



**THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

# **ALL INDIA SHREE CEMENT OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2025**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

**Day 2**

After an intense series of matches, the Swiss League phase of the 9th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championship 2025 concluded with **Team Formidables** topping the leaderboard with **118.8 Victory Points (VPs)**. Close behind were **Team Mohota (113.9 VPs)** and **Team Arun Jain (111.7 VPs)**, showcasing consistent high-level play. The top 16 teams, including seasoned squads like **EA Bridge**, **Monica Jajoo**, **Mavericks**, and **Dhampur Sugar Mills**, have qualified for the knockout stage.

**Team Rampage** secured the final qualifying spot with **93.3 VPs**, just edging out stiff competition. The rankings reflect tight competition, with only 25.5 VPs separating the 1st and 16th place teams. As the tournament moves into the knockout rounds, fans can expect fierce battles from these top contenders in the race for the title.



## Swiss League Results

Rank	Team Name	Total	Rank	Team Name	Total
1	FORMIDABLES	118.8	41	THE COMBINATION	79.8
2	MOHOTA	113.9	42	GOURAV SIX	79.2
3	ARUN JAIN	111.7	43	TRUMPS SIX	78.7
4	EABRIDGE	109.2	44	VEDANTA	78.4
5	MONICA JAJOO	107.6	45	RUBATA	78.2
6	MAVERICKS	105.0	46	SEN'S IV	77.1
7	UNITY	102.9	47	DASSBRIDGE UNICORN	76.9
8	QUEEN OF HEARTS	101.8	48	MAHABIR	76.3
9	EISK	101.4	49	THE SQUAD	75.8
10	ORION	100.1	50	VIBGYOR	75.7
11	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	100.0	51	CARPE DIEM	75.6
12	TVS MOBILITY	100.0	52	GOOD LUCK	73.9
13	BRIDGE LOVERS	99.1	53	ADVENTURERS	73.5
14	CHEFS TABLE	96.0	54	SHREE CEMENT	73.3
15	LAKE MY LOVE	94.4	55	TAAS 4	72.5
16	RAMPAGE	93.3	56	TORNATAE	71.0
17	SPORTING SPIRIT	92.9	57	MICETTO	70.9
18	YUJ	92.5	58	SWASTIK	70.9
19	SOUTHENERS	91.7	59	MPCC	69.4
20	SHRI RADHEY	90.5	60	TRIBURG	69.3
21	ECL BRIDGE LOVERS	90.2	61	PANCHAM	68.2
22	BANGUR CEMENT	90.0	62	A K MUKHERJEE IV	66.9
23	VEDIC	89.5	63	PMDBA	66.5
24	DILIP ATHA IV	89.3	64	TINNI TWINNI	66.3
25	TEAM KABRA	87.1	65	DEVA PRAKASH	66.0
26	MAHARAJA	86.5	66	UNIOUE	64.1
27	PODDAR HOUSING	85.3	67	MANSAROVAR	63.9
28	SANDEEP	85.1	68	SETU	63.2
29	KALINGA	84.9	69	DR. SSM	63.0
30	CAPA INDIA	84.5	70	CANDID	62.5
31	GUHA & FIVE	83.7	71	JOY GURU	61.5
32	WOLF	83.7	72	EPSILON	59.6
33	JHONTU	83.3	73	UNITED	58.5
34	SAVVY ACERS	82.7	74	TASHER DESH	58.2
35	INDIANCHAIN	82.4	75	JUTHIKA	57.2
36	CHALLENGERS	81.3	76	MIX N MATCH	51.5
37	ATHA'B'	80.7	77	AMAZING	48.7
38	EKDALIA	80.5	78	NEW TALANT	46.5
39	SISIR4	80.4	79	NOVICE BRIDGERS	45.0
40	KKK BRIDGE LOVERS	79.9	80	SIX OF A KIND	35.9

## Pre-Quarter Final Results

NO	Team Name	C/O	R 1	R 2	R 3	ADJ	IMP TOTAL
1	FORMIDABLE	0	24	36	44		57
	ORION		30	0	17		
2	MOHOTA	0	35	3	25		-15
	CHEFS TABLE		27	22	29		
3	ARUN JAIN	7.5	36	28	26		9.5
	LAKE MY LOVE		21	28	42	-3	
4	EABRIDGE	0	50	26	67		117
	TVS MOBILITY		8	17	1		
5	MONICA JAOO	0	32	23	17	-1	2
	BRIDGE LOVERS		23	23	25		
6	MAVERICKS	4	22	12	16		5
	EISK		12	34	3		
7	UNITY	5	40	24	17		-14
	RAMPAGE		28	24	48		
8	QUEEN OF HEARTS	0	6	10	0		-86
	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS		55	47	0		

The Shree Cement 2025 Pre-Quarter Final, featuring 10 boards across 3 rounds, delivered a competitive showcase of bridge skills among eight teams. **Eabridge vs TVS Mobility** dominated the pre-quarter final, achieving the highest IMP total of 117.00. They started strong with 50.0 in Round 1, followed by 26.0 in Round 2, and peaked with 67.0 in Round 3, without any adjustments.

**Formidable vs Orion** secured second place with 57.00 IMPs, scoring consistently with 24.0, 36.0, and 44.0 across the rounds, despite mixed sub-scores of 30.0, 0.0, and 17.0. **Arun Jain vs Lake My Love** earned 9.50 IMPs, aided by a 7.5 carry-over. They scored 36.0, 28.0, and 26.0, with sub-scores of 21.0, 28.0, and 42.0, but a 3.0-point deduction slightly impacted their total. **Mohota vs Chefs Table** recorded a strong performance with sub-scores of 27.0, 22.0, and 29.0, alongside round scores of 35.0, 3.0, and 25.0, but a 15.00-point adjustment left them with a negative IMP total of -15.00.

**Mavericks vs EISK** ended with 5.00 IMPs, starting with a 4.0 carry-over and scoring 22.0, 12.0, and 16.0, with sub-scores of 12.0, 34.0, and 3.0. **Monica Jaoo vs Bridge Lovers** finished with 2.00 IMPs after a 1.0-point deduction, despite steady scores of 32.0, 23.0, and 17.0, and matching sub-scores of 23.0, 23.0, and 25.0. **Unity vs Rampage** ended with -14.00 IMPs, despite a 5.0 carry-over and scores of 40.0, 24.0, and 17.0, with sub-scores of 28.0, 24.0, and 48.0.

**Queen of Hearts vs Dhampur Sugar Mills** struggled significantly, finishing with -86.00 IMPs after scoring only 6.0, 10.0, and 0.0, with sub-scores of 55.0, 47.0, and 0.0, indicating a challenging round..

## Quarter Final Results

NO	Team Name	C/O	R 1	R 2	R 3	ADJ	IMP TOTAL
1	FORMIDABLE	6	26	0	0		27
	DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS		5	0	0		
2	CHEFS TABLE	0	4	0	0		-37
	RAMPAGE		41	0	0		
3	ARUN JAIN	0	27	0	0		-22
	MAVERICKS		49	0	0		
4	EABRIDGE	0	33	0	0		15
	MONICA JAOO		18	0	0		

**Formidable vs. Dhampur Sugar Mills** resulted in a closer contest, with Formidable earning 27.00 IMPs. They started with a 6.0 carry-over and added 26.0 in Round 1, while Dhampur Sugar Mills scored a modest 5.0 in the round. **Chefs Table vs. Rampage** saw the most decisive result, with Chefs Table securing a strong IMP total of 37.00. They scored 4.0 in Round 1, while Rampage managed a significantly higher 41.0 in the same round.

**Arun Jain vs. Mavericks** ended with Arun Jain leading at 22.00 IMPs. They scored 27.0 in Round 1, while Mavericks posted a higher 49.0 in the same round. **EA Bridge vs. Monica Jaoo** concluded with EA Bridge at 15.00 IMPs. EA Bridge scored 33.0 in Round 1, outperforming Monica Jaoo, who scored 18.0. The 15.00 IMP total for EA Bridge reflects a solid start, while Monica Jaoo will need to leverage the next rounds to improve their standing.

## Glimpse of Day 2



## BAM Results

Rank	Team Name	Player Name	Point
1	INDIAN CHAIN	Subir Majumdar - Prasun Mukherjee Rana Roy - Abhijit Chakraborty	25.5
2	VEDIC	Samir Basak - . Bhabesh Saha Shankar Acharya - M Mukherje	24.5
3	THE SQUAD	Sailaja Tahiliani – Pradip Ghosh Savleen Thadani - Rathindranath Kundu	24.0
4	BANGUR CEMENT	Srinivasan Iyenger - Shouvik Das Debasish Ray - Suman Sen Gupta	22.5
5	PODDAR HOUSING	Dipak K Poddar - Ayan Chatterjee Raghunath P Trip - Atanu Ganguly	22.0
5	CARPEDIEM	Baneet M - Debabrata Majumder Kavita Ajmira - Somesh Bhattacharya	22.0
5	TORNATAE	Prasad Keni - Uttam Gupta - Gautam B Fernanda Soares - Sujit Bhattacharya	22.0
8	THE COMBINATION	Ashok Kumar Gupta - S M Moin Mitresh Manu - Girish Kumar	21.5

- Final result will be published after tie-break.

The Shree Cement 2025 Bridge Association Match (BAM) Tournament concluded with eight teams ranked based on board-by-board performance. Indian Chain clinched first place, showcasing exceptional strategy and consistency. Vedic secured second, narrowly trailing with strong play across boards. The Squad took third, reflecting balanced scoring. Bangur Cement, representing sponsor Shree Cement, finished fourth, aligning with the company's commitment to promoting bridge.

PODDAR Housing placed fifth, showing a respectable but mid-tier performance. CARPEDIEM ranked sixth, indicating potential but inconsistency. TORNATAE ended seventh, facing challenges in securing favourable outcomes. The Combination finished eighth, marking a tough tournament with room for growth. Supported by Shree Cement, a leading Indian cement manufacturer, the event highlighted bridge's growing prominence. Indian Chain's victory sets a high bar for future tournaments, promising more competitive play ahead.

## Deal of the day

♠ 10 5  
♥ K 3  
♦ 8 7 5 4 3  
♣ A 8 5 4

♠ Q J 4 2  
♥ A 10 8 2  
♦ A 10  
♣ K 6 2

Dealer: West  
All Vulnerable

♠ K 9 6 3  
♥ J 9 7 5  
♦ Q J  
♣ J 10 3

♠ A 8 7  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ K 9 6 2  
♣ Q 9 7

In today's deal, East led the ♠3. Dummy appeared with ♠A87 ♥Q64 ♦K962 ♣Q97. Declarer inserted the ♠7, West covered with the ♠10, and Declarer won with the ♠Q. At this point, Declarer counted seven sure tricks and saw little immediate chance of making nine. To develop more, Declarer turned attention to the ♥ suit.

Next, Declarer led the ♠2; East played the ♠9, Dummy won with the ♠A, and West followed low. Declarer then led the ♥Q, which was covered by East's ♥K and taken by Declarer's ♥A, with East contributing a small heart.

Declarer continued with the ♠4, which East won with the ♠K. East followed up with a surprising attack — leading the ♣J. Dummy played low, West followed small, and Declarer allowed the ♣K to win. Declarer then crossed to Dummy using the ♦10, followed by the ♦K, and played another diamond to the ♦A. East's ♦QJ fell, unexpectedly setting up the ♦9 in Dummy and giving Declarer a glimmer of hope.

At this point, Declarer counted East's likely shape as 4♠-4♥-2♦-3♣. With that in mind, he prepared for a possible squeeze. He led the ♠Q — both opponents followed, and Dummy discarded a heart, as did West.

Now came a clever club manoeuvre, Declarer led a small club to the ♣9. If East had played low, the ♣9 would win. If East covered, Dummy's ♣Q would become an entry. In the end, West won with the ♣A and safely exited with a club. Dummy's ♣Q won.

With the defence out of options, Dummy's remaining ♦9 became the ninth trick. Declarer had successfully executed a brilliant endgame — blending suit establishment, distribution counting, and timing into a masterful display of play. The room erupted in admiration for Declarer's foresight and technique.

What if West discards an ♣ on ♠Q? no issue then as well. He can again played the ♣ same way and won by West, if he played ♥, then declarer ♥T82 would protect the suit to run from defender side. At all measure declarer is now all set.

## Eric Kokish: The Technical Titan of Bridge



Eric Kokish, a Canadian bridge icon, is celebrated for his Kokish Relay and coaching prowess. Co-author of *The Rabbi's Rules* and contributor to *The Bridge World*, his articles, like "CueBids" and "Rate the Alternatives," showcase technical depth and clarity. A World Bridge Federation expert, Kokish's precision in bidding systems has guided champions. His analytical style demystifies complex plays for all players. This piece is curated by Dr. Rounak Ghosh for the Shree Cement 2025 Bulletin, based on the finest references and composed in the precise, dynamic tone of Eric Kokish.

### Cuebids: The Path to Slam

#### Introduction

In high-level bridge, slam bidding is less about system and more about communication — and nothing communicates better than the cue bid.

Cue bidding is not for the casual bidder. It demands discipline, hand evaluation skill, and an understanding of partnership agreements. But for partnerships that aspire to accurate slam bidding, cue bidding is essential. It's a language that lets each partner describe not only what they have, but also what they don't — and how much they care.

Let's explore how cue bidding works, why it's important, and how to use it effectively, with a strong foundation of logic, shape analysis, and high-card point (HCP) awareness.

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#### The Origins and Definition

At its core, a **cue bid** is a bid of a suit **the opponents have bid**, usually showing strength and interest in game or slam. There are multiple types:

1. **Michaels Cue Bids** (showing 2-suited hands)

2. **Western Cue Bids** (asking for a stopper in notrump)
3. **Slam-try Cue Bids** (control-showing)

In this article, we're focusing on **slam-try cue bids** — control-showing bids made after a fit has been established, either explicitly or implicitly.

### Establishing a Fit First

Before cue bidding can begin, **a fit must be agreed**. That doesn't always mean a direct raise.

#### Example 1:

**You:** 1♠

**Partner:** 3♠ (Limit raise, showing 10–12 HCP, 4+ spades)

Now the partnership has agreed spades. If you bid 4♣, you are showing a **control** (typically first- or second-round) in clubs — a cue bid, not a natural club bid.

#### Example 2:

**You:** 1♥

**Partner:** 2♣

**You:** 2♥

**Partner:** 3♥

Again, fit confirmed in hearts. Cue bids can now follow.

**Key rule:** Never cue bid until a fit is established. Bidding the opponent's suit when you're unsure of the trump suit is ambiguous and dangerous.

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### What Does a Cue Bid Show?

A cue bid says:

“Partner, I have a control in this suit (usually first or second round), I'm interested in slam, and I want to know what you have.”

Controls include:

- **First-round control:** Ace or void
- **Second-round control:** King or singleton

**Important:** Most partnerships **cue bid up the line**. That is, the cheapest cue bid is made first, even if you also have a higher control.

This way, you paint a picture of your hand and don't skip over critical information.

## Example Hand: Responding to a Slam Try

Let's look at a real scenario.

Your hand (South):

♠ A K J 6 4

♥ 6 3

♦ K 9 3

♣ A 8 4

Partner opens 1♠, and you hold 15 HCP with excellent support. You bid 3♠ (limit raise).

Partner now bids 4♣ — a cue bid. What do you do?

You cue bid 4♦, showing the ♦K. Partner then bids **bid 4♠**, denying further interest.

From this exchange, partner knows you hold:

- Spade support
- Diamond control (second round)
- No heart control

This is often enough to decide whether to bid slam or not.

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## Cue Bidding: The Principle of Economy

Sometimes cue bidding isn't about showing all your controls — it's about showing **what matters**.

Let's say your hand is:

♠ Q J 9 5 4

♥ K 5 4

♦ A Q 6

♣ 9 4

You open 1♠, partner raises to 3♠. You have 12 HCP and a healthy hand. You bid 4♦, showing the ♦A. Partner now bids 4♥, showing heart control. You hold the ♥K — second-round control.

Should you cue bid again?

Not necessarily. You've shown your key control. Unless you have a slam-driving hand or a first-round control you haven't shown, repeating cue bids may mislead partner about your strength. Sometimes **signing off** is the most helpful call.

## Cue Bidding vs. Blackwood

A common mistake: players reach for Blackwood (4NT) too soon.

Cue bidding comes **before** Blackwood. Only once controls are mapped and no suit is glaringly open do we use Blackwood (or Roman Key Card Blackwood) to check for missing aces or key cards.

### Example:

You: 1♥

Partner: 3♥

You: 4♣

Partner: 4♦

Now, you bid 4NT to check on key cards. This is responsible slam bidding — not premature 4NT over 3♥.

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## Denial Cue Bidding (Italian Style)

Some expert partnerships use a variation called **Italian-style cue bidding** or “**first-round control only**”.

In this style:

- Players only cue bid **first-round** controls (aces or voids)
- Skipping a suit denies control
- Helps avoid ambiguity between first- and second-round controls

This system avoids landing in slam off two quick losers in a suit — a fatal mistake.

It also requires clear partnership agreement and discipline. You can't cue bid a king unless you're willing to risk your partner assuming you have an ace or void.

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## Visualizing the Auction

Cue bidding lets you build a mental picture of partner's hand.

Take this auction:

You: 1♠

Partner: 3♠

You: 4♣ (club control)

Partner: 4♦ (diamond control)

You: 4♥ (heart control)

Partner: 4♠

When partner bids 4♠, they're saying:

"I've shown you what I have. I lack further controls or slam interest. You decide."

In expert partnerships, this is as clear as saying it out loud.

## When Cue Bids Go Wrong

Two common errors:

### 1. Cue bidding without a fit

Let's say the opponents bid 1♦—pass—1♥, and you bid 2♦. Partner bids 2♥. You now bid 3♣.

Some might think this is a cue bid — but it's just a new suit. There's no agreed trump suit. Bidding the opponent's suit or another does not establish slam interest.

### 2. Cue bidding with poor shape

You hold:

♠ Q J 8 5  
♥ A 9 6  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ K Q 6

Partner opens 1♠, you raise to 3♠, and they bid 4♣. Don't feel compelled to cue bid. Your hand is soft — no extra shape, no clear controls beyond the ♥A.

Sometimes the best cue is **none** at all.

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## Putting It All Together

Let's play a full example, from the top:

North (you):

♠ K Q J 4 3  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ A Q 7  
♣ K 8 5

South:

♠ A 9 8 2  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ K 5 3  
♣ J 9 3

You (North) open 1♠. Partner raises to 3♠.

You evaluate: 19 HCP, great controls. You cue bid 4♦ (♦A).

Partner cues 4♥ (♥K). You now cue 5♣ (♣K). Partner returns to 5♠ — a sign-off.

They have:

- Spade fit
- Diamond and heart control
- No club control

You can now judge. You have the ♣K, they lack first- or second-round club control — so you know you're off at least one quick club trick.

You pass. Slam avoided. Excellent.

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## Final Thoughts

Cue bidding is the bridge equivalent of peeling an onion — a layer-by-layer exchange of information, building toward a clear understanding. It's not about bidding every control you have; it's about **listening**, **prioritizing**, and **guiding** the auction toward (or away from) slam with precision.

The best partnerships don't just know what their cue bids mean — they know what **they don't mean**. That clarity lets them navigate even the murkiest auctions with confidence.

If you're serious about accurate slam bidding, cue bidding is not optional. It is the roadmap.



## Schedule of Event for Teams

Date	Event	Time
<b>3.5.25 Saturday</b>	QF (Round 2)	10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
	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
<b>4.5.25 Sunday</b>	Final and Playoff: 12 boards each round	
	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 Pairs

Date	Event	Time
<b>3.5.25 Saturday</b>	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
<b>4.5.25 Sunday</b>	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
<b>4.5.25 Sunday</b>	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