

Hong Kong Inter-City Bridge Championships

Hotel Miramar, Aug 10-15, 2004



Shock as Ambassador crashes out

ONLY FOUR TEAMS remain in the Inter city's Teams Championship. The AIA team easily accounted for HZHK 94 - 59, Teramoto had a comfortable win over Nan Gang Power 86 - 49. Yeh Brothers put a stake through Dracula's heart 110 - 68 and the upset of the round, where Sherman's lot narrowly defeating Ambassador 72- 70. In the Youth semi finals HK Jade took care of HK Sapphire 123 - 19 and Taipei Youth accounted for Tohoku University 205 - 128. The final should be a great affair with a lot of Kudos at stake. At the recent PABF Championships held in July in Taipei, two Taipei Youth teams defeated two Hong Kong teams by the slenderest of margins. The Hong teams were not happy.

So revenge is on the cards. The upcoming final between the local HK Jade team and the Taipei Youth team should be an interesting affair.

After 32 boards there are always hands of interest. In the first set of the quarter finals board 12 caused the most action.

Board 12	♠ 8 5 3		
W/NS	♥ A 10 9 6		
	♦ K		
	♣ A Q 10 7 5		
♠ K J 10 4 2		♠ Q 9 7 6	
♥ K Q 3		♥ J 8 7 5 4	
♦ 7 6		♦ J 9 4 3	
♣ J 9 8		♣	
	♠ A		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A Q 10 8 5 2		
	♣ K 6 4 3 2		

In the Ambassador vs Shermans Lot Fu Zhong and Ju Chuang Cheng found the 7♠ sacrifice against the cold 7♣. Edmond Tse and Patrick Huang were lucky to buy the contract in 7♣. But perhaps the most interesting auction was in the Junior clash between the Taipei Youth and Tohoku University. North opened 1♣ and South responded 1♦. West overcalled 1♠ and North passed. East, Wei-bung Wang could see that N/S had huge potential and found a youthful approach to solving the problem he called 1NT and South doubled! back to Wang who judiciously removed to 2♠! South doubled! Some confusion reigned because 2♠ doubled became the final contract.

The Ambassador team had lots of hard luck stories but board 17 caused the most pain.

Board 17	♠ A Q		
N/nil	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ K 10 7 6 5 3		
	♣ K 4		
♠ K 10 9 6 3		♠ J	
♥ K J 5 2		♥ A 10 8 4 3	
♦ Q		♦ 9 8	
♣ A 8 3		♣ J 9 7 6 5	
	♠ 8 7 5 4 2		
	♥ Q		
	♦ A J 4 2		
	♣ Q 10 2		

Sherman's Lot stopped in 3♦ making with two overtricks, Had the Ambassador team also stopped in a diamond partial they would have won the match, had they bid game they would have comfortably won the match but tragically they pressed on to slam doubled for one down.



Keeping all your options intact

S/all	♠ K Q 10 7 4
	♥ K 10 2
	♦ K J 9 5 4
	♣ —
	♠ 8
	♥ A 7 6 4
	♦ A Q 7 6
	♣ K 9 4 2

West	North	East	South
			1♦
pass	1♠	2♣	pass
pass	4♦	pass	4♥
pass	6♦	all pass	

West leads ♣7. What line would you take?

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***Women's champions
from Japan***

Nancy Neumann, chairperson of the organising committee, Nobuko Setoguchi, Haruko Koshi, Natsuko Nishida, Sachiko Yamamura, Yayoi Sakamoto, Hiroko Ohta

Open teams

Youth teams



Tangling with Teramoto

IN ROUND 9 in the open section the Japanese Teramoto team of Tadashi Teramoto, Hideki Takano, Masaaki Takayama and Shoko Fukuda faced off against the Chinese team S. Z. Nan Gang Power Zhang Bang Xiang, Wang Rui, Zi Hua-Bie and Jialing - Sheng. Board one was a flat 6♣ easily bid in both rooms. Then a 5 imp swing to Teramoto on a part score hand. This was the deal

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
2♥	pass	2♠	end

As North in the Open room Tadashi Teramoto started with the ♣Q and continued with a low club, ♣10, ♣A, ruffed by declarer. Next a heart was led to the queen and Shoko Fukuda's ace. Shoko exited with the ♠9, ♠Q and ♠A and spades continued. The declarer Jialing-Sheng then played a third spade to South. Shoko exited a heart and declarer tried the ♥10 losing to the ♥J. Tadashi exited a ♥ to later score his ♦K for one down. In the closed



Zi Hua-Bie - found the toughest defence



Tadashi Teramoto - not taken in by the bright lights of slam

room the defence started the same except when the Chinese South Wang Rui was in with the ♥A he switched to a low diamond giving the Japanese declarer Takayama Masaaki an easy road for nine tricks. Board 5 saw a massive swing to Teramoto, when the Chinese players ended up in 3NT one down (It could have been two down but the defenders heart suit became blocked) and in the closed room the Japanese pair Masaaki and Hideki sailed into 6♦. This was the hand.

Board 5	♠ Q J 7 6 3 2		
N/NS	♥ K Q J 6 3		
	♦ A		
	♣ 4		
♠ K 10 8 4		♠ —	
♥ 9		♥ A 10 5	
♦ Q 9 8 7 3		♦ K J 10 6 5	
♣ K J 8		♣ A Q 6 5 2	
	♠ A 9 5		
	♥ 8 7 4 2		
	♦ 4 2		
	♣ 10 9 7 3		

Jialin-Sheng	Zi Hua-Bie		
West	North	East	South
	1♠	dble	pass
1NT	2♥	pass!	pass
3♦	pass	3♥	pass
3NT	all pass		

More simple in the closed room.

Masaaki	Hideki		
West	North	East	South
	1♠	dble	2♠
3♦	4♠	6♦	all

+14 imps Teramoto

On board 7 Tadashi's, as North, correctly judged to stop in game, even

with a combined thirty points and double fitting - but balanced. Where as in the other room the Chinese pair nonchalantly bid slam failing by two tricks.

On board 9 The Chinese player Zi Hua-Bie, East, found a nice but unsuccessful defence.

Board 9	♠ A 10 8 3 2		
N/EW	♥ A Q 2		
	♦ 5		
	♣ A K J 8		
♠ J 9 7 6		♠	
♥ —		♥ K J 10 9 7 6 3	
♦ J 10 9 7 6 3 2		♦ A K 8	
♣ 10 4		♣ 7 6 2	
	♠ K Q 5 4		
	♥ 8 5 4		
	♦ Q 4		
	♣ Q 9 5 3		

In the closed room 4♠ was easily reached by North. Declarer having no problems after the defence started with ace and king of diamonds. Declarer ruffed drew trumps and cashed out for ten tricks. In the Open room against North's 4♠ contract Zi Hua-Bie opened with the ♦K then found the great switch to a low heart. Jialing-Sheng ruffed and returned a diamond expecting another heart ruff. Unfortunately declarer was able to ruff the diamond return scuttling what could have been a great defence.

For most of the match the Teramoto team had it their own way but on the last board, S. Z. Nan Gang Power struck back.

Board 14	♠ K J 7 6 5		
E/nil	♥ 4 3 2		
	♦ K J 7		
	♣ Q 5		
♠ Q 8 4		♠ A 10 3 2	
♥ K J 10 8		♥ 5	
♦ A 9 5 3		♦ Q 6 4 2	
♣ A 10		♣ 9 6 3 2	
	♠ 9		
	♥ A Q 9 7 6		
	♦ 10 8		
	♣ K J 8 7 4		
West	Teramoto	East	Fukada
	North	South	South
		pass	1♥
pass	2♥	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	pass	pass
dble	all pass		



Keeping all your options intact

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

West	North	East	South
			1♦
pass	1♠	2♣	pass
pass	4♦	pass	4♥
pass	6♦	all pass	

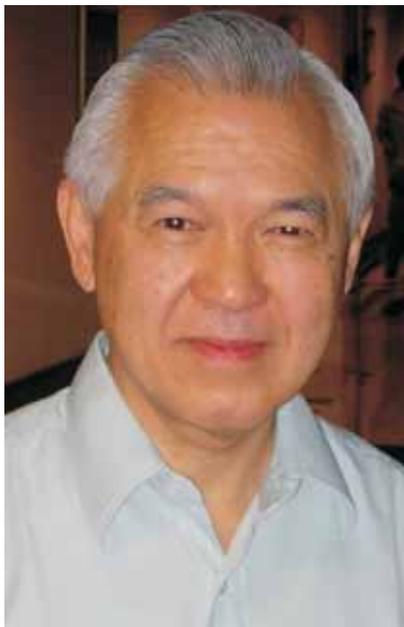
West leads ♣7, which you must ruff. Best is to come to ♥A and play a spade. It doesn't matter what the defence does, you are in charge. West cannot afford to rise with ♠A and nor can he afford to duck.

If West ducks, you score ♠K in dummy, cash ♥K and cross ruff for 12 tricks.

At the table, declarer failed to keep his options open. He made the mistake of coming to ♦A to lead a spade. **Robert Zajac** wisely ducked as West and declarer won ♠K in dummy. But he could no longer cross ruff for 12 tricks. So he had to make something of the spades. He tried to ruff out ♠Axx with West but that was no good.

West is more likely to hold ♠Axxx. Instead you must lead ♠Q from dummy and pitch a heart. West wins ♠A and exits a trump. You win, trump out ♠J, play ♥A and a heart to ♥K. Now the good ♠10, pitching the last heart and a heart ruff for 12 tricks the hard way.

World business leader makes the Hong Kong Inter-City his annual gig



Edmund Tse in bridge-playing mode

ONE OF THE beauties of bridge is that it brings a variety of people together. For instance, one of the members of the AIA team is a world leader in business. He is Edmund Tse of Hong Kong.

Tse is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American International Assurance and the Senior Vice Chairman of financial giant, American International Group. AIG is the largest financial institution in the world (perhaps after City Bank) with revenue in excess of US\$10 billion and one of Fortune 500s top ten companies. He is in charge of the life insurance division, which produces almost 50% of the group's total earnings.

He learned bridge at 19 and quickly took to the game. By his early 20s he represented Hong Kong at the FEBF and won in 1961. From 1970 until 1983 he was in Taiwan running *Nanshan Life Insurance* and he put his bridge on hold. In fact he did not touch a single card in 10 years.

But once an addict - always an addict. He was lured back when a business colleague heard whisper of his great hidden talent. In 1987, he again repre-

sented Hong Kong at the PABF in Shanghai and they won!

These days he doesn't have much time to play. In fact the Hong Kong Inter-City (with Patrick Huang) is his only regular outing.

I asked Tse if he has a tip for our readers. He said there is no short cut. You have to start with the basics and you have to read. Tse remembers *Card Play Technique* and the Kelsey books. (A while ago we did a survey of experts in Australia and they also voted *Card Play Technique* number one!)

We asked Tse about how he sees the future of the game. He said it is not easy to get a large number of people playing the game. The trouble is that people do not have time. Things are too competitive. They don't have time to read. It is only countries like China where the players have the necessary support. He said it is only a matter of time before China (especially the women) come out on top.

Match report - continued

Teramoto's 2♥ was semi constructive. With a weaker hand he would have raised hearts via 1NT. When partner made the barrage bid of 3♥ Tadashi was unsure of what his agreements were as this was still a relatively new partnership. After much deliberation he raised to game, which Jialing-Sheng was more than happy to double. In the other room



Jialing-Sheng

South opened 2♥ and was allowed to play there. Both tables made 8 tricks. The final score 32-12, which shows the danger of tangling with Taramoto.