

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

Dec 2007 • 9 pages

SCBA Special General Meeting

Friday 14 December, 7.30pm

Agenda: Election of new President and new Vice-President

Please be on time. The PABF Simultaneous Pairs will start directly after the SGM. There will be no free game after the SGM.

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

Friday 14 December, 8.15pm

(Please note that this game is likely to end late, due to the SGM starting first)

SCBA Christmas Pairs

Monday 17 December

7.30pm

Hari Raya Haji Special Game

Thursday 20 December

9.30am

Good tidings to one and all!

As the end of the year draws near, it is a good time to sit back and reflect on our achievements, from a career, personal and of course bridge point of view! So check out the farewell message from Steve Robinson, who also shares some of the SCBA's notable achievements for 2007. In the last newsletter, SCBA set the Special General Meeting on 30 November. However, as Steve was travelling, this is now on 14 December 07.

The end of the year also marks a number of celebratory games, for Christmas and other holidays. Check out our calendar of events to see which exciting games you can participate in.

On behalf of the SCBA committee, here's wishing all members and bridge friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! ♣

Yiu Lin
Editor , Bridging SCBA

Bukit Timah CC Open Pairs

Saturday 22 December 07

2.00pm, at BTCC.

Trophies, cash prizes, special prizes, door prizes and snacks are up for grabs!

Siglap CC Open Pairs

Sunday 30 December

2.00 – 10.30pm, Siglap CC,

Held in conjunction with PA Active Mind Festival, this is for those 40 years and above

See Events calendar for details

"All I want for Christmas is to win at bridge! "



...with Steve Robinson

Fellow Bridge Players,
The end of another year has arrived and it is time to reflect on progress during the past year as well as to look forward to things to come. 2007 was a very successful



year for the SCBA. Some of the notable achievements of the past year include:

- 1) The first year under the new training scheme for junior and school players. This was a big success with the Junior team qualifying for the PABF finals, while the School team won the PABF. This bodes extremely well for the future competitive ability of the SCBA.
- 2) 2007 marked the first year where both the Open team and the Ladies team qualified for the PABF play-offs. Unfortunately, both teams were eliminated in the first play-off round. Nevertheless, it is a clear step forward for Singapore.
- 3) The association has also succeeded in keeping the same level of funding for our activities in 2007/2008 as last year (minus, of course, the subsidy for the ASEAN championships).

4) The new committee elected this year has shown a tremendous amount of energy and has launched two new initiatives: Firstly, improving the competitiveness of our international players; and secondly, establishing an audit committee to ensure continued progress towards improved governance.

5) The SCBA launched its new web site in Q3. This will improve our ability to communicate with our members.

Looking forward to 2008 there are a lot of personal changes ahead for me. Many of you know I have been offered a new position with First Data as Chief Operations Officer for China, based in Shanghai. After long reflection, I have decided that I must take advantage of this opportunity and, therefore, I have tendered my resignation as President SCBA. I appreciate the support that all of you have shown me over the last 4 plus years. I know that you will provide similar support to my successor.

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and lots of success at the bridge table in 2008!

Sincerely yours,
Steve Robinson ♣

Singapore Youth Squad

by Poon Hua

The Singapore Youth Squad has been set up to develop selected youth players in Singapore and prepare them for representing the nation in the Pacific Asia Bridge Championship 2009. Squad members will receive training until the selection of the national teams. The squad comprises of two sections – the Schools section and the Junior section.

Who can participate?

Schools section - Players residing in Singapore and born on or after 1 January 1988.

Junior section - Players residing in Singapore and born on or after 1 January 1983.

Players are selected on an individual basis and the choice of partnership within the squad will be at the discretion of the Competitiveness Sub-committee.

When will training begin?

Training will begin in January 2008. It will be conducted weekly by a professional coach at SCBA.

Singapore Youth Squad (cont'd)

There will be no training sessions during school examination periods.

Any fee required?

A fee of \$5 per training session will be collected monthly during the first session of the month.

How to join the squad?

Fill in the application form on the last page, and submit it to SCBA by 8pm, 21 Dec 2007.

Applicants must come to SCBA for a short interview on either 22 or 23 Dec 2007, between 2.00pm and 6.00pm. ♣

Let's play!



World Mind Sports Games '08 - Selection of national teams

by Poon Hua

The first World Mind Sports Games will be held in Beijing from 3 to 18 October 2008. As the National Sports Association for Bridge, SCBA is entitled to send a team for each of the three categories: Open, Women and Youth.

The pairs format will be adopted for the selection of players into the teams. Top three pairs in each category will be selected into the team.

For the Open and Women teams, a maximum of two Singapore permanent residents are allowed for each team. The rest of the team members must be of Singaporean nationality.

For the Youth team, a maximum of two non-Singaporeans is allowed for each team and all players must be born on or after 1 January 1980, in order to qualify in the Youth Category.

Partnerships from the Youth team of 2006 will automatically qualify for a spot in the team upon registration.

The trials will be held over 2 weekends in January 08. Details are as follows:

Date: 5-6 January and 12-13 Jan 2008

Venue: SCBA clubhouse

Time: 2.30pm (first session)

Fee: Open/Women - \$200 per pair

Youth - \$100 per pair

Registration closing date: 28 Dec 2007, 9pm

Please note that no HUM or Brown sticker conventions are allowed in the selection trials. All players must present an updated copy of their convention cards to their opponents before the commencement of each round during the selection. The conditions of contest will be distributed to the participants during the players' meeting before the commencement of the selection. Interested participants may fill in the application form (last page) and submit it to SCBA in hardcopy. ♣

For more details on the World Mind Sports Games 2008, please visit :

<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/Calendar/files/WorldMindSportsGames2007.pdf>

Donkey's nose bleed

By Derek Maggs

“Perhaps it is the bridge causing the stress rather than relieving it,” pondered Donkey, as he headed off to the final league match of the season. He thought back to how, when he started out in the game many years before, he was so immersed in the hands and what he should do, that all of life’s concerns just melted away for 3-4 hours... These days, whilst the bridge seemed in some way easier, he expected so much more of himself and partner. This expectation brought the sort of pressures that were pervasive in the outside world into his escapist pursuit. Donkey reflected on the two hands that had almost certainly cost his team the league title on the last outing hung like long, wet, floppy ears as if to enhance his somber, reflective mood. Game all, Donkey (East) dealer held the following hand that has two instructive points:

♠ QJ863
♥ AK6532
♦ 6
♣ A

Donkey opened a normal 1♥ and as is often the case with distributional hands, things took a wild turn of events as LHO bid 4♣. Partner gave a negative double and North passed. What to bid now? If partner has AK♠, A♦ then a grand slam looks almost certain, even with one of the ♠ honours and the A♦ a small slam would be an

excellent prospect. Only if partner has none of these cards is 5 level unsafe. 4NT would be RKCB in ♥. Finally he concluded it must be right to show the power with a bid of 5♠. Partner took this to be asking for club control and raised it to 6♠ with: :

♠ 9742
♥ Q10
♦ AQJ972
♣ 5

It was hard to avoid 2 losers when North held the AK ♠ of trumps and meanly doubled. At the other table the pre-empt was 3♣ and the brakes were applied in 4♠ for a loss of 13 imps.

In the next hand, the board was Love All (Donkey's favourite saying), and Dealer West .

♠ AQ2
♥ 985
♦ KJ974
♣ 108

Donkey	N	E	S
P	P	1♠	2♣
3♣ ¹	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♥	P
?			

1 - 3♣ shows a limit raise from a passed hand

What now? Donkey wanted to bid 5♠ to show good trumps and nothing else to say. However, he was mindful of the previous hand, and worried this would just ask for a club control. After much carrot chewing, he plopped the 4♠ bidding cards on the table with a heavy hoof. Unfortunately this was partner's hand:

♠ KJ10863
♥ AK10
♦ Q3
♣ AQ

11 more IMPs lost when the opponents walked into the slam at the other table.

These high level decisions had caused some form of altitude sickness and Donkey traipsed home with a nose bleed.

To win the league today would need a miracle and the result to go their way in the other main match... at least the Sheep team should have some form of farmyard allegiance he thought – his mood brightening for the first time... ♣



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER QUIZ by LL Wong the Bridge Guru

Did you find the right solution for this defensive play? The final contract is 3C, after your partner has opened 1D or 1NT (showing 12-14 HCP). The lead is D8;

(Dummy)

♠ AKQ76

♥ Q1098

♦ K1076

♣ -

(You)

♠ J10532

♥ KJ65

♦ 83

♣ 108

(Your Partner)

♠ 98

♥ A73

♦ AQJ9

♣ Q762

In reality, as a defender, you wouldn't have the luxury to see your partner's cards; otherwise all of your partner cards would become penalty cards! Therefore you need to use your own imaginative power, logic and counting skills to achieve a type of "double dummy" defence. Every move must show reasoning, in order to signal or give the right information for partner.

Trick 1: The 8♦ lead is covered by Dummy's 10♦ and Partner plays J♦.

Partner should be able to figure out that you do not have many points. But more

importantly, he/ she should take your lead as a singleton or doubleton in diamonds. Cashing of A♦ and giving you a diamond ruff diamond is critical to avoid declarer discarding the losing diamond on a spade.

Trick 2 and 3: Partner cashes A♦ and plays 9♦, which you ruff.

Partner's 9♦ is showing suit preference, asking for the lower of the 2 remaining suits – in this case, the hearts. In fact, the heart return is vital, in order to get another ruff or trump promotion.

But, wait a minute, before you play a low heart to partner's A♥, stop and think. If partner has 3 cards in hearts, it means declarer has only 2 cards in hearts. If partner returns the last diamond for a ruff, declarer may be able to throw the last heart for a loser on loser, or ruff high and discard the last heart on the spade winners. So it is imperative to cash the heart winners, before trying to get the last diamond ruff.

Trick 4 and 5: Play your K♥, to which your partner should play 7♥, an encouraging signal. You then exit a heart, to your partner's A♥.

Trick 6: Partner should return the last D, and declarer needs to ruff with the J♣, in order to prevent you from over-ruffing.

This means that your partner's 7♣ will be promoted, giving you 2 trump winners (Q♣ and 7♣). This takes declarer down 3.

You can also try to work out the other possibilities of play if your card holding had not included the K♥ or doubleton diamond. Would you be able to get the same or better outcome?

Note: If your partner has no A♥, then he is more likely to switch to a heart play rather than diamond cash out, to avoid a heart trick being lost on the threatening spades in dummy. If it is 1444 then a spade return may still be a better move. This is the type of reasoning that will enable you to select the correct line of play. ♣



NOVEMBER QUIZ

by LL Wong

This hand is similar to a hand played in the HS Ho Team Challenge 2007. The final contract was 4S in majority (though 3NT would be a wise choice).

The lead was xH;

(Dummy)

♠ 9873

♥ QJ5

♦ K98

♣ K73

♠ 10

♥ 743

♦ 10753

♣ Q10865

♠ J74

♥ AK102

♦ QJ6

♣ 942

The play for the first two tricks was;

Trick 1: 3H HQ HK H5

Trick 2: D7 D8 DQ DA

First, plan the play as the declarer, in order to make the contract. How would you make the contract with either the lead of 10 ♠ or a small diamond?

Then plan the defensive play, in order to take it down. ♣

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

2 November 2007 (15 pairs)

1st Ang Shen Ting & Soh Yong Sheng

2nd Chua Gang & Kelvin Ng

3rd Wang Peiyi & Zhang Yukun - ranked 6th overall

4th Christopher Gregory & Krishnan Rajendra – ranked 8th overall

Deepavali Special Game

8 November (24 pairs)

1st Greta Chai & Foo Yoke Lan

2nd Chang Sui Sim & Alan Sia

3rd Jane Choo & Emily Hee

H S Ho Teams Challenge Championships Phase I

10 & 11 Nov 2007 (8 teams)

Defending champions: **D’Coup** - Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Chua Gang, Kelvin Ng, Seet Choon Cheng, Selene Tan

1st **Bozzetto Azzurro** - Edwin Lau, Chong Yeh Shen, Chue, Kah Loong, Fong Kien Hoong, Gerald Tan, Tan Siew Chuan

2nd **Rogento** - Marvin Lai, Jason Chew, Liw Meng Hong, Soh Siew Luie, Yeo Licai, Yong Kien Fong

3rd **X-Men** - Ng Chun Tat, L L Wong, Christopher Gregory, Krishnan Rajendra, Jane Choo, Yeo Whee Kiak

SRC Open Pairs

25 November 2007 (17 pairs)

1st Zain Moledina & Shamim Moledina

2nd Murli Vassanmal & Leong N.W.

3rd Tan Peng Huat & Trevor Li

Congratulations to:

Leonard Ong
Carlton Parker
Zain Moledina
on passing the SCBA Club
Director’s Course, which was held
from 28 April - 26 May 2007. We
look forward to seeing your
directing at club games!

DECEMBER 2007 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.					1	2
3	4	5	6 ASEAN Bridge Championships Manila Philippines 6-11 Dec 07	7	8 National Handicap Teams Championships \$160 per team • 2.30 – 11pm	9 National Handicap Teams Championships • 9am – 6pm
10	11	12	13	14 SCBA SGM and PABF Simultaneous Pairs • 7.30pm	15 National Youth Championships \$80 per team, \$60 for JC/2ndary school teams	16 National Youth Championships
17 SCBA X'mas Pairs \$15 per guest, \$12 per member, \$10 per student • 7.30pm	18	19	20 Hari Raya Haji Special Game \$5 for members • 9.30am	21	22 BTCC Open Pairs \$12 per person, \$10 per senior citizen, \$8 per student • 2.00pm at BTCC	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Siglap CC Open Pairs (for 40+ yrs) \$25 per pair Venue: Siglap CC • 2.00pm -10.30pm

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>SRC Open Pairs</i> \$22 per person Venue: SRC Lounge 1883 • 1.30pm</p>	<p><i>NUS Open Pairs</i> \$25 per pair, \$10 per student pair Venue: MPSH4, NUS • 2.30pm</p>		
28	29	30	31				

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

Tuesday 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

Note: From 10 Dec 07, SICC will change its games to Mon and Thurs 7.30pm

SCBA Committee + Staff

SCBA weekly games

Monday 7.30 pm
Thursday 9.30 am
Friday 7.30 pm
Sunday 2.00 pm

**Steve Robinson
President**

9479-4600/ 6731 8675

**Wong Choo Wai
Vice-President**

9101 3460

**Derek Maggs
Secretary**

8244 3165

**Heng Aik Koan
Treasurer**

9618 3785

**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

**Poon Hua
Member**

9693 9242

**Lilio Ho
Club Manager**

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