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# **Sarangapani Club**

## *Crisis Management*



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<https://bridgepathshala.com>

**Sarangapani Club** is a weekend hangout of 4 budding youngsters just out management school and trying to build careers in Information Technology Mumbai. Read link for details [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eXKsYJw7BDX-pegg53Acy4k8BVb\\_xzK7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eXKsYJw7BDX-pegg53Acy4k8BVb_xzK7/view?usp=sharing)

In business, there are documented crisis/disaster management plans for the most common disasters that are likely to occur. These plans are tested annually to see if it works effectively. The objective of the exercise is to ensure that when a crisis occurs, you don't spend time thinking but start acting at the speed of greased lightning. When you are in crisis mode, you just cannot think. Prabha had just completed a full-fledged contingency test at her office on Saturday and was talking about her experience when the quartet met on Sunday.

Kaushik interrupted her and asked, "Can you think of situations in Bridge which simulate crisis management?". Prabha was quick to respond, "Of course, there are many situations when you have to manage crisis in Bridge – bad breaks in trumps, NT or low-level suit contracts doubled with a trump stack can all be viewed as crisis management as you are caught in an abnormal situation"

Padma was ready to react and said, "You may not be in real crisis as the same situation will be duplicated at the other table though the bidding and final contract can be different. It could be a crisis at both tables. When you are in crisis situation, the key aspect is to try and escape to another contract, if possible, or play the hand as well as possible to go minimum down, if you go one trick less down than the other table, you could still gain on the board. One should not panic if you are in a reasonable contract and crisis has arisen because of anti-percentage breaks"

Kingo wanted to first ascertain if it was really a crisis. He added, "Seeing the lay of cards, you need to evaluate if opponents are making a game or slam and the vulnerability of the deal. If you go down by 3 tricks and it is favourable vulnerability, it is not a crisis – it is an opportunity to gain. Declarer has to make this evaluation quickly and decide on a line of play"

Kaushik said that while such situations are inevitable on some hands, they can be avoided in many situations. He spoke with authority, "Poor 1 level and 2 level overcalls are normal candidates to get penalized with a trump stack sitting above the overcaller. Similarly making off shape NT overcalls or overcall with 14 HCP can also get you into trouble. It is important that you have documented process to try and escape when these crisis situations appear. Redouble is a common bid used to escape and is called SOS redouble. It is like a business scenario where you don't think but act during a crisis. You should have the processes defined well before".

Everyone was in sombre mood as the topic had negative connotations and left silently without a smile

**Tailpiece** Goofy had not faced too many crises in his life and felt all this discussion was waste of time. He had to face a very severe monsoon when water started entering his kennel and he did not know what to do. He barked loudly and his master took him out and chained him inside the house till the rain subsided.