

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

April 2010 • 13 pages

Easter Congress

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 April
Mixed pairs, Open pairs, Open Team
Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

Siglap CC Open Pairs

Sunday 11 April, 1.00pm
\$40 per pair,
Venue: Siglap CC

Membership fees due!

A reminder to all SCBA members that the annual membership fees are due for renewal, in April 2010. This is for the year April 2010 – March 2011. Please pay your fees promptly at SCBA

The next two months are filled with bridge events galore! Almost every weekend for April and May is taken up with bridge activities. So do flick to our calendar of events to check what's on.

With so many bridge tournaments to look forward to, including a number of international competitions beyond Singapore's shores, it is most timely to listen to some tournament tips from top experts. Gunnar Hallberg (6 times Swedish teams champion, Nordic champion and European silver medallist) shares his advice for those playing tournaments on page 6.

And good things must come to an end, as Father Matthews takes leave of sunny

Singapore. So do turn to page 2 to read his final escapade. We also have a good lesson from LL Wong on how to bid defensively, opposite the multi 2♦. So do read page 5, if you've ever faced the frustration of how to bid a hand, after opponents plonk down the 2♦ bidding card. The Singapore National Bridge League is back, and results tables are included under our Glory Gallery section.

As always, letters, discussions of interesting hands, or other thoughts on bridge are always welcome. Happy reading!

Yiu Lin
Editor Bridging SCBA
editor@scba.org.sg ♣

As Choo Wai will be away until the end of June, I will be keeping everyone informed on SCBA's news and updates.

1. Club Manager

After serving SCBA over the past few years, Lilio has decided to end her service as Club Manager and will be leaving us at the end of April 2010. On behalf of the Committee and all members of SCBA, I hereby thank Lilio who has helped to keep SCBA operating smoothly and has maintained a clean and tidy clubhouse for everyone to enjoy the game.

SCBA advertised the job opening on jobstreet.com.sg in late March and has received a few applications for the position already. Interested applicants may still apply. Please refer to the advertisement posted on the website for more details.

2. Youth Squad 2010

The Youth Squad Training Programme 2010 has been approved by the Committee and is scheduled to begin in June 2010. At the Coaching Sub-com's decision, I have been appointed as the

coach for the programme which aims to develop our youth players and help them improve their game. Programme details will be announced on a later date.

3. Masterpoints 2010

Thanks to the efforts by Marvin, Maha and Lilio, the SCBA Masterpoint database has been formalised and updated with the tournament and weekly game results over the years. The Committee is pleased to present you the updated masterpoint list in early April. The list will be sent to you via email and will also be made available on the SCBA website.

With the Masterpoint Update System implemented by Marvin, the Committee aims to update the list on a monthly basis so that members can keep track of the masterpoints they have earned over the month.

We will also be starting the Masterpoint Race very soon, where top masterpoint earners in their respective categories win attractive cash prizes. Join us in the weekly games and tournaments and start accumulating your masterpoints now!

4. Easter Congress 2010

It's time to grab your partner and gather your team for one of the biggest bridge events in Singapore. Easter Congress 2010 promises to deliver lots of fun and excitement with the following events lined up over the long weekend:

2 April, 9.30am	Mixed Pairs
2 April, 2.30pm	Open Pairs (2 sessions)
3-4 April	Open Teams

P.S.: This is a good chance to scoop up some masterpoints.

5. Renewal of membership 2010

A gentle reminder to everyone that memberships are due, as we start our new financial year in April 2010. Kindly renew your membership at SCBA and continue to enjoy discounted game rates and our freshly stocked library, which boasts the largest collection of bridge books in Singapore. Do come over to the clubhouse and check out our new books. There are more than 100 titles to choose from.

Poon Hua
Acting President SCBA ♣

Mind Gym

Fr. Matthew's Farewell

Fr Matthew had said most of his final farewells. He was feeling sad about leaving Singapore and all the new friends he had made in the parish and amongst the bridge players over the previous year. There was however one last game in support of Dr Wa Ho at the Tanglin Club. It was a rarity in Singapore in that it was a multiple teams event, where each team plays six boards against each other but not at the same time. There was a friendly twist in that each pair had to have at least one Tanglin club member and there was a splendid spread of pizza and pasta for dinner beforehand. Fr Matthew was partnering a young Scotsman from Edinburgh (Son of Ali a Methodist missionary). It was not long before the pasta had cleared the table, even if the wine had not cleared his head.

Dealer South – E-W vul

Fr Matthew	S	Son of Ali	N
		P	1♦
3NT	4♠	P	P
Double	All Pass		

Son of Ali led an unfortunate but not fatal 10♦.

♠ A4	♠ K7	♠ J2
♥ 92	♥ 876	♥ AKQJ543
♦ 10953	♦ KQJ82	♦ A64
♣ QJ862	♣ A97	♣ K
	♠ Q1098653	
	♥ 10	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 10543	

Declarer thought for a while and covered with the J and Fr Matthew had a problem. It looked likely that Son of Ali was short in ♦s (probably doubleton). With 3 or 4 to the 10, he would surely have led a low card. Fr Matthew could win the A♦ and cash as many ♥s as possible, before they get thrown on the ♦'s. Alternatively it might be right to use the ♥s as an entry to give the ♦ ruff, if partner is singleton and has a ♠ control. Fr Matthew thought that it would do no harm to duck one round. Declarer won with a worrying look of surprise and played the K♦. Fr Matthew had to play the Ace of course and declarer ruffed -a ♣ to dummy's

Ace was followed by Q♦ to pitch his ♥ loser. This was followed by a low ♠ to the 10 and Ace. The result was 4♠ X which made. Two losers had escaped. He congratulated declarer. Son of Ali enquired... "could you not have beaten that contract by winning your ace?" Fr Matthew smiled rolling his eyes slightly heavenward. In the next match:

	♠ A643	♠ QJ2
	♥ K863	♥ J10 (Fr Matthew)
	♦ K	♦ Q85
	♣ AQ32	♣ KJ1094
♠ 1087		
♥ Q9742		
♦ 92		
♣ 875		
	♠ K95	
	♥ A5	
	♦ AJ107643	
	♣ 6	

N	Fr Matthew	S	Son of Ali
	P	1♦	P
1♥	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	3♦	P
3NT	P	4♦	P
6♦	All Pass		

Fr. Matthew's farewell

The 4♦ bid came after a long pause and the leap to 6♦ had a similar delay, as judgment replaced science. When Son of Ali led a ♣ Fr Matthew was confident that his assets would be enough to defeat the thin small slam.

The simple line is to win the Ace and cash two rounds of diamonds hoping the Q drops doubleton or singleton. Slightly better, is to take the ♣ finesse and if that fails pitch the losing spade on the A♣.

However, declarer found an even better line that succeeded here, where the previous two methods would have failed. She won the A♣ and ruffed a ♣. Played a ♦ to the K and ruffed another ♣. Played the top two ♥s and ruffed a ♥, as Fr Matthew discarded a ♣. She then played the Ace and K♠, then ruffed another ♥ before exiting with the last ♠ – whoever won had to give the last two tricks to the AJ of ♦. Nicely done and farewell to the probable two winners!

Fr Matthew took a last look around the Tanglin club, thanked his team-mates for the game and of course Dr Wa Ho for all the hard work in scoring and organising before heading back into the sultry night to pack his meager possessions for the flight home to the Philippines. ♣

SOLUTION TO MARCH QUIZ

LL Wong

Before I start March's quiz, I would like to thank Derek Maggs, for providing a solution to last February's quiz, when the club is discarded. He said: "It is interesting to note that a ♣ discard by East is fatal, (though possibly a little double dummy – I think declarer should get it right)". Let's say that West pitches a ♥ and East pitches a ♣ and a ♠. Declarer then plays a ♠ towards the Q. West must duck of course and now declarer plays the A♥ and K♥ (eliminating ♥ from West, and exists with his 10♣ West wins and cannot get to East hand so is forced to cash out and concede the 9th trick to the K♠."

Those of you who have still kept your February's newsletter, go check it out. Beautiful analysis, isn't it?

Now for March's quiz, which looks at the possible defensive bidding against the weak two in major or multi 2♦* opening.

Before entering any defensive bidding auction, it is first necessary to know how your opponent would be bidding.

2♦ opening: This could be a weak 2 in either major, and it can be very destructive if they have a fit. Assuming you and your partner pass, bidding is likely to go as follows:

- 2♦ - 2♥ is Pass/ Correct
- 2♠ is also P/C, usually ♠ are shorter than ♥, even a singleton ♠, which is why it is so destructive.
- 3♥ / 3♠ / 4♥ are all P/C. Could have very few HCP, and usually be short in the bid suit.
- 2NT is asking opener to describe hand.

Do note that bidding space has been taken away. Furthermore, bids by the responder is usually not a suit at all, so be careful! If 2♦ is a weak 2 in either major, or a strong balanced hand, respondent may still bid up to 3♠, with slightly more HCP. If 2♦ is a weak 2 in

SOLUTION TO MARCH QUIZ

LL Wong

either major or a strong 4441 hand, bidding this way is less likely, but still possible, should responder have a bit more HCP, eg. 8HCP.

As you can see, your contract could be stolen away, if you and your partner do not relay the proper information early in the bidding. Eg.

2♦	P ¹	2♠	P ²
3♥	P ³	P	? ⁴

1 – After opponent opens 2♦, you have an opening hand, but decide to wait first, as you don't know what to bid

2 - Partner can't say anything with only 10HCPs

3 - You are now stuck, and reluctant to bid at this level

4 - What else can partner do but pass?

And the result is a double swing, as opponents make 3♥, when you could have made 3♠ or even 4♠. This is something that commonly happens, so it is necessary to compete in the bidding auction early.

In fact, it can be easier to defend against this, when you are given more bidding space, than against the stand weak 2 major opening bid. The only problem that you may face is the meaning of the double. So if RHO opens 2♦ and you double, there are a few possible meanings:

- 1) Diamond suit only or 19+ HCPs with any distribution
- 2) Take out double in diamond, or 19+ HCPs, any distribution
- 3) Take out double, with some diamond holdings (equivalent to a 1♦ opening bid) or 19+ HCPs with any distribution
- 4) General opening hand, 12-15 HCPs, or 19+HCPs with any distribution
- 5) 13-15 balanced hand or 19+ HCPs with any distribution
- 6) Some established partnerships choose X to mean takeout in hearts, and 2♥ overcall is takeout in spades.

There are bound to be other variations. But the important thing is to have an understanding with partner,

by agreeing on one. The easiest is usually item 4, though choices 3 or 5 are just as good. Serious partnerships may consider 6. So back to the previous example:

2♦	X ¹	2♠(P/C)	X ²
3♥	3♠/4♠ ³		

1 – you have the confidence to double now, with opening hand

2 – Partner can double to show he has spades

3 – You can make the right decision, given the information.

What about if the bidding goes:

2♦	X	P	?
----	---	---	---

Sitting in the 4th seat, with a weak hand, it is best to pass. This will avoid falling into bigger trouble, should the 3rd seat have done a trap pass.

Over a 2♦ opening bid, any 3 level bid should be made with a good hand.

2♦ 3♣ – Good 6 card ♣, 14-18HCP

3♦ – Good 6 card ♦, 14-18HCP

However, if you are holding two suits, you need to disclose it early. Over a 2♦ bid:

SOLUTION TO MARCH QUIZ

2NT – 16-18 HCPs, major suit stopper or 7 top tricks in hand

3♥ – Good 5:5 in ♥ and ♣

3♠ – Good 5:5 in ♠ and ♣

3NT – Solid 6/7 car minor, at least a major stopper. 8 top tricks in hand

4♣ – Good 5:6 ♦ and ♥

4♦ – Good 5:6 ♦ and ♠

4♥/♠ – to play

For 2 level overcalls, you have the additional bidding space. So:

2♥/♠ – 5card ♥, ♠ with 12-18 HCP

But what would you do if you are sitting 3rd seat, holding:

X, Qxxxx, AKxx, AKx?

LHO opens 2♦, partner passes, and responder bids 2♠. You can bid, pass or double. For those that chose the latter, the result would be 2♠ X, when 4♥ is cold. This is the problem of the multi 2♦ opening, as it puts opponents in a fix. Note: It is good to overcall 2♦ opening, when you are holding at least 5 card major suit and 16-18 HCP, rather than the standard practice of doubling followed by a re-bid. ♣

April Quiz

LL Wong

This hand was given to me 14 years ago by Mr Zhu Junyi, as a double dummy problem. I now provide it here, for SCBA members to enjoy. Spend some time solving it as a double dummy solution first. This will improve your hand analysis and logic.

The contract is 4♥ by south. Lead 2♥

♠ A6543

♥ 1097

♦ 2

♣ A543

♠ KQJ7

♥ 2

♦ KJ1098

♣ J98

♠ 1098

♥ A543

♦ Q76

♣ Q76

♠ 2

♥ KQJ86

♦ A543

♣ K102

And a great thank you to Mr Zhu Jun Yi for this amazing hand! ♣

Get Well, Play Bridge!!

Kampong Kembangan CC is organising a bridge game, as part of the launch of the Wellness Programme at Marine Parade GRC. This event will be visited by Senior Minister Goh Chok Thong.

Date: 2 May 2010

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Venue: Marine Parade CC

Who will be there: Invited guests include MPs, Active Ageing Committee Members, and participants of groups such as Mahjong and Mind Games, Dragon Boat and Handicraft Interest, Qi gong, Gardening and many more.

If you are interested in taking part in the Bridge Game interest group, kindly contact Ron Savage at ddoorman@hotmail.com

Tournament tips from an expert

With the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation tournament just around the corner (it is being held in New Zealand from 21-30 May 2010), we are providing some tips from Gunnar Hallberg, gold medalist at last year's Senior Bermuda Bowl. These tips were previously published in the English Bridge magazine.

From Gunnar Hallberg

"If you play at your local club, then of course you want to enjoy yourself, so you can let your hair down. But if you are playing in a tournament and you want to do well, you have to practice self-discipline: no staying up all night drinking and having a good time - leave that for the last evening, when you celebrate your success!

Not only is it important to be well rested before facing several hours of play, but you need to be relaxed and in harmony with yourself. When my team won the Vanderbilt, I was early to bed in the evenings and up at 0630 for a walk to the local farmer's market and breakfast outdoors. This gave me the time and the opportunity to put the previous day's play behind me and be at peace with myself when the competition resumed.

If you are in harmony with yourself, it will be easier to be in harmony with your partner, and you will both be able to play to the best of your abilities. Nothing spoils potentially good partnerships as much as one of the two being unhappy with themselves and taking it out on partner."



To read more on Gunnar Hallberg, and the full article at the English Bridge magazine, check out:
http://www.ebu.co.uk/general/biographies/players/documents/Gunnar_Hallberg.pdf



Gunnar Hallberg

Gunnar's top tips reprinted with kind permission from the English Bridge Union.

Glory Gallery

Jackpot Pairs Season

4 January – 29
March 2010

Winner is Alan Sia, who won \$100. His best 8 games out of 12 averaged 61.52%

Reminder: SCBA's Intermediate Course

Dates: 6, 13, 20, 27 April, 11
and 18 May

Time: 7.30 – 10.00pm

Venue: SCBA

Fee: \$150 per person, \$90 per
student

Trainer: Derek Maggs

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

5 March 2010, (15 pairs)

- 1st CK Toh & Aya Mitamura
- 2nd Shi Jicheng & Yan Pengyu
- 3rd Lau Jian Yang & Romulus Tham

Kembangan Spring Open Pairs

7 March 2010, (26 pairs)

North South

- 1st Ng Chun Tat & Krishnan Rajendra
- 2nd Chua Gang & Seet Choon Cheng
- 3rd S Thiagarajan & Balasubramaniam V

Singapore Open Pairs

13-14 March 2010, (19 pairs)

- 1st Fong Kien Hoong & Zhang Yukun
- 2nd Endo Kimiko & Alan Sia
- 3rd Pavlo Zemskyy & Karol Miller

- 1st Session 1 Chua Gang & Seet Choon Cheng
- 1st Session 2 Lam Cheng Yen & Tan Wei Seng
- 1st Session 3 Ng Chun Tat & Krishnan Rajendra
- 1st Session 4 Chue Kah Loong & Soh Siew Luie

HS Ho Team Challenge Championships Match Schedule

- Series 1 March 3: 11 April Kiasu vs Bozzetto
- Series 1 Match 4: 18 April Saniva
- Series 1 Match 5: 25 April Transgeneration
- Series 1 Match 6: 30 May D'Coup
- Series 2 Match 4: 6/13 June
- Finals: 17 July
- Finals: 18 July



L to R : SCBA President, Wong Choo Wai with Singapore Open Pairs winners, Fong Kien Hoong & Zhang Yukun

April 2010 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>			1	<p><i>Easter Congress 2</i> <i>Mixed Pairs</i> 9.30am, \$25/12 per pair/ student pair <i>Open pairs</i> 2.30pm \$50/25 per pair</p>	<p><i>Easter Congress 3</i> <i>Open Teams</i> 2.30pm \$250 per team, \$120 per all student team</p>	<p><i>Easter Congress 4</i> <i>Open Teams</i> 9.30am</p>	
	5	6	7	8	9	<p><i>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #2</i> • 2.30pm, SCBA</p>	<p><i>Siglap CC Open 11 Pairs</i> \$40 per pair, early bird (ends by 3 Apr) is \$30 per pair • 1.00pm Siglap CC</p>
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	<p><i>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #3</i> • 2.30pm, SCBA</p>	<p><i>48th Indonesian Bridge National Championship</i> 25 April – 1 May www.gabsikepri.org</p>
	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2010 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.					Labour Day Special Game 1 \$5 - member, \$7 - guest, \$3 - student • 9.30am	2
3	4	5	6	7	Singapore Open Teams Qualifying 8 \$400 - team, \$200 - student team 8-9 May	Singapore Open Teams Finals/ Consolation 9
10	11	12	13	14	Singapore Open Teams Finals/ Consolation 15 15-16 May Kuching Congress	Singapore Open Teams Finals/ Consolation 16 Kuching Congress
17	18	19	20	47 th PABF Championships 21 New Zealand 21-30 May	24 th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #4 22 • 2.30pm SCBA	23
24	25	26	27	Vesak Day Special Game \$5 - member, \$7 - guest, \$3 - student • 9.30am	24 th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #5 29 • 2.30pm SCBA	30

Corporate Members + SCBA Officials

Weekly Games @ Bridge Clubs

SCBA weekly games Monday – 9.30am and 7.30 pm
Thursday - 9.30 am
Friday – 1.00pm and 7.30pm
Sunday - 2.00 pm

KAMPONG KEMBANGAN CC, 5 Lengkong Tiga. Mon/ Thurs
7.00pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Derek Maggs)

NTU CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB, 20 Nanyang Green Hall 7.
Tues 7.30pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Lan Foo)

NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE, Kent Ridge
Crescent, MPSH 4. Tues 7.00pm (SCBA Liaison Officer –
Fabian)

NUSS The Graduate Club, 9 Kent Ridge Drive
Every Wed 7.30 pm at Bkt Timah Guild House (SCBA Liaison
Officer – Thiagarajan)

SIGLAP COMMUNITY CENTRE, 300 Bedok South Avenue 3
Sun 2.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – AK Heng)

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, 240 Sime Road
Bridge @ The Niblick. Mon/ Thurs 7.30 pm. Wed 1.00pm (from
7 April 2010) (SCBA Liaison Officer – Poon Hua)

SINGAPORE JAPAN CLUB BRIDGE LEAGUE, 120 Adam
Road. Tues 9.00 am (SCBA Liaison Officer – Lan Foo)

SINGAPORE RECREATION CLUB, B Connaught Drive
Tues 7.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Maha)

TANGLIN CLUB, 5 Stevens Road, Mon, Wed & Fri at 1pm,
Wed at 7.30pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Derek Maggs)

SCBA, 51 Bishan St 13 #01-01

Tel: +65 6356 8540 Fax: +65 6259 7832

info@scba.org.sg, www.scba.org.sg

SCBA Committee + Staff

Wong Choo Wai 9101 3460 , president@scba.org.sg
President

Poon Hua 96939242, vicepresident@scba.org.sg
Vice President

Derek Maggs 9150 5842 , secretary@scba.org.sg
Honorary Secretary

Thiagarajan 98186427, treasurer@scba.org.sg
Honorary Treasurer

Foo Yoke Lan 9731 0691 competition@scba.org.sg
Competition Secretary

Fabian Tan 9643 0418, fabian@scba.org.sg
Asst Treasurer/ League Manager

AK Heng 9618 3785, aikoan@scba.org.sg
Committee Member

Chua Gang 9731 6845, chuagang@hotmail.com
Committee Member

Sugiharto 9124 9917, sugi@scba.org.sg
Committee Member

Sethuraman Mahadevan (Maha) 8133 2191, maha@scba.org.sg
Committee Member

Zhang Yukun 9824 0315, yukun@scba.org.sg
Committee Member

Lilio Ho 9871 2762, Lilio@scba.org.sg
Club Manager

Chan Yiu Lin editor@scba.org.sg
Editor, Bridging SCBA