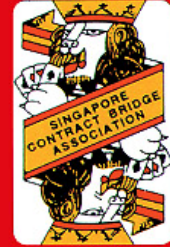


Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

February 09 • 10 pages

Look out for the following exciting games!

SCBA Hong Bao Pairs
6 Feb 09, 7.30pm
SCBA
(Game starts at 7.30pm,
though dinner will be served
from 7.00pm onwards)



NUS Open Pairs
21 Feb 09 2.30pm
NUS MPSH 4

Year of the Ox!

Gong Xi Fa Cai to one and all, and welcome to the Year of the Ox, which is incidentally my year (alamak, now you can all figure out my age!)

According to all the feng shui emails that I have been reading, this year is supposed to be a bad one for me (all my finesses will be wrong). Therefore, I will need to be stubborn (I shall keep bidding my suit, despite lack of support from partner) and work hard (will need to attempt squeezes and other difficult techniques). To others born in the year of the ox, I suggest we just give up now!

However, for the rest of you, do note that our favourite Donkey is back again, after taking a break. And he had to work extra hard this month, on the penultimate "Bid it Right" quiz too.

Over the past 12 months, SCBA has been running a bidding competition with a \$100 bridge book prize on the line. The prize will be given out next month. So do check out the leader board to see who is still in the running

See you at the bridge table!

Yiu Lin
Editor Bridging SCBA ♣

President's Update

Happy Chinese New Year to all our Chinese players. To celebrate this festive period, I will like to invite everyone to join our annual SCBA Hongbao Pairs on Friday evening 6th Feb. Remember to wear red!

Obituary

With much sadness, SCBA has lost one of our veteran players, Mr John Ng, in January. John, who was 78 years old, was an ex-national player who still played regularly with his partner Victor in our morning games. I extend my condolences to his family.

SCBA Chinese New Year (CNY) Lunch-Discussion

On Saturday 24 Jan 08, a CNY lunch was held for all volunteers who have contributed to SCBA in the past year as well as convenors of our corporate clubs. The key objectives of this lunch were to:

- 1) Thank and show appreciation for their kind support in helping SCBA,
- 2) Foster closer ties between the Committee, volunteers and corporate members, and
- 3) "Lo hei" yusheng (raw fish), which is a Chinese gesture for good luck, health and prosperity in the coming year.

The 2 tables of guests included our Committee Members, Jane Choo (Bridge Ambassador & League Chief Tournament Director), Yiu Lin (Editor & Marketing Advisor), Mr HS Ho (sponsor of HS Ho

Challenge Championships), and Ze Ying (designer & creative consultant). The convenors included Dr Siak (NUSS), Zain (SRC), Ms Naoko Yoshino (Japan Club), Henry Goh (SRC), Wang Hanxing (NUS) and Ivan Mok (NTU).

Everyone enjoyed the great food and camaraderie, and there were useful exchanges of honest views and suggestions. Though this is SCBA's first CNY lunch-discussion, it will certainly not be the last. Improving communications and ties between SCBA and our corporate members is a top priorities. In addition, I must thank all our Committee Members and volunteers who have contributed to SCBA and the local Bridge scene in one way or another. Though we may be from different clubs and hold different views, we have 2 common characteristics – the passion for Bridge and the commitment to make a difference.

Some players simply have no passion. Many players, although passionate about Bridge, are always complaining and do nothing constructive. If you are keen to make a difference in the bridge scene, do consider joining the Committee or volunteering.

Meeting with Singapore Sports Council (SSC)

After my letter was published on 15 Jan in TODAY newspaper, SSC sent officials for a

Closed door meeting with SCBA on 22 Jan. Though much of the discussion and clarification was confidential, I would like to share an important directive : SSC will not subsidise SCBA, or any National Sports Association, for any international competitions unless Bridge both qualifies as a sport in one of the 4 major Games i.e. SEA, Asian, Commonwealth and Olympics AND have good chances of winning medals. As a sport, SSC recognizes and encourages our roles in organising Bridge events for players and in popularizing Bridge. As SSC only provides funding for high participation events and our Secretariat, these should be our main areas of emphasis as the NSA for Bridge. The goals of SCBA will need to align with this directive.

Conclusion

The Committee will also be focusing on improving our facilities. Within the next few months, I intend to upgrade our Library with new books and subscriptions of international magazines. These will be catered for, and available to, players of all levels. I also hope to purchase additional duplicating machines, so that we can organise national and international events without glitches. Finally, I will personally be training the students of Singapore Management University (SMU) and start a Bridge Club officially this month. Let me update all of you in March. Thank you. ♣

SOLUTION TO JAN QUIZ

by LL Wong

The problem is to make 6H, with a h5

lead:

♠ A75
♥ AJ107
♦ KJ4
♣ J52

♠ 3	♠ KQJ109854
♥ 9652	♥ 4
♦ Q972	♦ 105
♣ KQ93	♣ 108
	♠ 2
	♥ KQ83
	♦ A863
	♣ A764

When planning the play, start by counting tricks – 9 top tricks, including the J♦. So the remaining tricks will have to come from top ruffs in spades and another trick from either ♦ or ♣.

Solution 1 – Most people suggested this solution. Win ♥ lead in dummy with 7♥. Play A♠ and ruff a ♠ with Q♥. Play ♦ to dummy, finessing the Q♦. Ruff another ♠ with K♥. Draw out remaining trumps, discarding 2 low ♣ in hand. LHO will be squeezed, having to discard from ♦Q97 or ♣KQ9. A discard of either will provide the 12th trick.

Solution 2 – This was given by Mr Zain, with the first 4 tricks following solution 1, ie. Win ♥ in dummy, A♠ followed by high ♠ ruff, then finesse Q♦. Ruff 7♠ with K♥, and LHO has to underuff, to keep his holding in minors. Play small ♣ toward J♣. LHO will need to win with K/Q♣. The best switch now is 9♦, to kill entry into dummy. Declarer should win in dummy, and play club to A♣ - a Vienna Coup! Then draw remaining trumps and LHO will be again squeezed in ♦ or ♣.

Solution 3 – A strip squeeze may be an alternative. Tricks 1 – 5 are the same as solution 1. When you draw out the remaining trumps, discard 1 club and 1 diamond from hand. LHO holding ♦Q97 and ♣KQ9 will be forced to strip off the idle diamond, otherwise the club honour will drop under the AC. After playing off the two top diamonds, ending in hand, play small club to JC. LHO is now in an end-play situation and the JC becomes the 12th trick.

FEBRUARY 2009 QUIZ

by LL Wong

This hand is taken from SCBA-NTU Open pairs, held on 17 Jan 09, with a slight change for illustration purpose. NS are vulnerable.

	♠ J8	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ 108	
	♣ KJ109864	
♠ AQ763		♠ K954
♥ A1084		♥ J632
♦ 654		♦ A73
♣ 5		♣ A3
	♠ 102	
	♥ K95	
	♦ KQ92	
	♣ Q72	

East opened 1C/D, which could affect North's choice to overcall 2C, or just pass due to vulnerability. What would be your final contract, if you were sitting EW and how would you reach it? If you played during the event, was your bidding sequence the same post-mortem, as it was at the table?

Bid It Right

BID IT RIGHT! January #11

by Derek Maggs

1. Teams: You are both Vul

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
			2♠

P ?

- ♠ AK6
- ♥ KJ732
- ♦ 8
- ♣ AKQJ

4♦ = 10; 2NT = 8; 4NT = 6;
Others = 2

2. Teams: They are Vul.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
P	P	1♠	P
4♥ ¹	P	?	

- ♠ AK762
- ♥ 109754
- ♦ 3
- ♣ AJ
- ¹ Splinter

4NT = 10 ; 5♣ = 6;
4♠ = 4; Others 2

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

RHO	Partner	LHO	You
2♦	2♥	4♦	4♥
P	P	5♦	?

- ♠ AK3
- ♥ AQ843
- ♦ A52
- ♣ 43

5♥ = 10; Pass = 7;
Dbl = 5; Others = 2

4. Teams: They are Vuln.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	?

- ♠ A3
- ♥ K10
- ♦ K1076
- ♣ AK1042

2♠ = 10; 4♦ = 8; Others = 2

Since I completely forgot to invite the panelists to give me their views, I thought I would give them a month off. Well it is CNY and my Bovine friend will no doubt help me out. It also means that I can get to be a complete 'results merchant' and use hindsight to affect the scores.

Problem 1

The answer to this depends much on your partnership style. If you regularly open 2♠ with Jxxxx and out, good luck finding another partner, although this can be very effective in the long run. Marc informed me that those cunning French had analysed the two level opening bids, and 2♠ was a big favourite to generate more than 5 IMPs on average! Here however 4♠ may not make opposite that pile. So, to try for slam or not? If you try for slam how best to make a move? 4NT might work, but will not get there if partner is void in Hearts unless you always jump respond to 4NT (not advisable). 2NT could ask for feature or shortage (it seems about 50:50 to me) but I prefer you to show a feature if you ever get the unlucky seat opposite my old mug. The Diamond splinter seems best to me and indeed most bids should get you to Slam except a sign off.

Problem 2

Yes, we have a minimum and our Ox of a partner is not promising the earth with his heart splinter, however what could he have

for his 9-12 HCPs? Certainly 4 spades – let's assume the Q (2 points); singleton ♥. If we give him KQ♦ and K♣ then 5 Spades is safe most of the time. Is there room for A♦ and K♣? Indeed with quite a few 9 HCP hands, 6♠ should have a decent play. 4♠ therefore scores lowly. We are really interested in the A♦ so we can ask with GOF (good-old fashioned) Blackwood or some such thing. 5♣ probably gets the job done too, but might partner cue the K♦?

Problem 3.

When Jens gave me this problem, I recalled a similar hand in a National final in the UK 12 years ago. I held almost an identical holding and bid on to 5♥X which made. At the other table the contract was 5♦X which also made. Now you know why I remembered it - a double, doubled game swing is a rarity at teams. Am I being a results merchant? Those advocates of the 5 level belonging to the opponents will pass or double of course. Partner had

- ♠ Q10xx
- ♥ J10xxx
- ♦ J
- ♣ 8xx

And even if they cash their 2 club tricks (they won't) you can still make the hand by winning and entering dummy and finessing in hearts (3-0). Even Ace and another Diamond lead does not beat 5♦.

Bid It Right

Bid it right! (cont'd)

Problem 4.

I put this in to see if people had an agreement of what a jump response in partner's minor meant, when it was a second suit. There are plenty of top players playing "minorwood" where a jump in the other minor (4♣ here) would be RKCB for Diamonds. Others play that 4♦ sets the suit for a slam try. I must admit that with strong hands I have never really understood that as you can bid slowly via the fourth suit to get to the same position at 3♦ in this case.

Congratulations to Kelvin, this month's winner with 35. Hot on his heels was Fabian with 33 then a 3-way tie for third... All in all, very close. As you can see, this has helped Fabian open up a 6 point lead of 'Mr Steady' LL Wong. SO it comes down to the last week and a two Donkey race... May the best man win!

Leader board	Total
Fabian Tan	279
LL Wong	273
Kelvin Ng	248
Ang Shen Ting	246
Zain Moledina	231
Trevor Li	36
Jane Choo	31
Wang Pei Yi	28
Jackie	27
Lanny Chan	26

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. ♣

February's Bid it right!

1. Teams: You are both Vul

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
	P	P	1♠
P	?		

- ♠ J9764
- ♥ 3
- ♦ 9542
- ♣ KQ9

2. Teams: They are Vul.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
2♠ ¹	P	?	

- ¹ Spades + minor
- ♠ A876542
- ♥ -
- ♦ A762
- ♣ K2

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

RHO	Partner	LHO	You
	2♣	P	?

- ♠ 7
- ♥ AKQJ9432
- ♦ 98
- ♣ 73

4. Teams: Both Vuln.

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
	1♥	P	1♠
P	3♥	P	4♦
P	?		

- ♠ A
- ♥ AK10952
- ♦ KJ8
- ♣ K52

Nativity, naivete and the stripe-tailed ape

By Derek Maggs

It was the end of January and Donkey was reflecting on a busy Christmas. December was always the busiest month of the year, because it was common to get a mule or two involved in nativity plays. "Well it seemed to keep the small children amused for a few minutes" mused Donkey. He drifted into a reverie for that evening's Nativity Swiss Teams. He had been invited around to the vicarage where a few mulled wines and one too many sherries had filled him with bravado. "Eeeyorr" he said in a friendly manner to the people he didn't know at the table then, as West, picked up a pile of Rubbish. Game all, Dealer East

♠ AQ1086	
♥ -	
♦ QJ84	
♣ AQ75	
♠ K75	♠ 932
♥ Q954	♥ AJ76
♦ 7	♦ 10965
♣ K8432	♣ 106
♠ J4	
♥ K10832	
♦ AK32	
♣ J9	

The Vet	S	Donkey	N
P	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣ (4 th SF)
P	3♥	P	4♦
P	5♦	X	All pass

Donkey had looked on with growing depression at how this auction was progressing. With the black kings likely to be badly placed and no noise from his partner, he decided to take a risk and X South's 5♦ bid. North give this a long hard look and since he had been thinking about a small or grand slam felt that if there were bad breaks, it would be better to settle for 5♦ redoubled. As you can see on the normal club lead, declarer ran this to his J♣, ruffed a ♥, drew two rounds of trumps and finessed a ♠. When that held, he drew the other two trumps and repeated the ♠ finesse. 5♠s, 4♦s, 3♣s and ♥ ruff brought home 13 tricks and a score, as Donkey quickly pointed out of 1800 and hoped that his stripe tailed ape had not cost his team 430 points (1370). His team-mates had a bidding misunderstanding after a strange exclusion Blackwood bid in

openers ♥ suit and landed in 7♦ undoubled. On the ♦ lead it was clear that both black suits had to behave and a lucky 2140 and 8 IMPs resulted. The first board of the next match was equally challenging for the scorers. Love all, Dealer South.

	♠ AQ86		
	♥ A9		
	♦ KQ6		
	♣ AQ84		
♠ J32		♠ 974	
♥ K765		♥ Q2	
♦ 743		♦ 109872	
♣ J732		♣ 965	
	♠ K105		
	♥ J10843		
	♦ AJ5		
	♣ K10		
W	Donkey	E	Vet
	1♥	P	1♠
P	1NT	P	6NT
	All pass		

West led a low ♥ Donkey thanked the Vet and surveyed the dummy that had caused the agricultural auction. There

Nativity (cont'd)

were many chances, but the odds were not good. A low ♥ lead away from the KQ did not look likely and the 5 could be 5th or 4th highest. If it was from shortage a miracle in ♣ or a rounded suit squeeze would be needed. Donkey ducked the ♥ to East's Q who returned the suit. With 10 top tricks, he would need the ♠ to play for 4 tricks (J single, doubleton or 3-3) then get a trick from ♥ (through a squeeze) or ♣s J single or J9 doubleton or a squeeze. He played a ♣ to the K to see if anything interesting happened. Nothing did, so he decided to play spades, but accidentally played the 10♣ instead of K♠ and called 'small' from dummy to frightened looks from the Vet. Only then did he see what he'd done! However West had not covered, and so the no play slam had succeeded. "Merry Christmas" said Donkey with feeling rather than sarcasm wondering if this was divine intervention or the effects of inebriation. Donkey had left wondering whether there had been a chimpanzee at the stable that night in Bethlehem, as he had glimpsed a stripe-tailed ape amongst the worshipping hands.

New Year Charity Pairs

1 January (10 pairs)

- 1st Nancy Goh & Thomas Goh
- 2nd Chang Sui Sim & Alan Sia
- 3rd Holey Chan & Chan Kheong Sann

PABF Simultaneous Pairs

9 January 2008 (19 pairs)

- 1st Nicholas Phang & Tan Ying Chun
- 2nd Chan Yiu Lin & Seet Choon Cheng
- 3rd Chester Chai & Magdalene Medora

SCBA raised \$800 at the New Year Chairty Pairs, which will go to the Singapore Children's Society. We'd like to thank the following for their generous donations:

- Foo Yoke Lan
- Ng Chun Tat
- Ooi Suan Lin
- Thomas & Nancy Goh
- Holey & KS Chan

NTU-SCBA Open Pairs

17 January (46 pairs)

- 1st Perry Chen & Yeo Yong Hui
- 2nd Yan Zhe Jerene & Zhu Hanfei
- 3rd Xu Guozhen & Zhang Xuyao

Lunar New Year Special Game

27 January (8 pairs)

- 1st Christopher Gregory & Krishnan Rajendra
- 2nd Chan Yiu Lin & Seet Choon Cheng
- 3rd Endo Kimiko & Alan Sia

Tanglin Club Hong Bao Pairs

19 Jan (36 pairs)

North/South

- 1st Rohini Arya & Rup Natarajan
- 2nd Emily Hee & Toni Leong
- 3rd Anu Sehgal & K Symala

East/ West

- 1st Holey Chan & Lilio Ho
- 2nd Advani Sonia & Rao Aparna
- 3rd S Bansi & W Linda

February 2009 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>						1	
	2	3	4	5	<p><i>SCBA Hong Bao Pairs</i> 6</p> <p>\$15 a member, \$20 a guest, \$10 a student</p> <p>• 7.30pm</p>	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	<p>15</p> <p><i>HS Ho Challenge Championships</i></p> <p>Series 1, Match 1</p>
	16	17	18	19	20	<p><i>SCBA NUS Open Pairs</i> 21</p> <p>\$30 a pair, \$12 student pair Venue: NUS MPSH4 •</p> <p>2.30pm</p>	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2009 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.	31					1
2	3	4	5	6 PABF Simultaneous Pairs \$12 a member, \$15 a guest, \$8 a student • 7.30pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Singapore Open 14 Pairs \$40 a member, \$50 a guest, \$20 a student member • 2.30 - 11pm	15 Singapore Open 15 Pairs (cont'd) • 9.30am - 6pm
16	17	18	19	20	21 23 rd Singapore Interclub Bridge League Open House #1 • 2.30pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Corporate Members + SCBA Officials

SCBA weekly games Monday/ Friday 7.30 pm
 Thursday 9.30 am
 Sunday 2.00 pm

NTU CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB, 20 Nanyang Green Hall 7.
 Tuesday 7.30pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Lan Foo)

NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE
 Kent Ridge Crescent, MPSH 4
 Tues 7.00pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Fabian)

NUSS The Graduate Club, 9 Kent Ridge Drive
 Wed 7.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Thiaga)

SERANGOON GARDENS COUNTRY CLUB, 22 Kensington Park Road. Tues 9.30am (SCBA Liaison Officer – Marvin)

SIGLAP COMMUNITY CENTRE, 300 Bedok South Avenue 3
 Sun 2.00 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – AK Heng)

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, 240 Sime Road
 Bridge @ The Niblick. Mon/ Thurs 7.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Poon Hua)

SINGAPORE JAPAN CLUB BRIDGE LEAGUE, 120 Adam Road. Tues 9.00 am (SCBA Liaison Officer – Lan Foo)

SINGAPORE RECREATION CLUB, B Connaught Drive
 Tues 7.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – CT Ng)

TANGLIN CLUB, 5 Stevens Road,
 Mon, Wed & Fri at 1pm, Wed at 7.30pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Derek Maggs)

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