>Urvashi Anand – Vipul Jain</b>	<b>-21.88</b>
	<a href="#">55</a>	<b>Hari Shankar Bajoria – Krishna Dalmiya</b>	<b>-21.88</b>
40	<a href="#">4</a>	<b>Rajendra Sirohia – Sarika Mittal</b>	<b>-22.92</b>
41	<a href="#">44</a>	<b>Chandini Bhoopal – R Anbazhagan</b>	<b>-23</b>
42	<a href="#">10</a>	<b>Kalyan Kumar Roy – Ritu Khanna</b>	<b>-29.17</b>
43	<a href="#">3</a>	<b>Subhash Bhavnani – Priya Balasubramanian</b>	<b>-30</b>
44	<a href="#">51</a>	<b>Reeza John – Saurav Sil</b>	<b>-32.29</b>

45	<a href="#">46</a>	Rachel William Joseph – Koushik Mukherjee	-39
46	<a href="#">27</a>	Vinay Mohan Lal – ManishaAnand Jamenis	-44
47	<a href="#">29</a>	Sweta Goenka – Tinku Das	-46.67
48	<a href="#">47</a>	Pradip Mohta – Sangeeta Mohta	-48.96
49	<a href="#">19</a>	Anjali Malhotra – Atanu Ganguly	-61
50	<a href="#">34</a>	Biswajit Ghosh – Rashmi Bhansali	-66.2
51	<a href="#">5</a>	Jayshree Mantri – Tapas Das	-72
52	<a href="#">50</a>	Bhaskar Sarkar – Bindiya Judge	-90
53	<a href="#">43</a>	Rajendra Bagadia – Sharmistha N Koya	-105.21
54	<a href="#">9</a>	Indrani Lahiri – Angshuman Chowdhury	-121
55	<a href="#">42</a>	Rana Chakraborty – Kanupriya Bajoria	-123

## Ashok Ruia Senior Teams Strata Event

The non-qualifying teams played three rounds of Strata event. Here are the results of that event.

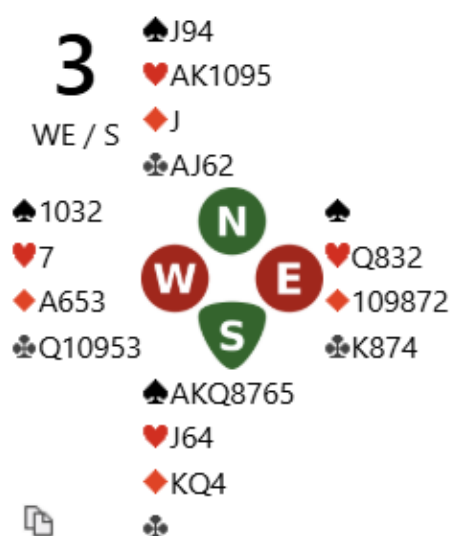
Place	ID	Players	Score
1	<a href="#">17</a>	<a href="#">Indian Chain</a>	42.26
2	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">Dassbridge</a>	42
3	<a href="#">18</a>	<a href="#">Ekdalia</a>	38.19
4	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">Mix N Match</a>	37.04
5	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">Juthika</a>	35.05
6	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">Shivshakti</a>	34.61
7	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">Aristos</a>	34.37
8	<a href="#">20</a>	<a href="#">Yarborough</a>	28
9	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">Miracle</a>	25.98
10	<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">Shree Cement</a>	23.22
11	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">Mahabir</a>	20.42
12	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">Tasher Desh</a>	19.44
13	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">Usha Kiran</a>	15.42

## Semifinal, Set 1: S D Associates vs Hemant Jalan

S. D. Associates was clearly the dominating team of the Senior Teams event. They amassed 107.48 VPs in seven rounds in the Swiss league at a scoring rate of more than 15 VPs per round; and in the Quarterfinal, they trounced USBC 124.5-39. Hemant Jalan did not have a great run in the Swiss League. In the Quarterfinal, they just scraped through with an 83-75 IMP score. Formbook favoured S.D. Associates in the Semifinals.

For the first set, S.D. Associates fielded Sujit Bhattacharjee-Subir Mujumdar as North-South in the Open Room and Vijay Phatarpekar-R. Sridharan as East-West in the Closed Room. For Hemant Jalan team, Rajesh Dalal-Jitu Solani were West-East in the OR whereas Sukamal Das-Hemant Jalan were North-South in the Closed Room.

The first two boards of the first of three sets were uninteresting. The third produced a big swing for S.D. Associates. In the Open Room, Subir Mujumdar opened 1♠ and jumped to 3♠ over Sujit's 2♥ two-over-one response. Sujit cuebid 4♣, Jitu Solani doubled for lead, and Subir redoubled to show a first round control. RKC enquiry followed and North-South signed off in 6♠, a cold slam.



North : Sujit Bhattacharjee			
W	N	E	S
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
South : Subir Mujumdar			

In the Closed Room, the bidding was brisk. After 1♠-2♥ uncontested first round, Hemant Jalan merely rebid 2♠, but on partner's slam-searching raise to 3♠, made amends for that slight underbid by jumping right away to six Spades. Holding a 14-pointer opposite a strong bidder, Sukamal decided to go for the moon, but that was a misjudgement. Two values, the ♣A in the North hand and the Club void in the South hand collided, got overcounted, so to say. The Grand Slam with an Ace out, in the hands of the Opening leader, meant Hemant Jalan team lost a packet of IMPs – 14 to be exact – on the board.

Sukamal Das			
W	N	E	S
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Hemant Jalan			



Boards five and six produced minor swings but board seven was the more interesting one. The bidding was the same at both the tables. South opened 1Nt and played there. Opening lead was the same -♥Q. In the Open Room, Subir went up with the ♥A. Jitu unblocked ♥K and ducked when Subir played a Diamond to ♦K and then ducked the ♦J, too. Subir now cashed out Spades claiming one down.

7

D

N SUJIT

♠1042

♥A3

♦Q8743

♣643

Par Score: -110

Par: EW 2♥

W RAJESH D

♠85

♥QJ1062

♦1092

♣A105

W N E S

Pass

Pass

Pass

1NT

E JITENDRA

♠J763

♥K9

♦A65

♣KJ97

NT

N

S

E

W

♣

♦

♥

♠

5

8

4

6

5

5

8

4

6

5

8

5

8

6

7

8

5

8

6

7

S SUBIR

♠AKQ9

♥8754

♦KJ

♣Q82

1NT South

0

0

In the Closed Room, Hemant Jalan ducked ♥Q. Sridharan overtook with ♥K and backed a Heart. Phatarpekar played the ♥2 on that potentially signalling Club interest. Sridharan ducked a Diamond on the next trick. Hemant won. When he played the ♦J next, Sridharan won ♦A and pushed a Club fully trusting the count and the suit preference signals. East-West now collected four Hearts, four Clubs, and the ♦Ace for down three and a gain of five IMPs.

7

D

N SUKAMAL D

♠1042

♥A3

♦Q8743

♣643

Par Score: -110

Par: EW 2♥

W VIJAY P

♠85

♥QJ1062

♦1092

♣A105

W N E S

Pass

Pass

Pass

1NT

E SRIDHARAN

♠J763

♥K9

♦A65

♣KJ97

NT

N

S

E

W

♣

♦

♥

♠

5

8

4

6

5

5

8

4

6

5

8

5

8

6

7

8

5

8

6

7

S H JALAN

♠AKQ9

♥8754

♦KJ

♣Q82

1NT South

0

0

On Board 9, Hemant Jalan team bounced back with a 12-IMP gain.

Open Room saw a sedate auction. Rajesh responded with a strong splinter bid in support of Jitu's **1♥** opening. With soft values, Sujit didn't bid **4♠** straightaway. Instead, he began with a double. Jitu's **4♥** bid closed the auction.

Sujit won the opening **♠Q** lead with the **♠A** and switched to a Club. That relieved the Declarer of a Club guess. Jitu made 10 tricks easily.

<b>D</b> <b>9</b>		<b>N</b> SUJIT ♠ A1043 ♥ 93 ♦ QJ73 ♣ Q84	<b>W</b> N E S P 1♥ 1♠ X 4♥ P P P
<b>W</b> RAJESH D ♠ 6 ♥ QJ752 ♦ AK9 ♣ J973	<b>E</b> JITENDRA ♠ K75 ♥ AK1064 ♦ 84 ♣ K62	<b>S</b> SUBIR ♠ QJ982 ♥ 8 ♦ 10652 ♣ A105	
♠Q 4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0		Par Score: -500 Par: NS 4♠x-3	

<b>D</b> <b>9</b>		<b>N</b> SUKAMAL D ♠ A1043 ♥ 93 ♦ QJ73 ♣ Q84	<b>W</b> N E S P 1♥ 1♠ 2NT 4♠ P P 5♥ P P
<b>W</b> VIJAY P ♠ 6 ♥ QJ752 ♦ AK9 ♣ J973	<b>E</b> SRIDHARAN ♠ K75 ♥ AK1064 ♦ 84 ♣ K62	<b>S</b> H JALAN ♠ QJ982 ♥ 8 ♦ 10652 ♣ A105	
5♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0		Par Score: -500 Par: NS 4♠x-3	

In the Closed Room, Sukamal Das added some spice to the auction. After East's **1♥** opening and South's **1♠** overcall, Phatarpekar bid **2Nt** to show a strong hand with 4+ Hearts. Sukamal now bid **4♠** at favourable vulnerability. The onus was now on East-West to figure out whether they wanted to opt for penalising **4♠** or bid on to five level.

In a strong sequence like the one East-West had here, the idea of Forcing Pass would come into play. Sridharan's Pass here would be suggestive of an offensive hand signalling a willingness to play at five level. With a stiff Spade, Phatarpekar did just that. Five level was too high, and the contract went down one. Hemant Jalan earned 12 IMPs for that exciting **4♠** bid.

