

Sarangapni 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

Kaushik had been attending some advanced classes on Bridge online. Padma asked Kaushik, "How are your classes – tell us something interesting that you learnt in class recently?". Kaushik was waiting for someone to ask the question and he said that the best learning was from a class about 2 weeks back. The topic was what differentiates World Class players from ordinary players?

He summarized the learning, "Ordinary players do as well as world class on ordinary deals especially which involves some amount of declarer play. The key differentiation between ordinary and world class players was ability to compete, card reading and Defence. Most partnerships need to improve on these 3 domains". Prabha asked, "Could you elaborate what you mean by these three domains".

Kaushik said that the art of penalizing opponents at partial level is a dying art. Hence world class players know when to push and prod a little bit and either get opponents to overbid or exploit favourable vulnerability as no one doubles partial contracts nowadays. World class players realize when you have overbid and will penalize you if you overbid. It is possible that occasionally a doubled contract may make but if they are successful 80 per cent of the time, then it is an area worth learning from them. Kingo was excited as he always wanted to double partials but refrained as team mates would yell at him for a bad result. "Let us draw some ground rules and start doing this. I am all for it", said Kingo

The second area where experts did far better than others was card reading. Based on bidding, based on card distributions, they can place cards more accurately than others. These include things like guessing the queen, playing for finesse or drop and more importantly trying things in the right order to maximize the chances on the deal. Padma quipped, "this is the area I would like to focus and improve. Statistics and Percentages excite me and I am keen to learn more on this area"

Kaushik said that the amount of time they focus on defence, especially opening leads and carding/signalling is much more than normal players. They literally talk on the table through their cards with every card they play having a meaning and communicating something to partner. If there is a chance to beat the contract, they will. Prabha was impressed with Kaushik's analysis and said "You have summarized it very well. I feel that we are all lucky to have you give us this feedback which will certainly improve our game."

Everyone thanked Kaushik and moved on dreaming of how they can play like world champions one day. There is no price tag attached to dreaming and one can dream for free.

Tailpiece. Goofy liked this conversation and started dreaming. They will become world class players and I will get to meet dogs all around the world and play with them