

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

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New month, new committee, new editor!

As the new month of August rolls around, we welcome a new SCBA committee! I am happy to see some old faces (obviously I'm not referring to age!), such as Steve Robinson, Wong Choo Wai, Heng Aik Koan and Lan Foo, who keep their original positions as President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Competition Secretary. It is also refreshing to see new blood joining the committee, as Derek Maggs, Jackie Ang, Chua Gang, William Ho and Poon Hua step on board, as Honorary Secretary and 4 ordinary committee members. The SCBA will also be co-opting another ordinary committee member and an Assistant Treasurer within the next month or so.

Bridging SCBA also is experiencing a change of hands, as I take over from Lam Ze Ying, who has done a tremendous job over the last 2 years as the newsletter's editor.

Ze Ying recently revamped the look and style of the newsletter, as well as the layout, which has made my new job much easier. Thanks ZY!!!

This also marks the first time that the SCBA monthly newsletter is being done by a non-SCBA committee member or employee. I know that the committee hopes that more of you will step forward in volunteering your time and efforts in helping to promote bridge in Singapore.

Moving forward, my first job as the new editor will be to bring back a column which features the SCBA committee members. Called "Let's Chat!", this column will interview a different SCBA committee member each month, allowing you to know more about them as an individual and what they are doing at SCBA. Having been SCBA's Honorary Secretary for 4 years, one of my frustrations was that the majority of work done by the committee is unseen and often unrecognised.

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JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FUN AT THE PESTA SUKAN

Friday evening: Open Pairs
Sat morning: Mixed Pairs
Sat afternoon/ evening:
Open Teams
Sunday morning/ afternoon:
Open Teams
See Events calendar for details

Selection for the U28 Teams will be delayed until further notice. Watch this space for more details!



...with Steve Robinson

Having been President SCBA for the last 4 years, Steve is familiar to most of us. Let us find out what is in store for the next 2 years...

- **Audit and Governance:** Headed by Chua Gang and supported by William Ho. This is a new subcommittee to focus on the growing importance of governance and performing internal audits.
- **Competitiveness:** Headed by Poon Hua. This new subcommittee aims to improve the standard of Singapore's play in international events.

When you're not playing bridge, what are you doing?

When I'm away from the bridge table I'm usually working. I work for First Data, a US firm providing payment solutions to the financial industry. Recently, I have spent most of my time in Shanghai, where I'm heading up service delivery for credit card processing. In my spare time I like to travel, hike in the mountains, and chase total solar eclipses.

Why do you have such a passion for bridge?

I think bridge is the best game. No matter how long or how often you play bridge there are always new things to learn.

What's going to be new for SCBA?

The new committee has decided to make some changes to the sub-committee structure used over the last 2 years. This is partly due to the interests and make up of the committee members, as well as to address new areas which have assumed more importance. The subcommittees are:

- **Admin and Finance:** Headed by our Honorary Treasurer Dr. A.K. Heng. This subcommittee will continue to look to improve the associations financial practices;
- **Technical:** Headed by Lan Foo and supported by Jackie Ang. One of the key focus areas will be to improve the visibility of SCBA masterpoints;
- **Marketing, Publicity, and Fund Raising:** Headed by Dr. Wong Choo Wai and supported by Derek Maggs. This subcommittee is focused on raising the awareness of bridge in the community as well as raising funds for all of the associations ventures;

Editor's note cont'd from page 1

Many members have made comments that SCBA committee members are rarely seen playing bridge, and this frequently leads to questions on what the committee is actually doing for SCBA.

The fact is committee members are often overloaded with committee work and this leaves little time left for playing bridge. So I hope that through "Let's Chat!" you will all find out a bit more about the efforts of our newly elected SCBA committee members.

If you have comments or articles that you would like to contribute for future newsletters, please email me at yiulin@starhub.net.sg

Look forward to seeing you at the bridge table! ♣

Yiu Lin
Editor, Bridging SCBA



DONKEY'S SLAMS By Derek Maggs

Donkey and the Angel (not their real names) sat down to play together for the first time one Sunday afternoon, with high hopes of finishing the day talking to each other. That illusion was quickly dispelled by a mean computer that decided to have a laugh at their expense – perhaps upset at having to work on producing boards at the last minute. “Random...” it schemed, “I’ll give them Random!”

Dealer South, all vulnerable (hands rotated for inconvenience)

	♠ -		
	♥ KQ10976532		
	♦ A2		
	♣ AJ		
♠ QJ98532		♠ 1074	
♥ 8		♥ J8	
♦ K5		♦ QJ109873	
♣ 1054		♣ 2	
	♠ AK6		
	♥ A		
	♦ 64		
	♣ KQ98763		

Donkey	W	aNgel	E
1♣	2♠	Dbl	4♠
5♣	P	6♣	All
pass			

An inelegant auction to the 6th best spot. (Donkey withdrew his entry for the annual bidding competition straight after this board). How would you have fared? Angel started a discussion about how to progress in a forcing way perhaps with slam interest. It was no crumb of comfort that no-one appeared to bid the 7NT or 7H or that it represented only a loss of 2imps...The conversation was about halfway through reaching the point where a new suit at the 3 level and a direct cue bid were on the table as serious contenders for sorting out the mess from Donkey's hay (he was into a nose bag of sandwich and salad by now) when this wee devil dropped in:

Dealer South, N/S vuln (hands rotated for inconvenience)

	♠ -		
	♥ KQ106		
	♦ Q83		
	♣ Q87642		
♠ T9876532		♠ J4	
♥ 2		♥ 954	
♦ 9		♦ J1064	
♣ K93		♣ AJ105	
	♠ AKQ		
	♥ AJ873		
	♦ AK732		
	♣ -		

Donkey	Great	aNgel	Na Fool
2♣	4♠*	5♠	P
6♠	P	7♣	Dbl
7♦	All pass!		

* Great self-alerted this bid and said it was terrible!

A much better auction up until the last round when the second top spot was reached. Great, (not a real name) led the 3♣. Donkey ruffed and decided that if the J, 10 or 9 of ♦ appeared on the first round from West then he would follow his extensive nose and run the 8 on the way back. This was not necessary as it happened since East duly covered the 8 and a very relieved pair gained a few imps.

Na Fool, when asked about the ♦ cover, she stuttered out “I... I... I...did not wish to prolong the play, and knew that e.. e... eyor... he ought to be able to get it right”.

Quite. ♣



AUGUST QUIZ – Double Dummy Play by LL Wong

This hand was provided by Mr. Zhu Junyi, taken from the Vu graph in the recent BBO tournament, with some modification for some cards. How can you make a 6 ♦ contract, using double dummy play. Lead is ♦ 2.

♠ J743	♠ A952	♠ K108
♥ 85	♥ AK643	♥ QJ109
♦ 7542	♦ AK9	♦ 103
♣ 1065	♣ 9	♣ QJ73
	♠ Q6	
	♥ 72	
	♦ QJ86	
	♣ AK842	

And now find the solution with the actual deal. Contract is 6 ♦, lead is ♦ 2

- ♠ A952
- ♥ AKJ43
- ♦ AK9
- ♣ 9

- ♠ Q76
- ♥ 72
- ♦ QJ86
- ♣ AK43

This was another hand played in the last segment of the 1st play off at the PABF 2007. Can you find the solution? Contract is 3NT, lead is ♠ 3.

Would it be the same if you were to use double dummy play?

♠ K10532	♠ QJ6	♠ 94
♥ K3	♥ 76	♥ AJ1052
♦ 10432	♦ AQ875	♦ 96
♣ 63	♣ 875	♣ A942
	♠ A87	
	♥ Q964	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ KQJ10	

Now take West's position, and try to set the contract. ♣

SOLUTION TO JULY QUIZ

by LL Wong

First of all, I would like to say thanks to Zhu Junyi and C T Ng for their efforts in finding the solutions to the June puzzle hand, though their entries were a bit late. Their solutions were also similar to the solution given in the July 07 newsletter.

For the July puzzle, there were no replies, and given the odd results appearing at the tables, this is understandable. This ranged from 4SX contract, to down 4!

First, rough the clubs, next play your top diamonds, then....



SOLUTION TO JULY QUIZ By LL Wong (aka The Bridge Guru)

Here's the hand:

You are in 4♠X (doubled by RHO). Lead DA

♠ 843
♥ AQJ73
♦ QJ8
♣ J8

♠ J9752
♥ 98
♦ -
♣ AKQ963

A quick look at the hand will show that there is a possibility of gaining 10 tricks, with 2 spades, 6 clubs, 1 heart and HQ or one through a cross ruff. So those that choose the probability play of simply drawing trumps are hoping for a 3-2 break in trump, except for one case of S AKQ on your right. Unfortunately, those that decided on this play would result in down 3 or 4. There were 4 pairs that were in this situation.

Another 4 pairs were defeated by one trick only. Interesting. These declarer hoped that the DK might be in a favourable position, so a low diamond returned with a loser on loser would limit the contract to down 1, and even the possibility of making it, if the DK is onside.

Other declarers ran the clubs to let defender ruff twice or thrice, to settle for one down when S10 gets promoted. Some might end play themselves if heart suit not been played early.

There were 3 players that made the contract. One of them was the Singapore Ladies, where, the North hand became declarer, thanks to their bidding system. This results in a favourable lead of SA, a natural lead from AKQ holding. The contract is made, since the vital defensive tempo is lost.

There are many lines of defence to take the contract down, assuming correct defence or incorrect declarer play.

Back to the problem: After the DA lead, the double by RHO gives you information on the trumps. A 4-1 trump break would always send the contract down. So a 3-2 break in trumps with the three good trumps being together with a short club holdings is a justifiable assumption - assuming you want to make the contract! Furthermore, you must assume that HK is onside (the contract is always down if it is offside) and a 3-3 break. Timing is also important, as you don't want to be in an end play situation. The play is as follows:

Trick 1: DA D8 D5 S2

Trick 2: H4 HQ H2 H9*

(Entry management)

Trick 3: C7 CJ* C2 C3

(Try to test for AKQx or AKQ of ♠)

Trick 4: C4 C8 SQ* CA

(Be calm to cut losses the ruff is a small ♠)

Trick 5: D9 DJ D2 S5*

(Continue clubs if defender ducks)

Trick 6: S6 S3 SK S7*

(club play if x♠ ruff at trick 4)

Trick 7: DK DQ D4 S9

(Another forcing defensive play)

Trick 8: H5 HJ H6 H8*

(critical not ♠J or ♣K)

Trick 9: S10 S4* SA SJ

(collect the rest of the tricks, due to 3-3 heart break)

If the defender ducks the clubs, play till 4th club, then switch the plan. They cannot stop you from collecting 4♣, 3♥ and 3♦ or 4♣, 2♥ and 4♦ (by ruffing).

Note 1: It is too bad if the club break 3-2. This way, you will be doomed! Still, you have to keep hope by continuing the 3rd high club. The defender may ruff it high, with holding of S AKQ (never says never)

Note 2: If nobody can solve this hand in their free time, then it is hard to expect anyone to solve it at the table. So no regrets, even if you failed this at the table, but the next time hmm...♣

MIXED VIEWS By ZY Lam, the sassy queen

Approximately 90% of the players shuffled to the correct seats within 2 minutes, after the Director instructed male players to sit North or East, and female players sit South or West, at the recent Mixed Pairs Championships, held on 7 July 2007. I was reluctant to give up my lucky and favourite positions, but understanding that if I want to be in the game, rules of the games need to be followed, so I gave up my view that I need to sit North or East to play well or win.

Call me superstitious, but I still attribute our failure to emerge as champions of the day, partly to the jinxed sitting positions. It affected my mood to start the game, or rather I allowed it to affect my mood. Another player challenged the Director on this “rule”, saying people should have the freedom to choose where they sit. It seems this seating is a common arrangement for Mixed Pairs games internationally*. After some discussion without much progress, the Director invited the party to either abide by the rule or leave the game. Other players then helped to pacify the player, who eventually relented and the game finally started.

Should players have the choice to sit North or South and East or West? Perhaps such rules should be stated in advance, so players have a choice if they were to participate in the tournament or not. (My double standards: My partners by default have to sit South or West, haha!)

Do Singaporeans “just follow”? My question is – is this just a “rule” of the game and if so, why? I recall once hearing the rationale for this “rule” is to allow comparisons between the two sexes, in the name of fairness.

So the underlying assumption is that male and female players play bridge differently, for example, aggressiveness in bidding. There are even generalised (or sexist) statements, such as “men are better at bridge”, “women are more intuitive” or “men are more logical”.

Is there any truth in these statements or are they self-fulfilling prophecies? Are we constrained by such social constructs? And are we supporting such propaganda if we adopt such a “rule”? Have a think. What is your view?

Interestingly, one hand came up in the Mixed Pairs Championships, that put some of these questions to the test.

All non-vulnerable, my partner passed as Dealer, and my RHO opened 1D. Holding this hand, I considered what to overcall:

- ♠ 85
- ♥ QJ9863
- ♦ –
- ♣ A10843

What went through my mind was that if I were to compare myself with all the women in the room, I was determined to turn this rule to my advantage and I was sure none of them would bid 4H. So I did it. Doubled down two was a good result as East-West had 3NT. Partner had a singleton heart, so even if you bid 2H or 3H, partner would never support your hearts. Thus as the opponents were having a post-mortem on that hand, I told them “You already lost when I bid 4H.” (Disclaimer: 4H is really a crazy bid. Intuition and luck have a role to play in achieving the good result. But my philosophy has always been – no risk, no gain.)



* Editor’s Note: According to the rules and Conditions of Contest of the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Championships, in Mixed Pair events, men sit North or West throughout and women sit South or East.

Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars

Or Why the Director is 'Always Right' - for the moment anyway

Should the compass positions of male and female players be fixed in a mixed pairs event? This rule is used in European Bridge League mixed championships and World Bridge Federation mixed pairs events, so it cannot be all that wrong. During the recent ASEAN bridge club championships, the same rule was applied for the mixed event by Richard Grenside, who has vast experience as an international Tournament Director.

Besides making it easier for the organisers to confirm that the pairs are indeed "mixed" in a large event, I believe the rationale is to compare the actions of the male players with each other and similarly for the female players.



By Derrick Heng, the 'Always Right' Director



The aim is to reduce randomness in the results, based on the underlying assumption that there are differences in the bidding and play between male and female players (women are from venus and men are from mars), which do not reflect bridge skill. One could argue that this assumption lies behind the existence of mixed events in the first place, otherwise, why place a gender restrictions?

Saying that men are different from women is not sexist – it's a self evident fact. Do men bid or play differently from women? Ze Ying's thoughts when she made the 4H bid are revealing. She was confident that no other women sitting in her position would bid 4H. Would she have been as sure if it had been a mixture of men and women?

While I think the rule makes sense, I do not hold strong views on this topic, and could be persuaded otherwise (perhaps by my sympathy for Ze Ying's superstitions). Maybe next time, females will get to sit north and east.

However, there's another point I wish to make. It is clear from bridge laws (Law 5) that the TD has the right to assign positions and compass directions. At the table, the TD is "always right". You can politely disagree with his rulings (ask him to check the law book if he is not ruling from it) and even appeal them. Views on the rules can certainly be discussed subsequently with the TD or organisers or even debated in newsletters. But behaviour challenging the TD at the table is strongly discouraged, especially acts that "unduly obstruct or delay the game" such as "failure to comply promptly with any instructions of the director". These are specifically mentioned in the bridge laws (Law 90) as offences subject to procedural penalties. In particular, players who are respected by segments of the bridge community (especially those with TD training or national players) should hold themselves up as role models.

For the record, I was the TD at the recent Mixed Pairs event and while Ze Ying supports freedom of seating (except for her partners), she does not condone the actions of the player in question.

Singapore Mixed Pair Championships

7 July 2007 (22 pairs)

1st	Endo Kimiko & Sia Chong Meng Alan
2nd	Emmaline Thor & Kelvin Ong
3rd	Lam Ze Ying & Terje Lie

Snowball Jackpot series

Ending 4 June 2007 (with a record 64 player)

Winner	Wong Chee Wai
Improvement Prize	Daniel Whittaker
Fan Prizes	Gary Ang, Chester Chai, Greta Chai, Danny Whittaker

NUSS Intercollege Teams

21 July 2007 (14 teams)

Junior College Category

1st:	WXYZ, Hwa Chong Institution - Lim Zhibang, Tham Weiche, Tan Wei Seng, You Yingdan
2nd:	Victoria Junior College 1-
3rd:	Great V, Hwa Chong Institution - Victor Goh, Chen Yingjie, Wee Xiaoling, Cheng Shan

Open College Category

1st:	Hwa Chong Alumni 2 -Tan Sock Ngin, Fong Kien Hoong, Kenneth Lim, Lam Cheng Yen
2nd:	NUSS Red - Jane Choo, Yeo Whee Kiak, Trevor Li, Lim Jit, Colin Loy
3rd:	Hwa Chong Alumni 1 - Jack Ho, Ong Qunxiang, Cheng Zehan, Perry Chen, Yeo Yonghui

BGB Summer Simultaneous Championships

30 July 2007 (12 pairs)

1st	Cheng Zehan & Stephen York
2nd	Gary Ang & Philippe Raoux
3rd	Jack Ho & Lim Zhi Bang

HS Ho Teams Challenge 2007

Congratulations to D'Coup – the defending champions of the 2007 HS Ho Teams Challenge! Members of the team are:

Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Kelvin Ng, Tan Li Yu, Selene Tan and Chua Gang

AUGUST 2007 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.		1	2	3 <i>Pesta Sukan Open Pairs</i> ; \$40 per pair; • 7.30 pm	4 <i>Pesta Sukan Mixed Pairs</i> ; \$40 per pair; • 9.30am - 1pm <i>Open Teams</i> ; \$320 per team; • 2.30 pm - 11 pm	5 <i>Pesta Sukan Open Teams</i> ; \$320 per team • 9.30 am - 5 pm	
6	7	8	 <i>National Day Game</i> \$5 per member; \$2 per student • 9.30	9	10 <i>Kepri Governor Cup IV Pairs / Teams</i> (Aug 10 - 12) Golden View Hotel, Batam, Indonesia	11 <i>21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #9</i> NUSS Guild House • 2.30 pm	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20 Start of the Snowball Jackpot Pairs Series #12 Till 8 Sept	21	22	23	24	25 <i>21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #10</i> Tanglin Club • 2.30 pm	26	
27	28 <i>2007 Inter-city Bridge Championships</i> Kowloon, Hong Kong (till 2 Sept)	29	30	31			

SEPT 2007 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.			¹ <i>Singapore IMP Pairs</i> \$40 per pair (members), \$20 per students pair • 2.30– 11.00 pm	²
³	⁴	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸ <i>21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #11</i> • 2.30 pm	⁹ <i>SGCC Bridge President's Cup</i> \$20 per guest SGCC Heliconia Room • 2.00pm
¹⁰	¹¹	¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵ <i>Matchpoint Teams Championships</i> \$80 per team, \$40 per students team •2.30-11pm	¹⁶
¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²² <i>21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #12</i> Bukit Timah CC • 2.30 pm	²³
²⁴	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰

