



THE 8TH ANNUAL

ALL INDIA SHREE CEMENT OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

Date: 1st May 2025

Day 1

Inauguration Ceremony – A Grand Commencement

On the morning of May 1st, 2025, Hall No. 3 of the iconic Biswa Bangla Convention Centre resonated with energy, anticipation, and celebration as the grand Inauguration Ceremony unfolded in front of a distinguished audience. Marking the beginning of a significant sporting and cultural event, the ceremony began promptly at 9:30 AM IST, setting the tone for a day filled with pride and purpose.

The occasion was graced by a galaxy of eminent personalities, whose presence elevated the stature of the event. The ceremony was chaired by **Ms. Kavita Singhania**, the Managing Director of Express Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., who had the honour of performing the Lamp Enlightening ceremony, symbolizing the start of an auspicious journey. Her leadership and contribution to infrastructural development were widely acknowledged during the proceedings.



The gathering was especially privileged to welcome the Chief Guest, Mr. H. M. Bangur, a towering figure in Indian industry and an ardent supporter of sports in Bengal, who currently serves as the Chief Patron of the West Bengal Bridge Association (WBBA). His inspiring address highlighted the role of strategic games like bridge in sharpening intellect and fostering camaraderie across generations.



Adding to the dignity of the occasion, Mr. Chandan Roychoudhury, President of the Bengal Olympic Association, was present as the Guest of Honour. Alongside him were two other notable dignitaries from the same association – Mr. Biswarup Roy, Vice President, whose dynamic involvement in promoting sports in the region is well recognized, and Mr. Prasad Keni, President of the Bridge Federation of India, who shared a vision for bridge becoming more mainstream in India.

Also present was Mr. Debasish Roy, Secretary of the Bridge Federation of India, whose consistent efforts in nurturing bridge talent across the country were warmly appreciated by the attendees.

The entire ceremony was smoothly and elegantly anchored by Mr. Arnab Guha, who carried the audience through the event with flair, professionalism, and warmth. His poised hosting brought a touch of charisma to the formalities, maintaining a perfect balance between gravity and grace.

Together, the event marked not only the commencement of a prestigious tournament or initiative but also a celebration of intellectual sport, collaboration, and cultural pride. The Inauguration Ceremony was a fitting tribute to the spirit of bridge and a promising start to what is sure to be a memorable chapter in Bengal's sporting calendar.

Glimpse of Day 1



Standings After Round 6: Battle for the Top Intensifies

After six gripping rounds of high-level bridge action, the leaderboard has begun to take shape with early front-runners asserting their dominance and others close behind, ready to challenge in the rounds ahead. The field remains wide open, and every board played is proving crucial in this tightly contested tournament.

Team MOHOTA currently leads the pack with a commanding **93.47 Victory Points (VPs)**. Their team—**Anurag Mohota, Basant K. Mohota, Anant Vikram Somani, and Rajesh Somani**—has displayed remarkable consistency and discipline, converting opportunities into solid wins to establish themselves at the top.

Hot on their heels is **Team MAVERICKS** with **87.51 VPs**. A dynamic mix of local and international talent—**Subodh Maskara, Aniruddha Bhattacharya, Keyzad Anklesaria, Harald Eide, Oren Toledano, and Ami Zamir**—the team has impressed with bold play and strategic finesse.

Just a fraction behind them sits **Team MONICA JAJOO** with **87.20 VPs**, comprising **Monica Jajoo, Sukamal Das, Padmanabhan Sridharan, S. Sunderram, Binod Kumar Shaw, and Sanjit Dey**. Their steady rise in the rankings is a testament to tight partnerships and well-thought-out play.

In fourth place, **Team DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS** has accumulated **86.50 VPs**. With players like **Ashok Kumar Goel, K. R. Venkataraman, Vinay Desai, Raju Tolani, Ajay P. Khare, and Swarnendu Banerjee**, their experience and cohesion have kept them firmly in the top tier.

Team FORMIDABLES, long regarded as one of the most tactically sound teams, is currently fifth with **85.23 VPs**. Featuring veterans such as **Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy, Sayantan Kushari, and Kaustubh Bendre**, they remain within striking distance of the top and are sure to make a strong push in the coming rounds.

The rest of the top ten includes **QUEEN OF HEARTS (80.39 VPs)**, **WOLF (80.18 VPs)**, **ARUN JAIN (79.27 VPs)**, **EISK (79.13 VPs)**, and **UNITY (78.98 VPs)**—all of whom are closely packed and fully capable of breaking into the top five with just one big round. The competition is fierce, and as teams adapt their strategies and refine their play, the leaderboard is likely to witness more shifts.

With several rounds still to go, the tournament is heating up. The standings after Round 6 offer a glimpse into what promises to be a thrilling finish. Eyes are now firmly set on the next rounds as the race toward the knockout stage intensifies.

Swiss League Ranking after Round 6

Rank	Team name	VPs	Rank	Team name	VPs
1	MOHOTA	93.47	41	MAHARAJA	60.94
2	MAVERICKS	87.51	42	GOOD LUCK	60.5
3	MONICA JAJOO	87.2	43	JHONTU	60.31
4	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	86.5	44	SPORTING SPIRIT	58.94
5	FORMIDABLES	85.23	45	VIBGYOR	57.72
6	QUEEN OF HEARTS	80.39	46	SWASTIK	56.46
7	WOLF	80.18	47	ADVENTURERS	56.03
8	ARUN JAIN	79.27	48	THE COMBINATION	55.93
9	EISK	79.13	49	DASSBRIDGE UNICORN	55.56
10	UNITY	78.98	50	ATHA'B'	55.46
11	EABRIDGE	75.24	51	SHREE CEMENT	55.45
12	INDIANCHAIN	75.1	52	THE SQUAD	55.23
13	GUHA & FIVE	74.37	53	DILIP ATHA IV	55.21
14	RAMPAGE	73.08	54	JOY GURU	53.97
15	VEDIC	72.82	55	EKDALIA	53.92
16	ORION	71.78	56	MAHABIR	53.44
17=	SHRI RADHEY	71.68	57	TRUMPS SIX	53.27
17=	RUBATA	71.68	58	TASHER DESH	52.98
19	SOUTHERNERS	71.18	59	TAAS 4	51.41
20	SISIR4	70.27	60	TORNATAE	50.22
21	BRIDGE LOVERS	69.4	61	A K MUKHERJEE IV	49.79
22	BANGUR CEMENT	68.39	62	JUTHIKA	49.76
23	SEN'S IV	68.31	63	SETU	48.38
24	ECL BRIDGE LOVERS	67.18	64	TRIBURG	48.36
25	LAKE MY LOVE	67.07	65	DEVA PRAKASH	46.72
26	PODDAR HOUSING	66.93	66	PMDBA	43.82
27	PANCHAM	65.73	67	MANSAROVAR	43.1
28	TEAM KABRA	65.08	68	MPCC	42.93
29	CARPE DIEM	64.89	69	DR. SSM	42.02
30	TVS MOBILITY	64.83	70	VEDANTA	41.9
31	YUJ	64.39	71	NOVICE BRIDGERS	41.75
32	KALINGA	64.24	72	EPSILON	40.76
33	SANDEEP	63.79	73	CANDID	40.05
34	TINNI TWinni	63.46	74	UNIOUE	39.04
35	CHEFS TABLE	62.99	75	MICETTO	36.43
36	SAVVY ACERS	62.7	76	UNITED	36.36
37	GOURAV SIX	61.84	77	NEW TALANT	36.16
38	KKK BRIDGE LOVERS	61.36	78	MIX N MATCH	36.03
39	CAPA INDIA	61.03	79	AMAZING	34.02
40	CHALLENGERS	60.98	80	SIX OF A KIND	30.02

Draw for Round 7

VP	HOME TEAM	HOME	Table	AWAY	AWAY TEAM	VP
87.5	MAVERICKS	6	1	30	MOHOTA	93.5
86.5	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	48	2	64	MONICA JAJOO	87.2
80.4	QUEEN OF HEARTS	44	3	55	FORMIDABLES	85.2
79.3	ARUN JAIN	29	4	78	WOLF	80.2
79.0	UNITY	27	5	36	EISK	79.1
75.2	EABRIDGE	9	6	20	INDIANCHAIN	75.1
73.1	RAMPAGE	16	7	45	GUHA & FIVE	74.4
71.8	ORION	58	8	65	VEDIC	72.8
71.7	SHRI RADHEY	7	9	41	RUBATA	71.7
71.2	SOUTHERNERS	8	10	67	SISIR4	70.3
68.4	BANGUR CEMENT	1	11	54	BRIDGE LOVERS	69.4
68.3	SEN'S IV	60	12	63	ECL BRIDGE LOVERS	67.2
66.9	PODDAR HOUSING	47	13	52	LAKE MY LOVE	67.1
65.1	TEAM KABRA	40	14	68	PANCHAM	65.7
64.8	TVS MOBILITY	31	15	42	CARPE DIEM	64.9
64.2	KALINGA	17	16	21	YUJ	64.4
63.8	SANDEEP	24	17	50	TINNI TWinni	63.5
62.7	SAVVY ACERS	23	18	33	CHEFS TABLE	63.0
61.4	KKK BRIDGE LOVERS	22	19	32	GOURAV SIX	61.8
61.0	CAPA INDIA	5	20	11	CHALLENGERS	61.0
60.9	MAHARAJA	4	21	69	GOOD LUCK	60.5
58.9	SPORTING SPIRIT	18	22	43	JHONTU	60.3
56.5	SWASTIK	13	23	25	VIBGYOR	57.7
56.0	ADVENTURERS	14	24	26	DASSBRIDGE UNICORN	55.6
55.5	ATHA'B'	34	25	73	THE COMBINATION	55.9
55.5	SHREE CEMENT	19	26	38	THE SQUAD	55.2
54.0	JOY GURU	3	27	35	DILIP ATHA IV	55.2
53.4	MAHABIR	70	28	72	EKDALIA	53.9
53.3	TRUMPS SIX	57	29	80	TAAS 4	51.4
53.0	TASHER DESH	37	30	75	TORNATAE	50.2
49.8	JUTHIKA	53	31	62	A K MUKHERJEE IV	49.8
48.4	TRIBURG	15	32	51	SETU	48.4
43.8	PMDBA	39	33	66	DEVA PRAKASH	46.7
42.9	MPCC	2	34	77	MANSAROVAR	43.1
41.9	VEDANTA	61	35	74	DR. SSM	42.0
41.8	NOVICE BRIDGERS	12	36	49	EPSILON	40.8
39.0	UNIQUE	28	37	79	CANDID	40.1
36.4	MICETTO	56	38	59	UNITED	36.4
34.0	AMAZING	10	39	46	NEW TALANT	36.2
30.0	SIX OF A KIND	71	40	76	MIX N MATCH	36.0

Deal of the day

♠ A K 10 7 4 2
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ K
♣ K 8

♠ 8 5
♥ 10 8 3
♦ Q 10 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 3

Board 28
Dealer West
Vulnerable North - South

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ 6 3

♠ J
♥ A Q 9
♦ A J 8
♣ A Q J 10 5 2

South led a low club — giving declarer immediate control. East won the ♣A and quickly identified the key to success: managing dummy's spade length. With 13 tricks needed, declarer chose not to finesse, despite holding ♠J opposite dummy's powerful ♠AKT872.

Instead, East took the lead in hand, played ♠J to A, then ruff a ♠, played small ♣ to K, then boldly played spades from dummy, ruffing spades in hand when North showed out to establish the remaining high cards. ♦K was the crucial entry for enjoying the remaining ♠.

The rest was a formality — with established spades, high hearts, and complete trump control, declarer claimed all 13 tricks, demonstrating calm under pressure and deep positional reading.

The deal was so special because the only entry in dummy after setting up the ♠ suit is the ♦K. Now if you could lead the ♦K at the 1st trick, what will happen? Declarer won't be able to setup and enjoy the Spade suit, then if you are thinking declarer won't be able to make 13 tricks if ♦ was lead then you are wrong.

There is a possible chance of making the contract is to ruff the 3rd diamond and finessing the ♥ which is better percentage in real life play. But as per the card layout, this line of play is failing cause the ♥K was outside. So what is the winning line here? Did you find it?

Winning Line: The double dummy solution is to win the ♦K and play ♣ to A, ruff the 3rd ♦, Play small ♥ to A, cash the remaining trumps(♠) and bring the last 3 card ending as follows.

♠ A K 10 7 (W)

♠ 8 5 ♥ 10 8 (N)

♠ J ♥ Q 9 ♣ 2 (E)

♠ Q 6 3 ♥ K (S)

On the last ♣ played by the declarer, S will be squeezed in ♥ and ♠, if he discard a ♠, dummy's ♠ suit will run and all 13th tricks will be in favour of Declarer. If he throws the ♥K then ♥Q will produce the 13th tricks.

- Analysis by Mr. Shouvik Das

Mike Lawrence: The Architect of Bridge Precision



Mike Lawrence, an ACBL Hall of Famer, has shaped modern bridge with his meticulous bidding theories. His books, including *The Complete Book on Takeout Doubles* and *Insights on Bridge: Moment in Bidding*, offer unparalleled clarity, while his articles in *The Bridge World* dissect complex hands with surgical precision. Renowned for transforming takeout doubles into a science, Lawrence's analytical style empowers players to bid with confidence. This compilation is authored by Dr. Rounak Ghosh, exclusively for the Shree Cement 2025 Bulletin, utilizing premier references and infused with the vibrant essence of Mike Lawrence's voice.

Mastering the Takeout Double

Introduction

The takeout double is one of the most powerful and frequently used tools in competitive bidding. It's also one of the most misunderstood. Many players use it too loosely or without regard for what it asks of partner — and end up in terrible contracts. Used correctly, the takeout double lets you enter the bidding with hands that aren't quite right for an overcall but too strong to pass. It's flexible, aggressive, and vital in today's competitive bridge.

Let's take a fresh look at this versatile call.

What Is a Takeout Double?

Imagine your right-hand opponent opens 1♦. You hold:

♠ K Q 7 3 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K J 8 4

You have 13 high-card points (HCP), shortness in diamonds, and at least three cards in each of the unbid suits. You're not strong enough in any one suit to overcall, but you'd like to compete. This is a **classic takeout double**.

A **takeout double** asks partner to bid their longest unbid suit. You're promising:

- Opening strength (typically 12+ HCP),
- Shortness in the opponent's suit,
- Tolerance (at least three cards, preferably four) for the other three suits.

Basic Requirements

After a Minor Suit Opening (1♣ or 1♦):

You typically need:

- **12+ HCP**
- **Shortness** in the opponent's suit
- **Support** for the other suits — usually at least three cards in each

After a Major Suit Opening (1♥ or 1♠):

You need:

- 12+ HCP
- Shortness in the opponent's major
- Usually **four-card support** for the other major and at least three cards in each minor

Example:

RHO opens 1♥. You hold:

♠ K Q 9 4 ♥ 3 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ Q J 8 5

You double. You have short hearts and support for the unbid suits, including four spades.

What Does Partner Do Over a Takeout Double?

Your partner (the **advancer**) is expected to **bid — even with few points**. Their job is to pick their longest unbid suit and respond accordingly:

- **0–8 HCP**: Bid your best suit at the lowest level
- **9–11 HCP**: Jump in your best suit
- **12+ HCP**: Consider a cue-bid of opener's suit or bid game

Example:

You double after a 1♣ opening, and your partner holds:

♠ J 9 6 4 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ Q 6 2 ♣ 7 4 2

Partner has just 3 HCP. Still, they must respond — here, with 1♠ (their longest unbid suit).

Now suppose partner has:

♠ A J 10 8 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ 6 5 2

This hand has **7 HCP** (♠A = 4, ♠J = 1, ♦K = 3) — better than the last, but still in the minimum range. Partner still bids 1♠, but **does not jump**.

If partner had something like:

♠ A Q 10 8 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ 6 5 2

Now they have **11 HCP** and strong spades. A jump to 2♠ would be appropriate.

Takeout Double vs. Overcall

Players often ask: *Why double instead of overcall?*

Overcalls show a good suit (usually five or more cards) and 8–16 points. A takeout double shows **support** for the unbid suits and asks partner to choose.

Take this hand:

♠ A Q 8 5 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K 6 ♣ A Q 10 7 4

After 1♦ on your right, you could overcall 2♣. But doubling first is better: you have support for the majors, short diamonds, and if partner bids a major, you're thrilled. If not, you can rebid clubs.

Takeout doubles keep the door open — overcalls often shut it.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Here's a hand a player tried to double with:

♠ 7 4 ♥ K 9 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ Q J 10 8 5 2

RHO opens 1♠. He doubles — probably thinking his long clubs are enough.

Bad idea.

This hand has:

- No opening strength (only 6 HCP)
- No support for hearts or diamonds
- No spade shortness (only a doubleton)

Partner, expecting normal takeout shape, bids 2♥ and the result is a disaster.

Moral: Never double with poor distribution or inadequate points. Your partner will expect the textbook hand.

Distribution Can Add Value

Sometimes, good shape compensates for fewer points.

♠ A J 9 6 ♥ — ♦ K J 9 7 4 ♣ 10 8 6 4 2

Only 9 HCP, but look at the shape. Over 1♥ on your right, this is worth a takeout double. You're short in hearts, have support for the unbid suits, and excellent distribution.

Your partner can choose spades or clubs — both are fine.

Takeout Doubles After Preempts

Takeout doubles can also be used over preempts:

- (2♦) – Double

This double shows **13+ HCP** with short diamonds and support for the unbid suits. You're strong enough to act despite the preempt.

Note: The higher the preempt, the more HCP you need to double. Over 3♠, for instance, a double typically shows 15-18+.

What If Partner Passes Your Double?

Takeout doubles are **not for penalty** — except in rare cases.

If partner passes, they should have a good holding in opener's suit and enough points to justify defending.

Example:

- (1♠) – Double – (Pass) – Pass

Only make this pass with something like:

♠ Q J 10 9 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ K J 3

Now you're sitting over the opener with a five-card trump holding. You want to defend. In most other cases, **partner must not pass the double**.

Advanced Use: Double and Bid Again

One more tip: when you **double and then bid a suit**, you're showing a hand that's too strong to overcall directly.

Example:

♠ A K J 7 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A Q J 4

After 1♦ on your right:

- You **double**
- Partner bids 1♥
- You now bid 2♠

This shows a strong hand (17–19 HCP) with a long spade suit — too strong to overcall 1♠ directly.

This is called a "**double and bid**" — and it's a key part of a sound bidding system.

Summary: Takeaways for Success

- **Takeout doubles** show 12+ HCP, shortness in opener's suit, and tolerance for unbid suits.
- **Partner must bid** — even with 0 points.
- Don't double with long length in opener's suit or poor shape.
- Distribution can compensate for 1–2 missing HCP.
- Doubles over preempts require extra strength.
- "Double and bid again" shows a very strong hand with a long suit.

Used properly, the takeout double keeps you in the auction, uncovers fits, and helps you find better contracts. Misused, it leads to chaos.

Be disciplined. Be alert. And count your points and suits before you reach for the double card.



Schedule of Event for Teams

Date	Event	Time
2.5.25 Friday	Swiss League (Round 7)	10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
	Swiss League (Round 8)	11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
	Top 16 teams to Qualify for K/O: 10 boards each round	
	PQF (Round 1)	1:45 PM - 3:10 PM
	PQF (Round 2)	3:20 PM - 4:45 PM
	PQF (Round 3)	5:00 PM - 6:25 PM
	QF (Round 1)	6:35 PM - 8:00 PM
	QF (Round 2)	10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
3.5.25 Saturday	QF (Round 3)	11:35 AM - 1:00 PM
	SF (1st Round)	1:45 PM - 3:10 PM
	SF (2nd Round)	3:20 PM - 4:45 PM
	SF (3rd Round)	5:00 PM - 6:25 PM
	SF (4th Round)	6:35 PM - 8:00 PM
	Final and Playoff: 12 boards each round	
4.5.25 Sunday	Final & Playoff (Round 1)	9:30 AM - 11:15 AM
	Final & Playoff (Round 2)	11:30 AM - 1:15 PM
	Final & Playoff (Round 3)	2:00 PM - 3:45 PM
	Final (Round 4)	4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

Schedule of Event for BAM and Pairs

Date	Event	Time
2.5.25 Friday	Board A Match: 18 Boards X 2 Sessions	
	BAM (1st Round)	2:15 PM - 4:45 PM
	BAM (2nd Round)	5:15 PM - 7:45 PM
Date	Event	Time
3.5.25 Saturday	Match Point Pairs Elimination: 18 boards X 3 Sessions	
	MP Pairs Elim (Round 1)	10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
	MP Pairs Elim (Round 2)	2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
	MP Pairs Elim (Round 3)	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
4.5.25 Sunday	Match Point Pairs Final: 26 boards + 24 boards	
	MP Pairs Final (Round 1)	9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
	MP Pairs Final (Round 2)	2:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Date	Event	Time
4.5.25 Sunday	IMP Pairs: 22/24 Boards X 2 Sessions	
	IMP Pairs (Round 1)	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
	IMP Pairs (Round 2)	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM