

10TH OPEN HOUSE ON 3RD SEPTEMBER AT NUSS GUILD HOUSE

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First and foremost, I would like to thank the NUSS Bridge Committee and its Convenor, Mr Lim Jit, for their efforts in making arrangements for this Open House in the Guild House.

The great food and ambience at the Guild Hall thus became the cosy arena in the 4th round of the League Cup, consisting of the semi-finals in the Winners' and Losers' Pool and two rounds of 12-board matches for teams in the Consolations Swiss.

Having slayed several 1st Division teams en route, Poly's valiant giant-killing efforts were thwarted by The Bridge Bears. The latter will meet NTU Staff in the finals, while Poly will play SICC (Red) to determine the 3rd and 4th placings.

There were several intriguing hands, and let's take a look at the three 6D hands.

Board 1: None Vul, North Deals

♠ A Q 5 4 3	♠ K 10 8
♥ A 6 5	♥ 10 9 8 4
♦ 8 7 5	♦ 10 3
♣ 10 8	♣ Q 6 5 2
♠ 9 7 6 2	♠ J
♥ Q J 3	♥ K 7 2
♦ 6 4	♦ A K Q J 9 2
♣ J 9 4 3	♣ A K 7

In the semi-finals, Poly got off to a good start with 10 IMP's in making the cold 6D (or 6NT), while The Bridge Bears made 3NT+3. There should not be any problem in reaching the slam with the abundant controls and solid trumps; 7D could even be made with the right guess of ruffing out ♠K instead of finessing.

Board 13: All Vul, North Deals

♠ A 8 7 5 4	♠ Q 10 6 3
♥ 7	♥ Q 10 9 4
♦ J 10 4 2	♦ -
♣ Q 8 7	♣ J 10 5 3 2
♠ K 9 2	
♥ A K J 8 5 2	
♦ A 5 3	
♣ A	

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Ze Ying	NTU Staff	Choo Wai	NTU Staff
3D	Pass	*4C (Ask Keycard)	Pass
*4S (1 Key card + ♠Q)	Pass	6D	Pass

This excellent 6D slam was defeated by the unfortunate 4-0 break in the trumps. Poly and The Bridge Bears, together with most teams, thus ended up with a negative score despite superior bidding. Bozzetto (Argento) was the only team that managed to make the contract! I would just like to share a couple of learning points with the intermediate players.

Some advanced players utilise a response of 4C after a 3-level pre-emptive bid as a modified key-card asking bid as follows:

After 3C/D/H/S: 4C*,
 rebid 4D = 0 key card
 4H = 1 key card with no trump Q
 4S = 1 key card with trump Q
 4NT = 2 key cards with no trump Q
 5C = 2 key cards with trump Q

As the opener cannot hold more than two key cards, this is useful to inquire more specifically and at a lower level (instead of starting at 4NT). You may choose to adopt this if your partnership is comfortable with it, and more importantly, if you can both remember it!

I also chose not to show my heart suit as this may help opponents find a potentially lethal spade lead. If partner can support my hearts, it would be ideal as I would become the declarer with a protected ♠K. As I deemed partner unlikely to have support, I thus did not reveal my suit. Please read the article by LL Wong for more elaboration on this hand.



Players enjoying the game in the NUSS Guild Hall.