

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

MAY 2006

Coming Events at a Glance

1 May – Monday 9.30 am

Labour Day Special Game. \$5 per member; \$7 per guest; \$2 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

12 May – Friday 9.30 am

Vesak Day Special Game. \$5 per member; \$7 per guest; \$2 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

20, 21, 27, 28 May – Saturday 2.30 pm to 11 pm; Sundays 9.30 am to 6 pm

Singapore Open Team. \$320 per Team; \$160 per all-student team. SCBA Clubhouse.

2 & 3 June – Friday 7.30 pm & Saturday 2.30 pm

20th Worldwide Bridge Contest. \$12 per member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

10 June – Saturday 2.30 pm

Junior Student Pairs Championship. \$3 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

24 June – Saturday 2.30 pm

Youth Pairs Championship. \$10 per pair. SCBA Clubhouse.

15 July – Saturday 2.30 pm

Singapore Mixed Pairs Championship. \$40 per pair. \$20 per student pair. Two sessions. SCBA Clubhouse.

22 & 23 July – Saturday 2.30 pm

NUSS Inter-college Open Teams. NUSS.

24 July – Monday 7.30 pm

BGB Summer Simultaneous Pairs. \$12 per member, \$15 per guest, \$8 per student. SCBA Clubhouse.

President's Message

The league has finally started for 2006 and there is another chance for every team to achieve fame and glory. I hope everyone has a great time and lots of success!!!

There are a couple of issues I would like to mention where you can help the Association.

Save Money – Get a Better Service

The SCBA spends lots of its scarce resources in printing and postage to send out the hard copy newsletter. In addition, many members prefer the electronic version of the newsletter as it is easier to save and refer to later and doesn't clutter up the mailbox and the house.

Of course, we do understand that some of our bridge players actually do prefer the hard copy as you can read it wherever you want and, I must admit, that even for me I sometimes prefer the printed word as well.

So, don't worry, we will still be sending out the regular newsletter to you if you do not elect to receive the electronic version only.

However, if you prefer the electronic version and want to help the SCBA save money then please either:

1. Fill out the form below and mail it to the SCBA; or
2. E-mail scba@1800-mail.com "I, <your name>, want to receive only the electronic copy of the SCBA newsletter".

Please note that invitations and reports for the AGM, EGMs, and other constitutionally required information will continue to be sent to your normal mailing address.

Membership Dues – Please Pay

Many members still have not paid their dues for the 2006 Calendar Year. I know that you really intended to pay your dues and have just let it slip your mind. But, please pay your dues promptly.

Steve Robinson
President

6 pages this issue!

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- 3 The Optimal Contract
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- 5 Easter Congress 2006

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

I no longer wish to receive the SCBA newsletter – Bridging SCBA, by mail. Please send the newsletter to me via e-mail at:

Email address: _____

Signature: _____

Fax to +65 259 7832 and mail to 51 Bishan St 13 #01-01 S579799

Inter-Club Bridge League 1st Open House: Board 15

LL Wong

At our first Inter-Club Bridge League 2006 Open House on 2 April at the clubhouse, this board 15 was the hand played on 2/04/06 at the Bishan clubhouse. Let's look at the full deal first:

S 8		
H KQJ10654		
D -		
C AQ1083		
S KJ95		S AQ763
H A93		H 87
D K6532		D AJ8
C K		C 754
S 1042		
H 2		
D Q10974		
C J962		

And the results were:

Div 1

1. Bridge Bears vs. SCBA B 4S= (E), 5Hx= (N)
2. X-Men (N) 5HX=, Bell NS - 400 ? contract
3. Bkt Timah CC A 5HX=(N), NUSS Red NS +50
4. Sheep EW 4S=, SICCC Red EW 6SX-1
5. Azzurro NS 4Hx+1, Rosso EW +150

Div 2

1. NUSS Blue NS +550, Giallo EW 5S-2
2. NTU 1 EW 4H+1, LTA 5HX=
3. NUS B EW 4S-1, NUS B NS 4HX+1 (vs NUS A)
4. NTU STaff NS 4HX+1, HCI Sith NS+600

Div 3

1. Siglap CC EW 4S-1, NS 3H+2 (vs NUS C)
2. Blue Moon NS 5H-1, EW 4S-1 (vs IRAS)
3. RJC vs NTU 2 both 4S-1

4. HCI Jedi EW 5DX-3, NS -100 (vs Congenital Optimists)

This hand has generated a fascinating ending with interesting results. The standard contract should be 4S by East-West where they had combined 25 HCP in their hands. Some of the North-South pairs were sharp enough to sacrifice up to 5 level by himself or herself in a vulnerable position of 5H/5C. As you can see from the results, many of you underbid, and as such you had surrendered the bonus to your opponents. For those who had sacrificed at 5H/5C got a big bonus where 5C was a cold contract- well done to HCI Sith Team and 5H would need some help from the opponents where most of you got it (5H needs a club lead plus the right switch when in with HA to get a club ruff to go down) with the exception of the Blue Moon team.

As for the declarer for East-West in 4S, this is also a cold contract but needs slightly advanced level of play to bring the contract home or some help from the opponents. So did you make the contract by yourself? If not, please read on to find out how to make this contract, which may also help you to improve further and for those who had gone down in 4S, do read on as well.

After the first play of H2-HA-HK-H8, you need to make a plan before the next play as the bidding had given some clue for the odd distribution. For example;

1. 1D (1H) 1S P 2S (3C) 4S PPP; or
2. 1D (4H) 4S PPP; or possible bidding of
3. 1D (3H) 3S P 4S PPP

North had shown the distributional shape for your consideration; of course the job is still quite simple if trumps break 2-2 or diamond break nicely. As such, most declarers decided to draw trumps immediately and found no solution when diamonds broke badly except one, with the defender mistakenly discarded diamonds on the heart play. The only right solution was given by Mr. Loo Choon Chou who had taken about ten minutes of thought (plan of play) before making a move (good attitude). The sequence was:

H2-HA, SK, CK! This play covered the above lines as well as ruffing of clubs if necessary with the protection of trumps being drawn out by the opponents. North took it with CA, played the HQ

and then HJ again where declarer ruffed it with SQ, and South discarded two clubs on the two hearts.

Declarer then ruffed a club, came back to his hand with DA (North could have ruffed it if he has a trump left but that was the last trick they could win), and another club to reach this position:

S -	S A76
H 1065	H -
D -	D J8
C Q108 Loo	C 7
S J9	S 104
H -	H -
D K653	D Q1097
C -	C -

C7-D7 (if you ruff it then it will be over ruffed by dummy) -S9-C8. By now, the hands were very clear. SJ and DK then D6 were the next plays where South had to surrender the last trump to the declarer or a diamond for him to draw out the last trump. How? Was it a nice play with some degree of difficulty? Three and a half somersaults may be.

Wanted: Tournament Directors

- TDs for events wanted
- Will be reimbursed \$50 per session
- Upcoming event: Singapore Open Team (20, 21, 27, 28 May)

Interested parties, please call Lan Foo (97310691) or Derrick (97875747).



“Women are like a pack of cards: you need a heart to love them, a diamond to marry them, a club to beat them and then a spade to bury them!”

- contributed by a somewhat male chauvinistic bridge player, recommended not to be taken so seriously

The Optimal Contract

Poon Hua

Being good at card play alone is insufficient to ensure success at the bridge table if you are unable to bid to the optimal contract. This was evident on Board 14 (played only by the 1st Division) at the opening match of the Inter-club Bridge League, where IMPs should have been lost when many North-South pairs failed to reach the optimum contract of 6D.

Love all; Dealer East

S 9	S K 6
H A 5	H K Q 7 4 3 2
D K Q J 9 7 5	D 8 2
C A 9 7 3	C 10 4 2
S 10 8 7 4	S A Q J 5 3 2
H J 10	H 9 8 6
D 10 4	D A 6 3
C Q J 8 6 5	C K

The bidding at several tables went:

East	South	West	North
2H*	2S	P	3D
P	3S	P	3NT
P	P	P	

* Weak

The declarer at my table took 13 tricks after the spade finesse worked. This won his team 3 IMPs for the extra overtricks. I'm sure many other tables were in the same contract of 3NT, with the declarers battling over the few overtricks' worth of IMPs. Wouldn't it be more profitable to win 9 or 10 IMPs with superior bidding to reach the diamond slam? Definitely. So what went wrong with the bidding at most tables?

Let's take the position as South and see what goes through his mind. After overcalling 2S, partner introduces his diamond suit with a forcing bid of 3D. Great to find partner with values, so we're on the way to game. Now, we'd like to let partner know that we've got a 6-card suit so that we can probably get

to 4S on a 6-2 fit. We bid 3S and found that partner came back with a 3NT bid.

Seems like partner is not very keen about our 6-card spade suit, so maybe we should just pass and let him play there. Wait a minute! Why did he bid 3D in the first place then? Bidding 3NT directly over the 2S overcall would have saved one round of bidding. Partner must be trying to show that he's got bigger ambitions on this hand since he was not interested in your spade length. Let's see whether we have anything that would excite partner and allow us to bid on. The 3-card diamond support to the DA and the singleton CK sure look like good news. Therefore, we shall bid 4D over 3NT.

East	South	West	North
2H	2S	P	3D
P	3S	P	3NT
P	4D	P	4H ¹
P	4S ¹	P	4NT ²
P	5H ³	P	5NT ⁴
P	6D ⁵	P	P
P			

¹ Cue-bids showing first round control

² Blackwood

³ 2 Aces

⁴ Ask for number of K

⁵ 1 K only

A grand slam in diamonds is not guaranteed without both CK and SK. Hence, North will settle for 6D and chalk up 10 IMPs after making the slam comfortably.

Let's take a look at the results of this board. The Bridge Bears and X-Men were the only two pairs to bid to 6D.

1. Bridge Bears 6D=, SCBA B 5D+1
2. X-Men 6D=, Bell 3NT+1
3. Bkt Timah CC A 3NT+2, NUSS Red 4S+1
4. FOS 3NT+3, SICCC Red 3NT+4
5. Azzurro 3NT+1, Rosso 5D+1



H S HO TEAMS CHALLENGE MATCH SCHEDULE

	DATE	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	WINNER (imps)
Series 1 Match 1	8 Jan	Blue Moon	Ya Ya	Ya Ya (121 vs 106)
Series 1 Match 2	5 Feb	Ya Ya	X-Men	X-Men (173 vs 98)
Series 1 Match 3	19 Feb	X-Men	Bozzetto Rosso	X-Men (128 vs 123)
Series 2 Match 1		Ya Ya	Blue Moon	Blue Moon (146 vs 93)
Series 1 Match 4	5 Mar	X-Men	Gijssel	Gijssel (132 vs 97)
Series 2 Match 2	19 Mar	Blue Moon	Bozzetto Rosso	Bozzetto Rosso (129 vs 108)
Series 1 Match 5	9 Apr	Gijssel	D-Coup	D-Coup (176 vs 104)
Series 2 Match 3		X-Men	Bozzetto Rosso	Bozzetto Rosso (101 vs 100)
Series 1 Match 6	7 May	D-Coup	Dragon	W2
Series 2 Match 4				
Series 1 Match 7	4 Jun	W2	Arsenal	W1
Series 2 Match 5				
Series 2 Match 6	11 Jun			
Series 2 Match 7	25 Jun			
Series 2 Match 8	9 Jul		Bozzetto Azzurro	
Series 2 Match 9	23 Jul			

Easter Congress 2006

The Easter Congress 2006 was successfully held over the Easter holidays on 14 to 16 April with a good turnout, including our visitors from Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Thank you for your support!

The Champions

Who would have thought that the youngest of all in the Finals of four teams battling would have made a clean sweep of three wins and claimed the first place trophy? However, the Youth Team proved their mark by slaughtering the Ladies Team (2nd), X-Men (3rd), as well as the Open Team (4th), for a convincing win. Well done!



Youth Team: Alex, Fabian, CC Loo, Li Yu, Kelvin & Poon Hua

The Open Pairs

It's always an undeniable fact that it's the hardest to win a matchpoint event, and even a more remarkable feat to lead both sessions and of course, emerged the eventual winners. It has to take extraordinary power (and luck) for the two infamous X-Men, K Rajendra and Christopher Gregory, to accomplish that.



Chris & Raj, with Mr Lim Tiong Wah, from Malaysia (middle)

Second place is LL Wong and CK Toh, followed by taking the third place.

Mixed Pairs

Coming from Japan to join us at the Easter Congress, Kiyoko (known as the endearing Oki-san by many of us in Singapore), walked away as the Champions with her partner CK Toh. Second in place is Jane Choo and Tan Siew Chuan, while Selene Tan and Kelvin Ng claimed third.



Winners CK Toh & Oki-san from Japan, with Catherine Ang who gave away the prizes

Open Team Consolations

The Ambassador won the consolations, while Muramoto and Bozzetto Azzurro took the second and third places respectively.



Ambassador: Zhu Jun Yi, Li Feng, Patrick Choy, & Lawrence Lau who came specially from Hong Kong

Flight B Consolations

The Consolations segment was divided into a separate Flight B, where 4 teams qualify to earn a mark. *(To be continued next page)*

Easter Congress (cont'd)

The Raffles Junior College beat GG to win the Flight B Consolations!



Flight B Winners: Students from Raffles Junior College, with Okisan (middle). Lan Foo (4- from left) and Jane Choo (first from left)

Congratulations to all winners! We look forward to your participation next year! To view more photos, visit our online photo gallery at www.scba.org.sg

Venues: Inter-Club Bridge League & League Cup

6 May (League) SCBA Bishan Clubhouse

13 May (League Cup) NUS MPSH 4

For latest information, refer to our website www.bridgeleague.net.

Results of Inter-Club Bridge League

Please refer to our website www.bridgeleague.net.

Snowball Jackpot Pairs #4

27 February – 17 April 2006

Winner of \$150 jackpot prize: Jane Choo (her best 5 games average score was 61.52%)

The improvement prize went to Liu I Nan.

Snowball Jackpot Pairs #5

New season of Snowball Jackpot Pairs has already started on 24 April! Play 5 sessions from now till 19 June to qualify for the jackpot of \$150!



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Tell us what you think! All feedback and articles contribution are welcome. Please email to editor@bridgeleague.net

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JOIN US! ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠



FOR AN EXCITING GAME!

OUR WEEKLY GAMES ARE ON
MONDAY EVENINGS 7.30 PM
TUESDAY AFTERNOON 1.30 PM
THURSDAY MORNING 9.30 AM
FRIDAY EVENING 7.30 PM, AND
SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2 PM.
SEE YOU AT THE CLUBHOUSE!