

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

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PABF Simultaneous Pairs

Friday 8 January, 7.30pm

\$12 per member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student

Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

NUS-SCBA Open Pairs

Saturday 16 January, 2.30pm

\$30 per pair, \$12 per student pair

Venue: NUS MPH4

NTU-SCBA Open Pairs

Saturday 23 January 2.30pm

\$30 per pair, \$12 per student pair

Venue: NTU Sports Hall 3

Ah... the start of a new year. In line with new beginnings, SCBA is adding new games to the regular weekly games. So do read the President's message to find out more about the extra games, as well as what else is new for SCBA.

Although this month, the Sassyqueen was not able to continue her nordic journey, we do hear from Jane Choo, who shares some history behind the Handicap Team game, and gives her take on this events role in educating the juniors. Rest assured that

Sassyqueen will be back next month, to share more on her bridge experience in Norway. And we also see our friendly familiars; Father Matthews is up to his usual bridge antics, and LL Wong shows us the importance of winning that extra 10 points.

If, like me, your new year's resolution is to improve your game at bridge, I hope to see you at the bridge table in 2010. Happy New Year!

Yiu Lin

Editor Bridging SCBA

editor@scba.org.sg ♣



I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and enjoyed all our events in December. Let me share some good news with everyone.

1. Additional weekly games at SCBA

By popular demand, SCBA will be adding extra weekly games on Monday morning 9:30am and Friday afternoon 1:00pm in 2010. This is in line with our mission to popularize Bridge and create a vibrant Bridge scene. From now on, all weekly games will have standard fees of \$5 and \$2 for adult and student members respectively.

2. Electronic timer

To increase our efficiency and transparency and make life easier for the Directors and players, SCBA will install a timer on our wall. It will display how much time left per round or session and is large enough to be seen across the room, so there is no excuse for any player to be slow. This could also be transported to other tournament venues in hotels.

3. Contributions by Charles Leong

Upon his demise, Charles has generously contributed his immense personal

collection of Bridge books to SCBA Library. Estimated to be more than 100, I hereby thank him and his family for their kindness. I hope everyone will cherish and take care of these books when you read them.

4. PABF Championships in May 2010

The Pacific Asia Bridge Federation (PABF) Championships Trials will be held on 2-3 January for two Open teams and four U-26 Pairs. Though SCBA extended the deadline to 31 Dec, there were only 2 pairs who registered for the Women and U-21 categories. Therefore, there will be no trials for them, as there is insufficient number of players to form a team.

5. Bridge events in December

Thank you for your ardent support in the SCBA Handicap event, which was once again the most popular local event. There was also much excitement for the 10 Youth Teams that played in the Youth Team Championships, culminating with the top 2 winners sharing the same total VPs.

SCBA also co-organised the annual Bukit Timah Community Club Open Pairs for

the second year running, and all 32 pairs were rewarded with many souvenirs, t-shirts, great food and lots of fun.

One of my key objectives as the President is to develop stronger rapport with and support for all the Bridge Clubs in Singapore. Though we may compete for prizes or player participation at times, I believe that all of us share a common passion for Bridge, so let us co-operate and work harmoniously to bring Bridge to a higher level in Singapore.

6. Bridge events in January

On that note, I hope everyone will support our events in January and February, including the NUS-SCBA Open Pairs, NTU-SCBA Open Pairs and our SCBA Hongbao Pairs.

On behalf of the Committee and Club Manager, I hereby wish all of you a happy and fruitful new year ahead. May it be filled with lots of good health and successful slams! ♣

Mind Gym

Fr. Matthew's Epiphany

January always seemed like a let down for the priesthood. The celebration of Jesus' birth had been such a focus there was little else planned for January. As such, Father Matthew gathered a team of players representing four countries and headed off for a bridge contest organised near Jakarta, by the Indonesian Bridge Federation – GABSI. The local hosts could not have organised things better – collection form the airport, dinner on the Saturday night and a great venue.

The teams followed a standard Indonesian format of 6 Swiss qualifying rounds, followed by an 8 team 'all play all' final. For the teams not qualifying, there was always a second chance for success in the Swiss format.

The event was peppered with slam tragedies. The first hand comes from the last match of the qualifying session... Having stuttered along... Fr. Matthew's team needed (with hindsight) to win 18-12 or better to qualify. The match had gone reasonably well, when the following hand appeared, as the last of the 10 boards.

In one room, the opponents bid:

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2♥	P
3♦	P	4♦	P
4♠	P	4NT	P
5♣	P	7♦ All Pass	

As you can see from the layout below, 7♦ was quite easy, ruffing the ♥ and ♠ loser in the North hand.

♠ AJ	
♥ -	
♦ A10542	
♣ AQJ953	
♠ 7642	♠ Q1085
♥ 108763	♥ 542
♦ 98	♦ 76
♣ 84	♣ K1072
	♠ K93
	♥ AKQJ9
	♦ KQJ3
	♣ 6

Though they did not know it at the time bidding and making the same 7♦ would have led to a 17-13 victory. However the stakes were marginally higher in their auction below.

Dealer North, NS Vulnerable.

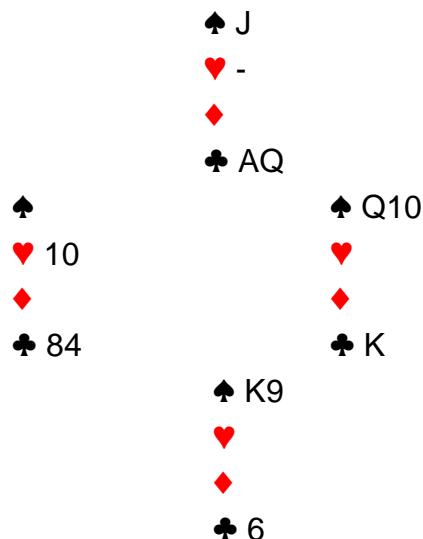
Asianal	E	Fr Matthew	W
1♣	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2♥	P
3♣	P	3♦	P
3♠	P	4NT	P
5♣	P	5NT	P
6♣	P	7NT	All Pass

West led the 6♠. It looked a simple hand to play, with various potential ways of making it - The lead gives a free ♠ finesse or the 10♥ could drop in 4 rounds, else the ♣ finesse is required.

Fr Matthew played the J♠ and won the Q with his K. Now as the cards lay he could not make 13 tricks. Down one was a loss of 19 IMPS and with it the chance of the main final. Making 7NT would have been worth the 18-12 win they required. He felt sick. The team scored up and were despondent. He started going over the hand again. Could he have done anything differently? What would have happened if he had won the first trick in dummy?

Fr. Matthew's Epiphany (cont'd)

After cashing his 9 red card winners the last three cards would be:



East can either blank the K♣ or Q♠. IT should be clear from partner's lead and discards that the latter is not an option. So a simple squeeze nets 13 tricks if declarer realizes the position. On a ♣ lead – rising with the ace – the position is even easier. Welcome to the Swiss event!

Sometimes in a match which is not going well for one side, there will be an

attempt to generate a swing. The following is one of the most extreme examples. Fr. Matthew could only sit, watch and marvel at the ingenuity of it all as his opponents both upgraded their hands: Dealer W Game all.

E	Fr Matthew	W	Asianal
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	2NT	P
3♦	P	3♥	P
4NT	P	5♥	P
5NT	P	6♣	P
7♦	All Pass		

As you can see from the cards below, the grand slam requires spades to break 3-3 or for the QJ doubleton ♥, and the S hand not to have 4♦. So the contract was cold.

♠ KJ9	
♥ J974	
♦ J5	
♣ 4	♠ A106532
♥ A32	♥ K106
♦ K109432	♦ AQ8
♣ A96	♣ 4
	♠ Q87
	♥ Q85
	♦ 76 (Fr Matthew)
	♣ KQ1075

A different hand valuation occurred at the other table.

E	S	W	N
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♠	P	2NT All Pass	

2NT proved to be a very safe contract. The fact that it conceded 15 imps did not pass through West or East's minds, until they saw the result at the other table and rushed to check they had played the same board!

The whole slam affair proved an epiphany for Fr Matthew who realised that there were many dimensions to this game of bridge and each dimension had its very real challenges in terms of skill and judgment. Talking of judgment – it was time for mass... ♣

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER QUIZ

LL Wong

The strategy in bidding and play in a match point tournament is slightly different from an IMP one. Scoring 10 points extra makes a great difference in match point tournaments. Because of this, no trump contracts are frequently preferred. Take for example this hand:

♠ 842	♠ AK1096	♠ 73
♥ 954	♥ 63	♥ AK107
♦ J983	♦ 1072	♦ Q654
♣ 764	♣ Q106	♣ 932
	♠ QJ5	
	♥ QJ82	
	♦ AK	
	♣ AKJ8	

South	West	North	East
2NT	P	3H ¹	P
3S	P	3NT	All pass

¹ - Transfer

8 out of 20 pairs got 3NT+2, which was a good score. Another 11 pairs bid one time further to 4S, and almost half of them got 4S+1, which was 10 points less than the previous 8 pairs. The one pair in 6S went down 1 and received a zero match point.

From a declarer's point of view, scoring an extra trick, even if there is some risk involved, will place you in a higher ranking. So for those declarers in 4S, who did not receive a heart lead, they should realise that the result of 4S+1 will always lose out to 3NT+2. Therefore some counting work is needed: 5 spades, 4 clubs and 2 diamonds make 11 tricks. One more could be received by a diamond ruff, though some luck is needed here.

Assuming no heart lead, declarer should play two rounds of diamonds, and then reach dummy with a trump. Ruff a third diamond back to hand and draw the remaining trumps, using Q♣ as entry (hoping that no one would ruff it).

By discarding one of dummy's losing hearts on the last club will give you 12 tricks. 4S+2 is a top score and a reward that was given to Mr CC Ting and Mr Yeo Li Cai.

Some useful notes may be derived:

- 1) If there are more than enough HCPs to make a contract, then no trump contract should be considered, over a 5:3 fit in majors
- 2) If the combined HCPs is unknown, then a 5:3 major suit contract is still preferable, unless the potential 9 quick tricks can be counted.
- 3) A major suit contract is preferred, if there is a doubleton in the same hand, with the shorter trump suit.
- 4) Once the contract is decided, then making that extra trick for a higher score is required in declarer play, even if they may be some risk involved
- 5) From defenders' point of view, cashing out your winner(s) as early as possible would save you match points
- 6) For those that bid: 2NT 3H (transfer)
3S 3NT
4S 4NT
This is a choice of final contract due to extra HCPs. ♣

JANUARY QUIZ LL Wong

This hand was mentioned by Soh Siew Luie, on the same day as the post mortem, during the HS Ho Team Challenge, played on 15 November. For some reason, you have ended up in a difficult contract: 6D X

♠ -	
♥ Axx	
♦ AQJ9x	
♣ KQ10xx	
♠ AQJxx	
♥ K	
♦ x	
♣ A	
	♠ Kxxx
	♥ Q10xxx
	♦ K8xx
	♣ -

LHO had made an opening bid of 1S, and then doubled the final contract later. A low diamond was led.

Some of LHO's cards can be expected, due to his opening bid and double. Test your declarer play! ♣

NATIONAL BRIDGE HANDICAP TEAMS by Jane Choo

I was pleased to see so many student teams participated in this year's National Bridge Handicap Teams, but disappointed to discover that most of the national players distanced themselves from this event.

This event was originated in 1975 by Mr S Y Kong, who was then the Representative of the Hong Kong movie producer, Golden Harvest. As the Game was sponsored by this company, it was named the Golden Harvest Trophy.

SCBA has held this tournament for over 20 years. The games were initially played without handicapping the players. As a consequence, usually the better teams won. There were not too many teams in those days, as the population of bridge players was relatively small. Even though the teams were few, all those who took part enjoyed the event tremendously, partly because after the game they could look forward to the sumptuous Chinese dinner, hosted by Mr and Mrs Kong! Winners and losers enthusiastically discussed their bridge

hands at the table. *Kiasuism* was not an issue then.

Years later, when the games became more popular, in order to make the competition more interesting and fairer to the less experienced players, SCBA introduced the handicap system. By then Mr Kong had passed away, and the sponsorship by Golden Harvest was terminated. Nevertheless, the games continued and were renamed the National Bridge Handicap Teams - mainly owing to the handicap system, which was intended to level the playing field. The event attracted increasingly more players, especially the younger and less experienced ones, who feel that they had as good a chance of winning, as their more experienced counterparts.

But apparently the playing field was far from being level. Judging by the results of past years, the event was often won by the juniors, whilst the seniors were left behind.

NATIONAL BRIDGE HANDICAP TEAMS by Jane Choo

Perhaps for this reason, few senior players were present at this year's game.

However, we should bear in mind that in bridge, it is not just a matter of winning or losing. We should support and encourage the young ones. They need to learn from the seniors at the table, not only about how to bid and play the hand, but also the etiquette of the game and proper behavior at the table.

Therefore, I wish to make a strong plea for the more experienced and senior players to make a greater effort to participate in this event. Their attitude should be to treat this event as primarily a fun game, in the process also imparting more knowledge and techniques to the younger players. This will contribute significantly towards improving the latter's skills.

As for winning, the more experienced players can always display their prowess in so many other tournaments on offer throughout the year. ♣

Singapore made an impact at the 31st ASEAN Bridge Championships in KL last month!

Mixed Teams (20 teams)

- 1st SCBA - Allen Tan, Gemma Tan, Lam Ze Ying and Terje Lie
- 3rd FOS - Jane Choo, Chua Gang, Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Zhang Yukun and Seet Choon Cheng

Ladies Team (11 teams)

- 3rd Singapore - Jane Choo, Greta Chai, Lan Foo, Seet Choon Cheng

Open Team (24 teams)

- 3rd FOS - Chua Gang, Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Fong Kien Hoong, Zhang Yukun

Youth Team (3 teams)

- 1st Saniva - Ivan Mok, Romulus Tham, Desmond Oh, Kelvin Ong, and Ann De Guzman and Mylene Encontro (from the Philippines)

Open Pairs (52 pairs)

- 2nd Lan Foo and Seet Choon Cheng



Ladies Team: L to R, Greta Chai, Lan Foo, Jane Choo Seet Choon Cheng

National Bridge Handicap Teams Championships

12-13 December, (19 teams)

- 1st NUS (G) – Perry Chen, Yeo Yong Hui, Cheng Zehan and Goh Shih Hsien
- 2nd NUSS – Nancy Chan, Trevor Li, Jane Choo, Yeo Whee Kiak and Chang Sui Sim
- 3rd CY – Chen Yuanxi, Lim Kah Hong, Lam Cheng Yen, Tan Wei Seng and LL Wong
- Consolation NTU (D) – Lim Jing Yi, Yeo Keng Soon, Li Hong Jin, Ooi Boon Wei

SICC Christmas Pairs

5 December, (22 Pairs)

- 1st HS Ho & SK Wu
- 2nd Shamin & CC Chen
- 3rd Nancy Chan & JJ Murugasu



SCBA Christmas Pairs

14 December, (25 Pairs)

- 1st Paul Tan & Selene Tan
- 2nd Lilio Ho & Sugiharto
- 3rd Lam Cheng Yen & Wee Xiao Ling



Jackie, with Yeo Yong Hui, Cheng Zehan, Perry Chen and Goh Shih Hsien

National Youth Team Championships

19-20 December, (10 teams)

- Tied 1st Baimao: Tan Wei Seng, Ni Xiao Xuan, Kelvin Ng, Lam Cheng Yen and Wee Xiao Ling
- Tied 1st NUS (G): Perry Chen, Yeo Yong Hui, Cheng Zehan, Leow Zixiang, Emmaline Thor and Jackie Ang
- 3rd Saniva: Ivan Mok, Kelvin Ong, Romulus Tham, Lau Jian Yang, Lim Song Woon and Ong Jin Xiang

Best JC Award: Raffles Institution (JC)

BTCC-SCBA Open Pairs

26 December (32 pairs)

- 1st Tan Wei Seng & Romulus Tham
- 2nd Chua Gang & Poon Hua
- 3rd Fong Kien Hoong & Tan Sock Ngin



*Wong Choo Wai and Poon Hua (SCBA President and Vice President),
accompanying Team Baimao – L to R – Tan Wei Seng, Lam Cheng
Yen, Ni Xiao Xuan and Wee Xiao Ling*

January 2010 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 <i>Charity Pairs</i> Donations to the Singapore Children's society •9.30am</p>	<p><i>Trials for Open and U26</i> 2 2-3 Jan</p>	3	
	4	5	6	7	<p><i>PABF Simultaneous Pairs</i> 8 \$12 - member, \$15-guest, \$8 - student • 7.30pm</p>	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	<p><i>NUS-SCBA Open Pair</i> 16 \$30 per pair, \$12 per student pair Venue: NUS MPH4 • 2.30pm</p>	17
	18	19	20	21	22	<p><i>NTU-SCBA Open Pair</i> 23 \$30 per pair, \$12 per student pair Venue: NTU Sports Hall 3 • 2.30pm</p>	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2010 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	3	4	<p>5</p> <p><i>PABF Simultaneous Pairs</i> \$12 - member, \$15-guest, \$8 - student • 7.30pm</p>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	<p>16</p> <p><i>Lunar New Year Special Game</i> \$5-member, \$7-guest, \$3-student • 9.30am</p>	17	18	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p><i>SCBA Hong Bao Pairs</i> \$15-member, \$20-guest, \$10-student • 7.00pm</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28

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, except the last
 Wed of the month, which will be at Kent Ridge 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 (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)

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

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