

PRESS RELEASE

15th HCL International Bridge Championship Concludes

~800 Indian and international players participated in the six-days Championship

*Team **Zwederland** emerged as the winner of the Naresh Tandan Trophy*

*Team **A K Bose** won the Mohini Tandan Trophy*

*The pair of **Simon Hult and Simon Ekenberg** won the Neena Bonarji Trophy*

Monday, September 18, 2017, New Delhi: HCL, a leading global conglomerate, today announced the successful completion of the 15th HCL International Bridge Championship. The six-day Championship witnessed participation from ~800 players from India and across several other countries. They battled it out for the world's highest prize purse, totalling Rs. 1.8 Crore (USD 270,000). Noted world champion of Billiards and the Co-founder of Olympic Gold Quest, Mr. Geet Sethi graced the closing and prize distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest.

The Championship was held from September 12 - 17 at the J W Marriott Hotel in Aero City, New Delhi and comprised "Team of Four Gold", "Team of Four Silver", "Open pairs", "Swiss pairs" and "IMP pairs", events. The winner details are as follows:

- The Naresh Tandan Trophy for the winners of Team of Four Gold event and Rs. 30 Lakh prize money – won by **Team Zwederland**, which included **Johan Upmark from Sweden, Fredick Nystrom from Sweden, Ricco van Prooijen & Louk Verhees from Netherlands**
- The Mohini Tandan Trophy for the winners of Team of Four Silver and Rs. 12 Lakh prize money – won by **Team A. K. Bose from India** which included **Abhijit Kumar Bose, Shantanu Ghosh, Anindya Bhattacharya, Soumya Das, Sayantan Kushari & Sagnik Roy**
- The Neena Bonarji Trophy for the "Open Pairs" event and Rs. 10 Lakh prize money – won by **Simon Hult & Ekenberg from Sweden**
- Winners of the IMP Pairs i.e. **Guy Mendes de Leon & Veri Kiljan from Netherlands** won a prize money of Rs. 2 lakhs; winners of IMP Pairs Strata II i.e. **Janak Shah & Avi Medhekar from India** and Swiss Pairs i.e. **Hila Levi & Adi Asulin from Isreal** won a prize money of Rs 75,000, each.

Speaking on the occasion, **Ms. Kiran Nadar, Director, HCL Corporation, an internationally renowned Bridge player and Captain of Team Formidables** said, *"Playing bridge has been widely acknowledged as having positive benefits in terms of inculcating strategic thinking, building camaraderie and long-term partnerships. It is therefore a natural benefit for any corporation and at HCL, we have been supporting the game for the last 15 years now. Over the years, we have seen the Championship grow tremendously and it was a delight to have participation from ~800 players, including 19 international teams for the Championship this year."*

The winner of the Naresh Tandan Trophy, Ricco van Prooijen of Team Zwederland, said, *"I would like to thank HCL for organizing such a fabulous event with remarkably great hospitality. It was a great tournament and I really hope to be back next year."*

Speaking on the occasion, **World Champion of Billiards and the Co-founder of Olympic Gold Quest, Mr. Geet Sethi**, said, *"I am delighted to be here amongst the best Bridge players of the world. I am well aware of Mrs Nadar's exceptional and enthusiastic support that she provides to the game of*

bridge through HCL, not only in India but across the world. Every nation in the world has one dominant sport which is typically a team sport, which takes away all the attention, leaving the other sports alone. In a scenario like that, it is fantastic to see HCL coming forward to provide corporate institutional, consistent and relentless support to the game of Bridge. I would like to congratulate all the winners who have won the tournament today and ask you to be humble and for all those participants who have not won, I ask them to be inspired.”

The Championship was held under the auspices of the Bridge Federation of India and witnessed participation from young Bridge players from across the globe, which included top female bridge duo, Hila Levi and Adi Asulin from Israel and Dennis Bilde from Denmark, among others.

Notes to the Editor:

About the game of Bridge

A card-based mind sport, Bridge is played in pairs. The competing pairs follow a bidding or auction process to predict the correct number of tricks that the pair can score. The score for the partnership is better or bad depending on whether they are able to match or outscore the predicted number of tricks. The same boards or hands are played at each table so that one can compare the scores with other partnerships and accordingly work out who played best with what they were dealt, thus almost eliminating the 'luck' aspect that exists in card games such as poker. Famous bridge players include Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Martina Navratilova, among others.

About HCL

Founded in 1976 as one of India's original IT garage start-ups, HCL is a pioneer of modern computing with many firsts to its credit, including the introduction of the 8-bit microprocessor-based computer in 1978 well before its global peers. Today, the HCL Enterprise has a presence across varied sectors that include technology, healthcare and talent management solutions and comprises three companies - HCL Infosystems, HCL Technologies and HCL Healthcare. The enterprise generates annual revenues of over US \$7.5 billion with more than 120,000 employees from 100 nationalities operating across 32 countries, including over 500 points of presence in India. For further information, visit www.hcl.com

For further information, please get in touch with:

For HCL

Sadaf Khan

Sadaf-k@hcl.com

+91 9620696668