

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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Editor : Dr. Prakash Paranjape

## Formidables top RUIA GOLD Swiss, United top SILVER

The Ruia Gold league phase concluded with a thrilling finish, as the final round reshuffled the middle of the table and confirmed the eight teams advancing to the knockout stage.

**Formidables** (Kiran Nadar, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Shubham Acharya, Kaustubh Milind Bendre, Kaustabh Nandi) sealed the top spot emphatically, finishing on 115.20 VPs, followed by a strong and consistent **Mohota** (Anurag Mohota, Basant K Mohota, Biswajit Poddar, Sambhu Nath Ghosh) on 107.41. **Indian Railways 'A'** (103.08) and **Hemant Jalan** (99.21) also secured comfortable qualification, rounding off a dominant top four.

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Sayantan Kushari (N), Kaustubh Bendre (E), Sagnik Roy (S), Kaustabh Nandi (W)

Formidables are East-West; Indian Railway 'A' team is North-South

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Shri Radhey (92.54) and Monica Jajoo (89.56) stayed steady in the upper bracket, while Third Eye (88.71) claimed seventh place. The eighth and final qualifying spot went to Deepadhaar on 86.85, completing the list of teams progressing to the quarterfinals.

The heartbreak story of the day was Shree Cement.

After languishing near the bottom after three rounds, they produced a remarkable fightback over the next five, climbing all the way to 85.63 VPs—just a whisker short of the qualification cut, missing out by barely 1.2 VPs. Their surge was one of the standout narratives of the league stage.

At the other end, Mavericks, who arrived with high expectations and the star power of Polish world-class duo Patryk and Jakub Patreuha, never quite found their rhythm. Despite flashes of brilliance, their campaign sputtered, and they ultimately finished 16th, far below the hopes pinned on their international pedigree.

With the qualifiers now locked in, the Ruia Gold knockout stage promises high-quality contests—but the Swiss League stage will be remembered for Shree Cement's near-miracle and Mavericks' unexpected fall.

[Click here for full results of RUIA GOLD Swiss League](#)

## Sunday (7 DEC 2025, 22 Ogrohayon, 1432) Events

The QuarterFinals of the **ASHOK RUIA GOLD TEAMS** event played today, that is, **Sunday, 7th December, 2025** starting at 10 A.M. There will be **four sessions of 14-boards each**. One or two matches will be shown on the [Vu Graph on BBO](#).

In the **ASHOK RUIA SILVER TEAMS**, the Quarterfinals and Semifinals will comprise of three sessions of 10 boards each. The Quarterfinals begin at 10 A.M. The game is expected to finish by 7:45 P.M.

Pairs from the non-qualifying Senior Teams and other new participants can play the **PHOENIX MARKET CITY CUP IMP PAIRS** eliminations that will commence at 10:15 A.M.

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

## RUIA SILVER TEAMS Swiss League

At the end of **Round 8**, the qualification phase of the **Ruia Silver League**. Top sixteen teams secured their passage to the **Pre-Quarterfinals**.

**United**(S M Moin, Sunil Kumar Sinha, Naveen Kumar, Rinku Singh, Sarika Mittal, Sukrit M Vijayakar) finished the league phase in commanding style, consolidating their lead and ending well clear of the field with 115.63 VPs. **Six Shooters (114.41 VPs)** held their form to take the **second place**, while **Conquerors (104.07)** and **Bidders**

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(103.25) completed a solid top four—each showing consistency across the final two rounds to stay comfortably in the upper bracket.

Just behind them, teams such as **Pradeep, Unique, Ranjan VI**, and **We R Six** maintained steady enough performances to remain inside the qualification zone with room to spare. The real drama unfolded around the middle of the table, where **KKK Bridge Lovers, Shaaparrathi, Adventurers**, and **Rohit Wraper**s all stayed within touching distance of one another but ultimately did enough to finish inside the top sixteen.

The fiercest contest was, as expected, around the cut-off. Several teams in the 14–18 bracket were separated by only a few VPs going into the final round, and every board carried weight. In the end, **Team Kabra, Challengers**, and **Trekkers** managed to hold their spots, closing out the list of qualifiers and bringing the league stage to a tight but decisive finish.

[Click here for the full results of RUIA SILVER Swiss League.](#)



WBBA President Monica Jajoo and R. Sridharan from Thane pose for the camera while Vijay Phatarpekar thinks about his next bid and Sukamal Das looks on. Bridge doesn't look like a difficult game judging by this photograph.

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## RUIA SILVER TEAMS Pre-QuarterFinals

The RUIA SILVER TEAMS Pre-QuarterFinals saw many one-sided matches. **United**, the top finishers of the Swiss League defeated **Shaptarrathi** 91.5-59 while **Pradeep** prevailed over **Ranjan VI** 117.5-52. Group 8 match was the closest contest with **Juthika** winning 81-69 against **Team Kabra**.

Table	Team Name	c-o	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	Score	+-	Result
1	<u>United</u> (41)	7.5	<u>54</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7</u>	<b>91.5</b>		32.5
	<u>Shaptarrathi</u> (50)		<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>45</u>	59		-32.5
2	<u>Pradeep</u> (4)	7.5	<u>57</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>17</u>	<b>114.5</b>	3	65.5
	<u>Ranjan VI</u> (47)		<u>11</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>10</u>	52	-3	-65.5
3	<u>Conquerors</u> (57)		<u>43</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>	<b>81</b>	-3	44
	<u>Invicta</u> (52)		<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>	34	3	-44
4	<u>Avengers Assemble</u> (5)		<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>49</u>	<b>91</b>		28
	<u>Bidders</u> (17)		<u>26</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>0</u>	63		-28
5	<u>KKK Bridge Lovers</u> (8)		<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	26		-69.33
	<u>Six Shooters</u> (7)	1.33	<u>37</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>41</u>	<b>95.33</b>		69.33
6	<u>We R Six</u> (31)		<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>		8	-3	-85
	<u>Adventurers</u> (11)		<u>52</u>	<u>38</u>		<b>90</b>	3	85
7	<u>Setu</u> (1)		<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		4		-75
	<u>Capa</u> (12)		<u>47</u>	<u>32</u>		<b>79</b>		75
8	<u>Juthika</u> (33)		<u>51</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<b>81</b>		12
	<u>Team Kabra</u> (6)		<u>32</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	69		-12

## Stealing an Early trick to set a 2♥ partial

Bridge organisation faces a **Gödelian problem**. Those who don't play Bridge do not have a fair idea of running the Bridge tournament well; and those who know how to play Bridge just want to play Bridge; they cannot bear the sight of others playing bridge while they are required to carry out some organisational tasks. Net net, that impacts the conduct of Bridge tournaments. Very few good Bridge players offer themselves for ancillary duties around a Bridge tournament. Debasish Ray, the present secretary of the Bridge Federation of India, and a multiple National Champion and Indian international right from 1980s, is one such public-spirited person. He mostly kept away from the game during the first four days of the ongoing Winter Nationals. Once the main event was well underway, Debasish sat down to play, the activity he loves most and is good at.

In the Second Round of the RUIA GOLD Teams, playing for Bangur Cement, he picked up the West hand on the following board. South opened 2♥, weak, in the second position and everyone passed.

18	♠Q86
	♥Q
NS / E	♦KQJ765
	♣A97
♠AK94	♠J73
♥K8742	♥10
♦A2	♦10843
♣83	♣QJ1054
	♠1052
	♥AJ9653
	♦9
	♣K62



Contract: 2♥ ; Opening Lead: ♣8      Debasish Ray (in Yellow) at the Table (while playing another match)

Debasish did not lead a top Spade or the ♦Ace thereby giving away his holding. Declarer won the ♣King in the Closed hand and played a small Diamond. Debasish had to go up with the ♦Ace. He did and partner showed even number of cards. That meant that the Declarer had started with a stiff Diamond, and likely, a 3613 distribution. There was an imminent danger of discards on dummy's Diamonds.

Still, if Debasish had cashed a top Spade, the Declarer might have guessed Spades right on the next trick. Debasish nonchalantly **returned a small Spade**. The unsuspecting Declarer played small. That was curtains for the contract. Arya Chakraborty, East, won the ♠Jack and returned a Spade. The defence collected three Spades, the ♦Ace, and two trumps setting the contract by a trick!



Binod Shaw (left, facing camera), Rajendra Gokhale, Sanjit Dey, and Sandeep Karmarkar

Rajendra Gokhale and Sandeep Karmarkar are playing the Camel system. Sanjit-Binod don't seem to be bothered about being able to defend against it. Perhaps, it is not that much of a beast after all.

# Bernhard Bussek wins the e-Bridge Cup

Bernhard Bussek from the German Club Bridgezentrum Berlin won the very first e-Bridge Cup tournament organised by the World Bridge Federation in collaboration with Bridge Base Online and Funbridge. The e-Bridge cup event was conducted online on both these platforms over a period of three months.

The first elimination round was played in September 2025. Out of a total of 4832 players that competed on BBO, 500 top ranked players qualified for the Semifinals that were played in October. In Parallel, 500 players from



Funbridge platform also qualified for the Semifinals that were played independently on each of the two platforms. Five players participated on the Indian Flag. Keyzad Anklesaria (key1809) finished 109<sup>th</sup>, R. Venkatesh (Chhota venky, RV, Benky) stood 261<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Prakash Paranjape (panja) finished 288<sup>th</sup>, Ajoykumar was 358<sup>th</sup>, and Abhinav Gorawara just made it with rank 493. As far as we know, no Indian player qualified from Funbridge.

The Semifinals were also played independently on each of the two platforms BBO and Funbridge. None of the Indian players qualified to the finals that were played in November 2025. RV finished on 126<sup>th</sup> position and panja, on 134.

In the finals, each of the qualifiers had to play equal number of boards on BOTH platforms. Bernhard Bussek finished at the top with a score of

61.27%, a respectable score in the elite field.

Rank	Player	Weighted Score
1	Bernhard Bussek	61.27%
2	B.B.C.	58.78%
3	sieong	57.71%
4	vio21	57.51%
5	Berk Basaran	56.51%

Many top international players participated in the event. Those included Jerome Rombaut from France; Finn Kolesnik from the USA - a member of the present World Champion team; Peter Hollands, a popular Youtuber from Australia; Luc Bellicaud, a young member of the French team and a robot developer; and Mikael Rimstedt, the young winner of the 2018 World Pairs championships and a familiar face to many Indian players.

This tournament was a costly proposition for the Indian players. BBO charged 2.3 BB\$ per tournament. Top 10 results were counted towards qualification. If one decided to play all the available tournaments, the entry fee alone would have been more than 400 BB\$, or 40,000 Rupees. Furthermore, the BBO robots are simply not up to scratch for such a high-level tournament. Consequently, all those who entered the event under the Indian flag chose to limit their entry fee outgo rather than try qualification at any cost. Hopefully, future editions of the event address this issue, and improve the communication to the players, especially from the BBO platform. Very few seem to have realised that there are no regulations that require adequate disclosure of robot methods. The various websites offering online bridge are taking the players for a ride on this matter.

# Can you make 13 tricks here?

Shubham Acharya, playing for Formidables, submitted this lovely entry.

Board 1, North Dealer, None Vul

♠107	♦K10752	♣A10753	♠AK43	♥A102	♦A9	♣KJ42	West	North	East	South
♥J							--	2♥	X	3♥
							4Nt (minors)	Pass	5♥	Pass
							6♣	Pass	7♣	Pass
							Pass	Pass		

Don't ask us why East raised to 7♣. If they didn't, there wouldn't have been a thought about making 13 tricks. North led a small Heart. Declarer went up with the ♥A. Needing to bring in Diamonds, Declarer next cashed the ♦Ace and North played the ♦Queen. Take it from there.

This hand came up during the third round of the RUIA GOLD Swiss league.

1	♠Q85
	♥K98653
None / N	♦Q
	♣Q96
♠107	
♥J	
♦K10752	
♣A10753	
	♠AK43
	♥A102
	♦A9
	♣KJ42
	♠J962
	♥Q74
	♦J8643
	♣8



Contract 7♣ by West, Lead ♥5.

Shubham Acharya of Formidables wearing a cap to fend off bouncers

Assuming ♦Queen is a true card, most likely, a singleton, here is how the Declarer can proceed. Cash the ♣Ace and play a small Club to Jack. South discards a Heart. The position is now clear. South likely started with a 4351 shape. If so, you can put the screws on them, put them under pressure.

Declarer can ruff a Heart and play a trump to Dummy's King forcing one more discard from South. Left with four Spades and four Diamonds, South would have no recourse. If they discard a Diamond, you take the Diamond hook, ruff a Diamond and get back with a Spade ruff to enjoy the last Diamond in the West hand. If they discard a Spade, you can take the Diamond hook, cash the ♦King, cash ♠AK, ruff a Spade, and ruff a Diamond to enjoy the fourth Spade in the East hand. A perfect ruffing squeeze!!



Patreua brothers playing on Mavericks team

# RUIA GOLD Teams, Swiss league progression

## Position after Round 5

Round 5 of the Ruia Gold League brought a sharp tightening of the field, with several teams making decisive moves as the race for the **top 8**—and a place in the quarterfinals—enters its final phase.

At the very top, **Mohota** consolidated their lead and now sit firmly in **1st place with 72.29 VPs**, the only team to cross the 70-VP mark so far. Their steady rise from yesterday's strong position signals both form and consistency at a crucial time.

**Formidables** climbed into **2nd place with 65.53 VPs**, overtaking several rivals after a strong Round 5 performance. Close behind, **Monica Jajoo** hold **3rd with 65.02 VPs**, keeping the pressure on the leaders and staying well within qualification range.

**Third Eye** are currently **4th with 63.64 VPs**, maintaining their spot among the frontrunners, while **Indian Railways 'A'** remain in the mix at **5th with 63.22 VPs**, barely a fraction behind.

The final three places inside the qualification zone are tightly packed:

- **Hemant Jalan** (6th, 59.35 VPs)
- **Deepadhaar** (7th, 59.33 VPs)
- **Lake My Love** (8th, 58.76 VPs)

The margins here are razor-thin—barely a single VP separates 6th from 8th, and the teams in 9th and 10th are close enough to break in with just one good round.

Outside the top 8, **Shri Radhey**, **Vedic**, and **Yarborough** are the nearest challengers, all within striking distance as the contest moves into its decisive phase.

With only a few rounds left and eight quarterfinal places available, Round 5 has set up an intense battle ahead. The top five have created a modest cushion, but from 6th place downward, every VP gained—or lost—could determine who stays in the hunt and who slips out of qualification.

## Position after Round 6

With **Round 6** completed in the Ruia Gold League, the race for the **eight qualification spots** has tightened significantly. **Indian Railways 'A'** has surged into the lead with **81.51 VPs**, continuing a strong mid-tournament run. Close behind are **Formidables** on **81.38 VPs**, virtually neck-and-neck with the leaders and very much in control of their destiny.

**Lake My Love** (77.29) and **Mohota** (76.44) round out the top four, both maintaining consistent form and positioning themselves well for a smooth entry into the knockout stage. **Monica Jajoo**, **Third Eye**, and **Shri Radhey** currently occupy the remaining three qualifying spots, all clustered tightly around the **73–75 VP** range.

Below them, the pressure is intense. **S D Associates**, **En Passant**, **Shree Cement**, and **Yarborough** are all within striking distance, separated by barely a couple of VPs from the cut line. Even teams down to **Hemant Jalan** and **RSSR** remain mathematically alive, setting up a fierce battle over the final two rounds.

With only **two rounds left**, every IMP and every VP will matter. The top contenders will look to consolidate, while the mid-table pack prepares for a full-scale fight to break into the coveted top eight. The qualification chase is very much wide open.

## Position after Round 7

With just one round left in the Ruia Gold qualifying phase, the leaderboard has tightened dramatically, and the battle for the final eight is poised for a thrilling finish.

**Formidables** have taken over the top spot, crossing the **96 VP** mark after another strong showing in Round 7. **Mohota** remain firmly in second on **90.86**, while **Monica Jajoo** (88.74) and **Indian Railways 'A'** (86.87) complete a compact top four, all well placed to seal early qualification.

Just behind them, **Third Eye** (84.92) and **Shree Cement** (83.18) are also in solid shape. The real tension begins around the qualification line, where **Lake My Love** (82.87) and **Shri Radhey** (82.21) currently occupy the last two spots — but the margins are razor-thin.

**Deepadhaar** (81.99) and **Hemant Jalan** (80.80) are breathing down their necks, both within a single board's swing of breaking into the top eight. Even **Vedic** (75.55) and **S D Associates** (71.00) retain outside chances, though they will need a big final push.

One decisive round remains. With less than **4 VPs** separating 7th from 10th, the final eight places are far from settled — setting up a tense and high-stakes Round 8 in the Ruia Gold League.

## End of the 8<sup>th</sup> round decides the qualifiers to KO rounds

Here is the Swiss League table that gives top 10 positions.

Place	Team Name	+/-	Score
1	<a href="#">Formidables</a>		<b>115.2</b>
2	<a href="#">Mohota</a>		<b>107.41</b>
3	<a href="#">Indian Railways 'A'</a>		<b>103.08</b>
4	<a href="#">Hemant Jalan</a>		<b>99.21</b>
5	<a href="#">Shri Radhey</a>		<b>92.54</b>
6	<a href="#">Monica Jajoo</a>		<b>89.56</b>
7	<a href="#">Third Eye</a>		<b>88.71</b>
8	<a href="#">Deepadhaar</a>	-0.5	<b>86.85</b>
9	<a href="#">S D Associates</a>		85.64
10	<a href="#">Shree Cement</a>	-1	85.63

## Swiss Pairs Result

For the non-qualifiers from RUIA SILVER Teams, Swiss IMP Pairs event of six 6-board rounds was held in the afternoon. **Ashok Kumar Sengupta and Pranab Dutta** came out at the top with a score of 87.76 VPs. The second spot was taken by **Tapas Das-Kishore Kanti Roy** with 84.28 VPs. Click on the title for detailed score.



Amarnath Banerjee (Dummy) thinking about including this deal as an example in his next book