

# Newsletter

October ~ December 2012



HKCBA LTD

<http://www.hkcba.org>

Member of World Bridge Federation

Member of Pacific Asia Bridge Federation

Member of Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

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### 3rd Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2012 (Monday)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Unit 1103, 11/F, East Ocean Centre, 98 Granville Road, TST, KLN, HK

Present: Officers:

Derek Zen – President (DZ)

Thomas Ng – Vice-President (TN)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apologizes:

Council members:

Chan Yiu (CY)

Leo Cheung (LC)

| Item | Content   | When | Action           |
|------|---|------|------------------|
| 1    | Adopt minutes of last meeting.  |      |                  |
| 2    | Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):<br>a) XL will continue to explore how to share Bridge related news with University.<br>b) KF reached out to Amy to arrange jackets with HKCBA logo for HK representatives to comply with dress code requirement for APBF/World Championships. Amy recommended placing removable logo on jackets instead of making jackets with printed logos. Council decided to use printed logo and will arrange the same type of jacket for all series (Open/Ladies/Senior/Youth). Council discussed and agreed to order 100 jackets to be arranged by KF. KF will send email and circulate the design of the jacket for Council's approval. PC to collect the sizes of council members |      | XL<br><br>KF, PC |

|    |  |  |                               |
|----|--|--|-------------------------------|
|    | <p>and WMSG representatives for the ordering.</p> <p>c) Suggestion to adopt Google calendar for HKCBA events: JT checked with Jacky to get more details on function and use but Jacky reverted that he also has no idea how it can be adopted by HKCBA. Will leave it for now.</p> <p>d) CL to prepare materials on hotel, transportation etc and pass them to DZ in early August for distributing during the APBF delegate's meeting. LC confirmed can't join the delegates meeting with DZ. DZ will try to find someone else.</p> <p>e) KF provided names for World Junior registration.</p> <p>f) CC ordered an additional 40 sets of Bridgemates.</p> <p>g) PC worked with CC and reverted to Anthony Ching with regards to Roger Ling's complain about the hands used in HKCBA. Council agreed to switch to BOS software when it is available.</p> <p>h) CC to order one additional laptop before intercity.</p> <p>i) Anthony Ching will arrange someone to learn Zong Xiao's scoring system during intercity as CC couldn't find anyone who is available during day time.</p> <p>j) TL advised that Kelvin Yim will work on the APBF website for 2013 so no action is required for the moment.</p> <p>k) PC to remind DZ to ask during the APBF delegates meeting whether we should allow those team who didn't participate in WMSG to play in the knock out rounds in 2013 APBF.</p> <p><u>Financial Affairs:</u><br/>The latest bank balance is around HKD621,000 .</p> |  | <p>CL</p> <p>CC</p> <p>PC</p> |
| 3  | <u>Internal Affairs:</u>   |  |                               |
| 3i | Marina's Club issue: Marina's Club complained to HKCBA that there was a member who brought bottle of drinking water into the venue and had argument with the staff of Marina's Club when they tried to stop him from bringing in the bottle of water. Marina's Club held a meeting and discussed the issue and they informed HKCBA Council that all players are not allowed to bring in any food or drinks (including drinking water) with immediate effect. They will reach out to our event director to settle if they discovered the same issue. TN will officially confirm with Marina's Club whether they can allow drinking water in the venue and will work with TL to post the news on HKCBA website, send out reminder to all members and inform directors to remind players during the tournament.   |  | TN, TL                        |
| 4  |  |  |                               |
| 4i |  |  |                               |
|    | <u>External Affairs:</u>   |  |                               |

|         |  |  |        |
|---------|--|--|--------|
| 5<br>5i | <p>2<sup>nd</sup> WMSG: PC has done all registrations on WBF website. For Open Team, the representatives are: Chris Fung, Leo Cheung, John Tsang, Jim Lee, Ashley Lung and Vincent Li. They advised that Samuel Wan will be their NPC - PC to confirm. For Ladies Team, the representatives are: Sally Wang, Flora Wong, Shirley Chang, Nancy Neumann, Sagari Singh and Wendy Simpson. For Senior Team, the representatives are: Edmund Tse, Roger Ling, Fu Kwan, KL Fung, Henry Lam and Alex Leigh. Edmund Tse will be the playing captain and Pauline Ling will be the coach/manager. PC to confirm with Ladies Team whether they will have a NPC and to arrange each of them to sign the declaration form with the anti-doping clause added. WK to make sure they have all registered as HKCBA members.</p> |  | PC, WK |
| 5ii     | <p>World Junior: PC has done the registration on WBF website. The representatives are: Gordon Ho, Louis Lee, Barney Lui, Rocky Tam, John Tsang and Tony Yip. Originally Angus Lee was being chosen as one of the representative but he advised that he wanted to quit team and not joining the event, so Tony Yip was chosen to replace Angus. KF will be the non playing captain.</p>   |  |        |
| 5iii    | <p>APBF Congress: One team will be joining; the players from Hong Kong are CC Mok, Bubble Ho, Fu Cheung and Andy KO Leung. They will form a transnational team consisted of 5 people with one additional player from the Japan side (their team name is "Spark"). Council agreed that they can do the registration directly with Japan without going through Council provided that they are forming a transnational team and are not representing Hong Kong.</p>   |  |        |
| 6       | <p><u>A.O.B.</u></p>   |  |        |
| 6i      | <p>Youth Team: KF suggested reforming the team in the new bridge year as many of the current youth team members are getting older in age and the 3-years development plan launched by LC previously is coming to an end. It has been decided that all the existing youth team members will be exited after intercity. Details of the new development plan will be announced later. Youth team members can continue to play in HKCBA regular tournaments free of charge (except Open League) provided that they continue to act as volunteer helpers and stand-by players for HKCBA as before.</p>  |  |        |
| 6ii     | <p>XL confirmed there will not be any Ladies Team formed from Post Secondary but will confirm if there will be a Ladies Team from Secondary</p>  |  | XL     |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | School joining intercity.   |  |  |
|  | The 4th council meeting will be held on July 4, 2012 (Wednesday). |  |  |

### 4th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 4, 2012 (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Unit 1103, 11/F, East Ocean Centre, 98 Granville Road, TST, KLN, HK

Present: Officers:

Derek Zen – President (DZ)

Thomas Ng – Vice-President (TN)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

CC Wong (CC)

Chan Yiu (CY)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Leo Cheung (LC)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

| Item | Content   | When | Action       |
|------|---|------|--------------|
| 1    | Adopt minutes of last meeting.  |      |              |
| 2    | Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):<br>1) XL will continue to explore how to share Bridge related news with University.<br>m) KF reached out to Amy to arrange jackets with HKCBA logo for HK representatives to comply with dress code requirement for APBF/World Championships. KF brought one sample of the jacket for Council to comment; he will circulate the final design |      | XL<br><br>KF |

|   |  |  |                     |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
|   | <p>for approval by email and then proceed with ordering.</p> <p>n) CL to prepare 50 copies of the materials on hotel, transportation etc and pass them to DZ in early August for distributing during the APBF delegate's meeting.</p> <p>o) CC to order one additional laptop for intercity around mid to late July.</p> <p>p) Email was sent to all members to remind them that no eating and drinking (including water) is allowed in Mariner's Club. News on same content has been posted on HKCBA website as well.</p> <p>q) All the WMSG representatives have already registered as HKCBA member.</p> <p>r) XL confirmed that there will be one ladies team from Secondary school and one from University/Post Sec joining intercity this year.</p> |  | <p>CL</p> <p>CC</p> |
| 3 | <p><u>Financial Affairs:</u></p> <p>3i The latest bank balance is around HKD917,000 .</p>  |  |                     |
| 4 | <p><u>Internal Affairs:</u></p> <p>4i Intercity update: Latest team registration: 31 Open team, 3 Ladies team, 2 to 3 more teams from Jakarta and Philippines TBC. 15 teams for Inter Professional; will charge HKD1000/team as registration fee, no free game coupons will be given out this year. Around 5 tables for Celebrity.</p> <p>4ii Sponsor: Edmund Tse wants to sponsor Post Secondary school bridge players. XL to work on a proposal on this regard for approval.</p>   |  | <p>XL</p>           |
| 5 | <p><u>External Affairs:</u></p> <p>No update.</p>  |  |                     |
| 6 | <p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>6i Mariner's Club: will be reconstructed after 2 to 3 years. Council will need to start thinking about other place for HKCBA events.</p> <p>6ii Selling of Bridgemate and Duplication machine: Council has decided not to sell any Bridgemate and duplication machine this year. Will review again next year.</p> <p>The 5th council meeting will be held on August 8, 2012 (Wednesday).</p>   |  |                     |

## 5th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 8, 2012 (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Unit 1103, 11/F, East Ocean Centre, 98 Granville Road, TST, KLN, HK

Present: Officers:

Derek Zen – President (DZ)

Thomas Ng – Vice-President (TN)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

KF Mak (KF)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apologizes:

Council members:

Chan Yiu (CY)

John Tsang (JT)

Leo Cheung (LC)

| Item | Content  | When | Action |
|------|--|------|--------|
| 1    | Adopt minutes of last meeting.   |      |        |
| 2    | Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):<br>s) XL will continue to explore how to share Bridge related news with University.<br>t) Email was sent to all members to remind them that no eating and drinking (including water) is allowed in Mariner's Club. News on same content has been posted on HKCBA website as well.<br>u) XL informally asked Edmund Tse about the sponsorship for Post Secondary School bridge players and Edmund replied that he wants to reconsider the details. |      | XL     |
| 3    | <u>Financial Affairs:</u>  |      |        |

|      |  |  |    |
|------|--|--|----|
| 3i   | The latest bank balance is around HKD1,130,000. Around HKD300,000 expenses not yet settled.  |  |    |
| 4    | <u>Internal Affairs:</u>   |  |    |
| 4i   | 2012 APBF Delegates Meeting: DZ will attend the meeting with Alan Sze in Fukuoka.  |  |    |
| 4ii  | <p>Feedback collected during on 2012 Intercity (by DZ):<br/>(Feedback from Australia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Swiss Team event was too slow and too long hours</li> <li>▪ Should put up the running scores for Swiss Team on the screen so all players can see</li> <li>▪ Too much teams participated in the Swiss Team and make the area very crowded and no rooms between tables</li> <li>▪ Too few time between Open Pairs Qualifying rounds</li> <li>▪ Some young players were not very polite</li> </ul> <p>Action: DZ will send email reminder to all HKCBA members on table manner</p> <p>(Other feedback received)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not enough seats during Open Ceremony and Victory Dinner. Underestimated the no. of people joining the welcome luncheon and dinner.</li> <li>▪ Next time must reserve seats for foreign participants</li> </ul> |  | DZ |
| 4iii | Hai Hong Cup 2012: The organizer of the Hoi Han Cup wanted to buy 30 Bridgemates from HKCBA for the event as they don't have enough time to order new ones. They will buy back 30 new Bridgemates to HKCBA afterwards. Council agreed.   |  |    |
| 4iv  | 14 <sup>th</sup> World Junior Team Championships: Council endorsed the Captain's report written by KF.   |  |    |
| 5    | <u>External Affairs:</u>   |  |    |
| 5i   | Triangular Interport 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year: Mr. Gui Shengyue and Mr. Patrick Choy would like to sponsor a total of HKD200,000 to organize a Celebrity event in August 2013 (before Interport) to celebrate the 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Will need to find venue, organizer and director for the event.   |  |    |
| 5ii  | Hai Hong Cup 2012: DZ received invitation to participate in the event. TL to post details to HKCBA website for registration through HKCBA  |  | TL |

|      |  |  |        |
|------|--|--|--------|
|      | (deadline for registration mid September 2012)   |  |        |
| 5iii | LCSD Sports Subvention Scheme for 2013-14: LC to complete the form and submit application by September 17, 2012.   |  | LC     |
| 5iv  | 2012 Intercity photos: TL to send all the photos to Chorin for record and for sharing with the sponsors who had participated in the event.   |  | TL     |
| 5v   | 2012 Inter professional event: One of the players (Stephen Lee) complained about the result as their team was lost due to tie breaking rules defined by the organizer. There was no previous discussion as to how we should define "Number of Wins". Council realized that ACBL also use the same concept defining "Number of Wins" i.e. tie in a match count as half win. PC will work with LC and get back to Stephen Lee, besides, the tie breaking conditions will be provided to all players for future Inter professional events to avoid arguments. |  | PC, LC |
| 6    | <u>A.O.B.</u><br>Nil.<br><br>The 6th council meeting will be held on September 10, 2012 (Monday).  |  |        |

I was walking the green carpet at Mission Hills – playing the notoriously torturing Greg Norman course on a steamy summer afternoon – when I suddenly received a phone call from Karic Chiu: “*Did you know that our good friend and mentor Nelson passed away three weeks ago?*” My mind went completely blank and I was speechless, not knowing how to react to the traumatic piece of news. Inevitably, I played well below my form for the rest of the game and registered a pathetic score.

Over the last few days, I kept thinking about Nelson, whom we all look upon as a pillar of strength in the Hong Kong Contract Bridge Association. Derek said the HKCBA wanted to extend him a special award last year in recognition of his outstanding contributions but he graciously declined. As we tried to digest the sad news, Derek went about calling up everybody to gather their impressions of Nelson and instructed me to write an article in his memory. I of course obliged.

Nelson passed away on June 26, 2012, after a brave fight against esophageal cancer. He went to the University of Hong Kong and, to the best of my knowledge, was contemporary with Edmund Tse, Robert Tung (Terence’s father) and the late Dr. W H Chan (past HKCBA Chairman). Nelson subsequently obtained a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, taught the subject in the States for one year, before returning to Hong Kong to take over the family business, a toy manufacturer. Most of that business was sold in 1990 when Hong Kong factories began their migration to southern China. Apparently, Nelson came from a family of bridge lovers – both his father and his younger brother C B Hsi (now residing in Vancouver) were avid bridge players.

Nelson faded out of the bridge scene for a while but resumed activity in the mid ‘80s, when Hong Kong produced a number of young, promising players like Roger Ling, Peter Chun, Derek Zen, Peter Yeung, Karic Chiu and yours truly. He had a noble cause in mind. Perhaps inspired by the role Ira Corn played with the Aces, Nelson decided to put together a formidable squad and become its coach. On a weekly basis we would practice at his spacious apartment on Tai Hang Road and very often, difficult hands would be planted for us to bid and play. He would watch us battle, record our mistakes and offer advice on both technique and temperament. In short, he played a big role in the success of the Hong Kong team in the ‘80s when we habitually finished in the top three positions in the Far East Championship (as the APBF was then called).

Those weekly assemblies at Nelson’s home provided us with fond memories. Not

only would we practice bridge, we also played tennis, watched movies, sang karaoke and enjoyed sumptuous dinners. Nelson liked mingling with younger guys. When we did not play bridge, we would bring our families to the gathering so we knew each other really well.

Serving as a coach did not make Nelson a lesser player. At times, he would opt to play on the team so over the years, he had won countless laurels such as the Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau Triangular Inter-port, the Intercity in Hong Kong (he had won the Open Pairs as well as Open Teams - a few times as well) and, needless to say, just about every single local tournament.

On the international front, he had taken part in:

- 1990 Rosenblum in Geneve
- 1992 Olympiad in Salsomaggiore, Italy (*this was the best showing ever as the HK team was 1<sup>st</sup> runners up in the Swiss Team after narrowly bowing out of the main event*)
- 1994 Rosenblum in Albuquerque, USA
- 1996 Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece

Nelson was best remembered for his behind-the-scene efforts:

- 1987 Coach of the Hong Kong Open Team
- 1988 Captain of the Open Team for the Olympiad in Venice
- 1989 Captain of the Open Team for the Far East in Jakarta

Having made a fortune in business, Nelson was visibly generous in supporting bridge activities. He sponsored the Shanghai-Hong Kong Inter-port for a number of years, and was Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the 1991 Intercity Tournament to commemorate HKCBA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary - a huge success as it turned out. Sadly, he had to pull out of the bridge scene for a second time in 1999 when his wife's health deteriorated.

Nelson had a kind heart and was a fervent dog and horse lover (he once owned a golden retriever and a horse, at the Jockey Club of course) and he played a lot of mahjong in his spare time. While he would never brag about it, he was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. At the table, he was characterized by a fiery temper, ostensibly because of his competitive and expressive personality. Whenever he realized he had butchered a hand, he would bang his hands on his forehead, throw the cards on the table, and mutter “仆街” – a famous slang that we all picked up from him. Otherwise, he is an utterly refined person and every bit a true gentleman, always engaging in pleasant exchanges with his opponents.

In my interactions with Nelson, one episode stood out vividly in my mind – the 1987 Far East in Shanghai. With one match to go, the Hong Kong team comprising Roger Ling, Peter Chun, Edmund Tse, David Chan, Karic Chiu and myself somehow put up a remarkable performance and led the field by 7 VPs (maximum for one match was 25). Nelson called an emotional team meeting the night before the crucial match, counseled all of us psychologically and fixed the line-up for the following day. We were to play Thailand while China, the team at our heels, would be pitched against Japan. As it transpired, Karic and I suffered a bad first half but recovered just in time so the match ended in a draw (15-15), good enough for us to win on IMP Quotient as China literally blitzed Japan 22-8. Tearful team members had to hide our joy as we faced interviews from both TVs and newspapers. Winning the Far East was surreal – it was a dream came true.

That evening, Nelson had another surprise waiting for us. In his capacity of Coach (SS Bux was NPC) he told us he wanted to skip the victory dinner. All the team members were shocked and we were adamant that he should attend the event. After some wrestling and arm-twisting, he finally succumbed. I have evidence to support this (see the attached photo – a triumphant Nelson was in the picture holding the Rubullida trophy). After the dinner, we all brought champagne into his room and partied until the wee hours of the morning. All in all, he reminded me of Sam Mussabini (the selfless coach) in the awarding-winning ‘Chariots of Fire’ movie – not showing up at the crucial race but rejoicing to the crowd’s uproar when Harold Abrahams (his protégé) crossed the 100m finishing line. It was abundantly clear that fame was not what this man was after.

Nelson played a pivotal role in my partner and good friend Karic Chiu’s marriage. The charming Lu Qin was part of the China Ladies’ Team in the mid ‘80s. We first met her at the Far East in Penang in 1986 and I could tell Karic was instantaneously moonstruck as he could not take his eyes off her. Nevertheless Karic was a rather shy fellow and was reluctant to make the first move, despite cheering and shouting from all of us. You will have to ask Karic for the details but my impression is that without help and encouragement from Nelson, Karic would not have the lovely wife and family he has today.

I can go on and on... What is important is that we will all remember Nelson as a kind and wonderful person. He was a trusted mentor for all of us and a blatantly honest teacher. For fourteen years he had made relentless contributions to the HKCBA. He will be survived by his wife (Christine) and three sons. May he now rest in peace.

# **Captain's Report**

## **Second World Mind Sport Games**

### **Bridge – Hong Kong Open Team**

**Aug 9 – 23, 2012**

**Lille, France**

#### **1. Preparation**

Due to uncertainty surrounding whether the game could go ahead, the selection trials were only concluded at the end of May which meant we had barely two months of preparation. One of the team members – John Tsang – was scheduled to participate in the World Juniors Championship in Taicang in July so that made the schedule even tighter.

Frankly, this team that won the trials was a strange animal, so to speak, as vugraph commentators sharply noted in the first match (against host country France). One pair (*Vincent Li and Ashley Lung*) had played in the Seniors Bowl last year in Veldhoven. They were complemented by two youngish pairs: (*Leo Cheung and Chris Fung* - the latter had played in the youth series in the same event four years ago in Beijing) plus (*Jim Lee and John Tsang* - both still eligible to play in the youth category). Amazingly, Jim had only taken up the game five years ago.

The team was assembled shortly before the trials and admittedly, did not have high hopes of securing representation rights. Nevertheless, they played well throughout the two weekends while some of their opponents had faltered badly so the final victory was a pleasant surprise, but a well deserved one. This also meant there was no psychological burden on their shoulders.

I told the team that given the tight time frame, there was no way to dramatically improve their skills overnight. The only hope was to tighten the partnership agreements, especially in slam bidding. Much of the work would have to be done as a pair, rather than as a team.

The partnerships were given 60 hands to bid and that was finished on time. On average, each pair scored between 110 and 130 marks (out of 200 for

20 hands) - barely satisfactory considering the strong field in which we were to compete.

Three hurriedly prepared practice sessions were arranged (two at Vincent's home and one at the CRC) and that was perhaps the best we could do given the logistical constraints. The young pairs also practiced a few times on the Internet under my scrutiny.

## 2. Overall Team Performance

Participating teams were slotted into four Groups but some countries had pulled out at the last minute, creating need for reshuffle.

We were drawn into Group B, comprising fifteen teams. The top four teams in each Group would go into the knock-out phase.

I predicted that the following teams would finish ahead of us:

USA  
Poland  
France  
Austria  
Ireland  
Brazil  
Chinese Taipei

They did.

I also observed we would jockey for positions with:

New Zealand  
Ukraine  
Portugal  
Estonia  
Pakistan

However, I submitted we should somehow finish ahead of these two:

San Marino  
Bangladesh

We did.

In a nutshell, I said we would finish 8<sup>th</sup> if we played well and 13<sup>th</sup> if we didn't.

We ended up 12<sup>th</sup>. Here is the final ranking:

|                          |         |   |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| <b>1. USA</b>            | 290 VPs | <i>(got through to the round of 8, but lost to eventual winners Sweden)</i> |
| <b>2. France</b>         | 286     | <i>(lost to Netherlands in the round of 16)</i>                             |
| <b>3. Poland</b>         | 278     | <i>(2<sup>nd</sup>)</i>   |
| <b>4. Ireland</b>        | 258     | <i>(4<sup>th</sup>)</i>   |
| <b>5. Austria</b>        | 243     |   |
| <b>6. Brazil</b>         | 235     |   |
| 7. Estonia               | 233     |   |
| 8. Ukraine               | 230     |   |
| <b>9. Chinese Taipei</b> | 223     |   |
| 10. New Zealand          | 219     |   |
| 11. Portugal             | 193     |   |
| <b>12. Hong Kong</b>     | 192     |   |
| <b>13. San Marino</b>    | 182     |   |
| 14. Pakistan             | 173     |   |
| <b>15. Bangladesh</b>    | 160     |   |

Taking away the bye, we scored 12.43 VP on average in each match. *(Note: In our earlier match against Portugal, there was a director ruling against which we could appeal. While this might not improve our VP score, it could result in a lower VP for Portugal. In the end, we chose not to.)*

With hind sight, I must say we had the toughest Group of the four since there were no obvious pushovers.

For instance, the last-placed teams in the other three Groups were:

|         |         |        |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Group A | Korea   | 129 VP |
| Group C | Bermuda | 137    |
| Group D | Reunion | 119    |

On a lighter note, I had promised the team a sumptuous dinner if on any day, they achieved an above-average VP. This duly happened on the last day when we played Portugal and San Marino (the second match was a bye) and scored 39 VPs in those two matches. As a result, we went to a plush French restaurant for a satisfying finale.

### 3. Individual Pair Performance

Please refer to the attached file.

We started badly, losing 3 – 25 to host country France on vugraph. That was a rather severe blow.

Our brightest moments were draws against strong teams like USA and Ireland. The biggest win was the last match against San Marino (21 – 9) but that was too little, and too late.

Here are my comments on the three pairs:

#### Chris Fung/Leo Cheung

While this pair exhibited occasional signs of brilliancy, the overall performance was somewhat erratic. In their defense, I pitched them against 6 ‘strong’ teams under the above definition.

They played 160 boards and the datum was -0.49 imp per board.

#### Vincent Li/Ashley Lung

This experienced pair had two disastrous sets – one against France and one against Ireland. The other matches were okay. Contrary to original plans, I took them out of matches against strong teams so in the end they played only 3 strong teams and 2 weak teams.

Over 128 boards, their datum was -0.44 imp per board.

#### Jim Lee/John Tsang

Surprisingly, this young pair produced the steadiest performance amongst the three. They showed signs of tremendous promise and I firmly believe they are the future of bridge for Hong Kong. They played against 5 strong teams.

Over 160 boards, their datum was -0.29 imp per board.

Unfortunately, no pair was able to claim the designated award for achieving a positive datum.

I should perhaps add that before we went to France, we had agreed to charge

penalties for ‘silly’ mistakes (HK\$50 per blunder) made by each player - at the captain’s discretion. While most players were fined between HK\$200 and \$400 after the tournament was over, John Tsang was only debited for HK\$50 and even then, the verdict was border-line. This went to show how solid he had been.

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

- This team had good harmony and was always in good spirits. The temperaments of the players were excellent, giving me no administration problems in that department.
- Where circumstances allow, I would encourage HKCBA to organize the trials as early as possible so that the team will have enough time for preparation. It was evident that costly homework errors were abundant - in contrast to our opponents, who had excellent partnership understandings in even the rarest and most difficult situations. *Needless to say, languishing in 2D with 16 HCPs opposite 11 and letting through 3NT with 7 top tricks in defense were rather unsatisfactory results.*
- In future, the practices should focus on
  - slam bidding
  - evaluating two-suited hands in competitive situations
  - high-level judgment

These are situations where large number of imps are won or lost.

- Finally, because the two young pairs (Chris – Leo, Jim – John) had never competed at this level in the Open series before, the biggest “take-home” benefit, as far as the future of bridge for Hong Kong is concerned, is their exposure to competition at the highest level. While I am reasonably optimistic, I would wait anxiously to see how much and how quickly they could capitalize on this exposure.

\* \* \* \* END \* \* \* \*

## Captain's Report

**Hong Kong Ladies Team**, 2nd World Mind Game - August 9-12, 2012 by *Playing Captain, Flora Wong*

There was an announcement from WBF which noted "*Only NBOs participating in the **World Bridge Games** are eligible to qualify to participate in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Championships held in either of the two subsequent odd-numbered years; in each case, an Open Team must participate in the Games in order to be eligible for the Bermuda Bowl and a Women's team must participate to be eligible for the Venice Cup. If an Open or Women's Team from an NBO does not participate in the 2012 World Bridge Games then that NBO will not be eligible to participate in the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup in either 2013 or 2015*". We hoped and targeted to reserve the opportunity and keep the goal in the coming tournaments for HK Ladies, therefore; we decided to keep the ball run.

In early May, we managed to form a team for the 2nd World Mind Game: Nancy Neumann, Shirley Chang, Sagari Singh, Wendy Simpson, Sally Wang and I. When getting the approval from HKCBA of this team, we had been starting to working out all of our system notes, training schedules, etc. From this 3 pairs, we understood that we were not regularly playing or even new partnerships, but seeking for practice time as much as possible. We did that not only twice a week on practicing, experienced to have had the previous tournament hands dealt played and compared, but also online playing, hands reviewed and discussion at the other times. Besides, some training materials/papers had also been exercised and discussed which was prepared and given by D. Zen last year. As far as I had seen each pair, especially Sagari/Wendy, put a lot of effort to this tournament, the system notes were well prepared and very detailed in short period of time.

One week before we departed for Lille, my teammates, Sagari and Sally had printed all the convention cards of our opponents teams, and Sagari also sorted and highlighted the basic convention of each opponents pairs so as to get us prepared and reminded any defense against some special conventions prior the tournament started. We had everything well prepared for Lille, France.

The tournament took place in Grand Palais, Lille, France from August 9-12 and a total of 43 teams participated in the ladies series. Participating teams were divided into 3 groups and the qualifying stage was played as single round robin within each group. The top 5 teams from each group and the highest VPs team of the 6th were advanced to the knockout stage, the round of 16.

We did not have a coach or captain in the team but playing captain, myself and it was my first time; however, members of the team gave a lot of support and assumed our own responsibilities. Being a playing captain; I might not be able to objective classify and analyze our pairs and results; we were all equally and attended 2 matches per day each pair. We started and performed just average on the first 2 days; however, a large won took us to No.4.

Day 4, we estimated and expected of our position could be gone up, chances were there, as the VPs difference from rank 5 to rank 9 are so close which more or less about 10 VPs in between: Austria-204, Israel-197.5, India-194, HKG-191, Japan-187, and New Zealand-171. Nevertheless, almost like direct matches on the last day to play with Japan, USA and New Zealand; we kept our concentration and mental prepared all the time to the last day match still. These days, the team harmony/atmosphere, difficult to portray, was excellent; taking care each others, encouraging each others, putting 100% concentration to the competition although the result were not much outstanding. As a result, we ranked 11 finally, at least, we had done our best and treasured this opportunity to gain the experience and participation.

Running Results of each match during Round Robin (Section F):

|           | RD | Opponent    | <u>IMPs</u> |     | <u>VPs</u> |     | Accumulated<br>VPs | SS<br>WS | FW<br>SW | NN<br>SC | Running<br>Ranking |
|-----------|----|-------------|-------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|
|           |    |             | HKG         | Opp | HKG        | Opp |                    |          |          |          |                    |
| 8/10/2012 | 1  | Israel      | 24          | 31  | 14         | 16  | 14                 | (0.13)   | (0.44)   |          | 9                  |
|           | 2  | India       | 51          | 48  | 16         | 14  | 30                 |          | 0.66     | (0.63)   | 9                  |
|           | 3  | Chile       | 31          | 33  | 15         | 15  | 45                 | (0.53)   |          | 1.07     | 9                  |
| 8/11/2012 | 4  | Ireland     | 13          | 21  | 13         | 17  | 58                 |          | (0.32)   | (0.06)   | 10                 |
|           | 5  | Bye         | 0           | 0   | 18         | 0   | 76                 |          |          |          | 10                 |
|           | 6  | Austria     | 65          | 22  | 25         | 5   | 101                | 0.95     | 0.32     |          | 4                  |
| 8/12/2012 | 7  | Netherlands | 36          | 27  | 17         | 13  | 118                | 0.23     |          | (0.22)   | 5                  |
|           | 8  | Denmark     | 40          | 65  | 9          | 21  | 127                |          | (0.13)   | (0.26)   | 9                  |
|           | 9  | Indonesia   | 7           | 43  | 7          | 23  | 134                | (0.32)   | (0.29)   |          | 10                 |
| 8/13/2012 | 10 | Mexico      | 85          | 6   | 25         | 0   | 159                | 0.44     | 0.29     |          | 9                  |
|           | 11 | Reunion     | 12          | 25  | 12         | 18  | 171                | (0.13)   |          | (0.08)   | 9                  |
|           | 12 | San Marino  | 44          | 23  | 20         | 10  | 191                |          | 0.20     | (0.03)   | 8                  |
| 8/14/2012 | 13 | Japan       | 26          | 29  | 14         | 16  | 205                | (0.06)   | (0.07)   |          | 7                  |
|           | 14 | USA         | 20          | 73  | 3          | 25  | 208                |          | (0.19)   | (0.32)   | 10                 |
|           | 15 | New Zealand | 22          | 27  | 14         | 16  | 222                | (0.24)   |          | 0.22     | 11                 |

OVERALL RESULT

| Teams       | Nether | USA | Austri | Indone | Denma | Israel | Japan | New | India | Chile | Hong | Ireland | Mexic | San  | Reunio | Penalt | TOTA  | Rankin |
|-------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Netherlands |        | 25  | 17     | 22     | 16    | 19     | 13    | 18  | 21    | 23    | 13   | 25      | 16    | 18   | 25     |        | 289   | 1      |
| USA         | 4      |     | 22     | 22     | 16    | 13     | 14    | 24  | 16    | 16    | 25   | 15      | 22    | 25   | 25     |        | 277   | 2      |
| Austria     | 13     | 8   |        | 16     | 19    | 20     | 21    | 16  | 14    | 25    | 5    | 25      | 25    | 25   | 14     |        | 264   | 3      |
| Indonesia   | 8      | 8   | 14     |        | 25    | 9      | 19    | 19  | 19    | 19    | 23   | 16      | 25    | 20   | 18     |        | 260   | 4      |
| Denmark     | 14     | 14  | 11     | 5      |       | 6.5    | 23    | 25  | 17    | 16    | 21   | 16      | 24    | 17   | 25     | 0.5    | 252.5 | 5      |
| Israel      | 11     | 17  | 10     | 21     | 22.5  |        | 13    | 10  | 14    | 13    | 16   | 12      | 21    | 18   | 23     | 0.5    | 239.5 | 6      |
| Japan       | 17     | 16  | 9      | 11     | 7     | 17     |       | 13  | 23    | 19    | 16   | 16      | 14    | 16   | 25     |        | 237   | 7      |
| New Zealand | 12     | 6   | 14     | 11     | 4     | 20     | 17    |     | 23    | 11    | 16   | 25      | 11    | 22   | 24     |        | 234   | 8      |
| India       | 9      | 14  | 16     | 11     | 13    | 16     | 7     | 7   |       | 16    | 14   | 23      | 19    | 21   | 24     |        | 228   | 9      |
| Chile       | 7      | 14  | 2      | 11     | 14    | 17     | 11    | 19  | 14    |       | 15   | 15      | 21    | 21   | 25     |        | 224   | 10     |
| Hong Kong   | 17     | 3   | 25     | 7      | 9     | 14     | 14    | 14  | 16    | 15    |      | 13      | 25    | 20   | 12     |        | 222   | 11     |
| Ireland     | 2      | 15  | 1      | 14     | 14    | 18     | 14    | 5   | 7     | 15    | 17   |         | 25    | 22.5 | 11     | 0.5    | 198.5 | 12     |
| Mexico      | 14     | 8   | 5      | 3      | 6     | 9      | 16    | 19  | 11    | 9     | 0    | 4       |       | 25   | 20     |        | 167   | 13     |
| San Marino  | 12     | 3   | 3      | 10     | 13    | 12     | 14    | 8   | 9     | 9     | 10   | 6.5     | 0     |      | 18     | 0.5    | 145.5 | 14     |
| Reunion     | 5      | 1   | 16     | 12     | 3     | 7      | 5     | 6   | 6     | 4     | 18   | 19      | 10    | 12   |        |        | 142   | 15     |

The final datum of all Rounds:

|                               |       |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Wendy Simpson - Sagari Singh  | +0.21 | Boards played 144 |
| Sally Wang - Flora Wong       | +0.03 | Boards played 160 |
| Shirley Chang - Nancy Neumann | -0.31 | Boards played 144 |

Lastly, it was my pleasure to have them in the team, the camaraderie, the sportsmanship, the team spirit. We all enjoyed every moment although the motion dropped in a minute by not getting into 16, still an encouraging team we all had. To keep up our training, practicing, we for sure can do much better in the coming future.

# 第 2 屆世界智力運動會

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Mind Sport Games

2012 年 8 月在法國舉行的世界智力運動會結束了。香港隊的成績不理想，我這裡就公開組冠軍瑞典隊及原奪標大熱門摩洛哥隊的一些成功（或失敗）牌例，重溫一遍，希望我們學一些，改變我們純算點叫牌的缺點。

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Mind Sport Games held in August 2012 in France ended. The result of Hong Kong team was not good. I wrote below some successful (or unsuccessful) examples from the Champion Sweden Team and the very popular Monaco Team. Based on this review, I hope that we can learn something and change our weakness of bidding purely based on points only.

(1) Final Sweden 對 Poland Sweden versus Poland  
Set 7 Board 7

你是東(瑞典隊坐東西時) You are East (Sweden's players sat East and West)

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| #7      |            |
| S / ALL |            |
|         | ♠ 10 8 5 4 |
|         | ♥ J        |
|         | ♦ 10 8 7 6 |
|         | ♣ 9 6 4 3  |

叫牌 The bidding

| W   | N    | E    | S  |
|-----|------|------|----|
|     |      |      | 1♠ |
| Dbl | 2♦   | Pass | 3♥ |
| Dbl | Rdbl | ?    |    |

這裡 2♦ 表示♥套，我想我們很多隊員都不會叫牌，同伴第 1 次 X，你已經 Pass 過，第 2 次 X，從《分》的方面看，你只有無用的 1 分，《當然》不叫，但橋牌是講贏墩，講配合，《分》是幫助計算贏墩的。這牌如以低花為將牌，你可以將吃 2 墩♥，也即可以幫同伴 2 墩，所以應該叫牌，實際叫牌是：

Here 2♦ indicated the ♥ suit. I think many of our Hong Kong teams would not bid. You have already passed after Partner's 1<sup>st</sup> double. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> double, based on "points", you have only one useless point. Will you "of course" pass? However,

bridge is a game of winning tricks and matching. "Points" can help us to calculate the number of winning tricks only. With a minor as trump, you can ruff 2 ♥ tricks and so help your Partner with 2 tricks. So, you have to bid. In reality, the bidding was:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
|      |      |      | 1♠   |
| Dbl  | 2♦   | Pass | 3♥   |
| Dbl  | Rdbl | 3♠   | Pass |
| 4♦   | 4♥   | Pass | Pass |
| 4♠   | Dbl  | 5♦   | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl  | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |      |      |      |

3♠表示2低花，請看4家牌

3♠ indicated 2 minors. Please see the 4 hands:

|             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| #7          | ♠ A 7 2     |            |
| S / ALL     | ♥ A 8 7 3 2 |            |
|             | ♦ J 4 3     |            |
|             | ♣ 10 6      |            |
| ♠ J         |             | ♠ 10 8 5 4 |
| ♥ 10 9 4    |             | ♥ J        |
| ♦ A K Q 9 2 |             | ♦ 10 8 7 6 |
| ♣ A K Q 8   |             | ♣ 9 6 4 3  |
|             | ♠ K Q 9 6 3 |            |
|             | ♥ K Q 6 5   |            |
|             | ♦ 5         |            |
|             | ♣ J 5 2     |            |

即使首引將牌，也一定可以將吃2次♥，5♦是鐵牌+750.

Even if the 1<sup>st</sup> lead is a trump, Declarer can ruff hearts twice in Dummy. 5♦ was cold, +750.

另一桌叫牌 The bidding at the other table was:

| W   | N    | E    | S    |
|-----|------|------|------|
|     |      |      | 1♠   |
| Dbl | 2♥   | Pass | 2♠   |
| 3♦  | Pass | Pass | Pass |

瑞典隊勝 12 I.M.P.(東在 3♦後應加叫 4♦。因為可以幫同伴將吃 2 墩♥)

Sweden Team won 12 IMPs. (East raised 3♦ to 4♦ because he could help Partner to ruff 2 ♥ tricks),

(2) R16 Sweden -- Israel

瑞典隊坐東西，你持西的牌：Sweden's players sat East and West. You are West, holding:

|               |
|---------------|
| # 20          |
| W / ALL       |
| ♠ 9 7 4 3     |
| ♥ K 10        |
| ♦ A Q 9 5 4 2 |
| ♣ 7           |

會開叫嗎？講《分》的人，大多不開叫，你看實際叫牌：

Would you open bid? People who just consider "points" will mostly pass. Let's see the actual bidding:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1♦   | Pass | 1♠   | 2♥   |
| 3♠   | Pass | 4♠   | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl  | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |      |      |      |

西不但開叫，第 2 輪還跳叫 3♠，講點的人，是不是要 16 點才跳，如果南北的♠是 3 - 2 分配，可能打成了。聯手只有 19 點，4 家牌是：

In addition to opening bid, West jumped to bid 3♠ in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. For those who just consider "points", they would only jump with 16+ points. If the distribution of ♠s in North and South is 3 - 2, the contract can be made. They only had 19 points jointly. The 4 hands were:

|               |               |            |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| # 20          | ♠ K Q 10 6    |            |
| W / ALL       | ♥ Q 3         |            |
|               | ♦ 10 8 6      |            |
|               | ♣ K 9 4 2     |            |
| ♠ 9 7 4 3     |               | ♠ A J 5 2  |
| ♥ K 10        |               | ♥ J 5 4    |
| ♦ A Q 9 5 4 2 |               | ♦ K 7      |
| ♣ 7           |               | ♣ J 10 8 3 |
|               | ♠ 8           |            |
|               | ♥ A 9 8 7 6 2 |            |
|               | ♦ J 3         |            |
|               | ♣ A Q 6 5     |            |

結果要輸 1 墩♥，1 墩♣，2 墩♠，下 1，另 1 桌叫牌：

The result was losing 1 ♥, 1 ♣ and 2 ♠s, down 1. The bidding at the other table was:

| W    | N    | E  | S    |
|------|------|----|------|
| Pass | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |    |      |

正好打成，只輸 3 IMP. (代價小，收益大)。

跳叫 3♠，除表示 4 張 ♠ 支持，還應表示 ♦ 是好套。(有贏墩)

2♥ just make, just losing 3 IMP. (small consideration, big benefit).

The jump bid of 3♠, in addition to showing 4-carder ♠ support, indicated that the ♦ suit was good (with winning tricks) .

### (3) QF USA -- Sweden

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| #1    |            |
| N/NIL |            |
|       | ♠ 10 8 6 3 |
|       | ♥ K 6 3    |
|       | ♦ AK 9 6 5 |
|       | ♣ Q        |

瑞典隊坐東西時叫牌：Sweden's players sat East and West. The bidding was:

| W   | N    | E    | S    |
|-----|------|------|------|
|     |      | 1♦   | Pass |
| 1♠  | Pass | 3♠   | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♣   | Dbl  |
| 6♠  | Pass | Pass | Pass |

你是東，第 2 輪會跳叫 3♠嗎？我想很多人只會叫 2♠，像另 1 桌美國隊坐東 HUMMAN 也只叫 2♠，最後停在 4♠。

6♠能打成嗎？請看實際打牌：

You are East, will you jump bid 3♠ in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round I think most people would just bid 2♠, like USA's HUMMAN who sat East and then stop bid at 4♠.

Can 6♠ be made? Please see the actual play:

|           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| #1        | ♠ K 9       |             |
| N/NIL     | ♥ Q J 9 5   |             |
|           | ♦ 10 4 3 2  |             |
|           | ♣ 10 8 3    |             |
| ♠ A Q 7 4 |             | ♠ 10 8 6 3  |
| ♥ A 7 2   |             | ♥ K 6 3     |
| ♦ Q 7     |             | ♦ A K 9 6 5 |
| ♣ A 9 7 5 |             | ♣ Q         |
|           | ♠ J 5 2     |             |
|           | ♥ 10 8 4    |             |
|           | ♦ J 8       |             |
|           | ♣ K J 6 4 2 |             |

首引♣，第2墩出♥進明手，（將吃♣進明手較佳），出♠3，♠2，♠Q，♠K。北回♣，現在要猜對♠，南北還有3張♠的情況下，必須有1人持單張♠9，或單張♠J（現在猜對，也打不成，因沒有橋引，提取第5張♦）。實際猜錯♠，下1。

The first lead was a ♣, Declarer played a ♥ to enter Dummy's hand at Trick 2, (it is better to ruff a ♣ to enter Dummy's hand instead), then played the ♠3, followed by ♠2, ♠Q and ♠K. North returned another ♣. It is now necessary to guess the ♠s right. With North and South each having 3 ♠s remaining, it is necessary for North or South to hold the singleton ♠9 or ♠J (Even if he guessed right, the contract could not be made at present because there was no entry to cash the 5<sup>th</sup> ♦). In reality, he guessed the ♠s wrongly and the contract went down 1.

這牌次序打對，猜對♠，是可以打成的。其實，你算算贏墩，假定♦是4-2分配，你只能輸1墩♠，你要將吃2次♣，才夠12墩，所以只能打北持♠K9二張，牌生成這樣，應該打成。

If he played the cards in the right order and guessed the ♠s right, he could have made the contract. In fact, if you count the number of winning tricks assuming that the distribution of ♦s to be 4 - 2, you can only lose 1 ♠. You have to ruff ♣s twice before you can win 12 tricks. Therefore, you have to play North having the doubleton ♠ K9. As the cards lie, the contract should be made.

由此可見，最後獲得冠軍的瑞典隊，叫牌是多麼積極，進取。

Based on the above, you can see the proactivity and aggressiveness of the Sweden Team which won the Championship.

(4) R16 Sweden -- Israel

|                |               |           |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| #21            | ♠ Q J 6 5     |           |
| N / N S        | ♥ K 5 3       |           |
|                | ♦ 10          |           |
|                | ♣ K Q 10 9 2  |           |
| ♠ A 4          |               | ♠ K 10 9  |
| ♥ A Q J 10 4 2 |               | ♥ 9 8 6   |
| ♦ 8 4 3        |               | ♦ Q 6 2   |
| ♣ 8 3          |               | ♣ A 7 6 4 |
|                | ♠ 8 7 3 2     |           |
|                | ♥ 7           |           |
|                | ♦ A K J 9 7 5 |           |
|                | ♣ J 5         |           |

| W    | N  | E    | S    |
|------|----|------|------|
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥   |
| Dbl  | 2♠ | Pass | 3♥   |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |    |      |      |

這裡 1♥ 表示 ♠ 套，北儘管是低限牌力開叫，在同伴的套上有 4 張支持，自己的套 ♣ 是不錯的套，（有贏墩），就跳叫 2♠，同伴 3♥ 邀請，還再度接受。

防守很出色，首引 ♥，轉攻 ♣ 再 ♣，將牌 K 進手後，出第 3 輪 ♣，西用 ♠A 將吃，一共輸 3 墩 ♠+2 個 A。

Here, 1♥ indicated the ♠ suit. Though West opened bid with a minimum, with 4-carder support in Partner's suit and a good ♣ suit (with winning tricks), he jumped to bid 2♠. When Partner invited with 3♥, he again accepted.

The defence was excellent. The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was a ♥, shifted to a ♣ and then another ♣. After gaining entry with the trump K, East played the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of ♣, West ruffed with the ♠A, losing in total 3 ♠s and to 2 Aces

另 1 桌停在 3♠，因沒有用 ♠A 將吃，被打成。

雖然叫到的牌不一定打成，但不純算點的叫牌，主要和同伴配合，另有長套贏墩的牌，要積極叫牌，這一點值得我們好好學習。

The other table stopped at 3♠. As West did not use the ♠A to ruff, the contract was made. Even though one may not make a contract after bidding it. However, it is worthwhile for us to learn to bid not purely based on points. When we have a match with Partner and a good long suit with winning tricks, we can bid more aggressively.

(4) QF USA – Sweden

|           |             |                |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| #8        | ♠ K 9 2     |                |
| W/NIL     | ♥ Q 8 5     |                |
|           | ♦ 9 6 4     |                |
|           | ♣ A 10 7 2  |                |
| ♠ A Q J 6 |             | ♠ 8 7 5        |
| ♥ J 7 2   |             | ♥ K 10 9 6 4 3 |
| ♦ A Q     |             | ♦ 10 8 7 2     |
| ♣ 9 5 4 3 |             | ♣ -            |
|           | ♠ 10 4 3    |                |
|           | ♥ A         |                |
|           | ♦ K J 5 3   |                |
|           | ♣ K Q J 8 6 |                |

美國隊坐東西時叫牌： USA's Players sat East and West. The bidding was:

| W   | N    | E    | S    |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 1♣  | Pass | 1♥   | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♥   | Pass |
| 3♥  | Pass | Pass | Pass |

西叫 3♥，東可能無法判斷♣缺門的作用，也只好 Pass。再看瑞典隊坐東西時的叫牌： West bid 3♥， East might not be able to judge the use of his void ♣ suit and so he just passed. Let's see the bidding of Sweden's players who sat East and West:

| W   | N    | E    | S    |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 1♣  | Pass | 1♦   | Pass |
| 1♥  | Pass | 2♦   | Pass |
| 2♥  | Pass | Pass | 2NT  |
| Dbl | 3♣   | 3♥   | Pass |
| 4♥  | A.P. |      |      |

1♦ 表示♥套，坐南是美國 Meckstroth，平衡的結果是輸 6 IMP。要知道整場牌結果，美國隊只輸 4 IMP。

1♦ induced the ♥ suit. USA's Meckstroth sat South. The result of balancing was a loss of 6 IMPs.

The overall result of the whole match was that USA Team lost only 4 IMPs.

(5) 下面 3 例是積極干擾取得成功的牌例。

The 3 examples below are examples of successful aggressive interventions.

S.F. Monaco -- Sweden

|             |                |             |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| #6          | ♠ J 4          |             |
| E / EW      | ♥ J 7 6 4      |             |
|             | ♦ Q 10 5       |             |
|             | ♣ AK 9 5       |             |
| ♠ A 10 5 2  |                | ♠ K Q 9 7 3 |
| ♥ AK 10 9 2 |                | ♥ 8 3       |
| ♦ A 8 4     |                | ♦ K J 7 3   |
| ♣ 3         |                | ♣ 7 4       |
|             | ♠ 8 6          |             |
|             | ♥ Q 5          |             |
|             | ♦ 9 6 2        |             |
|             | ♣ Q J 10 8 6 2 |             |

| W  | N    | E    | S    |
|----|------|------|------|
|    |      | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠   | 2♣   |
| 3♣ | 5♣   | 5♦   | Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

南北的干擾使得東西的 6♠ 沒法叫到，（南是 Nunes），另桌南北沒有叫牌，東西順利叫上 6♠，勝 13IMP。

The intervention of North and South made East and West not able to bid 6♠ (South was Nunes). At the other table, North and South did not bid and East and West smoothly bid 6♠ and won 13 IMP.

(6) R16 Monaco – Canada

|             |            |                |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| #19         | ♠ 7 3 2    |                |
| S / EW      | ♥ AK J 3 2 |                |
|             | ♦ A        |                |
|             | ♣ J 10 6 4 |                |
| ♠ AQ 10 9 6 |            | ♠ J 8          |
| ♥ 10 5      |            | ♥ 9 8 4        |
| ♦ 7 6       |            | ♦ Q J 10 4 3 2 |
| ♣ 9 8 3 2   |            | ♣ AQ           |
|             | ♠ K 5 4    |                |
|             | ♥ Q 7 6    |                |
|             | ♦ K 9 8 5  |                |
|             | ♣ K 7 5    |                |

Monaco 隊坐東西時，積極干擾，取得良好結果。2♦正好打成。（只輸2墩♥，3墩♦）。照現在的叫牌，北有5張♥，在1♠後或在2♦後叫2♥比叫Dbl好。

Monaco's players sat East and West. They intervened aggressively and obtained good results. 2♦ was just made. (losing only 2♥s and 3♦s). Based on the present bidding, North had 5-carder♥s, the bidding of 2♥ after 1♠ or 2♦ would be better.

| W    | N   | E    | S    |
|------|-----|------|------|
|      |     |      | 1♣   |
| 1♠   | Dbl | 2♦   | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |     |      |      |

另1桌叫牌 The bidding at the other table was:

| W    | N  | E    | S    |
|------|----|------|------|
|      |    |      | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♣   |
| Pass | 4♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |    |      |      |

坐北是 Helness，首引♦Q，給他機會，但他的打法，第2墩到第4墩調3輪將，停於明手，♦K墊手上♠，第6墩從明手出♣，打不成了。我不知道，為什麼不先調2輪將到明手，♦K墊牌，再調將回來，從暗手出♣，成功機會要大很多。

Helness sat North. The first lead of the ♦Q gave him a chance. However, he drew 3 rounds of trump at Tricks 2 to 4 and stopped at Dummy, used the ♦K to discard a ♠ in hand. Played a ♣ from Dummy at Trick 6. The contract could no longer be made. I don't know why he didn't draw 2 rounds of trump and stop at Dummy, use the ♦K to discard a loser and then draw trump in hand and play a ♣ from hand. Then the chance of success would be higher.

(7) SF Monaco -- Sweden

|            |              |            |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| # 18       | ♠ 9 8        |            |
| E/ N S     | ♥ A 9 8 6 5  |            |
|            | ♦ 9 7 6      |            |
|            | ♣ 5 4 2      |            |
| ♠ A K 10 7 |              | ♠ 3 2      |
| ♥ K 4 3 2  |              | ♥ Q J 10 7 |
| ♦ K        |              | ♦ 8 4 3 2  |
| ♣ K 10 7 6 |              | ♣ A J 3    |
|            | ♠ Q J 6 5 4  |            |
|            | ♥ -          |            |
|            | ♦ A Q J 10 5 |            |
|            | ♣ Q 9 8      |            |

當 Nunes 坐南，第 2 家開叫 2♠，取到合約。(結果下 1)

When Nunes sat South, he opened 2♠ in the 2<sup>nd</sup> seat and won the auction (the result was down 1).

另 1 桌叫牌 The bidding at the other table was:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | Pass | 1♠   |
| 1NT  | Pass | 2♣   | Pass |
| 2♥   | Pass | 4♥   | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |      |      |

4♥是鐵牌，只輸 1 墩♦，2 墩♥。

從這裡我們看到 Nunes 開 2♠的作用，如只算點的人，一定開叫 1♠，像 Sweden 這位專家一樣，在這副牌上失敗。

4♥ was cold, only losing 1 ♦ and 2 ♥s.

Based on this board, we can see the usefulness of Nunes' opening of 2♠. Players who just count points would just open with 1♠ like the Sweden's expert, and fail for this board.

# 蘭州之行

## Trip in Lanzhou

2012年9月初在蘭州舉行全國橋牌邀請賽，因為獎金較高，吸引50餘隊參加，名列前茅的都是有專業牌手在內的隊，或大企業的隊，例如北京信遠，東風汽車等。

At the beginning of September 2012, a nation-wide bridge invitational competition was held in Lanzhou. As the cash prizes were relatively high, it had attracted over 50 teams to participate. All the teams which came top in the list consisted of teams with professional players or teams of big corporations, e.g., Beijing Xinyun, Dong Fong Motor, etc.

我們的隊存在一些基本錯誤，急需改正，否則無法參加任何的比賽。這些錯即使是初學者，也不一定會犯，何況打了10年以上橋牌的人，真是難以置信，試舉2例。

Our team has some basic mistakes which are required to be corrected urgently, else we cannot have good result in any competition. These mistakes may not be made even by beginners. It is unbelievable that a person who has played bridge for over 10 years could have made such mistakes. I just quote 2 examples here.

- (1) 橋牌是計算贏墩的比賽，不是只算《分》的比賽，《分》是幫你計算贏墩
- (1) Bridge is a competition of calculating the number of winning tricks, not the number of “high card points”. “Points” just help you to calculate the number of winning tricks.

比賽是每輪打8副牌，有1輪第3副：

There were 8 boards for each board. The 3<sup>rd</sup> board in a round was as follows:  
東西的牌是 The cards of East and West were:

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| # 3        |                    |
| S / E W    |                    |
| ♠ 9 8 6 2  | ♠ A K              |
| ♥ K J 10 6 | ♥ 9 4              |
| ♦ 6 3      | ♦ 9                |
| ♣ 7 5 3    | ♣ A K J 10 8 6 4 2 |

我沒有問他們這桌的叫牌，實際合約是由北主打3♦，超1，我不能相信，有誰持東的牌會不叫牌，不要說不符合現代的《積極叫牌》潮流，就是最保守的人，也不會不叫。最正常叫5♣（我這桌的對手，在南開叫1♠北應1NT後，跳叫5♣），積極一些的叫6♣（暫

時沒有必要), 4 家牌是:

I have not asked the bidding at their table. In reality, North declared 3♦, up 1. I can't believe that East would not have bid with his hand, not to mention that it did not meet the current trend of "aggressive bidding". Even a conservative person would have bid. The normal bid should be 5♣ (At my table, after South opened 1♠ and North responded 1NT, our opponent jumped bid 5♣). If he was more aggressive, he could have bid 6♣ (not necessary at that moment). The 4 hands were:

|            |                  |                    |  |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| # 3        | ♠ 3              |                    |  |
| S/ E W     | ♥ 7 5 2          |                    |  |
|            | ♦ A 10 8 7 5 4 2 |                    |  |
|            | ♣ Q 9            |                    |  |
| ♠ 9 8 6 2  |                  | ♠ A K              |  |
| ♥ K J 10 6 |                  | ♥ 9 4              |  |
| ♦ 6 3      |                  | ♦ 9                |  |
| ♣ 7 5 3    |                  | ♣ A K J 10 8 6 4 2 |  |
|            | ♠ Q J 10 7 5 4   |                    |  |
|            | ♥ A Q 8 3        |                    |  |
|            | ♦ K Q J          |                    |  |
|            | ♣ -              |                    |  |

♥ A 和 ♥ Q 都在南家，拿 11 墩沒有困難。(聯手只有 19 分)

自己 1 手有 10 個贏墩的牌，沒有任何理由解釋為什麼不叫。《初學者》會說，如果我叫 5♣，對方在 ♣ 上沒有失墩，會叫上 slam，你怎麼不想，同伴不叫後，你第 1 時間叫 5♣，他們已經沒有多少空間交換信息，叫 slam 的機會不會增加只會減少。

As both the ♥ A and ♥ Q were in South's hand, there was no difficulty to win 11 tricks (the joint hands had only 19 HCPs). As you have 10 winning tricks in your own hand, there is no reason why you would not bid. "Beginners" might say that if I bid 5♣ and the opponents with no loser in ♣ would bid a slam. Why didn't you think after Partner's pass and you bid 5♣ immediately, they would have no space to exchange information and the chance to bid a slam would decrease rather than increase.

這副牌南北有 5♦，在東叫 5♣後，我們已沒有空間交換信息，應該如何叫 5♦？我坐北，5♣後，二家 Pass 到我，只有 3 個選擇：Pass，5♦，加倍。因為♠和同伴不配，我選擇最差叫品——加倍被做成。

North and South would have 5♦ for this board. After East's 5♣, we no longer had any space to exchange information to determine whether to bid 5♦. I sat North. After 5♣, South and West passed, I had only 3 choices: Pass, 5♦, or double. As I did not have a fit with Partner's ♠, I chose the worst bid – double and the contract was made.

## (2) 盲目犧牲 Sacrificing blindly

上例，東有 10 個贏墩的牌不叫牌，下面沒有贏墩的牌要叫牌，我就不明白，這牌，在南開叫 1♠，北應 2♣ (GF) 後，我估計多數坐東選手都不會叫牌，即使最積極的叫牌者，最多這時叫 2♦ 或 3♦，以後不會再叫。

In the previous example, East had 10 winning tricks but did not bid. I don't understand why he would bid when he had no sure winning tricks for the following board. South opened 1♠ and North responded 2♣ (GF). I expected most players sitting East would not bid. Even the most aggressive bidders would only bid 2♦ or 3♦ immediately and would not bid later.

|             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| # 15        | ♠ K 10 7    |               |
| S / N S     | ♥ K 8 6     |               |
|             | ♦ 4 2       |               |
|             | ♣ A K J 5 4 |               |
| ♠ Q 9 6 5 2 |             | ♠ -           |
| ♥ Q 9 2     |             | ♥ 7 4 3       |
| ♦ A 10      |             | ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 3 |
| ♣ 10 7 2    |             | ♣ Q 9 8 3     |
|             | ♠ A J 8 4 3 |               |
|             | ♥ A J 10 5  |               |
|             | ♦ K J 7     |               |
|             | ♣ 6         |               |

橋牌是 2 個人的橋牌，我對東建議過很多次，如果你想在對方開叫後叫牌，你一定要在低階叫，同伴有牌自然會支持，在高階叫牌，風險太大，這次他要在對方停在 4♠ 後叫 5♦，他只看見自己牌，不想《看見》同伴的牌。我認為，沒有配合的牌，不值得犧牲。

Bridge is a partnership game. I have previously made suggestions to East several times. If you want to bid after an opponent has opened bid, you must bid at a low level. If your partner has a suitable hand, he will support naturally. It is too risky to bid at a high level. This time, after opponents stopped at 4♠, East bid 5♦. He only saw his own hand and did not want to "see" his partner's hand. I consider that it is not worthwhile to sacrifice without a fit with partner's hand.

東在叫 5♦ 之前，起碼要想一想，同伴有 2 張小♦ 支持，你會《宕》幾墩？如果不算這些，怎麼打橋牌。橋牌不是只看自己一手牌叫牌，還要《看》同伴的牌，才能叫得準。更不是對方套上沒有輸張，就可隨意在高階叫牌，總要算算自己的輸張，從叫牌中判斷同伴可以幫你多少，值不值得犧牲。打了多年橋牌的人，不明白這些？希望東能接受這次《撞板》的教訓。

Before East bid 5♦, he should have at least thought about the number of losing tricks if

his partner had only 2 small ♦s in support. If you don't count the number of losing tricks, how can you play bridge? You don't just see your own hand to bid, you need to "see" your partner's cards also before you can bid correctly. It does not mean that you can freely sacrifice at a high level when you have no losers in the opponents' suit. You still have to count you own losers. Based on the bidding, you have to judge the number of tricks that Partner can help you and whether it is worthwhile to sacrifice. Will a person who has played bridge for many years not understand these? I hope that East would accept the lesson from this "blunder".

在另 1 桌，我們主打 5♠，首引♣2，將 1 輪♣，第 3 墩♠K 調將，發現將牌不利分配，要讀準西的牌型，首引♣ 應是 3 張，西必須要有 3 張♥，才能打成。所以你只有假定西的牌是 5323，第 4 墩♣K 墊♦，再從明手出♦，相信東如有♦A，不會不出，較難的是判斷誰有♥Q，很運氣的是西有 3 張♥，而且我們猜對，最後剩 4 張牌，西全是將牌，不難打成，想不到的是，這牌還要輸 650-1100=10IMP。

At the other table, we declared 5♠. The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was the ♣2, ruffed a ♣ at trick 2, used the ♠K to draw trumps at trick 3 and discovered the unfavourable distribution of 5-0. It is necessary to read West's cards correctly. The 1<sup>st</sup> lead of ♣ indicated that he had 3-carder ♣, West must have 3-carder ♥ before I could make the contract. So, you have to assume that West's cards are 5323. Used ♣K to discard a ♦ at trick 4, and then play a ♦ from Dummy, believing that East would not duck his ♦A if he had it. It is more difficult to judge who has the ♥Q. Luckily, West had 3 ♥s, and we guessed the ♥Q correctly. When only 4 cards remained in each hand, West had only trumps left. It was not difficult to make the contract. Unexpectedly, we still had to lose 650-1100=10 IMP for this board.

- (3) 上面二例的錯，是非常基本的錯，其他的錯，也沒必要再提，說 1 副我認為叫得好的牌吧： The 2 examples of mistakes above are very basic mistakes. There is no need to mention other mistakes. Let me describe a board for which I consider we bid well:

|               |             |            |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| # 5           | ♠ -         |            |
| N / N S       | ♥ K Q J 6 2 |            |
|               | ♦ K 9 7 4   |            |
|               | ♣ A Q 10 5  |            |
| ♠ J 8 5 4 3 2 |             | ♠ 10 9     |
| ♥ A 8 7 3     |             | ♥ 10 9 5 4 |
| ♦ 2           |             | ♦ J 6 5 3  |
| ♣ 8 7         |             | ♣ J 6 4    |
|               | ♠ A K Q 7 6 |            |
|               | ♥ -         |            |
|               | ♦ A Q 10 8  |            |
|               | ♣ K 9 3 2   |            |

| W    | N    | E    | S  |
|------|------|------|----|
|      | 1♥   | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦   | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3NT  | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 5♣   | Pass | 7♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |    |

第 2 輪南叫 3♣，是逼叫到局，他是隊長，4♦ 確定將牌，我♥沒有 A，扣叫♣A，同伴叫上大滿貫。可惜東西的將牌是 4-1 分配，結果下一。雖然沒有打成，因為是運氣問題，所以也很開心，如果第 2 輪我不叫 2♦，叫 2♣，前幾輪叫牌將是：

South's bid of 3♣ in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round was forcing to game. He was the captain and the bid of 4♦ set the trump suit. I did not have the ♥A and I cuebid ♣A, Partner bid a grand slam. Unfortunately, the distribution of trumps of East and West were 4-1, and the result was down 1. Even though we could not make the contract, it was due to lack of luck and so I was still very happy. If I didn't bid 2♦ but 2♣ in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, then the bidding would become:

| W    | N   | E    | S  |
|------|-----|------|----|
|      | 1♥  | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♣  | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦  | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | ?  |

2♦ 是逼叫到局，3♣ 確定將牌。3♦ 的扣叫，同伴有♦ A，知道我扣叫的是♦ K，一定沒有♥ A，否則將先叫 3♥。我不知道最後會不會叫上 7♣，由於東西方的♣是 3-2 分配，7♣是鐵牌。

2♦ is forcing to game and 3♣ set the trump suit. 3♦ is a cuebid. Partner has the ♦A, and knows that I have the ♦K and I do not have the ♥A as I have not bid 3♥<sup>1st</sup>. I don't know whether we would then bid 7♣, As the distribution of ♣s in East and West was 3-2, 7♣ was a cold contract.

# 向專家學什麼

## What to Learn from the Experts?

2012年7月北美的《SPINGOLD》是世界級水平的比賽，我們從很多專家那裡可以學到很多東西，包括平時我們對《分》的各執一詞的看法。

In the North American Spingold World-class bridge competition held in July 2012, we can learn a lot of things from the many experts, including what we often argue about our views towards points.

Spingold Final 你是南，持： You are South, holding:

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| # 60   |            |
| W/ N S |            |
|        | ♠ 10 9 7 2 |
|        | ♥ A 10     |
|        | ♦ J 9 5    |
|        | ♣ 10 6 4 2 |

叫牌 The bidding:

| W  | N   | E    | S |
|----|-----|------|---|
| 1♦ | Dbl | Rdbl | ? |

Rdbl 表示♥套，你只有5分牌，現在又是《自由》叫，你會叫嗎？我支持叫，同伴在1♦後叫Dbl可能對2高花都有支持，你的8張黑牌加上♥A，對同伴都是有用的牌，現在不叫，未必再有機會。

Rdbl indicates the ♥ suit. You have only 5 HCPs and you have a “free bid” now. Will you bid? I support to bid. Partner’s double after 1♦ indicates that he may have support for both majors. You have 8 black cards and the ♥A. They are useful to your Partner. If you do not bid now, you may not have a chance to bid later.

| W    | N   | E    | S  |
|------|-----|------|----|
| 1♦   | Dbl | Rdbl | 1♠ |
| Dbl  | 2♥  | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠  | Pass | ?  |

南叫1♠，叫牌繼續，第2輪同伴扣叫，表示好牌，你也只能叫2♠，（低限），同伴再叫3♠，邀請，你還叫嗎？坐南是Fantoni，實際叫牌如下：

South bids 1♠ and the bidding continues. Your partner cuebids on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round to show a good hand. You can only bid 2♠ (minimum). Partner rebids 3♠ to invite. Will you bid? The one who sat South was Fantoni; The bidding in practise was as follows:

| W    | N    | E    | S  |
|------|------|------|----|
| 1♦   | Dbl  | Rdbl | 1♠ |
| Dbl  | 2♥   | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠   | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |    |

我想我的橋友能叫 1♠ 已經不錯，很多橋友持南的牌會一直叫 Pass，我最不贊成。試想南如沒有♥A 和有♥A 的叫牌都一樣，不就有問題了。

I think it would have been quite good if my bridge friend would bid 1♠. Many bridge friends holding South's cards will just pass and then pass. I am strongly against this. Imagine that if South passes whether he has the ♥A or not, then there must be a problem.

4 家牌是： The 4 hands were:

|           |            |             |  |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--|
| # 60      | ♠ A Q 8 3  |             |  |
| W / N S   | ♥ Q J 3    |             |  |
|           | ♦ A Q      |             |  |
|           | ♣ K 9 5 3  |             |  |
| ♠ K 5 4   |            | ♠ J 6       |  |
| ♥ 6 5 2   |            | ♥ K 9 8 7 4 |  |
| ♦ K 8 4 2 |            | ♦ 10 7 6 3  |  |
| ♣ A J 7   |            | ♣ Q 8       |  |
|           | ♠ 10 9 7 2 |             |  |
|           | ♥ A 10     |             |  |
|           | ♦ J 9 5    |             |  |
|           | ♣ 10 6 4 2 |             |  |

叫到還要打到，必需注意橋引，好在對 Fantoni 來說，這些已是《小菜一碟》。叫 4♠ 要有勇氣，但你分析桌面叫牌，主要大牌都在西，打成的機會很大，Fantoni 接受挑戰，叫 4♠，成功打成。

You win the auction and have to make the contract, You need to take care of the entries. To Fantoni, it is only "a small dish". You need courage to bid 4♠. If you listen to the bidding, most of the high cards are with West, so the chance of making the contract is high. Fantoni accepted the challenge and bid 4♠, and successfully made the contract.

再看另一桌叫牌： Let's see the bidding at the other table.

| W    | N  | E | S |
|------|----|---|---|
| Pass | 1♣ | ? |   |

你持東的牌，（只算分的人，一定不叫）叫 1♥嗎？橋牌是講配合的，叫牌才知道有沒有配合（當然存在風險），實際叫牌是：

You hold East's cards (those who just count points will not bid) . Will you bid 1♥? Bridge requires matching. You have to bid in order to find a match (there is of course a risk) . The actual bidding was:

| W    | N    | E  | S    |
|------|------|----|------|
| Pass | 1♣   | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♣   | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |    |      |

坐東是 Helness ， 你不會說 Fantoni 和 Helness 都叫錯了吧。這 2 對牌手（Fantoni/Nunes; Helness/Helgemo）在《Spingold》比賽中，用《所向無敵》來形容，也不為過。

The one who sat East was Helness. I don't think you would not say that both Fantoni and Helness have bid wrongly. It is not an overstatement to use the word "invincible" to describe the 2 pairs: Fantoni-Nunes and Helness-Helgemo in the Spingold competition.

2♥ 下 2，但勝 11IMP。

2♥ went down 2, but the team won 11 IMPs.

現拿 7 月中對台灣橋友的牌來看：

How, let us look at a board played against the Taiwan bridge friends in mid July 2012:

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| # 18    | ♠ J 9 8 4 3 2 |
| E / N S | ♥ 9 4 2       |
|         | ♦ A 8         |
|         | ♣ 5 3         |

叫牌 The bidding:

| W  | N | E  | S  |
|----|---|----|----|
|    |   | 1♦ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | ? |    |    |

你是北，到你，如只知道算分，只有 5 分，恰不知除有 A 外，還有 6 張♠，此時不叫，還有機會再叫嗎？

You are North and it's your turn to bid. If you just count points, you have only 5 HCPs. Did you not notice that in addition to an Ace, you have 6 cards in ♠. If you don't bid now, will you have a chance to bid again?

實際叫牌 The actual bidding was:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 1♦   | 2♣   |
| 2♦   | Pass | Pass | 3♣   |
| Pass | Pass | 3♦   | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |      |      |

4 家牌是 The 4 hands were:

|            |               |  |              |
|------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| # 18       | ♠ J 9 8 4 3 2 |  |              |
| E/NS       | ♥ 9 4 2       |  |              |
|            | ♦ A 8         |  |              |
|            | ♣ 5 3         |  |              |
| ♠ K Q 7    |               |  | ♠ 5          |
| ♥ 10 8 5 3 |               |  | ♥ K Q J 6    |
| ♦ Q 9 5 4  |               |  | ♦ J 10 7 6 2 |
| ♣ 10 6     |               |  | ♣ A Q 7      |
|            | ♠ A 10 6      |  |              |
|            | ♥ A 7         |  |              |
|            | ♦ K 3         |  |              |
|            | ♣ K J 9 8 4 2 |  |              |

3♦是沒有的，首引♥A，莊家跌♥K，轉攻♣（？）被打成。有誰想到北的進手是♦A？

3♦ should not have been made. South first led the ♥A, Declarer dropped the ♥K.. South shifted to attack ♣ (?) and 3♦ was made. Who would have thought that North's entry was the ♦A?

在我這桌的叫牌，The bidding at my table was:

| W    | N    | E  | S    |
|------|------|----|------|
|      |      | 1♦ | 2♣   |
| 2♦   | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |    |      |

我坐東，不想 Opp 叫出♠來，主動再叫3♦。

I sat East and didn't want Opponents to bid ♠ and so I deliberately bid 3♦.

北在2♦後一定要叫2♠，4個人在叫牌，不會認為你有很多《分》，自己一方有3♠，讓對方打3♦，如果對手稍強一些，在我這桌早就叫到3♠，我們也不知輸掉多少這種6IMP。應該學一些《積極》叫牌，有牌時，要盡早在1階或2階叫出來。

After 2♦, North must bid 2♠. 4 persons have bid. No one would regard you as having many points. Our side had 3♠ but you allowed the opponents to play 3♦. If the opponents were stronger, they should have bid 3♠ at my table. We have lost many similar “6 IMPs” in the past. We need to learn a bit of “aggressive” bidding. When we have a suit, we need to bid early at the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> level.

(2) Spingold QF

|                |
|----------------|
| # 14           |
| E/N I L        |
| ♠ 3            |
| ♥ -            |
| ♦ J 10 8 7 3 2 |
| ♣ A 9 8 7 5 4  |

你是西，同伴東不叫，南開叫 1♦，你叫牌嗎？我想多數人會不叫，我也贊成不叫。叫牌繼續。

You are West. You partner sitting East passed. South opened 1♦. Would you bid? I think most people would not bid and I agree to pass. The bidding continues.

| W    | N  | E    | S  |
|------|----|------|----|
|      |    | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ |
| ?    |    |      |    |

又到你，你可能只有這一次機會，是叫 Pass，2NT，3♣，3♦？我贊成叫牌，實戰中一桌叫牌是：

Now, it's your turn again. You may have only 1 chance. Would you pass, bid 2NT, 3♣ or 3♦? I agree to bid. In reality, the bidding at one table was:

| W    | N    | E    | S   |
|------|------|------|-----|
|      |      | Pass | 1♦  |
| Pass | 1♥   | Pass | 2♥  |
| 3♣   | 4♥   | 5♣   | Dbl |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |     |

坐西是 Helgemo,成功了，東是 Helness。這桌南是 Zia，他也不能判斷自己一方有 5♥，4 家牌是

The one who sat West was Helgemo and he was successful. East was Helness.

The one who sat South at this table was Zia. He could not judge whether they could make 5♥ and he doubled 5♣. The 4 hands were:

|                |               |            |  |
|----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| # 14           | ♠ K Q J 10    |            |  |
| E/NIL          | ♥ A J 6 5 4 2 |            |  |
|                | ♦ Q 9         |            |  |
|                | ♣ Q           |            |  |
| ♠ 3            |               | ♠ 8 6 5 2  |  |
| ♥ -            |               | ♥ 10 8 7   |  |
| ♦ J 10 8 7 3 2 |               | ♦ K 4      |  |
| ♣ A 9 8 7 5 4  |               | ♣ K J 10 3 |  |
|                | ♠ A 9 7 4     |            |  |
|                | ♥ K Q 9 3     |            |  |
|                | ♦ A 6 5       |            |  |
|                | ♣ 6 2         |            |  |

西如不叫，永遠不知道有沒有配合，有配合才能有更多贏墩。橋牌是講贏墩的，《分》是幫你計算贏墩的。

If West has not bid, it would not be possible for East and West to find a fit. Only fit can bring in more winning tricks. Bridge is matter of winning tricks. "Points" only help you to calculate the number of winning tricks.

另一桌西是 Cayne Team 的 Willenken, 他一直不叫，最後叫加倍，希望同伴首引♥,同伴不知理解沒有，首引不是♥，是♠2，被超 1 成約。即使首引♥，仍然可以成約。這牌你能拿《分》來解釋嗎？東西聯手 12 分，有 5♣。如看 4 家牌，在 5♠ 後，東西最佳叫 6♣。這桌實際叫牌是這樣進行：

At the other table, West was Willenken of Cayne Team. He did not bid but he doubled in the end, hoping his partner would lead a ♥. His Partner did not appear to understand his double and first led the ♠2. The contract was made and up 1. Even with a ♥ lead, the contract can still be made. Can you use "points" to explain this board? East and West jointly hold 12 points but they can have 5♣. If you look at the 4 hands, the best bid after 5♠ would be 6♣. The actual bidding at this table was:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | Pass | 1NT  |
| Pass | 2♣   | Pass | 2♥   |
| Pass | 2♠   | Pass | 3NT  |
| Pass | 4♦   | Pass | 4♥   |
| Pass | 4♠   | Pass | 4NT  |
| Pass | 5♠   | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl  | Rdbl | A.P. |      |

西有多次叫牌機會, 即使你認為牌力不足, 第 1 次 1NT 後不叫 2NT, 在 2♥ 後可以叫 2NT, 最後 Opp 在♥配合後, 你們在低花應該也有機會配合, 在 4♥ 後叫 4NT。這牌 Helgemo 所在 Monaco Team 隊勝 18 IMP。

West had a few opportunities to bid even if you consider his card strength is not enough. First, he did not overcall 2NT after 1NT. After 2♥, he could have overcalled 2NT. Finally, after Opponents have found fit in ♥, you and your partner should have a fit in at least one of the minors and you can overcall 4NT after 4♥. For this board, the Monaco Team with Helgemo won 18 IMPs

這使我想起我們以前在深圳比賽時打的一副牌:

The above board reminds me of a board which we have played in a competition held in Shenzhen:

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| # 2     | ♠ J 10 3     |
| E/N SIL | ♥ Q 4        |
|         | ♦ 10 8 6     |
|         | ♣ A K Q 6 4  |
|         | ♠ -          |
|         | ♥ K 9 3      |
|         | ♦ A Q J 9 4  |
|         | ♣ J 10 9 8 2 |

叫牌

| W  | N    | E    | S    |
|----|------|------|------|
|    |      | 1♠   | 2NT  |
| 3♣ | Dbl  | 3♥   | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

那時, 我們都不知道《配合》才能有更多贏墩的道理。

At such time, both of us did not know the principle that only “matching” could bring in more winning tricks.

不用寫出 4 家牌, 南北的 5♣ 是鐵牌, (東西的♣是 2 - 1, ♦是 3 - 2 分配) 東西的 4♥、4♠ 都有 10 墩牌, 我坐南, 在有局方時叫 2NT, 同伴持 AKQ 的將牌支持, 他不加叫的理由是: 怕對方叫到滿貫。

There is no need to write the 4 hands. The contract of 5♣ of North and South was cold (the distributions of East and West were: ♣ 2 - 1, ♦ 3 - 2). The contract of 4♥ and 4♠ of East and West can all make 10 tricks. I sat South and I bid 2NT when our

side was vulnerable. Partner held trumps AKQ. He did not bid 4♣ or higher because he was afraid that the opponents would reach a slam.

今天，他看到 Helness 持 4 張♣都叫 5♣，如他再持♣AKQ 五張，會不會仍是不叫，或者叫 6♣？？

Today, he saw Helness holding 4 ♣s but still bidding 5♣. If he holds ♣AKQxx, will he still not bid or bid 6♣？？

(3) SPINGOLD QF

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| #1    | ♠ A 5 3 2 |
| N/NIL | ♥ 2       |
|       | ♦ J 8 7 6 |
|       | ♣ A 9 7 6 |

你是北 You are North

| W  | N    | E    | S    |
|----|------|------|------|
|    | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥ | ?    |      |      |

現在到你，叫牌嗎？坐北是名將 Martel，他叫 DBL，實際叫牌。Now, it is your turn. Would you bid? North was the famous player Martel. He doubled. The actual bidding was:

| W   | N    | E    | S    |
|-----|------|------|------|
|     | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥  | Dbl  | Rdbl | 2♣   |
| Dbl | Pass | Pass | Pass |

4 家牌是：The 4 hands were:

|           |             |           |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| #1        | ♠ A 5 3 2   |           |
| N/NIL     | ♥ 2         |           |
|           | ♦ J 8 7 6   |           |
|           | ♣ A 9 7 6   |           |
| ♠ K 7 6   |             | ♠ J 9 8 4 |
| ♥ A K Q J |             | ♥ 10 9 7  |
| ♦ A 10 6  |             | ♦ K Q 9 2 |
| ♣ Q 5 4   |             | ♣ K 10    |
|           | ♠ Q 10      |           |
|           | ♥ 8 6 5 4 3 |           |
|           | ♦ 4 3       |           |
|           | ♣ J 8 3 2   |           |

坐南是 Zia ，首引♣，最後下 2，勝 4 IMP。（另桌 3NT+1）。

Zia sat South and the first lead a ♣. The contract went down 2 and won 4 IMP.

（Martel's teammates made 3NT+1 at the other table）。

你學不學這位專家的叫牌是一回事，現在的叫牌越來越積極，相對對罰放的要求也越來越高，換句話說，一般情形你都要叫牌。

You may or may not follow this expert's bidding. Nowadays, biddings are getting more and more aggressive and the requirements for penalty pass are getting more and more stringent. In other words, you should in general bid in most circumstances.

例如 For example:

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| # 11  | ♠ J 10 9 4 3 |
| S/NIL | ♥ 8 4        |
|       | ♦ K 5        |
|       | ♣ Q 8 6 5    |

你是北，叫牌 You are North. The bidding was:

| W    | N    | E    | S    |
|------|------|------|------|
|      |      |      | Pass |
| 2♠   | Pass | Pass | DBL  |
| Pass | ?    |      |      |

你要叫 3♣，不可不叫，你的防守贏墩，不會超過 3 墩（♦ K 和♣ Q 可能和同伴重複）

You must bid 3♣. You cannot pass. The number of your defensive tricks will not exceed 3 (♦ K and ♣ Q are likely duplicate with partners' strength).

(4) 2012/8/17 2<sup>nd</sup> Mind Sports Games

QF Monaco 對荷蘭 the Netherlands

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| # 27  | ♠ 8 3        |
| S/NIL | ♥ Q 10 7 3 2 |
|       | ♦ 8 5 2      |
|       | ♣ Q 8 7      |
|       | ♠ 9 6 5 4 2  |
|       | ♥ 8 6 5      |
|       | ♦ 10 4       |
|       | ♣ K 5 4      |

實際叫牌 The actual bidding:

| W    | N    | E   | S    |
|------|------|-----|------|
|      |      |     | Pass |
| 1♦   | 1♥   | Dbl | 2♥   |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |     |      |

如果南北方是我們隊友，無論南或北都要被批評是亂叫，即使我表示支持，也不一定有人認可。我現在告訴你，北是 Fantoni 南是 Nunes。起碼你不能說他們亂叫，更不能說他們不會打牌吧。我要說，要向他們學，你同意嗎？

If North and South were my teammates, either one of them would criticize the bid as a silly bid. Even though I supported the bid, I might not get their support. Now I tell you. North was Fantoni and South was Nunes. At least you would not say that they made silly bids and you would not say that they didn't know how to play bridge. I have to say that we need to learn from them. Do you agree?

第1 北的 1♥ 是在同伴 Pass 後，判斷 Opp 有局，在最低的 1 階，叫出自己的套，應該很安全。

第2 南只有 3 分，和同伴的♥套配合，我一貫認為要加叫。

1. North's 1♥ was made after Partner's Pass. He judged that the Opponents would have a game and so he bid his suit at the lowest 1 level. This should be rather safe.
2. South had only 3 points but he had a fit with Partner's ♥ suit.. I consider that he should raise.

你要不要看看結果。先看 4 家牌：

Do you want to see the result? Let us see 4 hands first:

|           |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| # 27      | ♠ 8 3        |            |
| S/NIL     | ♥ Q 10 7 3 2 |            |
|           | ♦ 8 5 2      |            |
|           | ♣ Q 8 7      |            |
| ♠ J       |              | ♠ AKQ 10 7 |
| ♥ AKJ 9   |              | ♥ 4        |
| ♦ KQ 9 3  |              | ♦ AJ 7 6   |
| ♣ 9 6 3 2 |              | ♣ AJ 10    |
|           | ♠ 9 6 5 4 2  |            |
|           | ♥ 8 6 5      |            |
|           | ♦ 10 4       |            |
|           | ♣ K 5 4      |            |

Play 很簡單，下 4， - 800 分，輸多少？

The play was very simple, down 4, - 800. How much was lost?

另 1 桌南北沒有叫牌，東西叫到 7♦，是不是順利成約+1440，不但沒輸，還勝 12IMP。

The North and South at the other table had not bid and East and West reached 7♦. Isn't it easy to make the contract and get +1440? Not only that Fantoni's team did not lose, they even won 12 IMPs.

現在的橋牌，叫牌非常積極，和同伴配合的牌，沒有不加叫的，《純》靠點叫牌，早落後啦。我們總該向他們學習吧。

The biddings in bridge nowadays are getting more and more aggressive. If you have a fit with your partner, you have to raise. Bidding purely in reliance of "points" is outdated. We need to learn from them.

Squeeze has been classified as the advance technique in the game. I have just come across a few hands in this area and wish to share with you. Special thanks to Abby CHIU for his notes and comments.

Regarding the hand in Open League 2011-12 Quarter Final (by the way, I must clarify that Chan Yiu was losing to **VICO** team, but not Alan Sze team), which has been mentioned by Uncle Chan in the Newsletter 2012 July, the 7♠ was made via a simple squeeze on ♥+♦ against North.

|           |            |                  |  |
|-----------|------------|------------------|--|
| #6        | ♠ J        |                  |  |
| E / EW    | ♥ Q J 10 9 |                  |  |
|           | ♦ K Q 7 5  |                  |  |
|           | ♣ 10 8 6 3 |                  |  |
| ♠ K 9     |            | ♠ A Q 10 8 5 4 2 |  |
| ♥ A K 6 3 |            | ♥ 8 4 2          |  |
| ♦ J 10 9  |            | ♦ A 4            |  |
| ♣ A J 7 5 |            | ♣ K              |  |
|           | ♠ 7 6 3    |                  |  |
|           | ♥ 7 5      |                  |  |
|           | ♦ 8 6 3 2  |                  |  |
|           | ♣ Q 9 4 2  |                  |  |

In the four cards ending as below, North has to find a discard on ♣A. Discarding ♦ will let the declarer ruffing good the ♦J, while discarding ♥ will make the little ♥ good.

|        |       |       |  |
|--------|-------|-------|--|
| #6     | ♠ -   |       |  |
| E / EW | ♥ Q J |       |  |
|        | ♦ K Q |       |  |
|        | ♣ -   |       |  |
| ♠ -    |       | ♠ 2   |  |
| ♥ A    |       | ♥ 8 4 |  |
| ♦ J 10 |       | ♦ 4   |  |
| ♣ A    |       | ♣     |  |
|        | ♠ -   |       |  |
|        | ♥ -   |       |  |
|        | ♦ 8 6 |       |  |
|        | ♣ Q 9 |       |  |

Making the hand a little bit difference, will it be having any squeeze when ♥ 3-3 and ♦ honor split?

The answer is YES !!

|           |             |                  |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| #6        | ♠ J         |                  |
| E / EW    | ♥ Q 10 9    |                  |
|           | ♦ K 8 7 5 2 |                  |
|           | ♣ 10 8 6 3  |                  |
| ♠ K 9     |             | ♠ A Q 10 8 5 4 2 |
| ♥ A K 6 3 |             | ♥ 8 4 2          |
| ♦ J 10 9  |             | ♦ A 4            |
| ♣ A J 7 5 |             | ♣ K              |
|           | ♠ 7 6 3     |                  |
|           | ♥ J 7 5     |                  |
|           | ♦ Q 6 3     |                  |
|           | ♣ Q 9 4 2   |                  |

Whatever the lead was, declarer could unblock ♣K, draw 2 trumps to dummy, cashing ♣A to discard the little ♦ in hand, ruffing ♣ back (trying to ruff out ♣Qxx), then pull trumps to the below 6 cards ending:

|          |          |         |
|----------|----------|---------|
| #6       | ♠        |         |
| E / EW   | ♥ Q 10 9 |         |
|          | ♦ K 8 7  |         |
|          | ♣        |         |
| ♠        |          | ♠ 4 2   |
| ♥ A K    |          | ♥ 8 4 2 |
| ♦ J 10 9 |          | ♦ A     |
| ♣ J      |          | ♣       |
|          | ♠        |         |
|          | ♥ J 7 5  |         |
|          | ♦ Q 6    |         |
|          | ♣ Q      |         |

When the second last trump was played, South has to find a discard:

- Discarding ♣, ♣J was good in dummy;
- Discarding ♦, declarer could then unblocking the ♦A, goes to dummy by ♥K, ruffing finesse the ♦K, goes back to dummy and enjoys the well established ♦10;
- Discarding ♥, declarer discards the ♣J, North has to find a discard:
  - Discarding ♦, ♦ was left to be 2-2, unblocking ♦A, goes to dummy by ♥, ruffing out ♦, and dummy was good;
  - Discarding ♥, ♥ was left to be 2-2, unblocking ♥, the little ♥ was good.

Another hand I read from the recent European Bridge Team Championships bulletin – Multon Magic.

|                  |               |           |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| #3               | ♠ J 9 6 5 4 2 |           |
| S / EW           | ♥ J           |           |
|                  | ♦ Q 10 7 2    |           |
|                  | ♣ 7 4         |           |
| ♠ 7              |               | ♠ A 10 8  |
| ♥ A K 10 9 6 5 3 |               | ♥ Q 7     |
| ♦ 4              |               | ♦ A K 8 5 |
| ♣ J 9 8 3        |               | ♣ A 6 5 2 |
|                  | ♠ K Q 3       |           |
|                  | ♥ 8 4 2       |           |
|                  | ♦ J 9 6 3     |           |
|                  | ♣ K Q 10      |           |

Franck Multon, from Monaco, playing against Austria in the Open Series, declared 6♥ in the above hand. North led ♣7, declarer played small from dummy, South won by ♣Q and switched to a trump.

Declarer drew trumps, North pitching ♠, then played a fourth trump, South must discard either ♠ or ♦. At the table, South discarded ♠:

|         |            |           |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| #3      | ♠ J 9 6    |           |
| S / EW  | ♥          |           |
|         | ♦ Q 10 7 2 |           |
|         | ♣ 4        |           |
| ♠ 7     |            | ♠ A 10 8  |
| ♥ 9 6 5 |            | ♥         |
| ♦ 4     |            | ♦ A K 8 5 |
| ♣ J 9 8 |            | ♣ A       |
|         | ♠ K Q      |           |
|         | ♥          |           |
|         | ♦ J 9 6 3  |           |
|         | ♣ K 10     |           |

Now, declarer played ♠A, ♣A, and ruff the ♠, isolating North to guard ♠. The last two trumps now squeeze North. On the last ♥, North has to keep his ♠ guard and come down to two ♦. Dummy discarded ♠10, and now South is squeezed in the minors. If he kept the ♣ guard, the ♦8 makes the last trick.

What if South discarded  $\heartsuit$  at trick 5?

|                    |                         |                        |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| #3                 | $\spadesuit$ J 9 6      |                        |
| S / EW             | $\heartsuit$            |                        |
|                    | $\diamondsuit$ Q 10 7 2 |                        |
|                    | $\clubsuit$ 4           |                        |
| $\spadesuit$ 7     |                         | $\spadesuit$ A 10 8    |
| $\heartsuit$ 9 6 5 |                         | $\heartsuit$           |
| $\diamondsuit$ 4   |                         | $\diamondsuit$ A K 8 5 |
| $\clubsuit$ J 9 8  |                         | $\clubsuit$ A          |
|                    | $\spadesuit$ K Q 3      |                        |
|                    | $\heartsuit$            |                        |
|                    | $\diamondsuit$ J 9 6    |                        |
|                    | $\clubsuit$ K 10        |                        |

Now, declarer played  $\diamondsuit$ AK,  $\clubsuit$ A, and ruff the  $\diamondsuit$ , isolating North to guard  $\diamondsuit$ . On the second last trump, both North & South could discard  $\spadesuit$ . And the last trump squeeze both defenders. North has to keep his  $\diamondsuit$  guard and discarded  $\spadesuit$ . Dummy discarded  $\diamondsuit$ , and now South is squeezed in the black suits. If he kept the  $\clubsuit$  guard, the  $\spadesuit$ 10 makes the last trick.

Yes, you might now see that, South could break the timing by either switching to  $\spadesuit$  or  $\diamondsuit$  at trick 2.

A hand in Bermuda Bowl 2011 also demonstrated another interesting squeeze. This was a hand in the match Italy playing against China:

|                        |                         |                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| #16                    | $\spadesuit$ A 9 6 2    |                           |
| W / EW                 | $\heartsuit$ K J 6      |                           |
|                        | $\diamondsuit$ 10 6 5 4 |                           |
|                        | $\clubsuit$ 3 2         |                           |
| $\spadesuit$ K 10 7 4  |                         | $\spadesuit$ 3            |
| $\heartsuit$ 4 3 2     |                         | $\heartsuit$ A Q 10 9 8 5 |
| $\diamondsuit$ A Q 7 3 |                         | $\diamondsuit$ K J 9      |
| $\clubsuit$ A 8        |                         | $\clubsuit$ 10 6 5        |
|                        | $\spadesuit$ Q J 8 5    |                           |
|                        | $\heartsuit$ 7          |                           |
|                        | $\diamondsuit$ 8 2      |                           |
|                        | $\clubsuit$ K Q J 9 7 4 |                           |

| S             | W                | N    | E              |
|---------------|------------------|------|----------------|
|               | 1 $\diamondsuit$ | Pass | 1 $\heartsuit$ |
| 3 $\clubsuit$ | Pass             | Pass | 4 $\heartsuit$ |
| Pass          | Pass             | Pass |                |

Semanta, from Italy, was East declaring 4♥, after South preempted 3♣. South led ♣Q (promising K). After a long hesitation, Semanta decided not to give up the safety play in trump, but this would have to duck the ♣ lead and risking the 7-1 plus ♠A in South, on which North could overruff dummy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♣.

Declarer getting ♣A, played ♥ to ♥A, ♦J to ♦Q, another ♥. North put up ♥K and returning another trump. Now, the contract seems to rely on ♦ 3-3. When it is not, declarer ruff the ♦ back and played the rest of his trumps. Suddenly, an interesting squeeze happened at the last two tricks:

|          |         |      |
|----------|---------|------|
| #16      | ♠ A 9 6 |      |
| W / EW   | ♥       |      |
|          | ♦       |      |
|          | ♣       |      |
| ♠ K 10 7 |         | ♠ 3  |
| ♥        |         | ♥ 5  |
| ♦        |         | ♦    |
| ♣        |         | ♣ 10 |
|          | ♠ Q J   |      |
|          | ♥       |      |
|          | ♦       |      |
|          | ♣ K     |      |

South has to keep his ♣K, and discarding the ♠. Eventually, the ♠10 in dummy scored the last trick, and Semanta made his 4♥.

Board 17, in round 2 of Open League 2012-13, had a similar squeeze.

|              |              |           |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| #17          | ♠ A 5 4 3    |           |
| N / NIL      | ♥ K 8 3      |           |
|              | ♦ A 7 4 2    |           |
|              | ♣ 5 4        |           |
| ♠ K 8        |              | ♠ 10 2    |
| ♥ Q J 10 5 2 |              | ♥ A 7 6 4 |
| ♦ Q 10 3     |              | ♦ K J 6 5 |
| ♣ J 7 5      |              | ♣ A K 3   |
|              | ♠ Q J 9 7 6  |           |
|              | ♥ 9          |           |
|              | ♦ 9 8        |           |
|              | ♣ Q 10 9 8 2 |           |

West declarer 5♥X, after North opened the bidding and South competed in ♠. My teammate led the ♠A and 5♥X made easily on the successful ♥K finesse. What if North did not lead ♠A?

Assuming he led ♣5. Declarer did not have entry to finesse the trump K, so he's forced to play the ♦ first. North could then return another ♣. Declarer got it and back to hand by ♦10 to finesse trump K. Since North opened and did not lead the ♠, ♠A was more likely to be with North. And now, only one chance is left. After 3 trumps, cashing the ♦ tricks and discard the ♠8 in hand, and now cash the rest of trumps:

|         |         |        |
|---------|---------|--------|
| #17     | ♠ A 5 4 |        |
| N / NIL | ♥       |        |
|         | ♦       |        |
|         | ♣       |        |
| ♠ K     |         | ♠ 10 2 |
| ♥ 2     |         | ♥      |
| ♦       |         | ♦      |
| ♣ J     |         | ♣ 3    |
|         | ♠ Q J   |        |
|         | ♥       |        |
|         | ♦       |        |
|         | ♣ Q     |        |

South was squeezed on the last trump. Discarding ♣Q will make the ♣J good. Declarer can play the ♠K after South discarded ♠J. Dummy ♠10 will get the last trick! 5♥X by West was cold, as stated in double dummy analysis.

Let's enjoy the squeeze !!

# Schedule

# Oct – Dec 2012

| OCT<br>2012 | Event Name |                                 |  | Venue | Director                            |             |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2           | Tue        | No event - National Day         |  |       | N/A                                 | --- TBC --- |
| 5           | Fri        | Quadruple Pairs (1)             |  |       | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | Kelvin Yim  |
| 6           | Sat        | Quadruple Pairs (2) & (3)       |  |       | Mariner Seven<br>Seas Lounge        | Kelvin Yim  |
| 9           | Tue        | Invitational Team (4)           |  |       | China Coast Bar                     | Kelvin Yim  |
| 16          | Tue        | No event                        |  |       | N/A                                 | --- TBC --- |
| 17          | Wed        | Open Ladies Pairs               |  |       | LRC                                 | --- TBC --- |
| 20          | Sat        | Open League (4)                 |  |       | Main Hall and<br>Conference<br>Room | Arthur Lau  |
| 23          | Tue        | No event - Chung Yeung Festival |  |       | N/A                                 | --- TBC --- |
| 26          | Fri        | IMP Pairs (4-9)                 |  |       | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | WW Cho      |
| 30          | Tue        | Paul Jones Pairs (3-6)          |  |       | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | Ben Lam     |

| NOV<br>2012 | Event Name |                               |  | Venue | Director  |             |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|---|-------------|
| 6           | Tue        | Match Point Pairs (3-6)       |  |       | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room                           | WC Li       |
| 10          | Sat        | Open League (5)               |  |       | Conference<br>Room, China<br>Coast Bar and<br>Game Room | --- TBC --- |
| 13          | Tue        | Invitational Team (5)         |  |       | Mariner Main<br>Hall                                    | Kelvin Yim  |
| 16          | Fri        | Shifted to Dec                |  |       | No Room   | --- TBC --- |
| 20          | Tue        | Tom Wong Swiss Pairs - S. (1) |  |       | Mariner<br>Conference                                   | --- TBC --- |

|    |     |                               |  |  |                               |             |
|----|-----|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
|    |     |                               |  |  | Room                          |             |
| 27 | Tue | Tom Wong Swiss Pairs - S. (2) |  |  | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room | --- TBC --- |

| DEC<br>2012 | Event Name |  |  | Venue                               | Director    |
|-------------|------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4           | Tue        | Invitational Team (6)                            |  | Mariner Main<br>Hall                | Kelvin Yim  |
| 8           | Sat        | Open League (6)                                  |  | Main Hall and<br>Conference<br>Room | --- TBC --- |
| 11          | Tue        | Match Point Pairs (4-6)                          |  | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | WC Li       |
| 14          | Fri        | IMP Pairs (5-9)                                  |  | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | --- TBC --- |
| 18          | Tue        | Invitational Team (7)                            |  | Mariner Main<br>Hall                | Kelvin Yim  |
| 25          | Tue        | No event - Christmas Day                         |  | N/A                                 | --- TBC --- |
| 29          | Sat        | Life Master and Non-Life Master<br>Pairs (1 & 2) |  | Mariner<br>Conference<br>Room       | --- TBC --- |