

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

Jan 2008 • 10 pages

New Year Day Charity Pairs Game

Tuesday 1 January 08
9.30am

NTU Open Pairs

Saturday 19 January 08
2.30pm
Venue: Hall 7, NTU

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

Friday 4 January 08
7.30pm

NUS Open Pairs

Saturday 26 January 08
2.30pm
Venue: MPSH4, NUS

See Events calendar for details

Happy New Year to SCBA!

Welcome to 2008! Since now is a time for making New Year resolutions, here are some of mine: Try to play more bridge, grumble at my partner less, make less mistakes as declarer, concentrate more when defending... OK, enough of me, what are your New Year resolutions?

The New Year brings with it a new President for SCBA – Dr Wong Choo Wai, who has been SCBA's Vice President for more than 2 years. He shares what he has in store for SCBA in our regular "Let's Chat!" section.

Another significant change to SCBA's committee is the appointment of Poon Hua, as SCBA's Vice President. Congratulations to both Choo Wai and Poon Hua, who are the youngest-ever SCBA President and Vice President! (At least for as far back as I can remember...) SCBA also gladly welcomes back Srinivasan Thiagarajan, as the Assistant Treasurer.

As explained further by Choo Wai in his President's message, we will be expanding the Bridging SCBA newsletter to include 2 new sections; the first being a regular column by Choo Wai to explain more about what's going on in the Committee and the second a forum page for members to air their views and raise issues. I look forward to receiving your comments relating to the bridge scene in Singapore. For those wishing to write in the forum column, please send your letters to the regular SCBA contact, at the end of the newsletter.

In addition, a reminder to those competitive bridge players: SCBA will be holding trials for the first World Mind Sports Games this month. These will be held over two weekends in January 08, from 5-6 Jan and 12-13 Jan. These trials will be for all three categories; Open, Ladies and Youth. Good luck to all trial participants! ♣

Yiu Lin
Editor, Bridging SCBA

...with Wong Choo Wai

14th Dec 07 was a special day for me. After being unanimously voted in as the new President of SCBA on that Friday, I received numerous congratulatory messages, some with handshakes, some via sms, and some through emails. But honestly, I wasn't sure if I should be congratulated or consoled.



With Steve's departure, I have been bestowed upon (at a precocious age) the heavy responsibility of leading this National Sports Association for bridge through a challenging period. Some of you will ask "Huh, challenged by whom or what?"

Well, challenges not just from making our contracts and getting top boards, but from an invisible competitor like online Bridge, falling participation at SCBA games, growing displeasure and demands from members (individuals & corporate), lack of funds, inaccurate master points, and so on. There are so many problems to resolve, and everybody is complaining, but who will help?

Nowadays, it's so hard to get members to join the Committee that we end up begging

sometimes. Sometimes, people get voted in just because they were at the wrong place at the wrong time, namely the AGM. Shouldn't it be an honour to fight to get into the SCBA Committee, instead of by default?

I think that something is seriously wrong here, either with the misperception of the Committee or our mentality of 'just grumbling and not doing anything about it'. For me, my guiding principle in life has always been to do what I do with pride and honour.

It may not have been the best idea for me to become the President in the midst of my hectic medical practice, but having been elected, I will do my best to tackle and hopefully resolve the issues above with your help.

I intend to lead a Committee that is proactive, not just reactive, in identifying and resolving problems. I intend to improve communications between the Committee and all members, so that you will understand what we are doing for us and find out what you need. A forum page will be set up in this Bridging SCBA monthly newsletter for your feedback. I will also write a monthly column.

At the same time, I intend to reward the selfless Committee Members for their

efforts. As they are all volunteers and not paid, they shall play in all weekly SCBA games for free from 2008 onwards, in recognition of their sacrifices. This will also encourage them to play more frequently and build rapport with members.

Incidentally, does anybody know what they actually do or have done? Probably not, as the images and achievements of Committee Members have somehow been long shrouded in secrecy. SCBA is neither a secret society nor communist, so there must be more transparency and information for everyone.

In addition, I also intend to reorganise the (almost defunct) Council and combine it with the Committee, so that the voices of every Bridge Club and their players are heard. All convenors and captains of corporate clubs will be invited to our monthly Committee meetings from now on.

In the next newsletter, I will elaborate further on all these initiatives, and introduce the revamped Committee. In our remaining term, these are the areas which we will be focusing on:

Cont'd...

...with Wong Choo Wai

(cont'd)

A) Management of SCBA

1) **Bringing the house into order** - reorganise the Council and SCBA Committee, improve the Library and SCBA's website

2) **Improving rapport with members** - obtain feedback from individual members verbally, via newsletter or email, and create membership cards with privileges. For corporate members, to provide better support and communications, as well as privileges

3) **Increased marketing** - increase sponsorship & funding through full-time marketing staff

B) High Participation Activities (HPA)

1) **Master points** - make it relevant, useful and accurate

2) **Tournament Directors** - increase in quantity and professionalism

3) **Archives of tournament results** - Provide these on the website and in club house

4) **Bridging Singapore initiative** - launch Bridge into schools

C) High Performance Activities (HPE)

1) **National coaches for national teams** - provide comprehensive and continuous coaching

2) **Results-oriented incentives for national teams** - emphasis more on results; earn-what-you-achieve

With so much to do, the Committee will invite 2 more passionate and dedicated members to join us, to make a difference in the local bridge scene. Please contact any of us in the Committee if you are inspired to join us.

Finally, I am also proud to announce that I have managed to secure the expertise of 3 advisors, who excel in their respective areas, to guide us in our quest. I would hereby like to thank them in advance for volunteering their efforts:

Dr Derrick Heng	: Technical Advisor
Ms Chan Yiu Lin	: Marketing Advisor & Chief Editor
Mr Leonard Goh	: Legal Advisor
Ms Jane Choo	: SCBA Bridge Ambassador

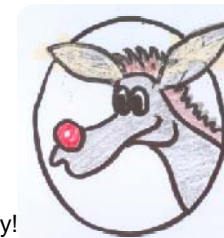
With that, let's embark on a journey to bring Bridge in Singapore to a more professional level! ♣

Donkey Dons a red nose

By Derek Maggs

When Carole Manger called to invite Donkey to the seasonal 'Christmas Fancy Dress Swiss Pairs', none of the irony and accidental symbolism permeated his subconscious. As he donned the red nose however, he started to reflect. This was a simple tradition but there had been too many odd 'Christmassy' coincidences that made one's ears twitch. Carole was Swiss, so he had always thought of the French 'manger' meaning 'to eat' but somehow even that had a Christmas ring to it. Anyway, it was time to trot down to the club.

Their first opponents were Ulf (the expatriate Swede) and Gretal, who was dressed as a fairy. Ulf did not appear to be dressed up, so Donkey asked innocently who he had come as... No answer, so he asked again... Once more, the response was just a stare... After an embarrassed silence the fairy chipped in that he was just the same old Rude Ulf - Carole fell off her chair and had only just replaced all the bidding cards when play commenced.



Rudolf the red nosed donkey!

Donkey dons a red nose

Cont 'd

Game all, Donkey (North) dealer held the following hand:

- ♠ 10653
- ♥ A762
- ♦ AK972
- ♣ -

Donkey opened 1♦. LHO doubled, partner bid 1♠ and RHO passed. Donkey paused to review his options: 2♠ would surely be an underbid. With 6 losers, game was on if partner had only ♠KJxx and a little red suited distribution - a Santa perhaps? 3♠ would show the right shape bid, but maybe stressed high card values, which he did not have. 3♣ would be natural 18+. 4♣ would show a shortage with a spade fit and slam interest. But maybe that would allow the opponents to find a meaningful sacrifice with a cheap double. Finally he settled on 4♠ that could hardly promise the world after the double, could it? Carole asked for Aces of course and settled for the small slam with the following:

- ♠ AK982
- ♥ K9
- ♦ 1063
- ♣ K83

Donkey fumbled his cards onto the table - It was hard without opposable thumbs. Truth be told he wasn't sure what Carole would make of his 4♠ bid. Would she need a miracle?

LHO had led J♣. If the spades were 2-2 she would have just a ♦ to lose. Alerted by the Scrooge-like double Carole ruffed the ♣ in dummy and led a trump to the 8♠, when RHO played low. When West also followed suit with the 7, she was safe as a babe in a cradle. She ruffed a second ♣ played a heart to the K♥ and ruffed the K♣. Cashed the Ace of hearts and ruffed a ♥, drew trumps and played a ♦ to the 7 when the 8 did not appear. The 3-2 break saw the miracle unfold – Carole beamed like a proud new mother. Donkey was relieved. The conversation around what Donkey should have bid was still unresolved when the next round was upon them.

N/S Vul, Dealer West. Sitting North, Donkey's hand was :

- ♠ A10
- ♥ K974
- ♦ AK9
- ♣ AK109

Bidding went:

W	N	E	S
1♦	X	P	1♠
P	2NT	P	3♠
P	?		

After Carole rebid her spades, Donkey thought partner had surely 5(332) or longer spades. With even KJxxx in ♠ there would surely be a better chance in 4♠ than 3NT.

And so Donkey chose 4♠ and, when Carole tabled her hand he secretly hoped that spades broke 4-2. The full hand was:

- ♠ A10
- ♥ K974
- ♦ AK9
- ♣ AK109
- ♠ 9874
- ♥ 1063
- ♦ 75
- ♣ QJ82
- ♠ J3
- ♥ AQJ8
- ♦ QJ1082
- ♣ 75
- ♠ KQ652
- ♥ 52
- ♦ 643
- ♣ 643

West led the Q♦. Carole won the trick and played 3 rounds of trumps - West discarding a ♦. Next, a low ♥ towards dummy's K♥. West paused, then played the Ace and continued with a ♦. This was not good enough as Carole could win, play the K♥ and ruff a ♥ then cash the A♣ and K♣ and lead a ♥ to score her last trump en passant. East suggested that partner could have played the Q♥ instead of the A♥, so he could have won the 2nd round of ♥, and exited in a red suit. This would have forced Carole to endplay East in ♣, which fortunately works!

For once Donkey and his partner had been on the receiving end of some joyous gifts. All that was needed now was some snow to cap it off. He looked heavenward but the temperature was 26°C. Surely not...? ♣

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER QUIZ by LL Wong the Bridge Guru

This hand is a good example showing the general standard of our players today, in terms of bidding, declarer play and defensive play. When we can see the majority of teams performing well on this kind of hand (especially our Youth players), then we will know that the overall standard of bridge in Singapore will have risen to a competitive level. Here is the hand...

(Dummy)
 ♠ 9873
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ K98
 ♣ K73

♠ 10	♠ J74
♥ 743	♥ AK102
♦ 10753	♦ QJ6
♣ Q10865	♣ 942

Bidding: The majority of contracts were in 4S, which was arrived without using descriptive bidding or using the wrong checking method. For example: The bidding at one of the table was:

1♠ 2♠
 3♥ 4♠

However, there was not a good understanding of what the 3♥ bid meant and so the 4♠ reasoning was flawed.

Other declarers bid to 4♠ directly, just because of the 18 HCPs, without considering that 3NT might be a better alternative. Remember that responder can make the decision on the final contract after a 3NT bid, based on his hand.

Declarer Play: Most declarers drew trumps, and then played from hand towards dummy's hearts twice, hoping that the heart honours were split. Unfortunately, the A♥ and K♥ are placed after dummy, so the contract goes down one. This method gives declarer a 75% chance of making the contract. Other declarers hoped to increase the odds, by attempting the club finesse, after the heart play failed. However, as the club finesse fails too, this line of play will result in down 2.

Those that adopted these methods of declarer play had a high chance of making the contract. However, there is one way to guarantee the contract, as discovered by Mr. Zain who said, "It is basically an elimination and throw-in".

So declarer should draw trumps, then strip off the minor suits after trump suit being drawn for three rounds to reach the following end position, where upon East winning the last diamond, he is forced to give dummy the last heart trick;

	(Dummy)	
	♠ 9	
	♥ QJ5	
	♦ 8	
	♣ -	
♠ -		♠ -
♥ 743		♥ AK102
♦ 103		♦ J
♣ -		♣ -

If a heart is led, the play is more difficult – though still possible. Play dummy's Q♥ to East's K♥. Assuming East returns a diamond, win it in hand, draw three rounds of trumps. Then play the two top clubs and ruff dummy's third club in hand. Next play a diamond to dummy's K♦, and exit dummy's last diamond. East is now end-played. What a wonderful line of play? Not so fast... Check out what the defenders can do to defeat the contract, even if declarer made this line of play.

Defence: Sitting in East's seat, after partner's heart lead, you should count declarer's tricks - 5 spades, 2 clubs, 2 diamonds - a total of 9 tricks. He is likely to score the J♥ for his 10th trick, when you are thrown in with your J♦. As such, you should drop your J♦ under the K♦, to prevent the throw in. Your 10♥ will be the setting trick. ♣

JANUARY 2008 QUIZ

by LL Wong

This hand was played at the recent National Youth Teams Championship 2007. The declarer has landed in a 6D contract, with a lead of 7♠. What is your plan of play to make this contract?

(Dummy)

♠ AQ64

♥ A5

♦ 985

♣ AK43

♠ 5

♥ K106432

♦ KQJ63

♣ 8

SICC Christmas Pairs

5 December (19 pairs)

1st Raika & Mana
2nd Zain Moledina & Shamina Moledina
3rd Trevor Li & JJ Murugasu

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

13 December (16 pairs)

1st Lam Cheng Yen & Kelvin Ng (overall ranking of 7th place)
2nd Ho Kar Chean & S Thiagarajan
3rd JJ Murugasu & Brian Shiels

SCBA Christmas Pairs

17 December (31 pairs)

1st Chua Gang & Poon Hua
2nd Endo Kimiko & Alan Sia
3rd Jackie Ang & Jack Ho

Hari Raya Haji Special Game

20 December (36 teams)

NS 1st Christopher Gregory & JJ Murugasu
NS 2nd Tan Wei Seng & Gideon Tan
NS 3rd Ron Savage & Alex Wong
EW 1st Jackie Ang & Ong Qunxiang
EW 2nd Jack Ho & You Yingdan
EW 3rd Nancy Goh & Thomas Goh

Christmas Day Special Game

25 December (36 teams)

1st Tan Wei Seng & You Yingdan
2nd Emily Hee & Jane Choo
3rd KT Liao & Wong Chee Wai

Singapore makes a splash at ASEAN 2008!

A number of Singapore players went to the 2008 ASEAN Bridge Championships, which were held in Manilla, Philippines, from 6-12 December. Furthermore, they managed to steal home a number of trophies! These are how our Singapore bridge players fared:

Open Pairs

3rd: Ng Yong Hao and Zhang Yukun

Mixed Teams

2nd: Pusekatters - Lam Zeying, Terje Lie, Foo Yoke Lan and
 3rd: SCBA Mixed Team - Seet CC, Chua Gang, Zhang Yukun, Jane Choo, Greta Chai, Loo Choon Chou

Ladies Teams

2nd: SCBA Ladies Team - Jane Choo, Emily Hee, Foo Yoke Lan, Greta Chai

Youth Teams

2nd: Mokymouse - Ivan Mok, Wang Peiyi, Desmond Oh, Romulus Tham, Emmaline Thor, Kelvin Ong
 3rd: GG - Jackie Ang, Jack Ho, Perry Chen, Yeo Yonghui, Ong Qunxiang, Cheng Zehan)

Open Teams

3rd: SCBA - Ng Yonghao, Zhang Yukun, Seet CC, Chua Gang, Loo Choon Chou

BTCC Open Pairs

22 December (42 pairs)

1 st	Mark Tion & Licai Yeo
2 nd	Jane Choo & Greta Chai
3 rd	Liu I Nan & William Ho
1 st student pair	Guozhen Xu & Eugene Yang
1 st senior pair	Chester Chai & D Lee
1 st 100+ pair	Alan Chua & Suan Lin

Siglap CC Senior Pairs

30 December 07

1 st	Christopher Gregory & Rajendra Krishnan
2 nd	Greta Chai & Foo Yoke Lan
3 rd	CC Ting & Lim Kim Yin



The GG team at ASEAN 2008

JAN 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>1 <i>New Year Day Charity Pairs</i> •9.30am</p>	2	3	<p>4 <i>PABF Sim Pairs</i> \$8 per member, \$11 per guest and \$5 per student • 7.30pm</p>	<p>5 <i>5-6 Jan Trials for Inter-Nation World Bridge Teams Championships (cont'd next)</i></p>	<p>6 <i>for Open and Ladies. World Mind Sport Games for Junior team</i></p>	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						<p>12 – 13 Jan Continuation of Inter-Nation and World Mind sport trials</p>	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						<p><i>NTU Open Pairs</i> \$25 per pair, \$10 per student pair Venue: Hall 7, NTU • 2.30pm</p>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
					<p><i>NUS Open Pairs</i> \$25 per pair, \$10 per student pair Venue: MPSH4, NUS • 2.30pm</p>		
28	29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.				PABF 1 <i>Simultaneous Pairs</i> \$8 per member, \$11 per guest, \$5 per student • 7.30pm	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Lunar New Year Special Game 9 \$5 per member, \$7 per guest, \$3 per student • 9.30 am	10
11	12	13	14	SCBA Hong Bao Pairs 15 \$12 per member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student • 7.30pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Corporate Members + SCBA Officials

Weekly Games @ Bridge Clubs

- JAPAN ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE @ Adam Road**
Tuesday 9.00 am
- NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE**
@ Kent Ridge Crescent, MPSH 4
Tuesday 6.45pm
- NUSS @ Kent Ridge Guild House**
Wednesday 7.30 pm
- SERANGOON GARDENS COUNTRY CLUB**
@ Kensington Park Road
Tuesday 9.30am
- SIGLAP COMMUNITY CLUB**
@ Bedok South Avenue 3
Sunday 2.00 pm
- SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB**
@ Bukit Location (Sime Road) Bridge @ The Niblick
Monday and Thursday 7.30 pm
- SINGAPORE RECREATION CLUB @ Connaught Drive**
Tuesday 7.30 pm
- TANGLIN CLUB @ Stevens Road**
Monday 1 pm Wednesday 1 pm
Wednesday 7.30 pm Friday 1 pm

SCBA Committee + Staff

SCBA weekly games	
	Monday 7.30 pm Thursday 9.30 am Friday 7.30 pm Sunday 2.00 pm
Wong Choo Wai President	9101 3460
Poon Hua Vice President	96939242
Derek Maggs Secretary	8244 3165
Heng Aik Koan Treasurer	9618 3785
S. Thiagarajan Assistant Treasurer	98186427
Foo Yoke Lan Competition Secretary	9731 0691 / 6467 1056
Jackie Ang Member	9692 8271
Chua Gang Member	9731 6845 (contactable after 3pm)
Ho Kar Chean Member	9782 2179
CT Ng Member	97497882
Lilio Ho Club Manager	9871 2762 Lilio@scba.org.sg

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