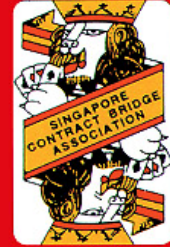


Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

November 08 • 16 pages

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

Here are the upcoming games for the PABF Simultaneous Pairs, for the next 6 months (November 2008 – April 2009)

Friday 7 November 08
Friday 5 December 08
Friday 2 January 09
Friday 6 March 09
Friday 3 April 09

Each game starts at 7.30pm at SCBA Bishan Club house

Make a date in your diaries!

An experience to remember

To be honest, the couple of months have gone by in pretty much of a blur for me. It has been super busy at work, and made even more busy by me taking a week off to play in the World Mind Sports Games, a highlight of my bridge experience to date.

Despite the fact that I've felt like a chicken without my head on for quite some while, this one week in Beijing has been a wonderful and memorable experience, albeit quite a stressful one! The Ladies team got off to a good start and so the pressure was on to keep within the top five within our category, which we managed to do. Seet and I had the honour to play against Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim from Germany, who are currently ranked as #1 and #2 in the world,

for women players! (And yes, we did get thrashed by them, in a disgraceful 4:25 ☹) So check out an extensive contribution from my team mate, Ze Ying from p.7-11, to see some of the highs and lows from Beijing.

Our other regular contributions from Donkey, and LL Wong are equally enjoyable. As we have now come to the end of the 2008 Interclub League, visit the Glory Gallery to see the winning teams. In addition, everyone is bound to be watching the Bid it Right competition leader board closely, as we have reached out 8th competition and best 8 out of 12 count!

Yiu Lin
Editor Bridging SCBA ♣

In October, the 22nd Singapore Inter-Club League officially ended, after 7 months. Our national players also returned from the 1st Beijing World Mind Sports Games with experience and stories to share. Let me recap some of the latest Bridge news:

1. 22nd Singapore Inter-Club League 2008

30 teams in 3 divisions have been playing their hearts out since April to vie for the top positions, promotion and to avoid relegation. Friends of Sheep were the new champions of 1st Division, while The Bridge Bears won the League Cup. There was excitement and drama in the last Open House, especially in the 3rd division, after 2 teams were disqualified for conceding walkovers for 2 or more matches. SRC Dreamers eventually piped Bukit Timah CC (C) to win the 3rd division. The League Organising Committee intends to move the League next year forward from mid-March till September, to avoid clashes with school examinations. The League will also be more compact with shorter intervals between Open Houses. This hopefully will increase the excitement and suspense, and players' participation, who previously could not commit for so long.

2. 1st Beijing World Mind Sports Games (WMSG) in Beijing

SCBA sent 4 teams to the inaugural WMSG – Open, Ladies, U28 and U21. Together with International Chess, Xiangqi and Weiqi, all 4 events were competed at the highest level equivalent to the Olympics.

I congratulate the Ladies Team for their outstanding achievements in this world-class event. Captained by Seet CC, Jane Choo, Greta Chai, Lan Foo, Ze Ying and Yiu Lin overcame all odds and qualified for the round of 16 out of 54 competing nations. Many of these were professional and semi-professional players. Singapore was the only Asian country to qualify besides China. Unfortunately, we were knocked out by England, the eventual winners, in that round. Incidentally, England also beat China in the Finals. I wonder whether our dream run could have continued to the quarter- or semi-finals if we had played the knock out round against any other team but England.

3. SCBA Committee

The Committee has an extremely busy quarter ahead. From end of October onwards, the SCBA Committee will be

working hard to plan our annual Budget and then submit our grant application to the Singapore Sports Council (SSC). The quality of our proposed Budget effectively determines how much subsidy SCBA will get next year, amongst the other 58 National Sports Associations.

4. SCBA weekly games

We had previously intended to increase the weekly games fees by \$1 from November 08 onwards to match inflation and our rising utility bills. However, with the current financial and economic crisis, we will delay this increase indefinitely. We will await the impact and outcome of the economy and absorb the rising costs till further notice.

So, please continue to support our weekly games. Without your support, they are not as fun or exciting. Without SCBA, you will also not have a convenient venue and organizer for future Bridge events and tournaments. I look forward eagerly to your continuous support and participation in our weekly games and our tournaments. We value your presence and hope to hear your suggestions on how to improve.

Thank you. ♣

Horse or bourses

Donkey arrived panting and late for the head to head match against the Welsh sheep lovers. The opponents graciously accepted his apologies and all hurriedly drew their cards for the first board with barely a 'hello, how are the Welsh mountains?' To describe the match as carnage would be an understatement. There was so much blood that it would make the average sheep abattoir seem like a show home. The first half the Sheep fanciers were 71-0 up with only one board being a push. This hand is symbolic of the type of decision that was causing the problems.

Love all, Dealer East

	♠ Q5	Vet
	♥ A	
	♦ KQJ109732	
♠ K973	♣ 72	♠ J64
♥ KJ952		♥ Q108
♦ A		♦ 65
♣ KQ9	♠ A1082	♣ J10654
	♥ 7643	
	♦ 84	
	♣ A83	Donkey

E	Donkey	W	The Vet
P	P	1♥	4♦
All pass			

by Donkey

East's pass was unduly quick and Donkey's, unduly slow. So West decided against the normal-looking re-opening double. It is usually right to add one for the road when you have two aces opposite partner's overcall. However, here the strict pre-empting rule non-vulnerable is that you should have 3 tricks fewer than you call (i.e. 7) and 7 is what the Vet possessed. The lead was an imaginative, but unfortunate, J♠, ducked to the K♠ and ♠ was returned. After winning in hand, the Vet played a top diamond, won by West and back came a 3rd ♠. The Vet ruffed high and claimed. At the other table, North chose to sacrifice in 5♦ and was doubled. It looks like any lead (except the J♠) followed by (the obvious?) ♣ switch defeats the contract. Alas, this was not found and 9 of the 71 IMPs have been accounted for.

EW Vul, Dealer East

	♠ QJ96	Vet
	♥ 1092	
	♦ Q53	
Sofa	♣ Q106	Harpoon
♠ AK74		♠ 10832
♥ KQ875		♥ A6
♦ 2		♦ AJ7
♣ A94	♠ 5	♣ K752
	♥ J43	
	♦ K109864	
	♣ J83	Donky

Harpoon	Donkey	Sofa	Vet
1♣	3♦	X	5♦
X	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	All pass		

Sofa's action not to bid 3♥ and then to bid 5NT – (which was “pick a slam”) was aggressive after the warning negative double of 5♦. However this is what happened:

Donkey thought for a while about a normal ♦ lead but remembered a Hackett Bols tip and led his singleton. Harpoon gave the hand some considerable thought and decided that since there was at least 1♣ loser, he had to pitch two losing spades and ruff two diamonds. Thus, the only line, needed clubs 3-3 and hearts 3-3 i.e. the slam makes only around 10% of the time. Unfortunately, both clubs and hearts broke favourably. Another 12 IMPs out.

"This is just like the stock market investments" complained Donkey. "Perhaps Bourses are not for horses after all" countered the Vet in a rare moment of dark humour. "Isn't the expression 'horses for courses'?" pondered a confused donkey. Donkey wondered whether the scary prophesy in Exodus 9:3 had arrived - "the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your **horses** and donkeys and camels and on your cattle and sheep and goats." ♣

SOLUTION TO SEPT QUIZ

by LL Wong

Before proceeding to the solution, I'd first like to thank Mr Tan Peiyi for submitting Sept's solution from overseas, during his examination period! Despite this, he managed to conclude that the JD should be played early, the only one to do so, apart from Ms Seet, who did it at the bridge table. Now onto October's solution. You are in 3NT, after hearing a 1♠ opening bid by RHO. Lead is small ♠, and RHO plays Q♠.

♠ 7	
♥ 963	
♦ AJ1094	West (dummy)
♣ QJ105	
♠ K109	
♥ AQ852	East
♦ K	
♣ A642	

Chances are RHO will have most of the HCPs, but lack of entry is the main concern. One person suggested cashing A♣, hoping for a single king to drop, and then finesse the ♥ suit. This will give 4C, 2D, 1S and 2H if the ♥ finesse works. Mr Trevor Li came up with another possibility where RHO has 7 card spade, AQJxxxx and to make the contract, you need to duck the first spade. Mr Zain also had some thoughts of using the AD as

entry to do a club and heart finesse, together with a squeeze in diamonds, where the club suit provides all entries. But obviously favourable distribution is needed. At the table, this is what CC Loo did.

Trick 1: small ♠ lead to RHO Q♠. Declarer wins with K♠.

Trick 2: Declarer plays 10♠! LHO wins with the J♠. RHO plays 3♠. LHO now has a problem – does declarer have K1092? Is partner's 3♠ showing count? He switched to hearts, to avoid "establishing" declarer's last spade.

Trick 3: LHO played 10♥, small from dummy, 4♥ from RHO and a smooth duck of 5♥ from declarer. This convinced LHO that hearts were the suit to attack and he continued with K♥. The rest was history as CC Loo made 3NT+2 with a squeeze. The full hand was:

	♠ 7	Donkey	
	♥ 963		
	♦ AJ1094		
	♣ QJ105		
♠ J8		♠ AQ6532	
♥ KJ10		♥ 74	
♦ 8762		♦ Q53	
♣ 987	♠ K109	♣ K3	
	♥ AQ852		
	♦ K		
	♣ A642		

This is an example of the "never say die" attitude. Question: Would you show count in your long/ bid suit holding? If so, when do you show it? ♣

NOVEMBER QUIZ

After hearing this exciting bidding, how would you solve the play?

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

- 1 – Both minors, 5:5 distribution
- 2 – long spade suit, good hand
- 3 – Cue bid
- 4/5 – RKC (in hearts). Response – 2 keycards with QH
- 6/7 – King asking. Response – no king

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

Lead is Q♦. Remember, LHO has shown 5:5 in the minors. Plan the play ♣

Bid It Right

BID IT RIGHT! October #8

by Derek Maggs

1. Teams: You are Non Vul vs Vul

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
P	P	1♣ ¹	P
?			

♠ 8632
♥ A
♦ AJ9875
♣ 105

1♦ = 10; 1♠ = 7; 2♦ = 5; Others = 2

1 May be short

2. Teams: You are Non Vul vs. Vul

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
P	P	1♦	X
XX	P	P	1♥
P	P	X	P
P	?		

♠ K4
♥ 103
♦ K10875
♣ J876

2♣ = 10; 1NT = 7; Pass = 3; Others 1

Do you agree with the auction?

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

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

♠ -
♥ 87
♦ KQJ1084
♣ KQJ64

3♣ = 10, 4♣ = 9; Dbl = 5; Others = 2

4. Teams: Both Vuln.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
P	1NT	P	2♦
X	2♥ ¹	3♦	?

♠ A972
♥ QJ1043
♦ 10
♣ 1043

Dbl = 10; 3♠ / 4♥ = 9; 3♥ = 5; P = 3; Others = 2

1. Guarantees 3 card support

David Law and a guest four-legged herbivore are this week's panelists – I guess Beijing took care of the rest. All hands are from recent league and cup matches in Singapore.

Problem 1

I include this just to discuss a matter of style. Some people play Walsh where you strain to show a 4 card Major rather than show your ♦ after a 1♣ opening. Indeed 1♠ was the response at the table and this led to a ♦ lead against 3NT. The question for the Walshites is, what do you bid after partner rebids 1NT. How do you know whether to pass or bid ♦s or try for game in NT? Here one table played in 3NT – unlucky not to make and the other in 3♦ both after a Walsh response that neither side claimed to be playing!

Problem 2

This is an every day problem in many respects. If you pass, as was chosen with disastrous consequences at the table what do you expect from partner. Even if the opener is light and the redoubler has a bare 10 partner can't be showing a hand too strong to overcall 1♥. 1NT may well work but 2♣ looks better – maybe, as one remarked, this should have been your bid last time around rather than wait in the hope

of showing ♦'s. Though there is some chance of ♦'s being your side's best fit I suppose.

Problem 3.

OK so the match was not going well and the opponents are vulnerable but... It is rarely right to make a balancing double with a void in opponents suit. Here it was a disaster as 2♠ doubled is unbeatable but so is 5♦ your way. 3♣ may not get you there which is why I score 4♣ almost as high though this runs a small risk that partner has no real fit and a ♠ stack. Indeed at the other table the result was 4♦ +1 so 6 IMPs went begging and instead there was a loss of 13.

Problem 4.

At teams this is a judgment decision that at the table I thought was obvious but on reflection there are several things one can do on this auction. I particularly like David's suggested invitational double as this keeps all options open including a penalty. Here partner would no doubt bid 3♠ as he has 5 of them and offers an alternative game protecting his ♦ honour. Just punting game in ♥ is enough and those who choose 3♠ also strike gold. The losers on this occasion are the timid toads who pass or bid only 3♥ – partner has no reason to raise this as you could be and should be showing a weak-ish 6 card suit.

Bid it right! (cont'd)

It was a walkover for David amongst this month's panelists with the herbivore at least getting second spot. Thank you David for your insight... Also thanks to the respondents who are giving good insight into their thinking behind some of the bids. Looking at the leader board may be deceptive as most of our leaders have or are fast approaching their 8th entry and only the best 8 of 12 count so there is still time to enter.

Leader board	Total
Fabian Tan	243
Zain Moledina	218
LL Wong	200
Ang Shen Ting	195
Kelvin Ng	183
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.

November's Bid it right!

1. Teams: You are Vul vs. Non Vul

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
	P	2♥ ¹	P
?	♠ A	♥ AJ3	♦ 9872
	♥ AKJ43	♣ AKJ43	

¹ 6 card suit weak

2. Teams: You are both Vul.

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
P	P	P	1♦
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3♣
P	?	♠ A763	♥ AQ3
		♦ 75	♣ QJ76

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

RHO	Partner	LHO	You
	1♦	P	1♥
P	2♠	P	?
	♠ 6	♥ AKQ87	♦ -
	♣ 9876543		

4. Teams: Both Vuln.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♦ ¹	4♥	P	?
	♠ Q5	♥ A3	♦ 6543
	♣ AK853		

¹ - Weak 2 in Diamonds

BEIJING BRIDGE AWARDS - (the men don't get it)

My participation in the 1st World Mind Sports Games (WMSG), in Beijing from 4-11 October (Qualifying + Round of 16) is probably the most article-worthy in my young bridging years. Thus I write to share some of the highlights in the Women's Teams. As usual, this article represents my opinion, with the purpose to entertain and the hope to educate - no malice or criticism/intended.

1. BEST PERFORMING SINGAPORE TEAM

Undoubtedly the Women's Team - if numbers say anything - having an average 16.234 VP (for 17 matches in Qualifying), finished 5th in Section G. The WBF website recorded our ranking as 9th out of 54 teams, making us 2nd in Asia (after China). I acknowledge my partner, Foo Yoke Lan, my playing captain - Seet Choon Cheng, my teammates - Jane Choo, Greta Chai and Chan Yiu Lin, for putting on possibly our best so far. Thanks to everyone for playing, participating and contributing to these highs and lows.

2. MOST HIGH MOMENT

Winning all the six matches in the first two days was an euphoric experience. To me, it was just miraculous. The opponents were Sweden, New Zealand, South Africa, Latvia, Turkey and Pakistan. Amongst them, Sweden and Turkey finished 3rd and 4th respectively,

ahead of us in our section. Turkey went all the way to Semi-Finals, before they lost to England.

3. WORST BALANCING ACT

These two have to tie.

Board 1:

E	Partner	W	Me
1C	X	1S	P
2C	P	P	2D ¹
3C	3D ²	P	P
4C	P	P	P ³

1. "Too cheap to let them play 2C..." (Actually I was holding a pittance 4HCP with 3343, in Chinese they say, why so "kan bu kai"? - loosely translated, do you need to be so uptight about it?)
2. Still didn't push them enough.



By ZY Lam, the sassy queen

3. Upon seeing the wonderful dummy.. TGYB ("Thank God You Passed!")

Result = 4C + 2 to the opponents (Note: 5C is cold, 6C is makable; Teammates bid to 5C.)

Board 2:

E	Partner	W	Me
1♣	P	1♠	2♥
P ¹	P	3♦	P
P ²	3♥ ³	4♠ ⁴	P ⁵

1. Denies 3 card spades
 2. I am not sure why East (Nevena Senior) passed West's (Heather Dhondy) 3D. Perhaps she expected partner to double with a GF hand, or holding ♠3, ♥J864, ♦A9, ♣AQ10542 she envisaged a misfit hand. For me, 3D is forcing - because it's a new suit at the 3rd level. Well, they turned out to be the Champions, so maybe what do I know...
 3. "Hmm.. Can't let them play in 3D. I will support partner with ♥Ax."
 4. TGYB - Thank God you bid. She was holding ♠KJ852, ♥5, ♦KT542, ♣9
 5. Speechless.
- Result - 4S contract

BEIJING BRIDGE AWARDS (cont'd)

4. MOST UNREWARDING PLAY

An uncontested auction ended in 4S. LHO led DA and continued with a spade (best defence). The hands were:

♠ A
 ♥ KQxxx
 ♦ QJxxx
 ♣ xx

♠ KQJxxx
 ♥ x
 ♦ x
 ♣ AKJ9x

Having to avoid two ♣ losers, declarer analysed the situation:

1. If ♣ are 3-3, always home
2. If ♣ are 4-2, they could be:
 - a) Q10xx with LHO - always down
 - b) Q and 10 split - if you play small ♣ to J, you make the contract, when LHO holds any of these: 10xxx or 10x or Qxx. However, it goes down when LHO has Qx (as you need to lose another trick to RHO's 10xxx).

However if you play AK club, you only lose when RHO has Q10xx. Declarer figured that the occurrence of LHO having Qx is higher than RHO having QTxx, so played a club to her Ace, pulled trumps before continuing clubs. Alas! RHO turned out to have QTxx. A blind finesse would have proved rewarding.

5. BEST DEFENSE AWARD (OR ARGUABLY, WORST PLAY AWARD?)

	Dummy	
	♠ J52	
	♥ K764	
	♦ AJ85	
	♣ KQ	
LHO		RHO
♠ A10		♠ Q9643
♥ J1082		♥ Q95
♦ K942		♦ Q3
♣ 762		♣ AJ5
	Declarer	
	♠ K87	
	♥ A3	
	♦ 1076	
	♣ 109843	

Dummy opened 1D, RHO overcalled 1S, Declarer bid 1NT, and all passed. J♥ lead. How do you play?

Declarer played small from table, her RHO played ♥9 and took with her K in hand. She next played a club to K, RHO took her Ace and returned Q♥. Declarer played small and took with A♥ in table (better to have ducked). Now, declarer played one round of clubs and thought for a long time before she played small diamond from table to her 10. RHO played small on this trick and LHO took with DK.

Having expected declarer to play a spade

after her long thought, LHO figured partner must have ♦Qx. LHO cashed her winning hearts and returned ♦. Declarer misguessed* by playing small. RHO won with her ♦Q, cashed her J♣ and returned a small ♠. Declarer went up with K♠, taken by A♠. LHO returned 10 ♠ and declarer made another mistake by covering with J♠! RHO had the last relish of winning with her Q♣, cashing the rest of her winning spades. EW made 10 tricks and a handsome +400. (Incidentally, we were sitting EW)

*Upon collecting her cards to put back into the slot, Declarer asked Dummy if she agreed that LHO made a pause and thought before she played K♦ at trick 9. Dummy said she agreed and the TD was summoned.

Declarer told TD that LHO paused for "very long" before the K♦ was played. In her opinion, the only reason why LHO could be thinking was because she had both the K and Q of diamonds. This misled her to play small when LHO returned diamond after cashing hearts. LHO explained that there was a pause but wasn't very long. Her reason for thinking was that the play had gone out of tempo, due to declarer's long thinking prior to that trick. LHO had expected a spade play, so she was thinking why declarer played a diamond to her ten instead. LHO was also thinking of what to return next.

BEIJING BRIDGE AWARDS (cont'd)

Dummy said that defenders should have thought ahead, so that was an invalid explanation. LHO said it wasn't fair to expect everybody to behave like top players (incidentally, the opponents are the eventual Women Champions Catherine Draper and Anne Rosen from England). LHO then asked declarer to quantify what was "very long". Declarer said it was ten seconds and dummy agreed. LHO said it was at most 3 seconds. TD said he would come back with a ruling, thus leaving us thinking if the +400 will be in our bag or not?

Before the start of the next set, the TD came to speak to LHO privately, that upon his consultation, no one in reality will duck the DT, no matter what holding, and thus England gained nothing. However, TD said that to avoid similar future happenings, do not think longer than necessary, and even if you are thinking of what to return next, you can do so after winning the trick first.

In my opinion, what declarer did was a lame attempt to justify her atrocious play (22 other players were in 1NT with a heart lead. One made the contract, 9 went down 1 trick and 9 went down 2 tricks, 2 went down 3 tricks and only 1 went down 4 tricks).

However, less experienced players (such as we Singaporeans) could be easily affected emotionally by such events in the course of a match, and opponents could gain an edge then after. In this scenario, LHO was suitably agitated to make an "out-of-her-mind" take-out double in the next board, resulting in -300. So, if you think bridge is just about cards and technicality, think again. A lot of swings are actually emotional, and we need to learn to control our emotions at the table. Anyway, one may win, but what will really call for respect is sportsmanship.

6. MOST IMPOSSIBLE AUCTION

S	W	N	E
P	P	P	1♠
P	2♥	P	3♠
P	3♠	P	?!!

East wondered if she should bid 3S again and if anyone would notice something amiss. Then she couldn't contain her laughter. Even if you argue that pulling out a wrong bidding card is common, the fact that we are playing in a tournament with screen means South accepted West's 3S bid before she pushed the bidding tray over, and North accepted West's 3S bid by her PASS. The oblivion is what made this auction ludicrous.

7. MOST SARCASTIC REMARK

My heart sank as I saw my dummy:

♠ QJx
 ♥ xx
 ♦ AKx
 ♣ KQJxx

The bidding had gone:

LHO	Partner	RHO	Me
1NT	X	2♠	X
3♠	P	P	?

Holding

♠ x
 ♥ AKT9x
 ♦ JTxxx
 ♣ xx

I decided to bid 4♥ (a bad bid, in my opinion. The key here is for partnerships to discuss if X after 3S is penalty or otherwise. Even the first X over 2S is questionable.)

My LHO, Nevena Senior, England, asked me what was my initial double and my 4♥ bid after. I said double was for take-out, and I thought was a more flexible bid that if partner has spades, maybe we would defend 2SX and my 4♥ bid was to play.

BEIJING BRIDGE AWARDS (cont'd)

However, upon seeing the dummy, she asked in writing what are the differences if I had bid:

- i) 3♥ over 2♠
- ii) 4♥ over 2♠
- iii) X over 2♠ and rebid 4♥

I was taken aback by the specificity of the questions - It was almost as good as asking me to write my hand for her. I wasn't sure how to answer these, and at the same time making sure that the answers correspond to what my hand was. So I repeated my earlier answers. She was not satisfied and called the TD, saying that I didn't understand her questions and perhaps we need a translator here. TD asked her translator to what language, and she said (or should I use "smirked" or "sneered"), "I don't know! Maybe Singaporean? Ha."

TD asked if I understood her questions, I said yes. I was asked to write my answers for what she asked. So I wrote, i) forcing, ii) to play, iii) take-out and to play. Surprisingly, that did the job. Anyway, lesson learnt: i) Discuss with partner what these bids mean; ii) The rights to ask questions as specific as these (where previously I thought defenders are supposed to figure these out). lii) And perhaps to have retorted, "Excuse me, Mrs Senior, our first language in Singapore is English."

8. MOST GRACIOUS OPPONENT

Thank god you also meet wonderful people like Orsolya Hedegus from Hungary. Her graciousness is etched in my memory, and others that returned smiles or acknowledged your presence after you met them at the table. Ms Hedegus was one of the few opponents who returned the Bridgemate gadget, placing it facing me, opposed to others who just pressed "OK" and left the gadget as it is. I believe small things make the biggest difference. (BridgeMate is an electronic recording system whereby Norths have to key in contract details and Easts have to "OK" the information. Results are updated instantly.

9. MOST SICK MOMENT

It was actually not when I had to play between stuffing tissue paper into my nostrils to stop the leak in the last Qualifying match against Mexico, and defending this hand through blurred mind and eyes:

	Dummy
	♠ xx
	♥ x
	♦ Qxxxx
	♣ Jxxxx
My hand	
♠ QT	
♥ immaterial	
♦ immaterial	
♣ AKQx	

Defending 4♠X, I led CA and returned 10 ♠ (best defence). For some reason I thought I didn't have the Q♣. After declarer won the ♠ return, she played another ♣ towards dummy's Jxxx. I rationalised - if partner has Qx, she will win this trick. If partner doesn't have Q, she will ruff.. so I played small!. Declarer called for the the J, and my eyes almost popped out when partner followed low.

Yes, this was sickening, but the most sick moments were watching our teammates being slaughtered 4-25 by Germany, as well as playing and losing 11-19 in the second last Qualifying match against Morocco. Both times our ranking dropped to 8th. In the latter, with only one more match to go, we had to be 5th to qualify. It's akin to the feeling when I see the Straits Times Index plunging nowadays. Pure sickness in the stomach.

10. MOST SINFUL LEAD

	♠ AT532	
	♥ AKT93	
	♦ A3	
	♣ 6	
My hand		Partner
♠ Q		♠ 94
♥ 65		♥ Q8
♦ QJT652		♦ 987
♣ 9854		♣ AKJT32
	North	
	♠ KJ876	
	♥ J742	
	♦ K4	
	♣ Q7	

BEIJING BRIDGE AWARDS (cont'd)

I opened 3♦, 4♦ by S, 5♦ by partner, 5♠ by N and 6♠ by S. My lousy 6♥ lead resulted in Q♥ dropped and +1430 very quickly. In the closed room, my teammate chose to finesse hearts, as her RHO opened 3C. It was a painful loss of 17imps.

11. MOST ENCOURAGING SMS

"You will be there. Be confident and calm." You may laugh it off, or say it's corny, but the team appreciated it. Special thanks to Mr LL Wong, who has coached us previously for his SMS to our team on the last day of Qualifying. Also thanks to all who sms-ed to congratulate, encourage, and wish well in the course of play. It's touching to know that Singaporeans cared.

12. MOST TOUCHING MOMENT

I was blown away by the fact that we made a possibility possible. The people who shared this moment with me know that it has to be when we, the Singaporean Women Team, made it to the Round of 16 - a perfect ten moment on 10 October 2008. Big deal - it's not as if we won the Games. But YES, it's a BIG DEAL for me. I know we didn't win the Games, but I would still cherish the moment of elation as mine. Lastly, I write with regret that we did not go beyond the Round of 16. However, I think the 4 of us who played know on hindsight that it was possible to have gone beyond that. Thus we know it's the next possibility we will make possible in future♣

Hari Raya Puasa Special Game

- 1 October 2008 (10 pairs)
- 1st Thomas Goh & Nancy Goh
- 2nd Foo Yoke Lan & Emily Hee
- 3rd Alan Sia & M Hata

Deepavali Special Game

- 27 October 2008 (20 teams)
- 1st Jason Chew & Sophia Yong
- Joint 2nd Franciska Ho & Ng Chun Tat
- Joint 2nd Foo Yoke Lan & Liu I Nan

Double '8' Senior Pairs

- 18 October 2008 (36 pairs)
- North South**
- 1st Reiko Teo & Alan Sia
- 2nd Trevor Li & Christopher Gregory
- 3rd JJ Murugasu & Kelvin Ng
- East West**
- 1st LL Wong & Kelvin Seah
- 2nd KT Liao & Wong Chee Wai
- 3rd David Chew & Gu Wenle

Singapore Interclub Bridge League 2008
5th League Cup

1st	\$ 300	The Bridge Bears
2nd	\$ 250	Bozzetto (Azzurro)
3rd	\$ 200	Bozzetto (Argento)
4th		Friends of Sheep
Joint 5th		NUSS (Red)
		SICC (Red)
Joint 7th		X-Men
		Blue Moon
Swiss 1st	\$ 50	SRC Dreamers
Swiss 2nd		D'Rakes
Swiss 3rd		SCBA (B)
		Bukit Timah CC (C)

See next page for scoring details

League Updates



Division 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Adj	Total	Rank						
1 The Bridge Bears		15	1	19	25	19	23	10	25	24		161	3						
		69	66	23	110	66	42	123	25	55	34	126	77	53	80	129	30	92	40
2 Bozzetto (Azzurro)	15		7	14	25	3	24	16	19	14		137	4						
	66	69		24	73	64	73	91	19	?	?	98	47	68	60	91	68	57	67
3 Friends of Sheep	25	23		6	19	21	23	24	22	19		182	1						
	110	23	73	24		40	92	69	46	67	35	79	33	90	38	98	55	58	33
4 SCBA (B)	11	16	24		8	9	14	3	25	25		135	5						
	42	66	73	64	92	40		19	60	40	74	52	57	11	83	87	22	72	16
5 Bukit Timah CC (A)	0	3	11	22		14	23	13	19	17		122	7						
	25	123	19	91	46	69	60	19		59	64	101	56	67	78	90	68	55	42
6 NUSS (Red)	11	25	9	21	16		22	3	8	16		131	6						
	34	55	?	?	35	67	74	40	64	59		77	34	33	102	58	98	57	47
7 X-Men	7	6	7	16	7	8		10	16	7		84	9						
	77	126	47	98	33	79	57	52	56	101	34	77		61	90	91	86	43	92
8 Bozzetto (Argento)	20	14	6	25	17	25	20		19	25		167	2						
	80	53	60	68	38	90	83	11	78	67	102	33	90	61		45	23	121	43
9 Bell	0	11	8	4	11	22	14	11		3		84	9						
	30	129	68	91	55	98	22	87	68	90	98	58	86	91	23	45		17	87
10 Hwa Chong Alumni	6	16	11	5	13	14	23	2	25			115	8						
	40	92	67	57	33	58	16	72	42	55	47	57	92	43	43	121	87	17	

Division 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Adj	Total	Rank						
1 NUS (A)		10	3	20	21	23	10	10	10	16		120	7						
		28	57	36	104	74	45	72	42	69	29	27	53	33	60	27	54	79	72
2 NTU Staff	20		20	14	20	25	14	9	9	21		152	2						
	57	28		73	48	59	64	56	30	115	9	69	76	52	82	38	69	82	49
3 Blue Moon	25	10		17	22	16	17	8	11	25		151	3						
	104	36	48	73		50	36	75	39	56	48	75	61	26	64	52	74	96	1
4 SICC (Red)	10	16	13		18	25	19	9	16	17		143	4						
	45	74	64	59	36	50		58	43	87	32	64	44	49	81	66	60	57	45
5 D'Rakes	9	10	8	12		21	5	14	18	8		105	9						
	42	72	30	56	39	75	43	58		W	O	67	120	55	63	66	50	37	74
6 NTU (A)	7	0	14	5	0		10	8	14	10		67	10						
	29	69	9	115	48	56	32	87	W	O		39	64	40	79	45	52	71	96
7 Bozzetto (Rosso)	20	16	13	11	25	20		1	18	18		142	5						
	53	27	76	69	61	75	44	64	120	67	64	39		101	14	49	33	64	48
8 Saniva	20	21	22	21	16	22	25		23	25		195	1						
	60	33	82	52	64	26	81	49	63	55	79	40	14	101		73	28	134	23
9 Congenital Optimists	20	21	19	14	12	16	12	7		8		129	6						
	54	27	69	38	74	52	60	66	50	66	52	45	33	49	28	73		24	60
10 NUS (B)	14	9	0	13	22	20	12	0	22			112	8						
	72	79	49	82	1	96	45	57	74	37	96	71	48	64	23	134	60	24	

Division 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Adj	Total	Rank				
1 NUSS (Blue)		16	10	14	25	9	23	23		120	3				
		58	49	30	56	48	52	93	31	42	76	70	28	57	14
2 Bukit Timah CC (B)	14		24	6	25	0	17	19		102	4				
	49	58		80	29	25	74	94	8	11	140	43	30	83	61
3 NTU (B)	20	6		0	25	3	17	12		83	6				
	56	30	29	80		14	143	103	30	11	82	52	38	45	63
4 Bukit Timah CC (C)	16	24	25		25	16	25	16		147	2				
	52	48	74	25	143	14		123	21	55	47	89	5	69	65
5 RJC	4	1	2	0		8	7	12		33	8				
	31	93	8	94	30	103	21	123		38	73	49	92	55	74
6 SRC Dreamers	21	25	25	14	22		25	18		150	1				
	76	42	140	11	82	11	47	55	73	38		85	30	74	56
7 Japan Club	7	13	13	1	23	5		20		82	7				
	28	70	30	43	38	52	5	89	92	49	30	85		69	41
8 NUS (C)	7	11	18	14	18	12	10			87	5				
	14	57	61	83	63	45	65	69	74	55	56	74	41	69	

Thank you to our Interclub Sponsors



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November 2008 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>					1	<p>SGCC Bridge President's Cup 2 Venue: SGCC, \$25 per guest • 1.00pm</p>	
	3	4	5	6	<p>PABF Simultaneous Pairs 7 \$12 a member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student • 7.30pm</p>	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	<p>HS Ho Team Challenge 15 15-16 Nov \$160 per team • 2.30pm</p>	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	<p>SJCBL X'mas Pairs 25 \$30 a guest • 9.00am Venue: Japan Club</p>	26	27	28	29	30

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>30th 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				

