

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

June 2010 • 12 pages

SCBA's Annual General Meeting Notice

Our AGM will be held on 5 July 2010, at our SCBA Clubhouse. Do come down to share your views on how to make Singapore's bridge scene more active and how to make SCBA a better organisation. Minutes of last year's AGM, together with the President's and Treasurer's reports are included.

More details on the AGM can be found in the President's update message. See page 2.

In order to save paper and postage, this announcement in our monthly newsletter will constitute official notice of the SCBA AGM.

Where has the time gone? It seemed as if we were just celebrating the start of the New Year, and already we are now into June!

As time seems to passing by so quickly, I am very pleased to hear from an old friend – Donkey, who sends us a postcard from afar, telling us of his latest bridge mischief.

And LL Wong gives us a range of different ways to make a contract. In particular, he focuses specifically on an "unusual mindset way" that leaves all of defenders trumps outstanding – not something many declarers like to do!

With the Annual General Meeting coming up next month, Poon Hua gives us an idea of what to expect, in his update message, as well as covers other topics, such as our long awaited Masterpoints list.

As usual, if you have any bridge articles or feedback, do email me your comments.

Happy reading!

Yiu Lin
Editor
Bridging SCBA
editor@scba.org.sg ♣

School holidays have come and it's a good opportunity to spend time with our loved ones. How about some family bonding through a game of Bridge? Here are the updates for this month:

1. Annual General Meeting 2010

The SCBA AGM will be held on Monday 5 July 2010, at 7.00pm, at our Bishan Clubhouse and headquarters of SCBA.

Your attendance is vital as the SCBA Committee will be proposing some potentially significant changes to the constitution, in line with taking the SCBA from Institute of Public Character (IPC) status to full 'charity' status. We are currently still finalising the exact wording of the proposed changes. We will need a quorum to make such changes and would like as many voting members to participate in deciding our future.

The Agenda for our AGM will be as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of previous AGM
2. Approval of President's report
3. Approval of Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2010.

4. Voting by the General Meeting on proposed changes to the constitution. The proposed amendments relate to various Articles, to support our move towards being a full charitable status. The main change will be that the assets of the association, if any, upon winding up, will revert to the Government of Singapore, or one of its bodies. Details on these proposed changes will be provided in the July newsletter and on the SCBA website, prior to the meeting.

5. Resolution of Presidency
6. Appointment of auditors for 2007-2008.
7. Any Other Business

Should you have any issues that you wish to raise at the AGM, please contact SCBA Secretary, Derek Maggs (contact details on last page).

This message acts as one of the two agreed methods for the formal notification of the SCBA AGM.

2. Masterpoints

The masterpoint list has been distributed via email on 23 May 2010, by our Club Manager. The hard copy of the list is also available at the clubhouse. Please check your masterpoints and let our Club Manager know if there's any discrepancy.

3. Asia Cup 2010

The first Asia Cup Championship will be hosted by China in Ning Bo City, from 30 August 2010 to 5 September 2010. There will be two categories – Open teams and Ladies teams, and each country is invited to send in one team for each category.

The Chinese Contract Bridge Association (CCBA) will provide 4 twin rooms and free meals for 7 persons (6 players and 1 NPC) per team.

Although SCBA will not be sponsoring the entry fee for this event, a team trial will be conducted should there be more than one team interested in participating. Please register your team with our Club Manager by 30 June 2010. The team trial will be conducted in early July. Conditions of entry will be similar to that for the PABF teams i.e. maximum 2 PR per team, if not all Singaporeans.

Qualified teams can nominate the NPC of their choice, which will be ultimately decided by the SCBA Committee.

With warmest regards,
Poon Hua
Vice President, SCBA ♣

What do you get if you cross a donkey with a colt? by Derek Maggs

I was surprised to receive a postcard from a faraway knackers yard (a place where old horses and so on spend their final days). After I had paid the postage –there being no stamp, as donkeys do not have opposable thumbs - I proceeded to read about a hand played amongst the animals there, recorded by my old friend – Donkey. He was partnering a lame colt against two old, black mares – people referred to them as the nightmares. Donkey had heard a story from a stallion (the Count) that had been married to one of these mares. The Count often commented that her name should have been ‘three old mares’ as she would always nag, nag, nag!

Donkey played with gay abandon these days. He did not remember much and did not expect much even if he remembered what to expect. So when the colt opened the bidding and his right hand mare overcalled 1♥, he felt his hand was probably worth a slam in some dimension.

The bidding was inspired on both sides of the table.

NS vulnerable, Dealer North

♠ AQ8 (Colt)	♠ 1072
♥ 1084	♥ KJ763
♦ Q42	♦ AK
♣ A942	♣ 1076
♠ 63	♠ KJ954
♥ 95	♥ AQ2
♦ 1098765	♦ J3 (Donkey)
♣ J53	♣ KQ8

Colt	East	Donkey	West
1♣	1♥	1♠	P
2♠	P	3♦!	P
3♥!	P	6♣	All pass

Donkey bid 3♦ to avoid the likely damaging diamond lead – how right he was on this occasion. West selected a trump after a little thought and shaking of a graying mane. Quite hopeless, thought Donkey, as he surveyed the dummy....

Colt? More like Dolt bidding like that! What was wrong with a 1NT response and what was the 3♥ cue bid, which surely should show a better hand, with more shape... ho hum. He needed a plan, but like most declarers he met these days he could barely be bothered so he started playing a few cards on instinct.

After drawing all the trumps, ending in dummy, Donkey took the winning heart finesse. He then played the last two trumps, pitching a ♥ and a ♦ from dummy. He had hoped that someone would throw a ♣ – no joy. But since he had no hope anyway, he played three rounds of clubs leaving the following:

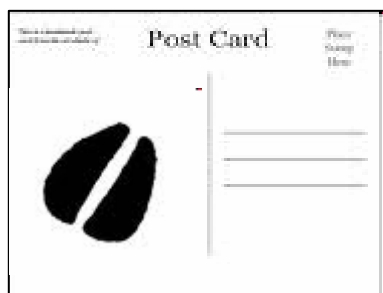
♠ - (Colt)	♠ -
♥ 10	♥ KJ
♦ Q4	♦ AK
♣ 2	♣ -
♠ -	♠ -
♥ 9	♥ A2
♦ 1098	♦ J3 (Donkey)
♣ -	♣ -

What do you get if you cross a donkey with a colt? (cont'd)

As he played the last ♣ from dummy, the graying mare had to think for an age before throwing the K♦. This was such a surprising card that Donkey also paused to fathom what was going on.

After a while he threw his losing ♥ as it surely had no hope now of winning and played a ♦. East had to win and return a ♥ but Donkey scored the last two tricks to make the slam.

The nagging mare scolded her partner – “why did you throw away the winning ♦ rather than a losing ♥?” “Nag, nag, nag” the old mare mumbled under her breath. ♣



SOLUTION TO MAY QUIZ

LL Wong

There are a few problems that need to be solved with this hand:

♠ J63 (East)
♥ AK3
♦ AKJ1074
♣ J

♠ AK52
♥ 109743
♦ 32
♣ 109 (West)

The first problem is a bidding one. After three passes, East opened 1♦, and with no intervention, West replied 1♥. Now what would you rebid, as East? The decision here will affect the final contract. With top controls concentrated in both red suits, it is advisable to bid 3♥, as you can upgrade the suit's length due to its strength (instead of just making a non-forcing 2♦ or 3♦).

At the table, some chose to bid 2S, 3♦, 3NT and 4♥. Only 6 out of the 20 results were in 4♥. The few that

were in 3NT went down – either 2 or 3 tricks.

Once the bidding problem has been solved, the next would be how to play 4♥, with two rounds of top clubs? There are a few options.

1) Take your chances - there are 6 top tricks, a club ruff, and two more trumps (if they break 3:2). You may be able to get the last trick in the spade or diamond, by dropping the queen, or if spades break 3:3.

2) Hope for a 3:2 trump break, and duck the 2nd club, to create an extra entry to dummy, or allow a spade ruff, or establishment of diamonds.

3) Hope for a defensive error, by exiting the last trump. A wrong return could give enough tempo to establish the diamonds, or finesse the Q♦.

4) Psychological play – Ruff the club and play A and K of trump. If trumps break 3:2, then exit the J♦. You can

SOLUTION TO MAY QUIZ (cont'd)

LL Wong

make it, if defender chooses to duck, or if after winning the QD, defender returns either of the black suits, or if the defender with the outstanding trump also holds the longer diamonds.

5) The unusual mindset play: Assume that the diamonds break 3:2 or that the QD will drop. After ruffing the 2nd club, play off dummy's A, K and a small ♦, which you ruff in hand. The A and K of trumps are now the entry, to claim the rest of the diamonds. The losers are one club and two hearts. You cannot afford to draw trumps, even once, before the diamonds are established. This type of play is useful, but most players tend to avoid it, due to the psychological barrier that there are many trumps outstanding.

Let's explore this play further. This is the mid position. There are 5 trumps remaining in defenders' hands.

♠ J63 (East)
 ♥ AK
 ♦ J107
 ♣ -

♠ AK52
 ♥ 10743
 ♦ -
 ♣ - (West)

Either defender can over-ruff the third diamond play. If they exit a club, declarer ruffs in hand, plays a trump to dummy's KH, and then JD, discarding a spade from hand. Defenders will ruff (if not, declarer will draw trumps and play diamond again to discard the last spade loser). Whatever the return, declarer can enter dummy again with the top trump and play the diamond to discard the spade loser.

This particular hand is easy to make, if there is a mistake in the defensive play. Let's now look at some of the common defence mistakes.

1) Defenders did not count declarer's winning tricks properly.

2) Defenders did not count the distribution of the suits, in particular the diamonds.

3) Defenders did not notice declarer's problem of finding enough entries to the dummy, to cash the diamond winners.

4) Defenders did not give the right signals, in particular for the club suit, or did not notice when partners made the signal.

5) Defenders did not concentrate enough, to analyse the hand, before a single card was played.

For those of you who actually played this hand and made the contract (this hand was taken from the game at Singapore National Bridge League, League Cup 1, on 10 April), did you make it due to help from the defenders?

Did any of you make 4♥ by the unusual mindset way? ♣

JUNE QUIZ LL Wong

This is a similar mid-position, picked by Mr Loo Choon Chou, from the Singapore Open Teams event, in the qualifying round. Part of the actual deal is:

	♠ A (Dummy)
	♥ J108432
	♦ Q654
(LHO)	♣ 42
♠ J1052	
♥ KQ	
♦ 102	
♣ KJ1073	
	♠ KQ
	♥ 976
	♦ ??? (Declarer)
	♣ AQ865

Your are sitting in LHO's position and the contract is 4♥. You led 5 of spades.

Trick 1 – Upon the spade lead, dummy plays A♠, and declarer drops the Q♠. The spade situation is quite clear now.
 Trick 2 – Declarer plays small heart from dummy and partner places A♥.
 Trick 3 – Partner returns 9 of clubs, which is won by declarer's A♣.

The play of the A♥ and return of a club shows that partner was trying to get an early club trick or a ruff, which is good defensive play.

Trick 4/5/6 – Declarer plays the K♠, discarding dummy's losing club, and plays a small ♣ to dummy, ruffing high. He then exits dummy with a ♥, which is won by LHO. What next?

Here are a couple of questions:
 What should LHO play when partner's A♥ won the second trick?
 At trick 7, LHO exits with J♣, which is won by declarer's Q♣. Declarer then exits a small diamond. How should LHO react?

While you are thinking of this problem, remember that you have already won 2 tricks, and you need to get another 2 more to defeat the contract.

To help solve this problem, take a look at a different mid-position scenario, which is in the same position, ie. the declarer needs to win 6 out of the last 7 tricks. And as the defender, you need to win just two more to defeat it.

Trying to solve this may help you in solving earlier problem.

	(Dummy)	
	♠ -	
	♥ J85	
	♦ Q654	
(LHO)	♣ -	
♠ J10		♠ 876
♥ K		♥ -
♦ 102		♦ KJ87
♣ KJ10		♣ -
	♠ -	
	♥ 10	
	♦ A93 (Declarer)	
	♣ Q86	

After winning the small heart play with the K♥, as LHO what do you do next?



1st Asia Cup
 30 August - 5 September
 Zhejiang China

Each country can send 1 Open and 1 Ladies Team.

Accommodation and meals provided FOC
 If there are more than one team per category, there will be a play off.
 Closing date: 5 July 2010

Labour Day Special Game

1 May 2010, (10 pairs)

- 1st Romulus Tham & Wei Seng Tan
- 2nd Jicheng Shi & Pengyu Yan
- 3rd Zain Moledina & SS Chang

Vesak Day Special Game

28 May 2010 (35 pairs)

North

- 1st Yoke Lan Foo & Choon Cheng Seet
- 2nd Kimiko Endo & Alan Sia
- 3rd Yuanxi Chen & Lan Li

East

- 1st Jinkun Charles Ye & Jason Lee
- 2nd Hui Yi Tay & Tho Shavin
- 3rd Hanfei Zhu & Wei Xing Teo

Singapore Open Teams

8/9 and 15/16 May 2010, (xx teams)

- 1st FOS – Poon Hua, CC Loo, Allen Tan, KH Fong, Kelvin Ng, Kristina Wahyu
- 2nd Bridge Bears – Wong Choo Wai, Derek Maggs, Jens Rasmusen, Alan Sia, Kimiko Endo
- 3rd ROSSO – Soh SL, KL Chue, Gerald Tan, Lee Kheng Wei, Yong Kien Kong, Liw Meng Hon

Singapore Open Team champions, Kelvin Ng, Loo Choon Chou, Poon Hua, Wong Choo Wai (President SCBA), Fong Kien Hou and Allen Tan



Singapore National Bridge League results

	Division 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Adj	Total	Rank
1	Friends of Sheep								17	15	25		57	1
									57	43	0	0	137	40
2	The Bridge Bears						20		22		15		57	1
							87	61	106	64	0	0		
3	Saniva					20		15			15		50	4
						75	46	0	0		0	0		
4	Bozzetto (Argento)					15	4	15					34	8
						0	0	31	99	0	0			
5	NUSS (Red)			10	15				7				32	9
				46	75	0	0		54	102				
6	Bozzetto (Azzurro)		10		25					15			50	4
			61	87		99	31			0	0			
7	NUS (G)			15	15					22			52	3
				0	0	0	0			89	47			
8	Bukit Timah CC (A)	13	8			23							44	6
		43	57	64	106			102	54					
9	NUS (B)	15					15	8					38	7
		0	0				0	0	47	89				
10	X-Men	0	15	15									30	10
		40	137	0	0	0	0							

June 2010 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>	1	2	3	<p>24th World Wide Bridge Contest \$12 a member, \$15 a guest, \$8 a student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.30pm 	<p>Youth Pairs Championship</p> <p>\$15 a person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.00 – 10.30pm 	6	
	7	8	9	10	11	<p>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.30pm, SCBA 	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	<p>National Schools Bridge Team Championships</p> <p>\$100 per team</p> <p>22-23 June</p>	23	24	25	<p>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.30pm, SCBA 	27
	28	29	30				

July 2010 Events Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<p>All events are held at SCBA Clubhouse unless stated otherwise.</p>			1	2	<p>Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships</p> <p>\$50 - pair, \$25 - student pair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.30pm 	4	
	<p>SCBA Annual General Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.00pm 	6	7	8	9	<p>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.30pm, SCBA 	11
	12	13	14	15	16	<p>Selangor Congress</p> <p>17-18 July</p> <p>KL Malaysia</p>	18
	19	20	21	22	23	<p>24th Singapore National Bridge League Open House #9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.30pm SCBA 	25
	26	27	28	29	<p>Kepri Governor Cup VI</p> <p>30 July – 1 August</p> <p>Batam Indonesia</p>	31	

Corporate Members + SCBA Officials

Weekly Games @ Bridge Clubs

SCBA weekly games Monday – 9.30am and 7.30 pm
Thursday - 9.30 am
Friday – 1.00pm and 7.30pm
Sunday - 2.00 pm

KAMPONG KEMBANGAN CC, 5 Lengkong Tiga. Mon/ Thurs
7.00pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – Derek Maggs)

NTU CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB, 20 Nanyang Green Hall 7.
Tues 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
Every Wed 7.30 pm at Bkt Timah Guild House (SCBA Liaison
Officer – Thiagarajan)

SIGLAP COMMUNITY CENTRE, 300 Bedok South Avenue 3
Sun 2.30 pm (SCBA Liaison Officer – AK Heng)

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, 240 Sime Road
Bridge @ The Niblick. Mon/ Thurs 7.30 pm. Wed 1.00pm (from
7 April 2010) (SCBA Liaison Officer – S Mahadevan)

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 – Maha)

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

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