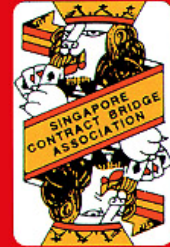


# Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

December 08 • 11 pages

## Look out for the following exciting games!

Hari Raya Haji Special Game –  
8 Dec 08, 9.30am, SCBA

PABF Sim Pairs – Dec 08,  
7.30pm, SCBA

National Bridge Handicap  
Team – 13 to 14 Dec 08,  
SCBA

SCBA X'mas Pairs – 22 Dec  
08, 7.00pm, SCBA

X'mas Day Special Game - 25  
Dec 08, 9.30am

BKTCC Open Pairs – 27 Dec,  
2.30pm, BKTCC

## Holiday season – at last!

And once again, the end of the year has come round. I am not sure about the rest of you, but I am most relieved that the holiday period is finally here, and things can start to get more relaxed and festive. So for those of you who want to enjoy yourself, come down to the bridge club for a game – all the major clubs are having their Christmas events, so you will be spoilt for choice.

While the festive season may bring relaxation to some, it can bring additional stress to others. Due to his busy nativity commitments, Donkey regrets that he has no time to contribute an article for December's newsletter. But he hopes to be back next year, as do we all!

However, rest assured that Derek still had time to write up the bidding competition, and our regular bridge guru – LL Wong has an interesting suggestion on bidding after opponents have disrupted your bidding, with a Michael's cue bid.

As the end of the year draws near, I wish all SCBA members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yiu Lin  
Editor Bridging SCBA ♣



As we approach the festive season, we have a couple of major activities in December before we embark on the new year of 2009. Let me update you on what's in store.

### **A) Beginners' Course**

SCBA will hold our Beginners' Course on consecutive Tuesdays and Thursdays on 9th, 11th, 16th and 18th Dec. Organised and coordinated by Fabian, and with Ze Ying as the charismatic trainer, this promises to be an exciting and fruitful session.

Registration fee is \$100 per person and each session is scheduled at 7:30-10pm. Beginners will get to enjoy free evening games at SCBA for the next 3 months after the Course is completed. Please get your friends and relatives to sign up for this induction into Bridge

### **B) PABF Championships at Macau**

From 2009 onwards, SCBA will be giving incentive-based sponsorship to National Teams in the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation Championships instead of lump sum payments in past years. While the finer details will be finalized by end of

the year and announced before the Trials, it will be based on a formula of :

- a) \$Y for every VP won in a match (from 10 VP onwards),
- b) Incentive for team or reaching the play-offs for qualifications,
- c) Incentive for team in attaining overall 1st three positions, and
- d) Additional subsidy for Youth teams as they are not working yet.

This scheme is to motivate players to do their best in every match and to salvage as much as they can even if in an underdog position.

### **C) Usage of SCBA facilities**

In response to public query on usage of our Clubhouse for Bridge activities, I will like to clarify on the following details required:

- 1) A form is to be filled up and submitted to Club Manager at least 7 days in advance,
- 2) a fee of \$1 per person per hour (for Members) with minimum \$20 per session,
- 3) confirmation will be notified after 5 working days since application, and approval will be based on availability, and

discretion of Committee and Club Manager.

### **D) Bridging out to U**

In line with our vision of promoting Bridge and helping our Corporate Clubs, SCBA will launch a major initiative to promote Bridge in the Universities in 2009.

We intend to co-organise and publicise the flagship events of NUS and NTU, namely their Open Pairs in Jan and Feb. I am also arranging with SMU to start a Bridge Club there and also to start Beginners Courses and introductory clinics to attract more members to play Bridge.

### **Conclusion**

As promised, the Committee and I are committed to make a difference in the local Bridge arena.

If you have the passion to join us in any capacity or have any suggestions, compliments or constructive criticisms, please email to [president@scba.org.sg](mailto:president@scba.org.sg),

Thank you. ♣

**Bid It Right**

**BID IT RIGHT! November #9**

by Derek Maggs

**1. Teams: You are Vul vs. Non Vul**

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
	P	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	P

?

- ♠ A
- ♥ AJ3
- ♦ 9872
- ♣ AKJ43

3♠ = 10; 4♣ = 8; 3♣ = 7  
2NT = 6; 4♥ = 4; Others = 2

1 6 card suit weak

**2. Teams: You are both Vul.**

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
		P	1♦
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3♣
P	?		

- ♠ A763
- ♥ AQ3
- ♦ 75
- ♣ QJ76

4♣ = 10; 3♥ = 5;  
5♣; 3NT = 3; Others 1

**3. Teams: They are Vul, you are Non Vul.**

<u>RHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>You</u>
	1♦	P	1♥
P	2♠	P	?

- ♠ 6
- ♥ AKQ87
- ♦ -
- ♣ 9876543

2NT = 10, 3♣ = 8;  
3♥ = 5; Others = 2

**4. Teams: Both Vuln.**

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	4♥	P	?

- ♠ Q5
- ♥ A3
- ♦ 6543
- ♣ AK853

5♥ = 10; 5♣ = 9; Pass = 6;  
6♥ = 5; 4NT = 3; Others = 2

1 – Weak 2 in Diamonds

David Law (Malaysia), Marc Smith (Thailand) and Yiu Lin are this month's panelists –All the hands are 'real' but more I cannot say to protect the victims.

**Problem 1**

Watching BBO a few weeks back, I was intrigued at how few people managed to find slam with these cards and decided there must be more to it. If your partner regularly opens 2♥ with 5 small at this vulnerability then perhaps a request to Santa for a new one is a good idea. Two of our panel chose the splinter, 3S, to show some interest. Would that mandate partner to show a shortage at his next turn? At the table, the young player bid 3♣ and his lady partner bid 3D thereafter, following a brief flirt with 7♥ the slam was duly reached. I prefer Marc's 4♣ here – in his own words "preference when one player has shown a weak hand and the cue-bidder therefore must have decent controls, is to cue-bid the suit below the one where a control is needed. So 4♣ here effectively asks for a diamond control. Bidding 3S would ask for a ♣ control and 4D would ask for a spade control". 2NT works fine this time if it asks for shortage.

**Problem 2**

Sorry for the typo... you had not passed with 13 HCPs! 3 panelists and 3 different bids. Firstly David's 3♥ - this would probably guarantee 5 spades and 4/5 hearts but is a

cheap non-committal continuation. Maybe, as the others suggest it is time to agree trumps. 3NT is rarely likely to be better than 5♣, so should be ignored at this form of scoring. And like Goldilock's porridge, 3D may be too little, 5♣ too much and 4♣ keeps open the possibility that partner really had his opening bid. Here however 5♣ is the limit and that is where you play unless you try 3NT (which does not make).

**Problem 3.**

This was a hand well bid by the Polish national team recently. Again, 3 panelists and 3 different bids. David, and the Polish gent, bid a quiet 2NT and must have been pleasantly surprised to see a 3♣ continuation when the tray returned to his side of the table. He added 3 more and 6♣, the optimal contract was reached. (Partner held ♣ KQ10). Marc's 3♣ will also get the job done but I suspect Yiu Lin's 3♥ will illicit a 'give up' 3NT leaving you badly placed to guess the next move.

**Problem 4.**

Two for 5♣ and Yiu Lin on her own with 5♥ but in great company. Meckwell held these hands at a crucial point in a match a while back. Down plenty with boards running out. 5♥ asked for a ♦ control and Eric was happy to bid one more and gain 12. As with problem 1, 5♣ might get the job done if it is read as asking for a ♦ stop. 6♥ whilst pretty wild works on this occasion.

## Bid it right! (cont'd)

Thank you panelists for your contributions and thoughts. If any of the readers have hands that they feel were tough to bid then please send them in. Marc stole it by a point this month from David and Yiu Lin just a fragment behind.

Kelvin wins this month with 30, closely followed by LL Wong and Fabian. This brings a small change to the leader board. Special apologies to LL Wong whose mail went astray and yet he had scored a perfect 40! This makes it much closer at the top.

Leader board	Total
Fabian Tan	270
LL Wong	268
Zain Moledina	220
Ang Shen Ting	219
Kelvin Ng	213
Trevor Li	36
Jane Choo	31
wang pei yi	28
Jackie	27
Lanny Chan	26

Please try this month's 'Bid It Right' Quiz. There is an annual cumulative prize for the best 8 entries over 12 competitions. 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 unless stated otherwise will be SAYC (<http://www.bridgelessonssayc.blogspot.com/>) - Better minor, 15-17 NT, weak 2

openings in 3 suits, Lebensohl after interference over 1NT openings with the following changes:

- 2NT response to 1 Major is Jacoby (a balanced game+ raise with 4+ 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 2♣ opening
- Transfers in 4 suits after 1NT/ 2NT openings
- Cappelletti/Pottage defence to 1NT
- Support doubles to (2♥)
- Competitive doubles to (4♥)
- Michael's cue bid
- Cue bid first and second round controls on suitable hands. ♣

## December's Bid it right!

### 1. Teams: You are Vul vs. Non Vul

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
			P
3♦	?		
♠ KQ865			
♥ A32			
♦ K8			
♣ KJ6			

### 2. Teams: They are Vul.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1NT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	?	
♠ J1076			
♥ 985			
♦ J32			
♣ KQJ			

<sup>1</sup> Both Majors

### 3. Teams: They are Vul, you are Non Vul.

RHO	Partner	LHO	You
			1♣
P	1♦	Dbl	?
♠ K4			
♥ A84			
♦ 8			
♣ AKJ10542			

### 4. Teams: Both Vuln.

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
4♣	P	P	Dbl
P	?		
♠ 852			
♥ 85			
♦ AJ752			
♣ K87			

## SOLUTION TO NOV QUIZ

Bidding is crucial in deciding the outcome of a game. Often, your result has already been decided, before you even get to the play, as everyone well knows, when we end up in the wrong contract. Not only is a good bidding system necessary, but you also need to add supplementary competitive bidding to your system. Let's review the following bidding.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1H	2NT <sup>1</sup>	3D <sup>2</sup>	P
3H	P	3S	P
4C <sup>3</sup>	P	4H	P
4NT <sup>4</sup>	P	5S <sup>5</sup>	P
5NT <sup>6</sup>	P	6H <sup>7</sup>	P
P	P		

<sup>1</sup> – Both minors, 5:5 distribution

<sup>2</sup> – long spade suit, good hand. Do you use this?

<sup>3</sup> – Cue bid

<sup>4/5</sup> – RKC (in hearts). Response – 2 keycards with QH

<sup>6/7</sup> – King asking. Response – no king

Many of us use 2NT overcall to show both minors. But what do we do when the opponents use it against us? The following is a simple guide if partner opens 1H and is overcalled 2NT showing minors :

Pass – poor hand (less than 10HCPs), no support in hearts

X – penalty oriented, with at least one of opponent's suit. Usually 10+HCPs

3C – at least limit raise with 3/4 hearts. Game invitational or better

by LL Wong

3D – 5+ spades, 10+HCPs

3H – competitive, 3+ hearts, 6-9 HCPs

3S – natural, competitive, 6-9 HCPs.

Good spades, eg. AQJ975

3NT – 13-15HCPs, stoppers in both

minors. Poor heart support

4C/ D – splinter, with 4 card heart support.

13+HCPs

4H – To play

4S – To play, spades are self sufficient, though usually less than 10HCPs

4NT – RKC or blackwood in hearts

OK, let's get back to solving the problem at hand. You are in 6H with QD led.

	♠ AJ109842	
	♥ KQ	
(dummy)	♦ 83	
	♣ 64	
	♠ 7	
	♥ A109643	East
(declarer)	♦ AK	
	♣ AKQ3	

The spade suit looks good, but there's a shortage of entries. The best line of play is as follows: Win Q♦ and play A♣ to break communication between opponents. Play low heart to dummy, to test the trump break. If LHO has a trump, play ♣ from dummy back to hand. If RHO is a

singleton ♣ and chooses to ruff, then you throw 3♣ in hand, and claim the rest of the hand. If RHO ducks, win the ♣ and ruff declarer's last ♣ with dummy's high trump. After that you need to only concede one trump to RHO.

If LHO has no trumps, then spade suit is the only hope. Play dummy's A♠ and hope that LHO drops a K/Q♠. Assuming it drops, take the ruffing finesse by playing J♠ from dummy. If RHO covers, declarer ruffs low, and has dummy's trump honour as entry to throw ♣ loser on 10♠. If RHO does not cover, throw the ♣ loser. Finally concede a trump loser.

Here is the full hand:

	♠ AJ109842		
	♥ KQ		
	♦ 83		
	♣ 64		
♠ Q		♠ Kxxx	
♥ -		♥ J87xx	
♦ QJ10xxx		♦ xxx	
♣ 9xxxxx		♣ 10	
	♠ 7		
	♥ A109643		
	♦ AK		
	♣ AKQ3		

This play can be made based on the information gained during the bidding. Therefore, it is always important to use whatever information you can get! ♣

**DECEMBER'S QUIZ** by LL Wong

This hand was played during the recently HS Ho Team Challenge. There were four teams, playing this hand in four different contracts – 6NT, 6H, 6C and 3NT!. Can you guess their scores after a diamond lead?

♠ 2  
 ♥ A986  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ AKQ1072

♠ AQJ863  
 ♥ QJ3  
 ♦ A876  
 ♣ -

What is the best line of play for the declarer, as well as the defenders, when trying to make or defeat 6C, after a 3D lead? ♣

**PABF Simultaneous Pairs**

7 November 2008 (11 pairs)

1<sup>st</sup> Christopher Gregory & Sugiharto

2<sup>nd</sup> S Thiagarajan & V Balasubramaniam

3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Choo & Chua Gang

**HS Ho Team Challenge Championships**

15-16 November Preliminary round

- 1 L&M – Seet Choon Cheng, Chan Yiu Lin, Greta Chai, Foo Yoke Lan, Jane Choo, Kelvin Seah
- 2 Team LL – LL Wong, Fabian Tan, Ng Yong Hao, Zhang Yukun
- 3 The Bridge Bears – Wong Choo Wai, Lam Ze Ying, Derek Maggs, Endo Kimiko, Alan Sia
- 4 Ord Loh – Lam Cheng Yen, Kenneth Lim, Yeo Li Cai, Jason Chew, Sophia Yong
- 5 X-Men – Ng Chun Tat, Rajendra Krishnan, Christopher Gregory, Sugiharto, Wu Ton

## 47<sup>th</sup> PABF Championships

By Poon Hua

The 47th PABF Championship will be held in Macau from 7 to 17 June 2009. Singapore will be sending a team of six players for each of the following categories – Open, Ladies, U26 and U21. The selection of players for the teams will be held over two weekends – 3-4 and 10-11 January 2009. The format of the selection for each category is summarised below.

### Applicable to all teams

Trials are open to SCBA individual members for all categories.

Open to Singapore citizens, with a maximum of 2 permanent residents per team.

All selected players are required to participate regularly in SCBA weekly games and tournaments – on average at least one session per week. This excludes training sessions. Players that do not meet the quota may forfeit their subsidy or be disqualified, where upon the next ranked team/ pair will qualify.

National players have a responsibility to excel in the PABF, as well as raise the standards and popularity of local bridge.

### Open category

Format: Team selection

Players: 4 to 6 players in a team, 5-man team is not encouraged

Fee: \$200 per pair (ie for 2 pairs \$400, for 3 pairs \$600)

### Ladies category

Format: Pair selection

Players: 2 female players

Fee: \$200 per pair

Priority for PR slots will be given according to pairs' rankings.

### U26 category

Format: Pair selection

Players: 2 players born on or after 1 January 1983

Fee: \$100 per pair

Youth players can be students of local institutions.

### U21 category

Format: Pair selection

Players: 2 players born on or after 1 January 1988

Fee: \$100 per pair

First round – 3-4 January 09

Second round – 10-11 January 09

Venue: SCBA, 2.30pm

For U26 and U21 categories, 4 pairs will be selected at the end of the second round. The final selection will be announced at a later date.

No HUM or Brown sticker conventions are allowed in the selection. All players are reminded to 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.

SCBA will sponsor the entry fee for each category and provide incentive scheme based on number of matches won. Details will be announced on a later date.

Please submit the registration form to SCBA by noon, 27 December 2008. Registration form can be found on page 11 of this newsletter, or obtained from SCBA. ♣

# December 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>1</p> <p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Bridge Championships Samarang Indonesia</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>PABF Sim Pairs \$12 a member, \$15 a guest, \$8 a student • 7.30pm</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Hari Raya Haji Game \$5 a member, \$7 a guest, \$3 a student • 9.30am</p>	9	10	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>National Bridge Handicap Teams \$200 per team, \$100 per student team 13-14 Dec</p>	14
15	16	17	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>National Youth Teams Championships \$100 per team 20-21 Dec</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>SCBA X'mas Pairs \$15 a member, \$20 a guest, \$10 a student • 7.00pm</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Game \$5 a member, \$7 a guest, \$3 a student • 9.30am</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Bukit Timah Open Pairs \$12 a guest • 2.30pm At Bukit Timah CC</p>	28
29	30	31				

# January 2009 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>			<p><i>New Year Day</i> 1                      Charity Pairs                      Donations to Singapore Children's Society                      • 9.30am</p>	<p><i>PABF Simultaneous Pairs</i> 2                      \$12 a member, \$15 a guest, \$8 a student                      • 9.30am</p>	<p><i>PABF Trials</i> 3                      (Open, Ladies, U21, U28)                      Check Bridge Notice for details</p>	4	
	5	6	7	8	9	<p><i>PABF Trials</i> 10                      (Open, Ladies, U21, U28)                      Check Bridge Notice for details</p>	11
	12	13	14	15	16	<p><i>NTU Open Pairs</i> 17                      \$30 per pair, \$12 per student pair                      Venue: NTU Hall 3                      • 2.30pm</p>	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	30	

- SCBA weekly games** Monday 7.30 pm  
 Thursday 9.30 am  
 Friday 7.30 pm  
 Sunday 2.00 pm
- NTU CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB, 20 Nanyang Green Hall 7.**  
 Tuesday 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**  
 Wed 7.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Thiaga)
- SERANGOON GARDENS COUNTRY CLUB, 22 Kensington Park Road.** Tues 9.30am (SCBA Liaison Officer – Marvin)
- SIGLAP COMMUNITY CENTRE, 300 Bedok South Avenue 3**  
 Sun 2.00 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – AK Heng)
- SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, 240 Sime Road**  
 Bridge @ The Niblick. Mon/ Thurs 7.30 pm (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 – CT Ng)

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