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Formidables and Hemant Jalan cruise to RUIA GOLD Semifinals

The **Quarterfinals** of the **RUIA GOLD** teams concluded yesterday with massive wins for Formidables and Hemant Jalan. **Formidables** (Kiran Nadar, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Shubham Acharya, Kaustubh Milind Bendre, Kaustabh Nandi) posted a powerful **194.25–86** win; **Mohota**(Anurag Mohota, Basant K Mohota, Biswajit Poddar, Sambhu Nath Ghosh) advanced with a steady **153–111** scoreline; while **Indian Railways ‘A’** (Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder, Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy, Sandip Dutta, Gopinath Manna) comfortably prevailed **134–86** in Group 3. **Hemant Jalan** (Hemant Jalan, Ashish Malhotra, Sandeep Thakral, Subhash Gupta, Vikrant Mehta) completed the semifinal lineup with a composed **166–95** victory. With such clear results across the board, the semifinals will likely demand a sharper standard as the competition tightens.

In **RUIA SILVER Teams**, **Avengers Assemble** (Soham Sarkar, Sayantan Konar, Ramprasad Das, Anupam Ghosh, Kalpana Gurjar, Vidhya Patel) swept past **United** with a dominant **61–10** IMP performance to book their place in the RUIA Silver Finals. In the other semifinal, **Adventurers**(Navneet Swaika, Alok Daga, Animesh Majumder, Baneet Kumar Malhotra, Arup Kumar Hudait, Jenish Shah) edged out **Pradeep** **62–53** in a well-contested encounter. The stage is now set for an **Avengers Assemble vs Adventurers** title clash.



Vidhya Patel



Soham Sarkar and Kalpana Gurjar



Navneet Swaika

FORMIDABLES and Hemant Jalan cruise to RUIA GOLD Semifinals	1
Monday (8 DEC 2025, 23 Ogrohayon, 1432) Events	2
RUIA SILVER Quarterfinals Results	3
RUIA SILVER Semifinals Results	3
Accuracy Analysis for a Bridge game.....	5



ASHOK RUIA MEMORIAL WINTER NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

♠
♥
♣
♦

KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL ● 1ST – 11TH DECEMBER 2025







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PHOENIX MARKET CITY IMP PAIRS Results.....	10
Sandeep Thakral digs deep for an avoidance play.....	13

Monday (8 DEC 2025, 23 Ogrohayon, 1432) Events

The Semifinals of the **ASHOK RUIA GOLD TEAMS** event will be played today, that is, **Monday, 8th 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](#). **Finals of the ASHOK RUIA SILVER TEAMS** will also begin at 10 A.M. The game is expected to finish by 7:45 P.M.

Finals of the PHOENIX MARKET CITY CUP IMP PAIRS will commence at 10:15 A.M. There will be **3 sessions of 18 boards each**.

IMP PAIRS Strata will be conducted in two session of 22 to 24 boards each starting at 10:30 A.M.

[Click here for the detailed schedule of the entire championships.](#)



Subhash Gupta, Rana Roy, Sandeep Thakral, and Abhijit Chakraborty

Teams Hemant Jalan vs. Monica Jajoo

RUIA SILVER Quarterfinals Results

In contrast to RUIA GOLD, RUIA SILVER section witnessed four hard-fought Quarterfinal matches, each played over three 10-board segments.

United produced a commanding performance, with scores of **11–18, 13–16** in first two sets, and finally a huge **53–12** IMP burst. Their cumulative **84.5 IMPs** was more than enough to overcome Juthika's resistance sending United comfortably into the next stage.

Group two saw the tightest match of the round. **Pradeep** and **Capa** were evenly matched not only in the first two sessions, with a score of **18–24, 19–14** but also in the last session and throughout the match. Capa fought back with **36–37** in the final phase, but Pradeep's steady scoring brought them to a total of **80.5 IMPs**, edging out Capa's **75 IMPs** in a close finish.

The Adventurers were in top form, dominating the first two segments **32–12** and **29–14** to take a massive lead. Conquerors tried to mount a comeback with **50 IMP** gains in the third, but Adventurers' also earned **35 IMPs** that kept them safely ahead. Adventurers marched into the semifinals with **96 IMPs** against Conquerors' **76 IMPs**.

Group four match also began evenly, with **14–8** in the first segment, before Avengers seized control in the second with a powerful **26–2** run. The last segment saw Six Shooters striking back **19–26**, but the damage had already been done. Avengers posted **66.5 IMPs** overall to Six Shooters' **36 IMPs**, securing a convincing victory.

Here is the score table.

Table	Team Name	C-O	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	Sum	+ -
GROUP 1							
1	United (41)	7.5	11	13	53	84.5	
	Juthika (33)		18	16	12	46	
GROUP 2							
2	Pradeep (4)	7.5	18	19	36	80.5	
	Capa (12)		24	14	37	75	-3
GROUP 3							
3	Conquerors (57)		12	14	50	76	
	Adventurers (11)		32	29	35	96	
GROUP 4							
4	Avengers	7.5	14	26	19	66.5	
	Assemble (5)						
	Six Shooters (7)		8	2	26	36	

RUIA SILVER Semifinals Results

The Semifinals of the RUIA Silver event produced two matches of entirely different flavours. In Group 1, **Avengers Assemble** delivered a commanding display, scoring **20 IMPs** in the first segment and exploding with **41 IMPs** in the second to finish with a massive **61 IMPs** overall. United, with **6 and 4 IMPs** in the first two segments and unable to continue in the third, closed on **10 IMPs**, as Avengers marched decisively into the final.

The second match was a much more balanced affair. **Pradeep** began steadily with **17-16** but lost the second set **15-21 IMPs**. **Adventurers** continued that progress in the third set with a 25 IMP gain to Pradeep's 21 IMPs. Overall, **Adventurers won 62-53 IMPs**, securing their spot in the championship final.

A fitting finale awaits between two teams that features many upcoming young players. Here is the score table for the semifinals.

Table		c-o	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	Sum	+ -
GROUP 1							
1	United (41)		6	4	W/O	10	
	Avengers Assemble (5)		20	41		61	
GROUP 2							
2	Pradeep (4)		17	15	21	53	3
	Adventurers (11)		16	21	25	62	-3



ENTRY FEES

Entries for duplicate event should be made online and fees should be sent to following Account. Entry fees for other events will be accepted on the spot only
Filmnagar Cultural Center, Bank: Union Bank of India, Branch: Filmnagar, A/c.No. 112210011002500, IFSC: UBIN0910520

Team of 4 duplicate event (for **Navayuga Rolling Trophy**) Rs. 4100/- including capitation fee (for 4 members) for additional player Rs. 1000/- will be extra.



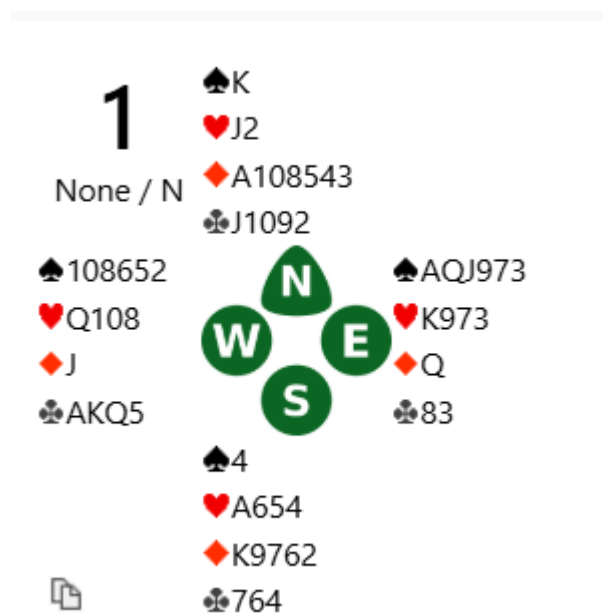
On February 28th, March 1st & 2nd, 2026

Accuracy Analysis for a Bridge game

In modern chess analysis, every move is evaluated by powerful engines that compare a player's choice with the best possible move in the position. Each move is assigned an accuracy score, reflecting how closely it matches optimal play. Small deviations reduce the score slightly, while major mistakes cause steep drops. Over the whole game, these assessments combine into an overall accuracy percentage that helps players understand their strengths, weaknesses, and turning points. Top chess players achieve incredibly high accuracy, often averaging 96-98% in classical game. Gukesh, in the recent World Championship, had attained more than 99% accuracy against Ding Liren.

Bridge doesn't normally evaluate games in that fashion. For one, statistics governs a lot of bridge actions. Correct play can fail quite often because of the lie of cards. Secondly, we don't have Bridge engines that can tell us what an accurate bid or a play is in a given situation. Last, but not the least, Bridge players are not even 1/1000th as popular or as well-known as chess players. Naturally, they do not quite like or appreciate being mentioned in a bad light. Still, if we want Bridge to be more popular among masses, we should be willing to discuss mistakes in a much more forthright manner than we do at the moment.

In this article, for a change, let us bite the bullet, and discuss what might well be termed as bad bids or bad plays. We will omit the names altogether and focus just on the games. We begin with Board 1 of the RUIA GOLD Teams Quarterfinal. We will use the symbols '?' and '!' to signal bad and good moves respectively.



North deals and passes. East opens 2♠, South passes, and West bids 2Nt. North now comes in with 3♦ (?/!). If 2Nt signals a fit and a strong hand, 3♦ could be a good move. On the backdrop of initial pass, it is likely to be understood well and could lead to good co-operation in judging a sacrifice. High-Card Points are not relevant here, big fits are.

At one table, East rebid 3♠ and South jumped to 5♦. West naturally pressed on with a 5♠ bid and that became the final contract.

South led the ♦King (!!). That is a beautiful move. The objective is to watch the Dummy and hopefully, find a good shift for the defence. As it happened, everyone followed, and South now had to find a good shift. North could have guided a shift to Clubs with a suit preference signal, but perhaps, that was not on the defenders' mind. South switched to ♥A and back, absolving declarer of the ♥Jack guess. The result was 5♠ made five for 450 to East-West.

On another table, North opened weak 2♦, East overcalled 2♠, South jumped to 5♦, and West jumped to 6♠(?). That went one down. Here is the score matrix for this deal.

Note that a 5♠ contract went down on one table confirming our view that the shift at trick two was important. Since we are on a mission to count inaccurate plays, let us count the ♣4 lead as one more of them. With that, let us move on to the next deal of interest.

Con	Dec	Lead	Tr	Score		Ind
				NS	WE	
4♠	E	♣4	+2		480	-3
4♠	E	♦6	=		420	-1
4♠	E	♥5	+2		480	-3
5♠	E	♦K	-1	50		10
5♠	E	♦2	=		450	-2
5♦X	S	♣A	-3		500	-3
5♠	E	♦K	=		450	-2
6♠	E	♥A	-1	50		10

Consider a lead problem first. You are North.

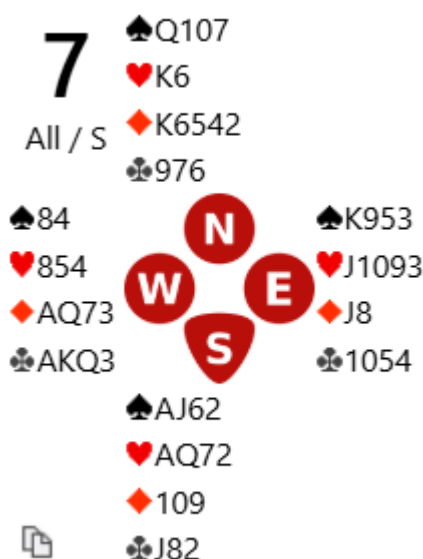
7 ♠Q107
♥K6
♦K6542
♣976
All / S

Partner opens 1♣, Standard, and West overcalls 1Nt winning the auction. You are on lead. What would you lead? Would your choice be different if you were playing a strong-Club or a Precision Club system and partner had opened 1♦, which is an amorphous bid showing 11-15 HCP and denying a 4-card Major? What would you not lead?

Let us consider the situation. East did not transfer to a Major and West did not double the 1 bid. Most likely, South has two Diamonds, or perhaps three at best. Every choice has risks associated with it. Some may not want to lead a Spade for that reason; most won't even consider a Heart lead, but what about a Club?

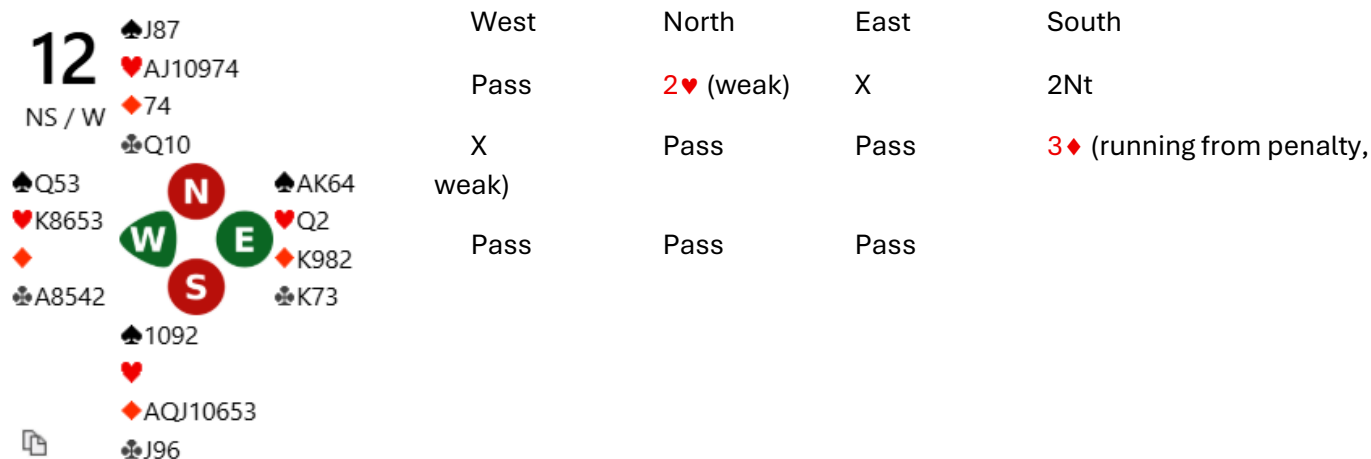
1Nt	W	♦4	+1		120	-2
1Nt	W	♦4	+1		120	-2
1Nt	W	♣6	-1	100		4
1Nt	W	♦4	-1	100		4
1Nt	W	♦4	=		90	-2
1Nt	W	♦K	=		90	-2
1Nt	W	♦4	+1		120	-2
1Nt	N	♥J	=	90		4

Five Norths led the ♦4, one led the ♦King. Only one player, Anurag or Basant Mohota, chose a Club lead. The contract duly went down. On one table, not only a Diamond was led, but a Diamond was continued twice(?). This was the full deal.



North led the ♦4 to ♦8-♦9-♦Q. Declarer played a small Heart to Dummy's ♥Jack. South won ♥Q and played the ♦Ten. Declarer played small. North won ♦K and played another Diamond (?). Declarer now had seven tricks if cashed out minors, but the Declarer played another Heart (?). North won ♥K and played a Diamond once more (?). That was a rare hat-trick.

Our next deal has a little more distributional layout. I watched the bidding at one table.



Contract 3♦ by South, Opening Lead: ♠3.

East won and played the ♥Q. Declarer got a Spade discard, and the contract now went only one down. Now, this is a mistake that we have some sympathy for, not because there is some technical element in it, not because it caters to some other layout, but just because this is in a 'lapse of concentration' category. Here is the Score Table for the board.

Table	Home	Away	Con	Dec	Lead	Tr	Score		Ind
							NS	WE	
1	19	25	4♥	W	♦7	-2	100		9
			5♣	W	♦7	=		400	-3
2	16	5	4♦X	S	♠3	-4		1100	-13
			3NT	W	♥J	+1		430	-4
3	15	14	3♣	W	♦7	+1		130	4
			3♦X	S	♠Q	-2		500	-6
4	22	12	3♦	S	♠3	-1		100	5
			3♦	S	♥3	-1		100	5

In the other room, too, the contract went down one only, but it was because of the opening lead.

The final deal I would like to present concerns bidding. You are West. South opens Ekren 2♦ promising at least 4-4 in Majors and a weak hand, 3-10 HCP or so. How will you bid your hand? How will you begin?

14 None / E ♠KQ1084 ♥ ♦A1054 ♣AKJ4	West	North	East	South
			Pass	2♦ (3-10 HCP, 4+4+ in Majors)
	X	2♥	Pass	Pass
	2♠	Pass	2Nt	Pass
	3Nt	Pass	Pass	Pass

This was how the bidding went at one table. This was the full hand. This board tells us that adequate defensive methods have not been developed, or, at the very least, are not being used by East-West here, against an Ekren opening. Does East's 2Nt bid seem to have sufficient conviction? What is the minimum strength for West's double? What would be West's double of 2♥? What would be West's 2♥ bid first time?

14 None / E ♠KQ1084 ♥ ♦A1054 ♣AKJ4	♠A6 ♥K1082 ♦K983 ♣765	N W E S	♠93 ♥A7653 ♦Q62 ♣1093
	♠J752 ♥QJ94 ♦J7 ♣Q82		

The trouble is, Bridge bidding has to cater to thousands of different situations. One cannot have 'named' conventions for every situation. One must rely on first principles. Perhaps, East could infer that West must be having a Heart void because of his failure to double again. In that case, a No-trump contract would face difficulties because of lack of entries to East hand, and therefore, passing 2♠ at green vulnerability might be a better option than trying to keep the bidding open with 2Nt.

The Score Table for the Board is as follow.

Table	Home	Away	Con	Dec	Lead	Tr	Score		Ind
							NS	WE	
1	19	25	4♠	W	♥8	-1	50		1
			3♠	W	♥2	-1	50		1
2	16	5	3♦	W	♥8	=		110	-3
			3♦	W	♥2	=		110	-3
3	15	14	6♦X	W	♥8	-2	300		7
			3♦	W	♥K	+1		130	-4
4	22	12	3NT	E	♥Q	-2	100		3
			3NT	E	♥Q	-1	50		1

Five different contracts were played on eight elite tables playing the Quarterfinals of the RUIA GOLD teams. Ideally, at this level of competition, we should expect much less variability in the score.

This variability builds up and eventually produces one-sided results. That is what we saw in the Quarterfinals yesterday. In 56 deals, Formidables defeated Deepadhaar by a margin 108.5 IMPs; Hemant Jalan defeated Monica Jajoo by a margin of 71 IMPs; and the other two matches saw a 40+ margin. In four matches, as many as 1020+ IMPs were exchanged in 56 boards, or about 4.6 IMPs per board.

Edgar Kaplan had suggested that if a player drops less than an IMP per board, they are playing top class bridge. That would translate to a 4-IMP drop for four players. The difference between 4.6 and 4 is what we must achieve to get to a high level of competency and hope to convincingly beat the top international teams. [Here is a link](#) to more discussion on the issue of IMPs dropped per board.



PHOENIX MARKET CITY IMP PAIRS Results

Joy Narayan Roy-Kingshuk Bhattacharjee topped the elimination of Phoenix Market city IMP pairs event with +111 IMPs. R. Krishnan-Vivek Bhand finished second with +107 IMPs. There were three sessions of 18-boards each. 130 pairs participated in the event. 56 qualify for the finals to be played on Monday, 08th December. A further few Pairs might also get a chance to play in the finals based on the number of Pairs that join the field from the eliminated teams from RUIA GOLD and RUIA SILVER KO rounds.

Rank	Players	IMPs
1	Joy Narayan Roy Kingshuk Bhattacharjee	111
2	Ramaratnam Krishnan Vivek Bhand	107
3	Jesal Dabriwala Tanmoy Mazumder	91
4	Ashit Baran Chakrabarty(Manik) Subhasish Sarkar	91
5	Souvik Kar Pritam Das	87
6	Subir Majumdar Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee	85
7	Rajendra Roy Sanat Roy	84
8	Arun Kumar Sinha Sowmik Das	80
9	Jakub Patreuha Ptryk Patreuha	78
10	Wrik Chakraborty Prasanto Bera	72
11	R Anbazhagan Marianne Karmarkar	69
12	Ravi Goenka Uttam Gupta	67.5
13	Bhabesh Saha Prasun Mukherjee	66
14	Shantanu Ghosh Tapan Kumar Bhattacharya	65
15	Sandip Gharai Shekhar Chakravorty	64
16	Badal Das Sumit Bhowmik	64
17	Abhirup Ghosh Arnab Basu Roy	64
18	Vivek Saraogi Ajay Kumar Bagaria	61
19	Kajal Das Saila Ranjan Das	60
20	Swarnendu Banerjee Raju Tolani	56

Rank	Players	IMPs
21	Kamna Sharma Abhijit Pal	55
22	Bidyut Goswami Ananda Roy	54
23	Umesh Kumar Singh Girish Kumar	54
24	Sandeep N Karmarkar Rajendra Gokhale	51
25	Joyjit Sensarma Pradip Dey	50
26	Shibnath (Kachchu) Dey Sarkar Pranab Bardhan	48
27	SOURENDRA COOMER DUTT Raghunath P Tripathi	47.8
28	Anant Vikram Somani Rajesh Somani	47
29	Priyotosh Sarkar Amit Chakraborty	42.6
30	Satya Ranjan Chakraborty Dipankar Mondal	42
31	Arun Bapat Ajay Khare	39
32	Bhaskar Sarkar Sukanta Das	39
33	D P Acharya Sandeep Dang	38.4
34	Sourav Mukherjee Partha Pratim Pal	38
35	Sapan Desai Pijush Kanti Baroi	38
36	Anu Jalan Indranath Chatterjee	37
37	Moloy Mondal Goutam Majumder	37
38	Arup Kumar Dey ANANDA HAZRA	36
39	Prakash Gupta Santi Ranjan Dutta	35
40	Mithun Mukherjee Soumya Das	34.3

Rank	Players	IMPs
41	Vijay R Phatarphekar R Sridharan	33
42	Kannan S K Subramaniam	32
43	Asit Kumar Bandopadhyay Bijan Kumar Bandopadhyay	31
44	Saurav Sil Biplab Dawn	29
45	Chiranjeev Ballav Saswata Ballav	26
46	Raju Santra Dilip Mistry	24
47	Koushik Mukherjee Priya Ranjan Sinha	24
48	V Ravindran Sudhir S Chaudhari	23.9
49	Kalyan Kumar Roy Subhasish Gope	22
50	Dipak Kumar Paul Bhola Nath Ghose	21
51	Pinaki Prasad Khan Satyabrata Mukherjee	21
52	Rana Chakraborty Tonmoy Ghosh	21
53	Rahul Shetty Milind Panandikar	21
54	Ashok Kumar Goel K R Venkataraman	19.7
55	Kishore Das Debabrata Mandol	19
56	J P Das Pranab K Roy	19
57	DEBASISH RAY Arya Chakraborty	17
58	Rajendra Sirohia Ritabrata Datta	17
59	Shouvik Das Suman Sengupta	16
60	Amitabh Roy Dipankar Acharjee	16
61	Debasish Ghosh Debashis Majumdar	15
62	Subhash Bhavnani T V Ramani	15
63	Prasanta Saha Prabir Paul	13.5
64	Hemkanti Talukdar Aman Kumar Sahani	11

Rank	Players	IMPs
65	Dipanjan Khan Biplab Kumar das	11
66	Paban Agarwal Kalindi Mewar	11
67	Dattatreya Banerjee Somik Mitra	10
68	Hemanta Kumar Sarmah Jaydeep Bhattacharjee	8
69	Sajiv K Menon Srikar Palem	7
70	Biswadip Roy Swapn Some	5
71	Hemant Pande Sunil Patki	3.1
72	Sounak Biswas Souvik Das	3
73	Shivprasad Ghosh Achyut Chandra	3
74	D V Ravi Chandan Kumar Bhowmick	2.1
75	Chandan Chowdhury Ranjit Ghosh	0
76	Sukalyan Sarkar Sanjib Ganguly	-1
77	Gautam Mukhopadhyay Somnath Pal	-2
78	Jitendra J Solani Rajesh A Dalal	-3.1
79	Jayanta Dutta Indrajit kundu	-5
80	Sudripta Bose Hasibul Hasan	-6
81	Kamal Kabra Indranil Chakraborty	-6.2
82	Keshav Sakharam Samant Prakash G Hegde	-7
83	Sudeep Saha Alok Kumar Sardar	-8
84	Makrand M Luley Milan N Dutta	-10
85	Bijit Dutta Sanjay Mitra	-12
86	Partha Pratim Mitra Ashok Kumar Sinha	-13
87	Gajendra Kumar Vyas S K Sharma	-15
88	Ashoke Dey Rajib sarkar	-16

Rank	Players	IMPs
89	Satchidananda Nayak Ashok Kumar	-18
90	Dibyendu Shee Debasish Bhadra	-18
91	Arijit Roy Chowdhury Gourav Bhowmik	-21
92	Pratip Kumar Mandal Sandip Kumar Mondal	-22
93	Atanu Ganguly Santanu Chakraborty	-22
94	Tamal Dasgupta Subrata Chakraborty	-24
95	Manoj Das Subir Das	-25
96	V Krishnan Guru Shankar Sundaram	-26
97	Amar Bose Soumitra Das	-28
98	Tapas Das Subrata Chatterjee	-28
99	Gautam Sarma Sujeet Kumar	-28
100	A K Guha Achintya Halder	-30
101	Sagar Bhuiya Jibak Tewari	-31
102	Rathindra Nath Kundu Ghanashyam Paul	-31
103	R G Bhiwandkar Subhash A Dhakras	-32
104	Sanjay Raha Tinku Das	-34
105	Sanjib Naskar Prashanth Bhattacharya	-43
106	Manas Kumar Das Kishore Kumar Ganguly	-43.6
107	Rajendra Kumar Ranjan Bose	-45
108	Sanat Kumar Saha Shyama Prosad Chattopadhyay	-46
109	Ashit Ranjan Ghosh Pramod Ranjan Das	-46
110	Nimai Datta Broja Gopal Dey	-46
111	Gautam Kumar Chanda Salil Mandol	-48
112	Asim Saha SAURENDRANATH CHAKRABARTI	-50

Rank	Players	IMPs
113	N Ramkumar Soumendra B Chakraborty	-50
114	Gautam Ranjan Das Shibashish Barik	-50
115	Saikat Neogy Sibo Ram Basak	-52
116	Sujoy Kumar Dey Sunit Kumar Bose	-55
117	Ramendra Chowdhury Dilip Banik	-60
118	Anil Mondal Pratap Chandra Ghosh	-60
119	Indrani Chowdhury Angshuman Chowdhury	-62
120	Pabitra Majumder Mithun Biswas	-63
121	Swarup Ghosh Amit Pal	-66
122	Rounak Ghosh Subhashree Basu	-69
123	PROVAT KUMAR BHATTACHARYYA Ram Chandra Kayal	-69
124	Avijit Dey Kiran Shankar Pal	-74
125	Rajgopal Sasmal Sanjay Banerjee	-75
126	Sekhar Kumar Bandopadhyay Sankar Narayan Ghosh	-77
127	Sudhir K Bhatia Keyur Pancholi	-82
128	AVISHEK DUTTA Mithun Kundu	-86
129	Pradipendra Mohan Datta Balai Paul	-89
130	Sanjoo Melwani Rajesh Darshanpal	-95
131	Jayshree Ramkumar Sanjeev Bajpai	-96.6
132	Saumitra Basu Swapan Ghosh	-97
133	Urmi Sinha Somnath Sinha	-99
134	Bhaskar Kumar Ganguly S bhattacharjee	-103
135	Reena Venkataraman Krishnan Mani	-109
136	Amitava Mukherjee Hari Narayan	-121.5

Rank	Players	IMPs
137	Subhasindhu Ghosh Sabyasachi Majumder	-122
138	Pranab Dutta Ashok Kumar Sengupta	-195

Sandeep Thakral digs deep for an avoidance play

Avoidance play is a form of safety play and an essential part of declarer technique in bridge. It is a bridge technique where the declarer prevents a specific defender, known as the "danger hand," from winning a trick to stop them from making a harmful lead. The dangerous defender is typically the one who can either lead through the declarer's honours, cash established winners, or give their partner a ruff.

Examine Sandeep's Dummy play on the following deal from Round 7 of the RUIA GOLD Teams Swiss League. It was the very first deal of the round.

1

None / N

♠A5
♥K762
♦75
♣AJ932

♠4
♥Q9543
♦AK1086
♣K6

♠Q10986
♥J10
♦94
♣10754

♠KJ732
♥A8
♦QJ32
♣Q8

West	North	East	South
	2♣ *1	Pass	2♦ *2
X	Pass	Pass	3N
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*1: 11-15 High Card Point, 5+ Clubs with a 4-card Major or 6+ Clubs

*2: Relay, asking for further description

West's double showed Diamond suit.

Contract: 3Nt, Opening Lead: ♥5

The opening lead suggested West had both Diamonds and Hearts. The chance that he held any specific black suit card – say the ♠Queen, or the a Club honour - was consequently much smaller than it would be otherwise. Sandeep Thakral counted his tricks. He wasn't going to get any in Diamonds. Spade Queen was likely to be with East, but Spades were unlikely to break, so he could count at most three tricks. That meant he needed four Club tricks. With two honours of Clubs, ♣K and ♣Ten out, there was a danger he would lose two Club tricks unless he got the position right. Furthermore, East must have been eager to push Diamonds because of partner's double of 2♦.

East was the 'danger' opponent, and East was more likely to hold any given Club honour than East was not. Based on this line of thinking, Sandeep Thakral won the first trick in Dummy with the ♥King and played a Club. When East played small without much sweat, Sandeep inserted the ♣eight!!

That assured nine tricks. In the other room, ♦8 was led. Had the Declarer taken the deep finesses against East's ♣Ten, he would have succeeded. He didn't and the contract went down 1.