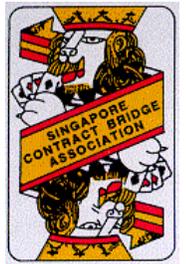


Media release – for immediate release



Top bridge talents flock to Singapore for ASEAN championships

Singapore – From 9 to 13 December 2006, some 300 regional bridge players will be competing in Singapore, at the **Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships**. This event will attract top regional bridge competitors from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as international players from Australia, Japan, the U.K. and as far as the Netherlands. The categories in the championships are Open pairs, Open Teams, Mixed Teams, Ladies Teams and Youth Teams. The Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships is organised by the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA), the national bridge association in Singapore.

This bridge tournament comes hot on the heels of Singapore’s first international poker tournament, demonstrating the region’s growing interest towards skilled card games. For the first time for the ASEAN Championships, cash prizes will be given out, totalling S\$8,000. However, participants will be competing for more than money, as the prestige and honour of being ranked first within ASEAN remains priceless.

“We are grateful to Saniva International, who through their sponsorship, have allowed us to offer prize money for the first time, for the ASEAN bridge championships. This has helped to attract some of the best bridge players here. We also thank the Singapore Sports Council, for their support for SCBA’s efforts,” said Mr Stephen Robinson, President of the Singapore Contract Bridge Association. “Through events like this, our local players are able to compete against some of the top bridge minds in the world. This will stand us in good stead, when bridge becomes recognised as an Olympic Mind Sport event, which is set to happen in 2008 in Beijing.”

Singapore players have been making waves on the international bridge circuit recently. The Singapore Youth team (Junior level) won the gold medal at the 2006 Pacific Asia Bridge Federation Youth Championships held in June 2006 and the bronze medal at the 11th World Youth Team Championships, held in July/ August 2006. The anchor pair, Poon Hua and Loo Choon Chou ranked first among over 44 other pairs, at the World Youth event.

Top-ranking international bridge players who will be participating at the Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships include:

- Taufik Asbi (Indonesia) - World International Master
- Henky Lasut (Indonesia) - World Life Master
- Terje Lie (Netherlands)
- Edy Manoppo (Indonesia) - World life master , Waluyan World International Master
- Bobby Richmond (Australia) - World International master, 2nd in Verona World Bridge Championships 2006 IMP pairs

- Denny Sacul (Indonesia) – World Life Master
- Elly Schippers (Netherlands) - Ladies World Life Master, 2nd in 1989 Venice Cup
- Robert Tobing (Indonesia) - World International Master

“At this 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championship, SCBA has value-added to the Singaporean bridge community,” said Mr Daniel Metcalfe, Chief of High Participation and Industry Development Group, Singapore Sports Council. “We hope that this initiative will yet again bring Singapore a step forward in improving the expertise of our established pool of players and build the interest of the masses in Bridge as a sport.”

SCBA will be organising two initiatives to improve the expertise of players and reach out to the wider bridge community. The first is arranging a live Internet Vugraph broadcast using Bridge Base Online (BBO), the world leader in on-line bridge, for the Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships. This will allow spectators to watch the progress of the bridge hands, live via the Internet, with expert commentary from international bridge commentators. Past Vugraph broadcasts on BBO have attracted more than 1000 spectators at any one time. The Vugraph broadcast can be accessed through online.bridgebase.com.

The second initiative is an Advanced Director’s course, from 14-15 December 06, conducted by internationally-renowned tournament director, Richard Grenside. This will teach players the finer points of directing bridge games, ensuring that players are made aware of their rights and details on the rules and regulations.

Your journalist and photographer are invited to attend the Opening Ceremony and Victory Dinner of the Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships. The Opening Ceremony will be on **9 December at 11.45am** and the Victory Dinner on **13 December at 6.30pm**. These will be at the Novotel Clarke Quay, 177A River Valley Road.

Programme for Opening Ceremony

11.45am	Arrival of guests and media
12.00pm	Welcome by Mr Stephen Robinson, President SCBA
12.05pm	Speech by Mr Murli Vee, Saniva International Pte Ltd
12.10pm	Speech by Mr Patrick Choy, Vice President, World Bridge Federation
12.20pm	Lunch commences
2.30pm	Saniva 28 th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships starts with the Open Pairs

Schedule for the Saniva 28th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships

9 December 2.30pm -11.00pm	Open Pairs
10 December, 9.30am – 10.00pm	Mixed Teams
11 – 13 December,	Open Teams, Ladies Teams, Youth Teams
13 December, 6.30pm – 10.00pm	Victory Dinner and Prize Presentation

If you are keen to attend, please register your attendance with me. You are also welcome to attend the bridge championships and I am happy to arrange interviews with SCBA spokespeople, as well as local or international bridge players.

I look forward to meeting you at the ASEAN Championships

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About the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA)

The Singapore Contract Bridge Association aims to encourage the growth and development of contract bridge in Singapore. SCBA is a member of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation (PABF) and the ASEAN Bridge Council. It is also recognised by the Singapore Sports Council as the National Sports Association for Contract Bridge in Singapore. SCBA is located at the Singapore Intellectual Games Centre in Bishan.

Bridge is an ideal mind sport for men and women, of all ages, races, and backgrounds. The card game requires players to form partnerships and pit their wit against another partnership. Bridge trains logic, reasoning, memory, concentration, as well as ethics, trust and honour. Great minds around the world are known to play bridge, including Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Omar Sharif, Deng Xiao Ping and Charles Schultz.

For more information, visit: www.scba.org.sg