

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

March 08 • 12 pages

Singapore Open Pairs

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 March 08

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

Friday 7 March 08

7.30pm

Easter Congress

Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs, Open Team

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 March 08

See Events calendar for details

Calling all women players!

WBF and BBO are jointly organising the Women's Bridge Festival from 7-13 April 08. This allows female players from all around the world to get together and play bridge in a social atmosphere – no pressure, no prizes, just enjoyment!

For more details check <http://www.bboitalia.it/festival/>

Let's march into March!

The month of March is full of exciting events, with the Singapore Open Pairs happening at the beginning of the month, and the Easter Congress, which is made up of Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs and Open Teams, towards the end of the month.

In addition, we are launching two new columns in Bridging SCBA. The first is entitled "Bid it right" and this is a bidding competition that aims to enhance the level of bridge in Singapore. The winner for each month will receive a free play at SCBA's regular single session events for him/herself and partner. The cumulative winner at the end of the year will win a \$100 book prize. So quickly flick to p. 8 and submit your entry!

The second new column is called "Masterpoints Matter!" and will provide information on masterpoints, why they are so important and inform you of the proposed changes in the masterpoint rankings.

We also continue our Bridge Laws column, where we look at what are the new rulings when mistakes are made, specifically when a mistaken explanation of a bid is given, resulting in additional information being passed between partners.

As usual, enquiries to SCBA can be emailed to info@scba.org.sg and contributions to the newsletter can be sent to me: editor@scba.org.sg

Yiu Lin
Editor, Bridging SCBA ♣

Welcoming the Saints!

In line with Bridging Young Minds, Choo Wai is starting bridge courses in St Andrew's JC, to help popularise the game. He is also talking with Victoria JC in an attempt to spread the bridging spirit there also. If you are keen to help in teaching bridge, please contact Choo Wai at president@scba.org.sg

In the last month or two, a few things have been brewing in SCBA, and I would like to share these with you, breaking the “veil of secrecy”. We have 3 immediate priorities; organising the 2008 SCBA Inter-Club League, renewing membership and boosting our national players.

1) Interclub League

Registration for the 22nd SCBA Inter-Club League 2008 is due to close end of this month. This year, CT Ng has done a great job in getting sponsorship. Emmaline, our Marketing Manager, is working with him on getting more companies to sponsor the League and already we have Nestle agreeing to sponsor the Milo.

Jackie, Fabian, Jenny and I have been busy confirming participating teams and we are happy to welcome new teams, as well as see familiar old faces. For the first time, we shall be providing corporate clubs that host Open Houses with a token fee and we hope that this will help to see us playing in a wider range of interesting venues. For those that have not yet registered, please do so soon, and visit www.bridgeleague.net for updates.

2) Membership

From 1 Apr 2008, SCBA will be issuing paper Membership Cards annually, with details of name, Masterpoint ranking and membership number. This will be for registration of SCBA

and corporate clubs' events. The cards will also entitle you to discounts for dine-in at Dome restaurant, and we hope to get more privileges.

The renewal rate for individual members will remain at \$50, however we are increasing the student membership rate to a \$20 entrance fee and \$20 annual renewal rate. Corporate membership rates will be stratified according to their number of members. They will be given a corresponding number of membership cards and privileges, which are non-transferable.

Our Marketing Team consisting of Derek, Jenny and Emmaline will be sending out a questionnaire to gather feedback on how SCBA can improve. We are using this as a way to find out what we can do to boost participation at our weekly games and what are the other issues that our bridge members are facing. I hope that you will take the time to fill out the form and give us your honest opinion.

3) National Coaches

Due to shortage of funds, our plan to hire full-time national coaches has been put on hold. However, we still have plans to find coaches and are searching for those with international experience, excellent skills, and who possess leadership and moral qualities. We hope that national players and coaches will give back to the local bridge community, by helping to popularize the game.

4) Disciplinary Matters

I am saddened to inform you that we have seen two cases of misuse of SCBA's property in recent months. In the first case, one member has admitted to using SCBA's internet account to download materials, resulting in a subscription rate of \$347.80 for January, up from the regular \$80 per month. We hope the member will take responsibility for his action.

In the second case, we discovered that during the eves of Christmas and New Year, a group of members used the SCBA clubhouse late at night until the early hours of the morning. Both cases, represent unauthorised usage of SCBA's property. Steps are being taken to beef up security and ensure that such mistakes will not be repeated. However, I appeal to all members to behave in a responsible manner when it comes to using SCBA's property.

On other matters, you may have noticed that our newsletter has been getting thicker, with more articles. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank regular contributors, such as Donkey... I mean Derek, LL Wong and our editor Yiu Lin. If you have any suggestions, please send them to info@scba.org.sg or president@scba.org.sg It would also be great if you those of you who think that our voluntary Committee is doing well, to give us a pat on the back once in a while – if not, tell them that too! ♣

...with Ng Chun Tat!

CT Ng is a familiar face around the SCBA bridge club and is one of the newest members to join the SCBA committee. After having been on the committee for slightly over a month, CT has been instrumental in garnering sponsorship for the upcoming Interclub League. So when all of you notice a better League game, remember to thank CT!

What has been the secret to your success in winning sponsorship for SCBA?

CT: Actually, I would not say that I have been that successful in getting sponsorship. This is because I sent out a lot of letters to many companies, and only 5 or 6 of them replied agreeing to sponsor us. Most of them are bosses of companies whom I have known for a number of years. When it comes to getting sponsors, I think having a good relationship is very important.

What do you enjoy most about the game bridge?

CT: I started playing floating bridge during my Junior College days and only got to play contract bridge when I was at Nanyang Technological University. I like the thinking and planning that is involved in bridge. The most enjoyable part is when you and your partner manage to take down an opponent's

contract. It is unlike floating bridge where luck plays an important part.

What do you do when you are not at the bridge table?

CT: I am now spending a lot of time at work. In addition, whenever I have the opportunity, I will spend time playing with my 2 and a half year old boy. When not playing at the bridge table, I will be at another table playing Mahjong! ♣



CT Ng and son

Donkey on the march

By Derek Maggs

Every March, Donkey had a spring in his step as he looked forward to the Easter congress. This year something was bothering him and he decided to go and see his friend Dr Duck the local vet. "What seems to be the problem" said Duck in his somewhat Disney-like voice, dispensing with the usual warm greeting. "I'm suffering from pain due to the NEC," complained Donkey. "Well rub in some oinkment... that should do the trick," replied Duck.

Unfortunately no amount of oinkment would reduce Donkey's pain caused by the N. E. C. bridge competition held in Japan each year. "There are a couple of hands that cost our team dearly in the semi-final in front of millions of Vu Graph viewers... and they're giving me nightmares," said Donkey. "That's odd", said Duck, tilting his head slightly, "as far as I can see, you're a male Donkey. Shouldn't you be having night-stallions?"

Donkey ignored Duck's attempt at humour "Here is the first hand" he persisted...

Donkey on the March (cont'd)

by Derek Maggs

Love all, with Donkey sitting North

♠ A4	♠ J1092	♠ K6
♥ AQ63	♥ 94	♥ KJ10875
♦ A103	♦ J987	♦ Q62
♣ Q974	♣ K105	♣ A2
	♠ Q8753	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K54	
	♣ J863	

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♦	P
2NT ¹	P	3♦ ²	P
3♥	P	3♠ ³	P
4♦ ³	P	4NT ⁴	P
5♦ ⁵	P	5NT	P
6♦ ⁵	P	6♥	All pass

- 1 – Maximum with 4 card ♥ support and no small doubleton
- 2 – Retransfer to ♥
- 3 – Cue bid
- 4 – RKCB
- 5 – 0 or 3

Donkey led J♠. Declarer won, drew trumps in two rounds and took the last spade. He then took A♣ and a club back to Q♣ (after some thought). Donkey won the K and pondered what to do next. Looking at all four hands it didn't seem to matter what he did. Declarer was likely to have a 2-4-3-4

shape so playing a ♠ would be fatal. Since declarer played ♣s, surely it wasn't right to continue that suit. Finally Donkey selected a low ♦. Declarer played low from dummy, partner also played low and so the 10♦ won, leaving the following position:

♠ -	♠ 109	♠ -
♥ Q63	♥ -	♥ J10875
♦ A3	♦ J98	♦ Q6
♣ 97	♣ 10	♣ -
	♠ Q85	
	♥ -	
	♦ K5	
	♣ J8	

Declarer ruffed a ♣ and then ran the trumps. Partner had to hold the following last three cards J♣ and K5♦ but was squeezed on the last ♥. He chose to pitch a small ♦, allowing A♦ and Q♦ to win. "So whose fault was it?" asked Donkey? "The fault was yours, of course..." said Duck. "You already worked out declarer's distribution and knew he had A♦ from the auction. So you must exit with the 10♣ instead of playing small ♦. What was your other pain?" Donkey frowned at the harsh response. "Well, it was what to lead on the following hand," he said.

♠ Q943
♥ 82
♦ AJ8
♣ J1086

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	1NT ¹	P
3♣ ²	P	4♥	P
5♦ ³	P	5♠ ³	P
6♣	P	6♥	All pass

- ¹ forcing for one round
- ² May be a 3 card suit if something like 1633 and 19-21.
- ³ Cue bids

"I'd lead the A♦" Duck replied in an instant. "I led the J♣, as A♦ may sit over K," explained Donkey. The full hand was:

	♠ AK1082	
	♥ 10763	
	♦ 953	
♠ Q943	♣ 9	♠ J765
♥ 82		♥ J
♦ AJ8		♦ KQ762
♣ J1086	♠ -	♣ 754
	♥ AKQ954	
	♦ 104	
	♣ AKQ32	

"What a disaster! Why hadn't the ass of a dealing machine dealt me AK or KQ ♦?" asked Donkey. "You shouldn't curse the dealing machine," said Duck. "It will keep turning out honest patterns. After all Deut. 25:16 gives a stern warning against dishonest dealings." "The other animals were right", muttered Donkey, "you are a quack!" ♣

SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY QUIZ

Making an impossible contract is perhaps one of the most exciting moments at the bridge table. When faced with a 3NT contract, getting the SQ lead is like having one foot in the grave! Read on to find out how to make it.

	♠ 97	L L Wong	
	♥ J1075		
	♦ QJ873		
	♣ KQ		
♠ QJ1082			♠ 6543
♥ 943			♥ A62
♦ 10			♦ K942
♣ A763			♣ 98
	♠ AK		
	♥ KQ8	C S Chen	
	♦ A65		
	♣ J10542		

It is first necessary to assume that neither defender holds both Aces, otherwise they would win the first Ace immediately, fire the spade and when they got in with the second Ace, send back another spade. Also, the DK must be on side for the finesse. Making these assumptions, there are two lines of play to result in a total of 9 tricks. Firstly, 3 top tricks (AK♠ and A♦) and 6 tricks from ♣ and ♥. In order for this to happen, RHO needs to duck the hearts twice, hoping to use the AH as entry for spade collection.

by LL Wong the Bridge Guru

The second line of play is to win the AK♠s, 2 diamonds, and 5 tricks from ♣ and ♥. Hence, you have to make a decision, whether to establish the ♣ or ♥.

My partner CS Chen chose well. After winning spade in hand, he played small club to dummy's K♣, which held as LHO ducked, thinking he would need A♣ as entry for the spades, should his partner only have 3 cards in spades. Q♦ at trick 3, which held and then he played the Q♣. LHO chose to duck again, as he knew partner only had doubleton clubs, meaning declarer has 3 more good clubs if A♣ is taken.

My partner then claimed, making the 'impossible' contract with the following explanation. He would play small heart from dummy to his K♥ in hand, no matter what RHO played. If RHO took the A♥, then he would get 3 hearts (he already unblocked the hearts to enter dummy), 2 spades, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs = 9 tricks. If RHO doesn't take the A♥, then he switches to J♣ play to win 4 clubs, 2 spades, 2 diamonds and 1 heart = 9 tricks. A world class explanation, wasn't it?

This contract made due to mis-defence and due to the fact that CS Chen planned the play very carefully, to avoid opponents giving each other information. For example, if he had switched to play hearts after ♦ Q held the trick then LHO is less likely to duck the club.

Finally, for those who think the ducking of second club was wrong take a look below, which is a slightly different hand after 3 tricks have been played, as per before:

	♠ 9		
	♥ J1075		
	♦ J873		
	♣ Q		
♠ J1082			♠ 65
♥ 943			♥ A862
♦ -			♦ K92
♣ A63			♣ 8
	♠ A3		
	♥ KQ		
	♦ A6		
	♣ J1054		

When declarer plays Q♣ now, do you still think it is a good idea to play the A♣? Ducking is the only way to take the contract down! However the key message I want to send across is that it can be possible to make the impossible a reality by adopting a "never say die" attitude which can be clearly seen in this example, which won CS Chen 10 imps at our table.♣

DEMYSTIFYING MASTERPOINTS

by Jackie Ang

What are masterpoints (MPs)? What is their use and why do they matter? These are some issues that I will address in this new column on MPs.

MPs are awarded to players for good performance at various bridge games in Singapore. They recognise both high rates of participation and performance. There are 2 types of MPs awarded in Singapore: local points (LP) and non-local points (NLP). These are not interchangeable and are awarded at different rates. In general, LPs are awarded at games and events held by SCBA and its corporate members. NLPs however, are only awarded at major national events, e.g. Easter Congress and Pesta Sukan. Both LP and NLP are awarded for major overseas events, e.g. Yeh Brothers Cup or when players represent Singapore in overseas competitions, e.g. PABF or ASEAN Bridge Championships.

Overseas bridge associations have differing MP systems, awarding differently for local, regional and national events. They may also award differently for events of differing importance. SCBA members can bring their MPs overseas. SCBA also awards MPs to overseas players who move here, based on the equivalent MPs earned in one year or less

prior to the person joining SCBA. However, it will almost never be a 1-to-1 conversion, as other bridge associations often use different scales.

SCBA is in the process of revamping the MPs grouping. Below are the actual and the groupings, which I am proposing (proposed are in brackets):

Non-Classified:	0-200 MPs	(0-500 MPs)
Club Master:	200-1,000	(500-2,000)
Local Master:	1,000-2,500	(2,000-4,000)
State Master:	2,500-5,000	(4,000-7,500)
Master:	5,000-10K	(7,500-10K)
1★ Master:	10K-15K	(same with >1,000 NLPs)
2★ Master:	15K-20K	(same with >2,000 NLPs)
3★ Master:	20K-25K	(same with >3,000 NLPs)
4★ Master:	25K-30K	(same with >4000 NLPs)
5★ Master:	>30K	(same with >5000 NLPs)
National Master:	>20K and >7,500 NLPs	(>40K and >7,500 NLPs)
Life Master:	>30K and >15K NLPs	(>60K MPs, >10K NLPs)

The main difference is the addition of the NLPs for the Star Master rankings and above. This is because, following ACBL and EBU, SCBA hopes that the MPs will place more emphasis on the player's performance level. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed groupings or questions on MPs?** If so, email us at info@scba.org.sg or pass letters to Lilio, Jenny or Emmaline.

MARCH QUIZ

by LL Wong

This hand was played at the 9th Epsom Worldwide Bridge contest in 1994, where I partnered Mr. C K Toh, and we saw bid as follows:

<u>C K Toh</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>LL Wong</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1 ♣16+HCP)	1♦	X (5-8HCP)	3♦
4♦	5♦	5♥(a bit shaky)	P
6♥	All pass		

♠ AQ104 C K Toh
 ♥ AK76
 ♦ A7
 ♣ AJ10

♠ 983
 ♥ QJ93
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q8753 L L Wong

With a Precision one club opening, after some interferences, we landed in this shaky small slam contract and the lead was J♦.

Part of my play was;

Trick 1:	J♦	A♦	x♦	2♦
Trick 2:	2♥	6♥	4♥	Q♥
Trick 3:	4♣	10♣	9♣	3♣
Trick 4:	x♦	7♥	5♥	J♥
Trick 5:				

How would you continue then?

MAKING MISTAKES

by Richard Hills, with inputs from YL Chan

Making mistakes happens to the best of us. But when they happen at the bridge table, there are repercussions on our partner and opponents. In this issue, we take a look at how the new WBF 2007 laws deal with mistakes.

Law 9B – After Attention Is Drawn to an Irregularity

1. (a) The Director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity

In 1997, the strongest word "must" was used instead. So now experts can be kind to beginners and simply say, "Don't worry about it," when a beginner is feeling very guilty and embarrassed about their unintentional infraction of Law. This does not mean that you can make your own ruling, without calling for the director. For example, if your opponent leads out of turn, you cannot tell them, "Don't worry, take back your club lead. However, your partner cannot lead clubs."

So, should your opponents make a mistake, you have 2 options. You either call the director and let him/her settle the irregularity, or you do not call the director but give up the right to claim any redress.

The next law is a warning to those who forget their system...

Law 75 – Mistaken Explanation or Mistaken Call - *After a misleading explanation has been given to opponents the responsibilities of the players (and the Director) are as illustrated by the consequences of this following example:*

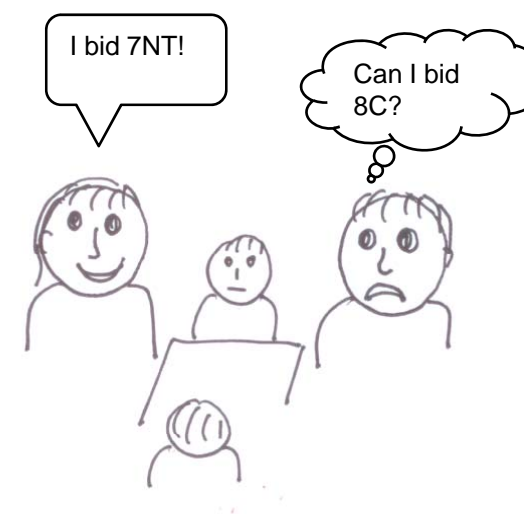
North has opened 1NT and South, who holds a weak hand with long diamonds, has bid 2D, intending to sign off; North explains, however, in answer to West's inquiry, that South's bid is strong and artificial, asking for major suits.

A. Mistake Causing Unauthorized Information

Whether or not North's explanation is a correct statement of partnership agreement, South, having heard North's explanation, knows that his own 2D bid has been misinterpreted. This knowledge is unauthorized information", so South must be careful to avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorised information. (If he does, the Director shall award an adjusted score.) For instance, if North rebids 2NT, South has the unauthorised information that this bid merely denies a four-card holding in either major suit; but South's responsibility is to act as though North had made a strong game try opposite a weak response, showing maximum values.

This now makes clear that if a player has forgotten their own system, but is reminded about the system by partner's explanation, that player is doooooomed! The player must continue kamikaze bidding on the basis of their original misunderstanding of the system.

In a worst case scenario, a player may be reminded by partner's explanation that systemically 7S should be bid (scoring +2210), but Law 75A requires them to knowingly misbid to 7NT XX, which goes down 13 for a score of -7,600! ♣



Bid it right

THE INAUGURAL COMPETITION

by Derek Maggs

Welcome to SCBA's latest initiative, a prize bidding competition **free** for our members. Each month, there will be around four hands for you to bid. The monthly winner will be awarded a free game for his/her partnership at any single session event. The cumulative winner for the year will win a \$100 bridge book prize to be used against a list published close to the end of the membership year.

The bidding system will be the SAYC (<http://www.bridgelessonsaysc.blogspot.com/>) - i.e. better minor, 15-17 NT, weak 2 openings in 3 suits, Lebensohl after interference over our 1NT openings) with the following changes:

- 2NT response to 1 of a Major is Jacoby (i.e. a balanced game+ raise with 4+ major suit support)
- 3NT opening is gambling
- Jump shifts in competitive bidding are fit jumps
- 4NT is RKCB only after suit has been agreed
- New suits at the 3 level are forcing
- Simple Stayman over 1NT and 2NT openings and 2NT rebids after a 2C opening
- Transfers in 4 suits after 1NT and 2NT openings
- Cappelletti/Pottage defence to 1NT
- Support doubles to (2♥)
- Competitive doubles to (4♥)
- Cue bid first and second round controls on suitable hands
- We will add more later!
- Please note the form of scoring (IMPS = teams and MPs = pairs)

1. IMPS All vulnerable

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1♦	1♠	X	2♠
3♣	P	?	

♠J54
♥Q86432
♦5
♣A103

Your bid is: _____
Explanation: _____

2. IMPS All vulnerable

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
2NT	P	3♥	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
?			

♠AK6
♥K103
♦KQ
♣KQ754

Your bid is: _____
Explanation: _____

3. MPs: They are vulnerable

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
P	1♥	3♣	4♥
P	?		

♠A
♥AQ8765
♦KQ108
♣109

Your bid is: _____
Explanation: _____

4. MPs Love all

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2NT	P	3♣(stayman)
P	3♦	P	?

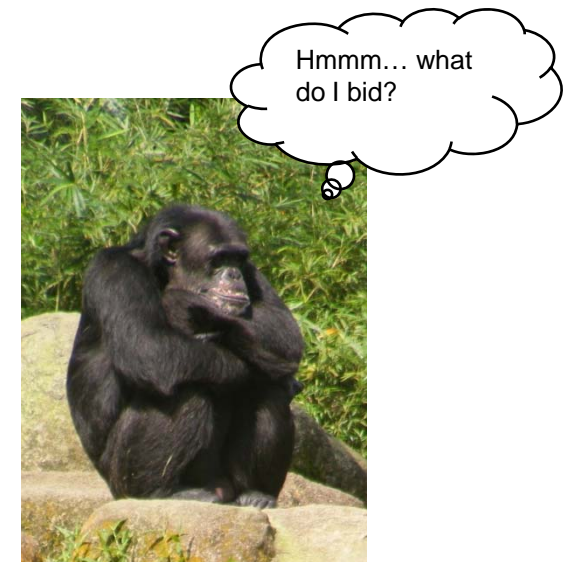
♠K842
♥7
♦104
♣1096543

Your bid is: _____
Explanation: _____

Only one entry per member per month is allowed. They can be submitted via email to secretary@scba.org.sg or handed in to the club on a postcard. Closing date is by the 15th of each month, i.e. 15 March for this inaugural competition.

Please indicate your bid, and a 1-2 line explanation (not mandatory). Also remember to indicate your name. If you are a corporate member, please also indicate your corporate club.

The winner will be published in the next newsletter, so get bidding! ♣



Glory Gallery

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

1 February 2008 (17 pairs)

- 1st Nancy Chan & T S Lu
 - 2nd Foo Yoke Lan & You Yingdan
 - 3rd Chua Gang & Kelvin Ng
-

Lunar New Year Special Game

8 February 2008 (15 pairs)

- 1st V Balasubramaniam & S Thiagarajan
 - 2nd Emily Hee & Jane Choo
 - 3rd Liu I Nan & Magdalene Medora
-

SCBA Hong Bao Pairs

15 February 2008 (26 pairs)

- 1st Emily Hee & Jane Choo
- 2nd Nancy Goh & Thomas Goh
- 3rd Derek Maggs & Wong Choo Wai

H S Ho Teams Challenge Championships

Series 1 Match 1

GG - Moky Mouse

Winner: GG

Series 1 Match 2

GG - Blue Moon

Winner: GG

Upcoming Matches:

9 March

GG - Sugi

30 March

W4 - X-Men

Moky Mouse - Bridge Bears

March 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>31</p> <p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>					<p>Singapore Open 1 Pairs</p> <p>\$40 per member, \$50 per guest, \$20 per student</p> <p>• 2.30pm</p>	<p>Singapore Open 2 Pairs (cont'd)</p> <p>• 9.30am</p>
3	4	5	6	<p>PABF 7 Simultaneous Pairs</p> <p>\$8 per member, \$11 per guest, \$5 per student</p> <p>• 7.30pm</p>	8	9
<p>Snowball 10 Jackpot Pairs Series #15 Start</p> <p>10th March - 28th April</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	<p>Easter Congress 21 Mixed pair - \$20 per pair • 9.30am – 1pm</p> <p>Open Pair - \$40 per pair • 2.30 – 11pm</p>	<p>22 Easter Congress Open Team \$240 per team, \$120 per student team • 2.30 – 11pm</p>	<p>23 Easter Congress Open Team • 9.30am – 6pm</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>	1	2	3	4 <i>PABF Simultaneous Pairs</i> \$8 per member, \$11 per guest, \$5 per student • 7.30pm	5	6	
	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>22nd Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #1</i> • 2pm	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>22nd Inter-Club Bridge League Open House #2</i> • 2pm	27
	28 <i>Snowball Jackpot Pairs Series #15 End</i> 10 th March - 28 th April	29	30				

