

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

MAY 2007

Coming Events: May, Jun

1 May – Tuesday Labour Day Special Game \$5 per member, \$7 per guest, \$2 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

4 May – Friday 7 pm Fund Raising Event \$30 per person, \$15 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

12 May – Saturday 2.30 pm 21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #2. NUS Multi-purpose Sports Hall

19, 20, 26, 27 May – Saturdays/Sundays Singapore Open Teams \$320 per team. SCBA Clubhouse.

31 May – Thursday Vesak Day Special Game \$5 per member, \$7 per guest, \$2 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

1 June – Friday 7.30 pm World Wide Bridge Contest. \$12 per member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student. SCBA Clubhouse

2 June – Saturday 2.30 pm 21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #3 NUS Multi-purpose Sports Hall

4 – 13 June – 45th PABF Championships. Bandung, Indonesia

9 June – Saturday 2.30 pm Youth Pairs Championship. \$10 per pair. SCBA Clubhouse.

16 June – Saturday 2.30 pm 21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #2. NUSS Guild House

19 – 20 June – Tuesday/Wednesday 9.30 am – 6 pm National Schools Bridge Teams Championships \$80 per team. Closing date: 11 June. SCBA Clubhouse.

30 June – Saturday 2.30 pm 21st Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #4 Venue TBC.

SCBA Annual General Meeting - Save the date!
9 July 2007, Monday

6 pages this issue

Bridge Updates

What's the latest buzz in the local Bridge scene? Let me share with you what's happening recently in front and behind the scenes, or shall I say the screens...

Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League 2007

14 April marked the start of the annual Singapore Inter-Club Bridge League. Organised by the League Organising Committee (LOC) of SCBA, we have 27 participating teams this year. Besides the dedicated volunteers (Steve Robinson, Lam Ze Ying, Derrick Heng, Jane Choo, Fabian Tan) who have helmed the LOC since its inauguration 3 years ago, there was a change of guard.

Mr Liw Meng Hoong, who has been passionately coordinating the League Championship over the last few years, passed the baton of League Manager on to Mr Jackie Ang this year. Jackie has been understudying Meng Hong last year and is equally dedicated and enthusiastic about his role though being busy in his National Service. Meng Hong remains an Advisor to the LOC, and we thank him for his contributions and wish him well in his profession as a teacher in Hwa Chong Institution (HCI).

This year's League also sees the return of Tanglin Club back to our ranks. Other than the four teams from the two varsities of NUS and NTU, we also have junior players from Raffles Junior College and HCI.

Moreover, we also have new caterers, who offer better rates and more

yummy food! Besides our usual venues at NUS, SCBA@Bishan Community Club, and Bukit Timah Community Club, we have also added the grandeur of NUSS Guild House, Singapore Island Country Club (SICC) and Tanglin Club onto our calendar for the Open Houses. Thanks to the hard work of Dr Siak, Mrs Nancy Yung and Mrs Greta Chai respectively.

In addition, I wish all participants the best of luck and may the better team win. The LOC is committed to bring you fun and pleasure, and to fulfill the 3 objectives of the League: 1) to promote the popularity and mass appeal of contract Bridge; 2) to raise the standard of contract Bridge of all local players; and 3) to promote interaction, friendship and sportsmanship between all Bridge players and between all Bridge clubs.

Bridging Singapore

The Bridging Singapore initiative is the brainchild of Ms Lam Ze Ying and the Publicity and Marketing Sub-committee of SCBA. Though limited by funds, this programme is slowly and steadily gathering momentum in its implementation. As the name implies, our aim is to promote and teach Bridge to the Singapore public, with four main target groups- Bridging Golden Years (for seniors), Bridging Love (for singles in the workforce), Bridging Young Minds (the young) and Bridging Organisations (companies).

In fact, one of the greatest achievements of the current SCBA Committee is in introducing Bridge in junior colleges (JCs) and the inaugural annual Inter-Schools Bridge Championship last year. RJC and HCI, which both play in the League, are coached by me while Anglo-Chinese JC is coached by Mr Wong Chee Wai and Mrs Greta Chai. Separately, VJC, SAJC, CJC and Innova JC all have Bridge Clubs with eager players.

The Committee, not being one who rest on our laurels, are currently in discussion with the Ministry of Education, to get Bridge recognised as a CCA and thence launch it into primary schools. These efforts culminate in our sending a team on an all-expenses paid trip to Jakarta for the ASEAN Primary School

Sports Olympiad (APSSO) at the end of 2007.

For the other target groups, Ze Ying and Yiu Lin are also exploring with SDU to hold Bridge as an activity for singles to get to know one another, as well as the kings, queens and jacks. We are also looking at working with SICC, our corporate member, to spearhead our promotion of Bridge to the seniors. SICC already has a very large base of senior players who are interested and Mrs Nancy Yung and her Committee have been most fervent in teaching them.

SCBA AGM and Election

9 July, Monday will be the date to mark on your calendar for our Annual General Meeting. It also marks the end of the 2-year term for our voluntary Committee.

As such, I would like to appeal to all readers to join us in our efforts to promote Bridge either in the capacity as a Committee Member or as an ad-hoc Subcommittee Member.

Unfortunately, none of us gets paid. Most of us are busy working or studying, but we are all doing these for our passion. I have nothing tangible to offer, but my 4 years in the Committee has given me many intangible rewards in terms of joy and fulfillment.

We all enjoy playing Bridge (though we do not always win), we recognise that it is fun and it maintains our mental well-being, so let's be generous and spread this fun and joy to everyone in Singapore. Please kindly contact myself, Lilio or anyone in the Committee to be a part of our nationwide efforts.

Dr Wong Choo Wai
Chairman, League Organising Committee
Vice-President, Singapore Contract Bridge Association

Easter Congress 2007 - RESULTS

Mixed Pairs (6 April 2007) • 20 pairs

- 1st Paul Tan & Selene Tan
- 2nd Lam Cheng Yen & Fu Yiwen
- 3rd Terje Lie & Lam Ze Ying

Open Pairs (6 April 2007) • 27 pairs

- 1st Wong Choo Wai & Alen Sia Chong Meng
- 2nd Heng Aik Koan & Liao Kuo Tang
- 3rd Lam Cheng Yen & Kenneth Lim Ee Xian

Open Teams (6 April 2007) • 19 teams

- 1st **Open Team** (*in picture*)
Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Heng Aik Koan, Liao Kuo Tang, Xing Likun, Li Feng
- 2nd **Bozzetto**
Edwin Lau, Fong Kien Hoong, Tan Siew Chuan, Chue Kah Loong, Kelvin Ng, L L Wong
- 3rd **Blue Moon**
Fabian Tan, Alex Toh, Ng Yong Hao, Zhang Yukun
- 4th **Malaysia**
David Law, T W Lim, Derek Maggs, Alen Sia Chong Meng
- 5th **Moky Mouse**
Liu I Nan, Ivan Mok, Kelvin Ong, Desmond Oh, Romulus Tham, Lim Ren Kun



What is he thinking about?

CC Loo

In this series of articles, I hope to bring the reader through the thinking processes that go through the mind of a bridge expert when he picks up a hand at the table. (Ed's note: For those who do not know, the writer, Loo Choon Chou is one of the Youth Team member, bronze medalist of World Youth Championships last year. Choon Chou is playing in the Open Team this year with his long time bridge partner, Poon Hua).

Counting is something every player will encounter when they read any bridge book. Indeed, any player needs to acquire the habit of counting if he or she is serious in improving their game. Counting occurs in many ways throughout the game. In the bidding, we count points. During the play of the hand, whether in play or defence, a player needs to count points and distribution of the hands. In addition, he needs to keep track of the number of tricks won and needed. Indeed, counting can prove to be tedious at first but it will soon become second nature and very fulfilling.

When counting distribution of the unseen hands, 13 is the magic number. There are exactly 13 cards in each hand and 13 of each suit in the deck. Whatever you count, everything will add up to 13.

On an online team game recently, I encountered this hand:

Sitting south you hold:

S AKT2
H AJ2
D AKQ2
C J3

Your first counting task begins as you size up this 22 HCP. What do you open?

Many would choose to upgrade this hand and treat it like a 23 HCP balanced hand due to the excellent controls in the hand. At the time though, I decided to open 2NT (20-22 bal).

Partner began with 3C, Puppet Stayman, which is a common convention which players use over a 2NT opening. You respond 3D, which conventionally shows at least one 4-card Major.

Partner signed off 3NT and you have no reason to bid on.

West led the Ten of clubs and you see:

S Q3
H K97
D T874
C K742

S AKT2
H AJ2
D AKQ2
C J3

Well, this is one of the easier hands to play as you quickly count your top tricks: three spades, two hearts, three diamonds. If diamonds break decently, you have another trick. On the lead, however you can ensure another trick in clubs by playing small from dummy. Indeed, on some layouts, playing small is essential to stop the defence from cashing the first five club tricks.

You called for a small club from dummy; East won the ace and returned another club to your J covered by the Q. You have nine top tricks now with some prospects for 10 or 11 tricks. In general, it is a good idea to lose the inevitable tricks to be lost early. Thus, you elect to hold up the K of clubs, letting the Q win.

West continues with the 9 of clubs which you win the T and East discards a small H. The good news is that your thoughtful holdup in clubs has gained the information that West has started with a (13 - 4 - 2 - 2 = 5) card club suit. However, the price to pay is that you have to make a somewhat uncomfortable discard now. Now that you know West started with five card clubs, there is a good chance diamonds may not break well, also you know there is no way you will finesse the heart or spade as it is right into the danger hand. Since the chance of finding a doubleton Q of H is small, you decide to discard the deuce of H.

Upon winning the club K, you cash the AK of diamonds and West discards a spade on the second diamond.

You see the position below:

S Q3
H K97
D T8
C 7

S AKT2
H AJ
D Q2
C -

Time to take stock, you know West has started with five clubs and a singleton diamond. You are still stuck with the nine top tricks you began with. Interestingly, you are pleased with the spade discard by West as it ensures you have an overtrick!

The next step is to cash three spades and see if what happens. As it happens, East discards another heart on the third spade. Now you know West started with five ($13 - 4 - 2 - 2 = 5$) spades in addition to his five clubs.

S -
H K97
D T8
C -

S T
H AJ
D Q2
C -

Time to update your counting again. West started with five clubs, one diamond and five spades. So, West is marked with two ($13 - 5 - 1 - 5 = 2$) hearts at most. Focusing on East, you know he has three card heart and DJx left. Therefore you know you have a sure overtrick by cashing the A and K of hearts followed by the 9 of hearts. If anyone wins, it's East and he has to lead a diamond back to your T for your tenth trick.

The full hand:

S Q3
H K97
D T874
C K742

S J9875
H Q6
D 3
C QT985

S 64
H T8532
D J965
C A6

S AKT2
H AJ2
D AKQ2
C J3

The fancy name for the play is called a strip-squeeze throw-in. However, as you have just seen, it is simply the result of counting to 13, albeit in several different ways. Note also that after the spade discard by West on your second diamond, you can always find a throw-in by cashing three top spades and finding out about the spade position. I leave it to the reader to work this out.

A final note, with the Q of heart doubleton, you can simply win the second club and cash your winners, you will end up with the same ten tricks. Oh well, virtue is its own reward ☺

Winners of Snowball Jackpot Pairs Series #9 12 Feb to 9 Apr 2007

Mrs Jane Choo won \$150 in the Snowball Jackpot Series #9. Mrs Nancy Chan won a fan prize. Ms Franciska Ho won the improvement prize.

Good Food, Good Bridge, Good Friday #6 20 Apr 2007

1st Ivan Mok & Wang Peiyi
2nd Tan Wei Seng & You Yingdan
3rd Thomas Goh & Nancy Goh

Ivan Mok and Wang Peiyi won a free game in the next month's Good Food, Good Bridge, Good Friday (18 May 2007).

USE OF SCBA CLUBHOUSE

The SCBA welcomes you to use the clubhouse and its facilities for coaching purposes. You may inform our Club Manager, Lilio, in advance. There will be no charge, except in the event whereby the coach is being paid, the SCBA will impose a nominal charge of S\$5 per student. SCBA events will, however, take priority.

More Support for our Youth Teams

If you have missed the fund-raising event on 4 May, but want to make a contribution to the youth teams representing Singapore in the PABF in June, please email to scbabishan@yahoo.com.sg or call Lilio to give us your cheque. Your contribution will be appreciated! Thanks!

Solve it!

LL Wong

Some of you asked me on Good Food Good Bridge Good Friday in April – why is there no quiz hand in the April newsletter? (*Ed's note: Yes, your contribution is dearly missed!*) Hmm... ok! I kept those words in mind and started looking for interesting hands.

Fortunate enough, there are a few hands taken from the Easter Open team 2007 Finals, which I believe they have something for us to think about or worth discussion.

Let us see the hands:

Hand 1

East is the declarer in 6S contract with a H5 lead:

West
S A1075
H AK72
D KQ52
C 8

East
S KQJ8
H 9
D J1075
C AKJ10

What is the best chance to make 6S?

Hand 2

It was Board 28 in a 3NT contract by East. You may play it as double dummy against any lead that you may choose from South and decide your stand on the final score:

North
S 10943
H K852
D J72
C 107

S J72
H J743
D Q83
C J98

East
S AKQ6
H A
D K965
C AK63

S 86
H Q1096
D A104
C Q542

Does it make any difference if you play it at the table after the following bidding sequence?

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All passed		

Hand 3

Bidding problem: What would be your bid on board 3 (East-West Vulnerable) for the following hand when you were seating at East (Haven't you got something running across your mind that might affect your decision?)?

North	East	South	West
		Pass	1C
1H	?		

You are East with:

S A65
H KJ109853
D A
C Q5

Email your solutions to quiz@bridgeleague.net
We will discuss them the next time.

Watch our games live on BBO Vugraph!

Singapore Open Finals (27 May 2007) and Pesta Sukan Team Finals (5 August 2007) will be broadcasted live on bbo (download at www.bridgebaseonline.com) vugraph.

Don't miss it!

YOU ARE WANTED

We are calling for bridge enthusiasts to step out as trainers and helpers for bridge workshops and courses planned ahead for the Bridging Singapore initiative.

You could be teaching or helping out at workshops for singles, students, senior citizens or organizations. Come make a difference!

Please email to scbabishan@yahoo.com.sg to indicate your interest. Trainers and helpers are remunerated at competitive rates.

WEEKLY GAMES AT BRIDGE CLUBS

CHINESE SWIMMING CLUB

Amber Road
Saturday afternoon at 2.30 pm

JAPAN ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE

Adam Road
Tuesday morning at 9.00 am

HOLLANDSE CLUB

Camden Park
Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm

NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE

Kent Ridge Crescent, MPSH 4
Tuesday evening at 6.45pm

NUSS

Kent Ridge Guild House
Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm

SERANGOON GARDENS COUNTRY CLUB

Kensington Park Road
Tuesday morning at 9.30am

SIGLAP COMMUNITY CLUB

Bedok South Avenue 3
1st Sunday of the month 2.00 pm; other Sundays 9.30 am

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Bukit Location (Sime Road) Bridge @ The Niblick
Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm

SINGAPORE RECREATION CLUB

Connaught Drive
Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm

TANGLIN CLUB

Stevens Road
Monday afternoon at 1 pm
Wednesday afternoon at 1 pm
Wednesday night at 7.30 pm
Friday afternoon at 1 pm

SCBA COMMITTEE

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Tell us what you think! All feedback and articles contribution are welcome. Please email to editor@bridgeleague.net

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**OUR WEEKLY GAMES ARE ON
MONDAY EVENINGS 7.30 PM
THURSDAY MORNING 9.30 AM
FRIDAY EVENING 7.30 PM, AND
SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2 PM.
SEE YOU AT THE CLUBHOUSE!**