

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

SEPTEMBER 2006

Coming Events at a Glance

16 September - Saturday 2.30pm
Matchpoint Teams Championships.
\$80 per team, \$40 per all-student team. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

16 September - Saturday
1 October - Sunday 9.30am - 5pm
Singapore IMP Pairs Championship.
\$40 per pair, \$20 per student pair. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

6 October - Friday 7.30pm
PABF Simultaneous Pairs. This is the first of a series of six games. \$10 per member, \$13 per guest, \$6 per student. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

7 October - Saturday 2.30-11.00pm
Double '8' Senior Pairs. This is a two-session Matchpoint Pairs event. \$20 per member, \$25 per guest, FOC for senior above 70 years. Prizes and dinner will be generously sponsored by Dr Catherine Ang. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

21 October - Saturday 9.30am
Deepavali Special Game. \$5 per member, \$7 per guest, \$2 per student. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

24 October - Tuesday 9.30am
Hari Raya Puasa Special Game. \$5 per member, \$7 per guest, \$2 per student. Venue: SCBA Clubhouse

21-27 October
3rd FISU World University Bridge Championships. Tianjin, China

International Competitions!

Unless you have been out of the bridge scene for the last month, you are sure to be aware of the tremendous success that our Junior team had at the World Youth Championships, held in Bangkok Thailand from 29 July to 8 August. The team of comprising of Alex Loh, Loo Choon Chou, Kelvin Ng, Poon Hua, Fabian Tan and Tan Li Yu (captained by Chua Gang) came third out of 18 other teams. Furthermore, the anchor pair, Loo Choon Chou and Poon Hua were the number one rank, out of 44 pairs. Hearty congratulations to the whole team!

PABF 2006

Now that our Junior Team has proved their mettle, it is time for the Open and Ladies Teams to sweat it out, at the 44th PABF Championships, held in Shanghai

China, from the 20-30 Sept. The Ladies Team consisted of Greta Chai, Jane Choo, Foo Yoke Lan, Lam Ze Ying, Seet Choon Cheng and Selene Tan. They started well, achieving a strong ranking of third after the first round. However, a few losses caused the team to slip to sixth place, which they maintained till the end. The Ladies Teams from New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia, came first, second and third respectively.

The Open team consisted of Patrick Choy, AK Heng, Ke Jia, KT Liao, Steve Robinson and Wong Choo Wai. Facing the strong competition, the Open team ended up in eleventh place. China, Japan and China Hong Kong came first, second and third respectively.

For full details of the PABF 2006 results, visit <http://44pabf.kelvinyim.com>

Change of dates!

Please note: Due to a clash with the Interclub League, the **Singapore IMP Pairs Championship** is now on Sunday 1 October 9.30am - 5pm



The Youth team with their coach and NPC

Heartfelt gratitude

The Singapore Youth Team 2006 would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to all the supporters who have provided the team with financial aid, training help and moral support, thereby making it possible for the team to achieve great success at the PABF Championships and the World Youth Teams Championships this year.



In particular, we would like to thank LL Wong and Lilio for helping in facilitating the training of the team, Chua Gang for his guidance as NPC. Special thanks go to Liu I Nan for the development of Poon Hua and Loo Choon Chou to become the anchor of the team and also the top performing pair at the PABF and WYTC.

With this year's results, we hope future Youth teams will be dedicated to maintain and even better Singapore's standards on the international scene.

We can do it!

Congratulations!

Well done to the winners of the Pesta Sukan 2006!

Open Pairs

- 1st: HS Ho and AK Heng
- 2nd: Patrick Choy and Ke Jia
- 3rd: Seet Choon Cheng and Lan Foo

Mixed Pairs

- 1st: Fong Kien Hoon and Tan Sock Ngiam
- 2nd: Alan Sia and Reiko Teo
- 3rd: CK Toh and Seet Choon Cheng

Open Teams

- 1st: NU Alumni - Chu Nyit, C P Chua, C K Toh, L L Wong
- 2nd: Bozzetto Azzurro - Chong Yeh Shen, Foong Kien Hoong, Edwin Lau, Soh Siew Luie, Tan Siew Chuan
- Tan Wei Teck
- 3rd: MCS - David Law, S B Tan, Gao Peng, Gu Bangjuan, Ringo Lee, Zhang Yukun
- 4th: Thailand - Thanatus Nuchanong, Kobkul Abhakara
- Parich Pongmoragot, Polakrit Thaweewat, Sarawuth Jindakul, Supparerk Piemsamrit
- Consolations 1st: Ambassador - Patrick Choy, Ke Jia, Li Feng, Lu Xiliang, Xing Likun, Zhu Junyi

SCBA is hiring!

We are looking for dedicated individuals to be part of our team.

Marketing Manager – Full time, flexi-time.

Job description – To promote bridge and SCBA in Singapore, through Bridging Singapore initiatives. This involves increasing membership, organizing courses and reaching out to the public to raise awareness.

Salary - ~\$2,000 per month, plus incentives

Club Secretary – Part-time

Job description – To handle SCBA's secretariat duties, including managing the membership database, handling mailing and correspondence, filing, etc.

Salary - \$700 per month



If you are interested, please your resume to scba@1800mail.com

Report from the Technical Committee

Derrick Heng

The Quest for Sustainable Development

Reflecting upon the past year, the Technical Subcommittee has made good progress in what we set out to do, but much remains to be done, and it all revolves around the theme of sustainability.

Youth

The Singapore Juniors have had a stellar year, performing well in the major local tournaments, winning the PABF Youth Championships while remaining undefeated throughout, and capping it by winning the bronze medal at the World Youth Championships.

The priority now is to ensure that such success is sustained for the future. We have made a start by organising the National Interschool Bridge competition, sending an under-21 ("Schools" in WBF terminology) Team to the PABF to gain experience, and encouraging participation by the Junior Colleges in the inter-club league.

More coaches are needed to support the setting up of Bridge clubs in more schools under the Bridging Singapore Initiative, so as to broaden the talent base. This will also help us to gain formal recognition of Bridge as a CCA by the Ministry of Education.

SCBA will also be forming a Youth Training Squad to continue systematic, regular training and coaching for promising youth players. Mr LL Wong, the coach of the wildly successful Singapore Juniors team has agreed to take this on and will be helping us to design a sustainable youth training programme. In the longer term, it is envisaged that this will form the basis of a permanent National Youth Squad from which representative youth teams will be chosen.

We hope that, in the wider national interest, all concerned (players, teachers, parents, coaches, former youth players, sponsors) will rally round to give their support and commitment to the Youth Training Squad and the Bridging Singapore initiative.

Directing

We have made a start by conducting the basic TD course targeted at club TDs in March this year. All major SCBA events now have full-time TDs, but we need to increase the TD pool upon which we can draw, to ensure sustainability of this initiative.

Hence, there will be an advanced TD course conducted in conjunction with the ASEAN tournament this year. We also aim to conduct the basic TD course and assessment yearly. To ensure sustainability, the basic TD course will be further modularised, with pre-prepared course notes and teaching aids available to the lecturer.

The ultimate aim is to raise the standard of directing at our club and tournament games.

Rules and regulations

The Swiss qualifying format was used for the National Handicap Teams Championships and Pesta Sukan. One advantage we have found is that it enables the schedule to be fixed, despite uncertainty over the number of teams (due to the busy lives of our players, who often confirm participation or fail to show only at the last minute). We welcome your feedback on this.

There is still some way to go with respect to the use of convention cards. This is something that we will gradually tighten up on. Experienced partnerships and past and present national team members should certainly take the lead in having convention cards available. The aim is to build a culture where convention cards are the norm rather than the exception. We recognise that there will always be less experienced pairs, and many pick-up or infrequent partnerships with no convention cards. Nevertheless, such players should ensure that opponents are informed of the general system approach and style, strength of 1NT opening, lead and signaling agreements, and special bids that may require defence **before the start of play** in each segment, in the spirit of full disclosure.

Master points system

The updated master points system has been implemented from 1st Jan 2006. Full and transparent documentation of the master points system is available on our web-site.

The challenge now is to ensure timely updates of the master points scored. This will be dependent on the sustainable resolution of secretariat staffing issues and the co-operation of our corporate members. We will also explore ways of making the processes more efficient by increasing the use of technology.

Vu-graph and ASEAN Bridge Club Championships

For the first time ever, one of our local events was broadcast live on Bridge Base Online Vu-graph over the Internet. Over 400 spectators from all over the world watched as Bozzetto Azzurro defeated the Thai team in the semi-finals of the Pesta Sukan, and as Nantah Alumni triumphed in the finals. The detailed bidding, play and commentary (including an unnoticed revoke!) are preserved for posterity (although some may view this as a threat rather than a benefit). Gerald Tan was our superb Vu-graph operator for the Pesta Sukan, and he will be leading the Vu-graph team for the ASEAN.

One of the committee members was so impressed that he wanted all our major events to be on BBO Vugraph. This is indeed something that we will consider for the future, but that would imply keeping together a Vugraph production team on a long-term basis.

Conclusion

I would like to put on record my thanks to the other members of the Technical Sub-committee: Ms Lan Foo (SCBA competitions secretary), Ms Seet Choon Cheng; and the specialist technical advisors: Mr Ke Jia (Masterpoints system); Ms Jane Choo (Tournament Directing); and Mr Gerald Tan (Scoring, Movements and Vugraph) for their efforts over the past year.

There is much that can be done and that should be done. You will realise from what I have written that the SCBA committee cannot do it alone. We need and warmly welcome the support of all our members, corporate members and volunteers to tackle the many tasks ahead, in these and in other areas. I welcome feedback, comments or views on our plans or any offers of assistance or advice. Please drop me an e-mail at dmkheng@gmail.com, or simply pull me aside for a chat at one of our tournament games.



Solve it!

L L Wong

Board 20

S	AQxx	S	KJ8
H	AQ32	H	85
D	x	D	Qxxxx
C	AQ76	C	543
S	85x	S	1064
H	KJ10xx	H	76
D	KJ9x	D	A54
C	2	C	KJ1098

This was a hand played on 5th August during the evening session at the Pesta Sukan Open Teams qualifying round. There were twenty teams playing the same hand in each 12 boards match per round. So some of you may have seen or played this hand.

3nt contract was a common contract. After the diamond lead, the declarer needed to finesse the right major suit king, to make the contract. The other contracts of 4s and 5c were also relatively safe as the cards lie.

The questions now are; If the contract is 6c after a club lead, what position would you take? As a Declarer, how will you play this hand? As a Defender, can you find a perfect line in defense to set the contract or is the contract is going to be down by itself anyway?

Club Masters

Congratulations to the following SCBA members and corporate affiliates, for achieving Club Masters status in 2005. Keep up the good bridge!

Cheung Kwok Hang
Kazuko Nakamura
Tian Junfeng
Lisa Nagara
Sugiharto
Edmund Xu
Grace Yeh
Gao Peng
Sophia Yong
Vimal Advani
Dominique Ngo
Fu Yao Ming
Nagaratnam Sivakumaran
P Sripathy
Yung Tee Fa
Ron Savage
Shui Haitian
Ronnie Oh
Lau Jian Yang
Dulari Uppal
T. R. Krishnan
Kelvin Ong
David Chew
Rahim Rahmat
Zhang Yi
Leong Ngai Weng
Mana Dohdwala
Ng Yong Hao
Zou Deshun
Joseph Tan
Daniel Tay
Jamie Tay
Ooi Suan Lin
Tian Mao
Gilbert Tay
Chong Yit Yuen
Tan Eng Choo
Soltan Mohan Sadoogi-Alvandi

Jia Zhiming
Lin Liutong
Ian Watts
Wan Guan Xiang
Chen Jian
Zain Moledina
Raymond Chan
Koh Sei Hian
Loh Lye Meng
Sachiko Tamamura
Sally Wang
Eugene Yang
Alka Gaur
Kenneth Boh
Tan Peng Huat
Ong Kim Leng
Yang Yang
Ni Xiaoxuan
Wong Kian Hong
Lawrence Kwek
Loo Yew Chong
Yuko Tone
Tham Beng Kiong
Jackie Ang
Sawako Suzuki
Lim Song Woon
CSV Chalam
W.T. Ho
Michiyo Udagawa
Shamala Kanabisundram
Pat Chiew
Rajesh Kumar Gupta
Perry Chen
Lena Tan
Chen Chilong
Gong Xiaofeng
Xiao Zhongmin
Philippe Raoux
Yeo Yong Hui
Shi Ji Cheng
Leong Fong Yew

Symmetrical Hands Steve Robinson

We often talk about misfits and the need to get out of the bidding quickly to avoid a big loss. However, a recent hand at the PABF Championships demonstrated that you can still reach and make slam on a misfit.

North S – void
 H – KQxxx
 D – Jx
 C – AKxxxx

South S – A10xxx
 H – void
 D – AKQ10xx
 C – Jx

While many pairs played in 3NT, Choo Wai and I reached 6C (by North) making on a Spade lead ruffed followed by a low club led towards the Jack. With Clubs 3-2 there was nothing further to the play. However, as the Ace of Hearts was with West a Heart lead would have defeated the contract. A better contract is 6D (by South) making on any lead as long as the Clubs are 3-2. Just win the opening lead and duck a Club.

The bidding was as symmetrical as the hands:

1C – 1D
1H – 1S
2H – 2S
3D – 4C
5C – 6C



Results of the Interclub League

Division 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Adj	Total	Rank	
1	Bell					12	17	6	19	10	14		78	8	
2	The Bridge Bears					25	23	15	15	17	19		114	1	
3	Friends of Sheep					12	23	22	12	15	25		109	2	
4	Bozzetto (Rosso)					16	10	8	9	6	15		64	9	
5	NUSS (Red)	18	2	18	14			17	12				81	7	
6	SCBA (B)	13	7	7	20					21	21		89	6	
7	Bozzetto (Azzurro)	24	15	8	22	13				21			103	4	
8	Bukit Timah CC (A)	11	15	18	21	18					22		105	3	
9	X-Men	20	13	15	24		9	9					90	5	
10	SICC (Red)	16	11	0	15		9		8				59	10	
Division 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Adj	Total	Rank	
1	NTU Staff					25	17	24	25	25	25		141	1	
2	Bozzetto (Giallo)					11	10	11	19	24	25		100	4	
3	NUS (A)					22	25	17	25	10	12		111	2	
4	SICC (Blue)					22	16	23	25	1	14		101	3	
5	NTU 1	2	19	8	8			19	25				81	6	
6	NUSS (Blue)	13	20	3	14					22	18		90	5	
7	D'Rakes	6	19	13	7	11				14			70	8	
8	Land Transport Authority	0	11	4	4	3					14		36	10	
9	Hwa Chong Institution (Sith)	1	6	20	25		8	16					76	7	
10	NUS (B)	0	5	18	16		12		16				67	9	
Division 3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Adj	Total	Rank
1	Congenital Optimists					20	20	13	15	18	24	18	18	146	4
2	NTU 2					17	2	0	15	7	7	15	18	81	9
3	Siglap CC					22	10	1	10	18	9	16	18	104	8
4	IRAS					20	15	16	5	19	8	15	18	116	6
5	Bukit Timah CC (B)	10	13	8	10					17	10	25	18	111	7
6	Saniva	10	25	20	15					24	25	15	18	152	2
7	Blue Moon	17	25	25	14					21	25	25	18	170	1
8	NUS (C)	15	15	20	25					25	9	25	18	152	2
9	Team RJC	12	23	0	11	13	6	9	2		2		78	10	
10	Hwa Chong Institution (Jedi)	6	23	21	22	20	5	0	21	25			143	5	
11	SICC (Green)	12	15	14	15	5	15	0	0				76	11	

**WEEKLY GAMES AT SCBA
CORPORATE MEMBERS' BRIDGE
CLUBS**

CHINESE SWIMMING CLUB

Amber Road
Saturday afternoon at 2.30 pm

JAPAN ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE

Adam Road
Tuesday morning at 9.00 am

NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE

Kent Ridge Crescent, MPSH 4
Tuesday evening at 6.45pm

NUSS

Kent Ridge Guild House
Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm

SERANGOON GARDENS COUNTRY CLUB

Kensington Park Road
Tuesday morning at 9.30am

SIGLAP COMMUNITY CLUB

Bedok South Avenue 3
1st Sunday of the month 2.00 pm; other Sundays 9.30 am

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Bukit Location (Sime Road) Bridge @ The Niblick
Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm

SINGAPORE RECREATION CLUB

Connaught Drive
Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm

TANGLIN CLUB

Stevens Road
Monday afternoon at 1 pm
Wednesday afternoon at 1 pm
Wednesday night at 7.30 pm
Friday afternoon at 1 pm



SCBA COMMITTEE

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