

# Hong Kong Inter-City Bridge Championships

Hotel Miramar, Aug 10-15, 2004



## The tension mounts with just three qualifying rounds to go

Still drawing blood - Dracula continues to defy the pundits



**W**ITH JUST THREE rounds to go, in Section B, the Dracula team of Alan Sze, W. K. Chan, W. K. Lai, K. F. Mak, Henry Wong and Steve Wong continue to lead the way with 153.5 VPs. Charging into second spot is Sherman's lot of Yue Lin, Zhang Guangyang, Sherman Ng, Huang Yong, Lou Xiang Zheng and W. C. Li with 152 VPs. Still in third spot is the much fancied Ambassador team of Patrick Choy, Fu Zhong, Ju Chuancheng, Anthony Ching, David Chan and Lawrence with 147 VPs.

In section A last years winners the AIA team of Edmund Tse, Patrick Huang, C. H. Kuo, Derek Zen and Samuel Wan have hit the lead with 166 VPs. Running true to their second seeding is the Teramoto team of Tadashi Teramoto, Hideki Takano, Masaaki Takayama and Zheng Liu with 164 VPs. In third spot from China is team Shenzhen of Chensheng Hong, Gui Sheng Yue, Zhang Bang Xiang, Shen Jia Xiang, Wang Rui and Bie Zi Hua with 139 VPs.

As expected, in the Youth section, Tapei Youth of Tzu-Lin Wu, Yi-cheng Pan, Chih-hung Chien, Chung-Wen Liu, Wei-bung Wang, Yen-hsiang and C. H. Quo (NPC) have hit the lead with 167.5 VPs. In second spot, performing extremely well is Tohoku University of Yokoi Hiroki, Ajiki Kadai, Kan Satoshi, Shiga Motoaki and Uokoi Hiroki with 164 VPs. In third spot is the HK Jade team of L. H. Chin, Y. C. Lai, Baron Ng, Leung Cheuk Hin, Tony Lau and Eric Tan with 155 VPs.

### Stop Press

#### The Hong Kong Inter-City IMP Pairs - top 10 pairs

Place	Pair
1	Lau - Dave Pang
2	Alex Leigh - Stephen Kwok
3	Jonathan Lee - Cheung Lik
4	Antony Au - Dominic Lee
5	DM Chiu - IL leong
6	Fu Zhong - KF Mak
7	CC Tsai - Huang Strong
8	Bob Ham - Paul So
9	Maulang Felipe - Maulang Suena
10	Ko Chuen Ho - Sam To



### Problem du jour

West	East
♠ J 10 8 7 4	♠ A 3
♥ K J 3 2	♥ A 10 8
♦ 10 8 3	♦ A 7 6
♣ 8	♣ A Q J 7 5

N/EW	North	East	South
West		2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
3♠	pass	3NT	all
pass			

South leads ♠6 and ♠J wins in dummy. You play a club to ♣Q, which wins. What now?

*See page four*

### In this issue

- Slam dunked - match report - round six
- Deal of the day
- Problem du jour
- Patrick's Coup
- No more Mr Nice Guy
- Appeal committee decision from round six

# No more Mr. Nice Guy

CH Kuo gets tough

**O**N THE FIRST two boards of last year's Inter-City Teams final, CH Kuo went through a mood swing. He was a member of the AIA juggernaut, the most successful team in Inter-City history.

Going into the last set of the final, AIA held a useful lead and Kuo, sitting North, behaved like a normal solid citizen but things went bad:

N/EW    ♠ 8 4  
           ♡ K 10 8 6 3  
           ♢ 3  
           ♣ AK Q 9 7

♠ AK J 9 7            ♠ Q 6 5 3  
 ♡ Q                    ♡ 9 5 2  
 ♢ A 9 7 4            ♢ K J 10 6  
 ♣ J 10 2              ♣ 8 5

♠ 10 2  
 ♡ A J 7 4  
 ♢ Q 8 5 2  
 ♣ 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
	1♥	pass	2♥
2♠	3♣	4♠	all pass

East-West make four spades but North-South are only one down in five hearts.

That was an effective leap to four spades by East – it took away South's easy four heart bid. In my view, South should still bid five hearts – his fourth trump is huge along with a shortage in spades. But he passed. So four spades was passed around to Kuo who also passed. I can understand Kuo's pass – he has really bid his hand - but it was no success. West made four spades and in the other room, North-South reached five hearts to hit Kuo's team with an 11 imp loss, wiping out most of the AIA lead.

Kuo brooded about this loss. By the time the second board came along, his mood had changed. It was no more



Mr. Nice Guy. Kuo had rolled up his sleeves and he was ready to fight.

E/all    ♠ K J 6 2  
           ♡ 10 7 3  
           ♢ 9 6  
           ♣ Q 8 4 2

♠ Q 8 4            ♠ 10 5  
 ♡ A 6 4 3        ♡ K J 9 8 2  
 ♢ K Q 10 8 4    ♢ A J 2  
 ♣ 7                ♣ K 9 6

♠ A 9 7 3  
 ♡ Q  
 ♢ 7 5 3  
 ♣ A J 10 5 3

West	North	East	South
4♥	?	1♥	dbl

The auction went this way at both tables. Most Norths would pass. They would recognize that four spades could easily work but they would conclude that the risks were too high. Not Kuo – he was afraid of no one. He bid four spades and with both black finesses working there was no stopping him.

In the other room, the bidding started the same way but North passed over four hearts. However, he soon found that four hearts could not be defeated. The double game swing was worth 15 imps to Kuo's AIA team. They went on to win the final by 29 imps.

## Appeal

## Committee



### Bd 6, round 1

Director: Ronald Hui

Committee:

Kenji Miyakuni, Japan

Ju Chuancheng, China

Paul Marston, Australia, chairman

E/EW    ♠ J 5 3  
           ♡ J 3  
           ♢ J 5 3 2  
           ♣ Q J 4 3

♠ Q 9                    ♠ AK 7 4 2  
 ♡ AK 4 2               ♡ 10 9 6  
 ♢ 6 4                    ♢ 10 7  
 ♣ AK J 9 5            ♣ 8 7 6

♠ 10 8 6  
 ♡ Q 8 7 5  
 ♢ AK Q 9 8  
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
		pass	1♠
dbl	2♠	2♠	3♠
dbl <sup>1</sup>	pass	4♠	5♠
dbl	pass	pass	pass

1. West's second double was explained as "invitational."

When South found that West had only two spades he claimed he had been misinformed by the explanation, saying he expected North would be short in spades.

The director ruled score stands and East-West appealed.

The committee found that at no stage did EW say that West's double was an invitation in spades. South based his decision on the assumption that EW would have a spade fit. The committee felt he would have been wise to check that his assumption was warranted.

Even if it was explained that the double shows at least three spades, South would not be protected against this not being the case. West is always entitled to make an off-shape double.

The committee made the unanimous decision to reject the appeal and return the appellants' deposit.

## Match report - round 6

# Slam Dunked



**A**FTER FIVE ROUNDS the Japanese Slam Dunk team were living up to their name until they met Sherman's Lot the following round.

Board 18 ♠ A 9  
E/NS ♥ Q 6 4  
♦ Q J 10 9 7 6  
♣ J 9

♠ K Q J 10 6      ♠ 7 5 2  
♥ A 5              ♥ K J 10 8 7 2  
♦ A 8 4 3 2      ♦ 5  
♣ 8                  ♣ 10 6 2

♠ 8 4 3  
♥ 9 3  
♦ K  
♣ A K Q 7 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
		2♥	3♣
4♥	5♦	pass	pass
dble	all pass		

Slam Dunk's Sakiko Naito as East opened a weak two hearts, Sherman Ng, overcalled three clubs, Kenji Miyakuni called four hearts and North W. C. Li bravely ventured five diamonds - which Kenji enthusiastically doubled.

Sakiko lead a ♥ to Kenji's ace who quickly shifted to the ♠K. Li won and played a low heart, East winning and exiting with a ♠. Kenji won and exited a low ♦. But Li was now in control able to draw trumps and run clubs just failing by two tricks. In the other room South played 5♣ doubled three down. Kenji could have done better by either continuing ♠s or exiting a ♣ to equal the board. Optimum defence is a ♣ switch at trick two for a four trick set. In the match between Tokyo Makiko and the Ambassador

team Lawrence Lau was allowed to play 5♣ undoubled!

On the next board Miyakuni as West showed fine card play technique but for no reward.

Board 19 ♠ 6 5 4 2  
S/EW ♥ J 8 4  
♦ J 8  
♣ K J 8 7

♠ A J 10              ♠ Q 8  
♥ 10                  ♥ A K Q 6 5  
♦ K Q 10 7 5 4      ♦ 6 2  
♣ Q 10 9              ♣ A 6 3 2

♠ K 9 7 3  
♥ 9 7 3 2  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ 5 4

Liu as North led ♠6 against West's 3NT contract. The ♠Q was played from dummy, king and Miyakuni's ace. Next came ♦K to ♦A. South continued spades. West won and played three top hearts. When all followed Kenji played a fourth heart to guarantee his contract. Unfortunately with diamonds behaving the safety play cost a trick.

It is always interesting how different opening bids can result in very different final contracts.

Board 20 ♠ 8 7 5 4 3 2  
W/all ♥ A Q 9  
♦ 10 3 2  
♣ Q

♠ J 6                  ♠ K Q  
♥ J 5 3 2              ♥ K 8 7  
♦ A J 9                ♦ Q 4  
♣ K 10 7 6              ♣ A J 9 8 5 2

♠ A 10 9  
♥ 10 6 4  
♦ K 8 7 6 5  
♣ 4 3

Three notrumps seems the obvious contract and was easily reached after Sakiko Naito as East, after two passes, opened with a strong notrump. The play presented no problems. This was the auction in the Ambassador Tokyo Makiko match.



Sherman Ng  
- found the  
killing shift

Asukada	Zhong	Tsuchiyp	Lau
West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	dble	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

Four spades failed by two tricks but was not doubled!

Sherman Ng found a nice shift to beat 3NT on the following hand for a 10 imp pick up.

Board 21 ♠ Q 10 9 6 4  
N/NS ♥ A 10 9 5 2  
♦ 4  
♣ 9 4

♠ A K 8 7 5 2      ♠ 3  
♥ 7 6                  ♥ Q J 8  
♦ K 5                  ♦ Q J 9 8 6 2  
♣ J 10 5              ♣ A K 7

♠ J  
♥ K 4 3  
♦ A 10 7 3  
♣ Q 8 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♦	pass
1♠	pass	2♦	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	all pass

Sherman, as South, got off to a low club lead, dummy's jack winning. Next came the ♦K and Sherman won with the ace. He shifted to the ♠J and declarer could not come to nine tricks.

We all like to open light in third hand but I think Kenji received his just deserves for opening super light on Board 26.

*Continued over the page*



W.C. Li -  
found a brave  
five diamond  
bid

# Patrick's Coup

## Breaking the unbreakable

**I**N ROUND 7 board 2 Patrick Huang found a neat (tempo) duck to defeat an ice cold 3NT.

Board 26    ♠ 8 6  
E/A II    ♥ K J 5 2  
          ♦ Q 9 5  
          ♣ A Q J 9

♠ 7 3                    ♠ Q J 10 4 2  
♥ A 10 9 8 6            ♥ Q 7 3  
♦ J 3 2                    ♦ K 10 4  
♣ K 5 3                    ♣ 7 2

          ♠ A K 9 5  
          ♥ 4  
          ♦ A 8 7 6  
          ♣ 10 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
		pass	pass
1♥!	pass	1♠	pass
2♥!!	pass	pass	dbld
all pass			

Two hearts was two down. In the other room N/S sailed into 3NT going one down. Twelve imps to Sherman's Lot.

Sherman Ng should have been rewarded on the following hand for following the sound principle that misfits don't make tricks.

Board 29    ♠ K Q 8 7 6 5  
N/all    ♥ 4  
          ♦ 7  
          ♣ A K Q J 3

♠ 2                    ♠ A J 9 4 3  
♥ A J 6                    ♥ 9 8 5  
♦ Q 9 6 4                    ♦ A 5 3  
♣ 10 9 7 6 4                    ♣ 5 2

          ♠ 10  
          ♥ K Q 10 7 3 2  
          ♦ K J 10 8 2  
          ♣ 8

West	Li North	East	Ng South
	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	2♣	pass	2♦*
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	3♠	All pass	

South's 2♦ was BART showing an invitational hand with ♥s but sensing a major misfit Sherman passed Li's 3♠ bid. Perhaps Li should have suspected

E/NS    ♠ 7 6 2  
          ♥ Q 9 7 5 4  
          ♦ 9 8  
          ♣ J 4 2

♠ A K 8 4                    ♠ 10  
♥ A K 3 2                    ♥ J 10  
♦ J 2                    ♦ A K 10 7 5 3  
♣ 9 8 7                    ♣ K 10 6 5

          ♠ Q J 9 5 3  
          ♥ 8 6  
          ♦ Q 6 4  
          ♣ A Q 3

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
dbld	pass	2♦	pass
3NT	all pass		

As you can see, 3NT is easy with five diamond tricks and four major suit winners but that is not how it went.

North led ♠2 to ♠J and ♠K. Next came the ♦J ducked all round! This convinced declarer that North had ♦Q. He therefore played a diamond to ♦10 and the roof fell in when Patrick as South produced the ♦Q. Declarer was shut out of dummy and all he could make was seven tricks.

The only good news for poor declarer is that he was taken in by one of the world's truly great players.

the same and passed 3♥. After ace and another diamond was led, Li was able to get out for one down for a 3 imp pick up. In the other room 3NT was two down. This is a little unusual as a suit contract with misfitting hands tend to be a trick or two better off than in notrumps.

A one sided match where Sherman's Lot slam dunked the opposition 25-5.

## Problem du jour



The answer from page 1

**Y**OUTH player Tzu-Lin Wu, has all the attributes of becoming a master player (if not already), following in the footsteps of other champion Chinese Taipei players. Witness board 9 from round 5.

N/EW    ♠ 5  
          ♥ Q 9 7 5  
          ♦ K Q 2  
          ♣ K 9 6 4 3

♠ J 10 8 7 4                    ♠ A 3  
♥ K J 3 2                    ♥ A 10 8  
♦ 10 8 3                    ♦ A 7 6  
♣ 8                    ♣ A Q J 7 5

          ♠ K Q 9 6 2  
          ♥ 6 4  
          ♦ J 9 5 4  
          ♣ 10 2

West	North	East	South
		2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
3♠	pass	3NT	all pass

From the auction a diamond lead looks right but South started with ♠6. Tzu-Lin won the ♠J in dummy and led a club to his queen. Then he played a low club.

South won the ♣10 and belatedly switched to diamonds. Tzu-Lin ducked two rounds of diamonds and won the third. Then he made the fine play of cashing ♠A in this position:

          ♠ —  
          ♥ Q 9 7 5  
          ♦ —  
          ♣ K 9 6

♠ 10 8 7                    ♠ A  
♥ K J 3 2                    ♥ A 10 8  
♦ —                    ♦ —  
♣ —                    ♣ A Q 7

          ♠ K Q 9 6  
          ♥ 6 4  
          ♦ J  
          ♣ —

North, squeezed, chose to discard a heart. Wu then led ♥8 to ♥K and a low heart back to his ♥10 and cashed the ♥A.

He then exited ♣7 to North's ♣9 and won the forced club return with the queen and cashed the ♣A for a well deserved nine tricks.

At the other table East opened one club, passed out when West was too tired to respond.