

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

Nov 2007 • 11 pages

Christmas is coming, and I am getting fat...

When the shops start displaying candy canes and tinsel-wrapped chocolates, you know that Christmas is coming to Singapore. This means that two of Singaporeans' favourite past-times – eating and shopping – will come together. Since Christmas is the season for giving, have a good laugh reading Donkey's latest escapades, where his opponents take their early Christmas presents on the first two boards. We also hear from Chua Gang in "Let's Chat", who shares his Audit and Governance plans. Do take note of the start of the HS Ho Championships, the Deepavali Special Game and the PABF Simultaneous Pairs, which are all happening this month. Check out the calendar of events for more details.

SCBA is holding an EGM on 30 November. This is to vote in new committee members, including a

new President and Vice President. This is because Steve Robinson will be leaving Singapore for new opportunities in Shanghai, and Wong Choo Wai is stepping down due to time constraints. SCBA urges members to step forward and volunteer their time to serve on the committee.

Please remember that the committee is trying to save the trees and costs of postage, by sending out the Bridging SCBA newsletter by email only, to as many members as possible. To have your name placed on the email only distribution list, please email derekmaggs@gmail.com

As always, any comments, feedback or submission of articles for future issues can be emailed to me at yiulin@starhub.net.sg ♣

Yiu Lin
Editor
Bridging SCBA

Deepavali Special Game

Thursday 8 November
9.30-1.00pm

HS Ho Championships

Sat 10 Nov is the start of the 2007/2008 HS Ho Championships!

SCBA EGM

Friday 30 November,
7.30pm

SCBA needs to hold an EGM, in order to seek new committee members and vote in a new President. If there is time, a free game will be provided after the EGM.

See Events calendar for details

...with Chua Gang

Chua Gang is heading SCBA's Audit and Governance subcommittee. This is a brief outline of an Audit programme, as recommended by Chua Gang.



The Singapore Sports Council has requested all NSAs to establish, plan, execute and maintain a set of sound operating systems and processes. This is so that their operations can be reviewed and improved, in order to achieve operational excellence. SCBA will be setting up our operation systems, based on Plan-Do-Check-Act methodology. We shall also put in place references that include:

- Code of Governance,
- Financial Regulations,
- Training Roadmap,
- HR Policies & Guidelines,
- Integrated Planning,
- Budgeting & Reporting Tools, and
- Service Quality & Service Protocols.

Over the next year, SCBA will be focusing on seven key categories. These are:

- 1) **Leadership** – This looks at how SCBA committee members set and communicate SCBA's purpose, vision, and values, act as role models in the sporting fraternity and commit to corporate governance.
- 2) **Planning** – This focuses on how SCBA's strategy and operational plans are aligned to achieve its purpose and vision.
- 3) **Information** – This explores how SCBA can use comparative and benchmarking information, to support decision making at all levels.
- 4) **People** – This category is important when it comes to SCBA's human resource issues
- 5) **Processes** – SCBA must identify our key business, administration and support processes and measure their effectiveness and efficiency.
- 6) **Customers** – This looks at how SCBA builds relationships with our customers and determines their satisfaction. Customers include our members, potential members, the public, coaches, affiliates, volunteers, etc.
- 7) **Results** – This focuses on SCBA's performance, customer view, sports industry view, operational and financial results – the bottom line.

In terms of auditing, SSC will need to audit SCBA every three years. This involves a half-day on-site visit from an independent audit team, consisting of an auditor from SSC, as well as other NSAs and independent parties. SCBA was last audited in 2006, so the next independent audit is expected in 2009.

However, SCBA shall be conducting a self audit at least once a year, to evaluate the effectiveness and consistency of the programmes, highlight actions taken in its systems and processes to achieve excellence. This regular self audit will allow us to identify our strengths, as well as note areas that need improvements and how corrective actions can be taken.

The SCBA committee is still quite new, and the next few months will be busy for us. From now until the end of this year, we will be writing work plans, reviewing the budget, establishing operating systems and audit training. We fully expect that all systems will be in place and running by January 2008. Should you have any suggestions on audit, or ways that we can improve any system, feel free to contact me - gang_chua@hotmail.com ♣



Donkey heads over to the green pastures

By Derek Maggs

“Perhaps the grass is greener at another club”, pondered Donkey, thinking about his run of bad luck, as he clip-clopped over to the Tanglin club on a sunny Saturday. He was trying to remember what system he had played with Curry. Oh well, he would just have to play it by ears – at least they were long and usually tidy. With E/W vulnerable, Donkey (South) held the following hand:

♠ A97
 ♥ AJ10985
 ♦ A4
 ♣ 106

After two passes, he opened a confident 1♥ and the mean LHO doubled. Partner redoubled (10+ with no primary fit) and RHO bid 2♣. Donkey passed, which shows a hand that is suitable for defence, if partner doubles for penalties. (i.e. not sub minimum 3rd hand opening or two suited or a void ♣). LHO passed and Curry bid 2♦, which shows 5+♦. This was passed back to Donkey.

What should he bid now? 2♥ normally shows a 6 card suit in this sequence because he did not double 2♣ showing 4 of them, did not raise ♦ with 3+ support. Occasionally, it may be only 5 cards with something like 4513 and 12-14 points. However, despite the 13 HCPs, the hand has a decent 6 card suit and 3 aces. He chewed over the matter for a few seconds and eventually bid 3♥.

Curry raised to the reasonable game of 4♥ holding:

♠ Q652
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ KQJ107
 ♣ 98

The defence was accurate. East won the 2nd club with the K, and pushed a spade through. It was clear even to Donkey that LHO held both the major suit Kings. The best, but slim chance seemed to be to win the A♠, cash the A♥ and run the diamonds in case i) East had 4 diamonds and West has to ruff with the K♥, or ii) diamonds are 3-3 and East forgets to ruff. Unfortunately, diamonds were 3-3, but East did **not** forget. 4H -1 lost the team 5 IMPS, as the opponents stopped below game.

The opponents were still smiling on the next board, holding the following:

East ♠ K53
 ♥ KQ104
 ♦ K74
 ♣ Q94

West ♠ A
 ♥ A75
 ♦ A109
 ♣ AK8632

East	West
1♣ ¹	4♣ ²
4♦ ³	4♥ ⁴
5♣ ⁴	7♣

- 1 = Better minor
- 2 = RKCB (or minorwood –a useful treatment)
- 3 = Surprise!!! 0/3 key cards
- 4 = Not sure what this meant, or what was the answer... but it worked. Opponents landed in the grand slam, and Donkey’s team lost another 13 IMPS. Luck? Luck? Schmluck!

The next board was as exciting. All vuln, dealer South.

Curry ♠ Q103 ♥ AKJ10642 ♦ J ♣ A6	Donkey ♠ K876 ♥ 9853 ♦ A105 ♣ 93
Donkey ♠ A92 ♥ Q7 ♦ KQ8 ♣ K10872	Curry ♠ J54 ♥ - ♦ 976432 ♣ QJ54

Donkey	Curry
1NT	3♥ ¹
3NT	6♥ ²

Donkey’s 1NT opening was a wee bit light, as he trusted he would be dummy. Fat chance! Curry’s 3♥ response had previously been agreed to be weak.

Mind Gym

Donkey heads to greener pastures (cont'd)

However, Donkey pondered the probability of Curry remembering this and if he had, maybe 4♠ was on for E/W. As such, he bid to 3NT and was most surprised by partner's 6♥ bid, which was passed by all.

The spotlight fell to East who led a... diamond. Curry quickly wrapped up 12 tricks after pitching his two losing spades on the winning diamonds. Could the team-mates find the killing spade lead? YES! +14 IMPS. The green shoots of good luck were appearing at last. Would they continue to the next board?

Dealer West, NS vuln.

Curry	♠ K10732		
	♥ 10965		
	♦ 643		
	♣ 9		
♠ 96		♠ AQJ5	
♥ AQ72		♥ KJ84	
♦ KJ7		♦ A92	
♣ K762		♣ A5	
	♠ 84		
	♥ 3		
Donkey	♦ Q1085		
	♣ QJ10843		

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

Double dummy you can see that the K♠ and Q♦ are both onside. So, despite the 4-1 trump break, 7♥ can be made by ruffing a ♠ in dummy. However, most declarers do not have x-ray vision.

Donkey led the Q♣ with all the enthusiasm of a carrot-munching quadruped. Declarer thought for ages, then let it run round to his Ace. Two rounds of trumps brought the news of a bad trump break. The ♠ was finessed and a club played to the K♣ was ruffed by Curry, who then returned his last trump. There was a lot of ♣ discarding from Donkey, as the 4 rounds of ♠ and 3 rounds of ♥ was going on. But Donkey held onto the 8 having dropped the J♣ and 10♣ – more in hope than in expectation. Declarer then claimed that the 7♣ was good, rather than take the diamond finesse. Ooops!... It was a shame for an otherwise excellent declarer. We have all been there and done that at some stage. +14 IMPS and the tide had turned. The grass was greener after all. ♣

Double = trouble!

By Chan Yiu Lin

On the recent Hari Raya game, my partner and I were a little “double-happy” leading to both disastrous and profitable results! Board 11, None vul, dealer S

	♠ 8		
	♥ KQ10		
	♦ KQJ6		
Me	♣ KJ972	Seet	
♠ K65		♠ QJ73	
♥ 982		♥ AJ	
♦ 10975		♦ A32	
♣ 1064		♣ AQ85	
	♠ A10942		
	♥ 76543		
	♦ 84		
	♣ 3		

Me	N	Seet	S
		P	
P	1C	1NT	2H
P	P	X	2S
X	3H	X	All
pass			

To be honest, I was not sure whether partner's first double was take out or penalty, and was pondering whether to bid 2S and hope for the best, or to pass. However, South's 2S bid made it simpler for me and I doubled for penalty. North bid 3H and partner doubled again, which was penalty, for sure. 3HX was the final contract.

Mind Gym

Double = Trouble (cont'd)

Unfortunately, we allowed South to make the contract! Firstly, I should have led trumps, but instead made the bad choice of the 10♦ lead. Partner won with the A♦ and returned a spade, which was won by South. He then ruffed a spade in dummy, played off dummy's K and Q diamonds, discarding a club in hand. He then proceeded to cross ruff clubs to hand, and spades back to dummy several times! It was a case of terrible defence, as we had a number of opportunities to defend correctly and take them down, but instead chose to defend in the only way that allowed them to make it...

Luckily, a while later, this hand cropped up. NS vul, dealer N

♠ 973		Seet	
♥ KQJ2		♠ 64	
♦ Q1062		♥ 7543	
Me	♣ QJ	Seet	♦ J85
♠ AKQ102		♠ 64	♥ 7543
♥ A1098		♥ 7543	♦ J85
♦ 9		♦ J85	♣ 10765
♣ AK8		♣ 10765	
	♠ J85		
	♥ 6		
	♦ AK743		
	♣ 9432		

In most cases, bidding would go 3 passes to a 2C strong opening by W. This could lead to 4H by EW, or for those well disciplined who have a 2nd

negative bid, a lucky 3H contract. Lucky, because, due to the bad trump break, 4H goes down 1. However, our opponents had other ideas, by bidding first.

Me	N	Seet	S
	1C		P
1D			
X	P	1H	2C
2S	3D	P	P
3H	X	3S	P
P	X	P	4C
X	All pass		

I am not quite sure why North did not correct the bid to 4D. We mis-defended again, leading to our opponents going down 3 only. Fortunately, it still resulted in a top board! And so my spirits were high, when this board was dealt.

Dealer N, All vuln			
		♠ KQ3	
Seet		♥ AQ965	
		♦	
		♣ AQJ92	
♠ 1052		♠ 98764	
♥ K3		♥ J107	
♦ KQ107532		♦ A84	
♣ 6		♣ 83	
		♠ AJ	
		♥ 842	
Me		♦ J96	
		♣ K10754	

Me	W	Seet	E
		1H	P
2H	P	3D	P
4H	P	6H	All pass

There was no double or trouble in this hand, but I've included it here, because it's an interesting bidding hand. Our bidding was pretty straight-forward. The 2H raise is constructive, showing 2 to 2.5 cover tricks. Seet's 3D bid is a short suit game try (or in this case, short suit slam try!) As my values were outside diamonds, I went to game, and Seet promptly took us to slam.

Luckily, the trumps break well and the finesse works, enabling 6H to make. The question is how can NS get to a superior slam contract in clubs instead? Even if the heart finesse fails or hearts break badly, 6C is cold. As the cards lie, 7C is always there. Declarer simply throws South's losing heart on the 3rd spade.

Some pairs prefer to use long suit game try. If a 3C bid by North, (after South's 2H raise) shows a second suit, should South raise to 4C? And if so, would subsequent cue bids or RKC asking bids assume that clubs or hearts is the trump suit? Hmm... too many questions and my head is already in a muddle. What a good excuse to sign off! ♣

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER QUIZ by LL Wong the Bridge Guru

I would like to thank Mr. Ang Shen Ting in submitting the solution in September 07 quiz, together with the comparison of his bidding at the table in 6H. However, there are still some missing links... He had submitted quite a few solutions in the past quiz, and even though the answers were not perfect, his persistence and willingness to try are a great asset for improvement. I am sure he will be a great player in a few years time, if he keeps this up!

Moving on to October's quiz – this was a hand played during the 21st Singapore Inter-club Bridge League Open house #11. You are defending a 3NT contract, partner leads 5♠ :

♠ Q6	(dummy)
♥ AK63	
♦ J10	
♣ QJ652	(You)
	♠ J1082
	♥ J872
	♦ 97653
	♣ -

Quite a number of defenders let this contract make when the winning spade suit was blocked and partner's fifth winning spade could not be collected. Play goes as follows:

	W	N	E	S
1)	5♠	Q ♠	?	4♠
2)	7♣	Q♣	x♦	A♣
3)	K♣	2♣	x♦	3♣
4)	A♠	6♠	??	

Follow suit signalling is vital to help in defensive play, together with proper counting. There are many tricks that slip by through faulty signaling and carding. A good defensive player is always a winner in the long run and a most desirable partner. There are three basic signals;

- 1) Attitude - usually high for encouragement and low for discouragement.
- 2) Count - usually low for an odd number of cards and high for even number of cards.
- 3) Suit Preference – this shows like or dislike for a different suit. Usually high for higher ranking suit and low for lower ranking suit.

In general, signals take precedence in this order. More importantly, common sense takes precedence whenever there is a difficult situation.

Assuming the 5♠ lead against 3NT is 4th best, the rule of eleven reveals that declarer has only one card higher than 5. But this is unknown to partner. Therefore some sort

of signaling should be given for partner to make suitable defense when SQ was played by declarer in the first trick. From J1082 holding, these are your options:

- 1) J♠- This encourages partner to continue spades and also helps to unblock the suit. However, it may be misleading, showing the possible holding of J102, J108 or even Jx, where your partner should cease to play spades
- 2) 10♠ would be worst as it denies J and K all together
- 3) 2♠ is a discouraging signal and the wrong count.
- 4) It is therefore the 8♠ that is the best choice of play. it indicates an even number of cards.

Quite a number of players got this right. But when partner got in with the K♣ and played A♠, many dropped 2♠ to complete the count signal. This gives no thought to partner's 4th best lead or the fact that declarer only has one card higher than 5. It is necessary to play the J♠ or 10♠. It does not damage the defence, and unblocks the suit to allow partner to cash the 5th spade. Even if partner thinks you have J108, he/she can play low spade to you, and you still have the 2♠ return. Creativeness is a key factor to become a successful player ♣

NOVEMBER QUIZ

by LL

Wong

This hand was played in the semi final of the Bermuda Bowl 2007 in Shanghai. 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)	(Your Partner)
♠ J10532	♠ 98
♥ KJ65	♥ A73
♦ 83	♦ AQJ9
♣ 108	♣ Q762

How many tricks can be collected by the defenders? Having the unusual advantage of seeing your partner's hand, plan the defence!

Snowball Jackpot Pairs Series #12 - 20

August - 15 October 07

Winner - Wong Chee Wai (Best 5 games with average of 62.48%)

Improvement prize - Chester Chai

The next series of the Snowball Jackpot Pairs is from 22 October to 17 December 2007

Hari Raya Puasa Special Game

13 October 2007 (10 pairs)

1 st	Chan Yiu Lin & Seet Choon Cheng
2 nd	Kimiko Endo & Alan Sia
3 rd	Holey Chan & Chan Kheong Sann

Double 8 Senior Pairs

20 October 2007 (9 pairs)

1 st	CK Toh & Seet Choon Cheng
2 nd	HS Ho & Romulus Tham
3 rd	Foo Yoke Lan & Liu I Nan



CK Toh & Seet with Dr Catherine Ang

League Cup 2007

Champion	Friends of Sheep
Runners up	X-Men
3 rd place	Bukit Timah CC A
4 th place	SCBA B
Joint 5 th	Bridge Bears and NUS B
Joint 7 th	Blue Moon and Bozzetto (Argento)
Swiss Consolation 1 st	Hwa Chong Alumni

A big thanks to the League Organising Committee members: Jackie Ang (Secretary/ Manager, League), Derrick Heng (Tournament Director/ Manager League Cup and Rules and Regulations), Steve Robinson (Tournament Director/ Manager, Swiss Consolations/ Asst Chief Tournament Director), lam Ze Ying (Manager, Publicity & Marketing/ Souvenirs & Prizes), Jane Choo (Chief Tournament Director) and Fabian Tan (Manager, Tournament Website/ Logistics). Appreciation also goes to Lilio Ho and Yoke Lan Foo for their kind support and assistance, and to BUKIT Timah CC, NUS, NUSS, Tanglin Club and SICC for opening their premises for the Open Houses. See page 8 for full League results. Visit www.bridgeleague.net for 2008 registration

NOV 2007 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>			1	2 <i>PABF Simultaneous Pairs</i> \$8 per member, \$11 per guest, \$5 per student • 7.30pm	3	4	
	5	6	7	8 <i>Deepavali Special Game</i> \$5 per member; \$7 per guest; \$2 per student • 9.30am	9	10 <i>HS Ho Championships</i> \$160 per team • 2.30pm	11 <i>HS Ho Championships</i>
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>SRC Open Pairs</i> \$22 per person Venue: SRC Lounge 1883 • 1.30pm
	26	27	28	29	30 <i>SCBA EGM</i> Free for members • 7.30pm		

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 PABF Simultaneous Pairs \$8 per member, \$11 per guest, \$5 per student • 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 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

Weekly Games @ Bridge Clubs

- CHINESE SWIMMING CLUB @ Amber Road**
Saturday 2.30 pm
- 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

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	9871 2762 Lilio@scba.org.sg

SCBA, 51 Bishan St 13 #01-01
 Tel: +65 6356 8540 Fax: +65 6259 7832
scbabishan@yahoo.com.sg www.scba.org.sg