

Newsletter

January ~ March 2015



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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8th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 3, 2014 (Friday)

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)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):		
	a) LC sent the HKCBA tournament schedule to CRC and waiting for their confirmation whether we can rent their venue on Tues and Fri.		LC
	b) Progress update: HKCBA website revamp: working committee to follow up with Alan Sze and set a deadline for completion of the outstanding items.		AL, TL, WK
	c) KF to submit captain's report for the World Youth Championships..		KF

3	<p><u>Financial Affairs:</u> Latest Bank Balance: HKD705K. Account Receivable: around HKD50K Account Payable: around HKD100K</p>		
4	<p><u>Internal Affairs:</u></p>		
4i	<p>APBF Open Team Trial: to be organized in Jan 2015. APBF Youth Team Trial: to be organized in mid Nov 2014 The winning team of the Youth trial is not allowed to join the APBF Open Team trial and they need to sign the commitment letter to agree joining a training programme designed by HKCBA, otherwise HKCBA has the right to cancel their representation.</p>		
5	<p><u>External Affairs:</u> Nil</p>		
6	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p>		
6i	<p>Council endorsed the members of the Board of Tournament Directors and Appeals Committee to be the same as last year. RH to inform them of their continuation of duty.</p>		RH
6ii	<p>SSBL will start again in October 2014. RH, XL and Billy Szeto will continue to be the persons in charge while XL will continue to be the advisor for the Hong Kong Post-Secondary Union of Bridge. The next council meeting will be held on November 5, 2014.</p>		

9th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2014 (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)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): d) LC will propose to CRC for a rental charge of \$1000/night for HKCBA events on Tues and Fri. e) Progress update: HKCBA website revamp: working committee to follow up with Alan Sze and set a deadline for completion of the outstanding items. f) KF to submit captain's report for the World Youth Championships.		AL, TL, WK KF

3	<u>Financial Affairs:</u> Latest Bank Balance: HKD655K.		
4	<u>Internal Affairs:</u>		
4i	LC will follow up with CRC on the rental charge.		LC
4ii	CC to check the stock of Bridgemates available for Council to decide whether we are going to sell if there are any spares. The preference for selling any spare Bridgemates will be given to local bridge clubs.		CC
5	<u>External Affairs:</u>		
5i	Intercity Incident: LC to draft a final letter (in Chinese) to Ping An to conclude the case. Once the letter is done, PC will prepare an English version base on the letter for final review and release.		LC, PC
6	<u>A.O.B.</u>		
6i	Youth Team issue: Barney Lui, Leo Lam, Gordon Ho and Rocky Tam had voluntarily quitted youth team. Council had a thorough discussion on the impacts and consequences of their withdrawal and had came to a conclusion (by votes) that they should not be allowed to participate in the upcoming APBF youth championships trial. JT will inform them of Council's decision.		JT
	The next council meeting will be held on December 5, 2014.		

10th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2014 (Friday)

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)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apologies: Officers:

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):		
	g) Progress update: HKCBA website revamp: working committee to follow up with Alan Sze and set a deadline for completion of the outstanding items.		AL, TL, WK
	h) KF to submit captain's report for the World Youth Championships.		KF
	i) CRC confirmed they cannot reduce the rental charge for HKCBA. LC		LC, RH

	<p>and RH will arrange 2 cup events to be held at CRC on Friday night to check the participation rate and their reaction towards the new venue.</p> <p>j) CC checked the stock of at Kai Tak and only found 50 Bridgemates. Due to limited storage available Council has decided not to sell any of them in the meantime.</p> <p>k) LC will join the Youth Team Committee for the purpose of restructuring the team and review the existing model.</p>		
3	<p><u>Financial Affairs:</u> Latest Bank Balance: HKD664K.</p>		
4	<p><u>Internal Affairs:</u></p>		
4i	<p>APBF Open Team Trial: Deadline for registration is Dec 24. Qualifying to be held on Jan 10, 11, 17, 18. Semi-final on Jan 25 and Final on Jan 31 & Feb 1.</p>		
4ii	<p>HKCBA AGM: to be held on Feb 24, 2015. PC will send out notice at least 3 weeks prior to AGM.</p>		PC
5	<p><u>External Affairs:</u></p>		
5i	<p>Timor Leste Contract Bridge Federation (TLCBF) applied to become a member of APBF. Council has no objection; PC will revert to the APBF committee.</p>		PC
6	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p>		
6i	<p>Life & Non-life Master pairs have been postponed to April 17 & 24, 2015.</p> <p>The next council meeting will be held on January 5, 2015.</p>		

不太難的防守

Not too difficult defence

2014年12月亚太地区选拔赛决赛。

Dec 2014 Asia Pacific Region Trial Competition:

#15	
S/NS	
	♠ K J 8
	♥ 6 3
	♦ 9 8 3
	♣ K J 5 3 2
♠ Q 9 4 3 2	
♥ A 7 2	
♦ Q T 6 5	
♣ A	

叫牌: Bidding:

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

同伴首引你叫的套♠10,相继出牌♠J, ♠Q, ♠A。第2墩♣6, ♣10, ♣J, ♣A。第3墩你回什么? 你在红花色中回那一套, 同伴最多5点, 实际南回♦5, 庄家♦A, (庄家如果没有♦K, 会不会先让1墩) 同伴♦7, 第4,5墩出♣Q和♣K, 同伴♣9, ♣7。看不见的是♣4, 应该在庄家手中, 庄家牌型大概3334, (他没有4张高花) 在出♣时, 你垫♥2, ♠2 (应垫♠4欢迎才对)。现在是

Partner first leads the ♠ of your bid suit ♠10, followed by ♠J, ♠Q and ♠A. Trick 2: ♣6, ♣10, ♣J, ♣A. What will you return at Trick 3? Which red suit will you return? Partner has at most 5 HCPs. In reality, South returned the ♦5, declarer ♦A, (if declarer did not have the ♦K, would he not duck 1 round) partner ♦7, Tricks 4 and 5: ♣Q and ♣K, partner ♣9 and ♣7. The unseen small card is the ♣4. It should be in the declarer's hand. The shape of declarer hand should likely be 3334 (he did not have any 4 times major). When declarer plays the ♣, your discard the

♥2 and ♠2 (should have discarded the ♠4 to show welcome) . Now , the following cards remain:

# 15		
S/NS		
		♠ K 8
		♥ 6 3
		♦ 9 8
		♣ 5 3
	♠ 9 4 3	
	♥ A 7	
	♦ Q T 6	
	♣ --	

明手出♥3,实际南放7,致命错误。因为你被投入的形势形成,你没有脱手牌。请看4家牌:

Play the ♥3 from dummy. In reality South played the ♥7, a fatal mistake because you will be thrown in and you do not have any safe exit card. Please see the 4 hands:

# 15	♠ T 5	
S/NS	♥ K J T 9 4	
	♦ J 7 4	
	♣ T 9 7	
♠ A 7 6		♠ K J 8
♥ Q 8 5		♥ 6 3
♦ A K 2		♦ 9 8 3
♣ Q 8 6 4		♣ K J 5 3 2
	♠ Q 9 4 3 2	
	♥ A 7 2	
	♦ Q T 6 5	
	♣ A	

剩 8 张牌时 When 8 cards remain in each hand:

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

第 6 墩同伴♥K 进手，照你要求，回♦J，只有 8 墩牌的牌，现在由南送出第 9 墩，打法已经非常简单了。莊家♦K 进手，出 2 墩♣，剩 5 张牌

At trick 6, partner wins with the ♥K and he, according to your request, return the ♦J. Declarer should have only 8 tricks but South has given him the 9th trick. The declarer play has become very simple now. Declarer wins with the ♦K, and play 3 rounds of ♣, with the following 5 cards remaining in each hand:

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

你想不到♠8 是第 9 墩。你开叫 1♠，♥A 在你这裡是人人知道的。或者你让同伴回♠，莊家也就没有第 9 墩了。当然，莊家的牌读的很好，最大胆的是明手出♥，在南没有意识到将被投入时，打掉南脱手张，因为他知道，只有在终局时，让南出♠，才有第 9 墩，打的好。

You do not expect that the ♠8 is the 9th trick. As you have opened ♠, everyone will know that the ♥A is with you. Maybe if you let your partner to return a ♠, declarer cannot have his 9th trick. Of course, delcasrer' s card reading is very well. He dares to play a ♥ from dummy when South is not aware that he will be thrown in and his exit card is removed. Declarer knows that

only if South has to return a ♠ at the end that he can have his 9th trick. He plays well.

另一桌由南打 2♦，正好。有 11IMP 的输赢。

2♦ was just made at the other table. A net difference of 11 IMP.

(2)同上 Same as above:

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

叫牌 Bidding:

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

2♥ 只表示低限，可以 5 张♥。

你首引♠7，保护性首引，同伴♠A，即依次♠7, ♠5, ♠A, ♠8；第 2 墩♠10, ♠J, ♠2, ♠6，说明庄家持有♠K 和♠Q。接着庄家出 2 轮♣，即

第 3 墩♣5, ♣Q, ♣A, ♣2 第 4 墩再♣K, 庄家垫♥2, 你垫♥3。

第 5 墩♦5, ♦6, ♦Q 到你♦K。现在你出那一张？

庄家有 1 张♣, 4 张♠ (KQJ8)，现在这样打♦，手中一定 3 张，不会是 2 张，否则不会这样打♦，(明手已无其它桥引)。所以他牌型是 4531。他已有 3 墩♠, 3 墩♣, 1 墩♥A, (一定有♥A 才够开叫)，如果让庄家在♦上拿 2 墩，就有 9 墩。所以，同伴必须有♦10。

你不能出♦，就算同伴♦10 赢进，回♥, ♥A, 再飞♦, 已够 9 墩，出♠如何？给庄家多一次进手，飞 2 次♦, 实战就是回♠被打成。所以只有回♥, 希望同伴有♥Q, 也就是说，同伴如果没有♥Q 和♦10, 庄家一定打成了。

2♥ only shows minimum can be 5 times ♥ only.

Your 1st lead the ♠7, a passive led, partner ♠A. The order is ♠7, ♠5, ♠A and, ♠8.

Trick 2: ♠10, ♠J, ♠2, ♠6. It indicates that declarer has the ♠K and ♠Q.

Trick 3 and 4: Declarer plays 2 rounds of ♣, i.e.,

Trick 3: ♣5, ♣Q, ♣A, ♣2

Trick 4: ♣K, declarer discards the ♥2, and you discard the ♥3.

Trick 5: ♦5, ♦6, ♦Q to your ♦K. Which card will you play?

Declarer has 1 ♣ and 4 ♠ (KQJ8). He plays ♦ now. He must have 3 cards in ♦ and not just 2 cards else he would have played ♦ this way (dummy does not have other entry). Therefore, the shape of his hand should be 4531. He has already got 3 tricks in ♠, 3 tricks in ♣, and 1 trick in ♥A (he must have the ♥A in order to have sufficient strength to open bid). If you let declarer to win 2 tricks in ♦, he will have 9 tricks. Therefore, partner must have the ♦10. You cannot play the ♦, even if partner's ♦10 can win and return a ♥, ♥A, and finesse ♦ again, declarer will have 9 tricks. How about returning a ♠? You will give declarer another chance to gain entry and he can finesse the ♦, twice. In reality, West returned a ♠ and 3NT was made. Therefore, West should return a ♥, hoping that partner has the ♥Q. In other words, if partner does not have the ♥Q and ♦10, declarer must make his contract.

请看 4 家牌: Please see the 4 hands:

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

各剩 8 张牌, 西出♥4, 无论庄家忍让与否? 怎么能打成?

When 8 cards remain in each hand, if West plays the ♥4, whether declarer ducks or not, 3NT cannot be made.

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

你想不到的是，你希望同伴有的 2 张牌，他真的有了，也许这就是桥牌。

You do not expect that partner has really got the 2 cards which you hope he has. Perhaps, this is bridge.

高手做莊

Expert Declarer

2014 年在三亞舉行了世界橋牌錦標賽，精彩的牌例很多，我這裡只舉 Open Pair 的 2 副牌例來報道專家的常用做莊手法。

In 2014, the World Bridge Series were held in Sanya. There were many marvelous examples of play. Here, I shall quote two boards in the Open Pair to report some common declarer play techniques.

(1) 消去投入 Elimination and throw in

#12	♠ T 7 5 4
W/NS	♥ A T 6
	♦ A 9 7
	♣ A 7 4
	♠ A K 3
	♥ K 9 5 4 3
	♦ Q
	♣ J 8 6 5

叫牌：Bidding

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
3♦	3♥	4♣	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

首引♦3，此牌有4個輸張，1墩♠，1墩♥，2墩♣，東西牌的分配，對成約有很大關係，例如東或西持雙張♣KQ或♥QJ或♠QJ等，都能打成4♥，猜錯就打不成了。你會猜那一種情形。坐南是趙杰，他猜有一家持♣雙張帶一大牌，即♣Kx或♣Qx，實際進程是：第一墩♦A，將♦，♠A，♠K，第5墩♠3，西♠Q，東墊♦，西出♦，莊家將吃，第7墩♣5，明手♣A，東西都跟小，將吃最後一墩♠。各剩5張牌：

First lead the ♦3. There are 4 losers: 1 ♠, 1 ♥, and 2 ♣. The distribution of cards in East and West is conducive to the success of making the contract. For example, if East or West holds doubleton ♣KQ, ♥QJ or ♠QJ, 4♥ can be made. If you guess wrongly, the contract will go down.

How would you guess? The one who sat South was Jack Zhao. He guessed that East or West held doubleton ♣ with an honor, i.e., ♣Kx or ♣Qx. The actual play was: ♦A (trick 1), ruff a ♦ (trick 2), ♠A (trick 3), ♠K (trick 4), ♠3 (trick 5), West ♠Q, East discarded a ♦, West played a ♦ (trick 6), declarer ruffed, ♣5 (trick 7), dummy ♣A, both East and West followed small, ruff the last ♠ (trick 8), with each holding 5 remaining cards:

# 12	♠ --
W/NS	♥ A T 6
	♦ --
	♣ 7 4
	♠ —
	♥ K 9
	♦ --
	♣ J 8 6

現在他出♣，西家有♣Q，被投入，他成功了，否則就打不成。4家牌如下：

Then Jack played a ♣, West had the ♣Q and was thrown in. So Jack Zhao succeeded, else he would go down. The 4 hands are as follows:

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

各剩 5 張牌時：When 5 cards remained in each hand:

#12	♠ --	♠ --
W/NS	♥ A T 6	♥ 8 2
	♦ --	♦ -
	♣ 7 4	♣ K T 9
♠ --		♠ --
♥ Q J 7		♥ 8 2
♦ T		♦ -
♣ Q		♣ K T 9
	♠ --	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ --	
	♣ J 8 6	

出♣，西被投入，無論西回♥或♦，都減少莊家一個輸墩。

這裡主要是東沒有進手，其實莊家出第3張♠，同伴♠Q，東將吃♠就進手，那時回♣10或將牌，將破壞最後的投入，你試試看。不過在桌面上，東家沒有想得這麼遠，想不到沒有將吃同伴贏張，給莊家一個成約機會。

Declarer played a small ♣, West was thrown in. No matter West returned a ♥ or ♦, it would reduce declarer's a loser. Here, East has not gained entry. In fact, when declarer played the 3rd ♠, West ♠Q, if East would ruff the ♠ to gain entry and then played the ♣10 or a trump, this would destroy the endplay of throw-in. You may try yourself. However at the table, East has not thought that far of ruffing partner's winner and so gave declarer a chance to make the contract.

(2) Open Pair Final:

擠牌---專家常用手法 Squeeze - Expert's usual technique:

#9	♠ A K J 6 3
N/EW	♥ --
	♦ A T 5 3
	♣ A T 6 4
	♠ Q T
	♥ K Q J 8 5
	♦ K 6 4
	♣ K 9 5

叫牌 Bidding:

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5NT 為：請選一滿貫。

5NT means: please pick a slam.

坐南是 Ireland 選手 Carrol, 他認為, 照牌的分配, 任何首引, 都能打成。

假定首引♠7, 你♠10, 第2墩出♥K, 東♥A, 回♥, 你一共出3輪♥, 明手墊2張♦, 1張♣, 再出2輪♦, 4輪♠, 剩4張牌:

The one who sat South was Ireland's player, Carrol, He considered that, based on the distribution of cards, he could make his contract on any lead.

Assume that the 1st lead is the ♠7, you ♠10, play ♥K at trick 2, East ♥A and returns a ♥, you play 3 more rounds of ♥ in total and discard 2 ♦ and 1 ♣ in dummy, then 2 rounds of ♦, and 4 rounds of ♠, with 4 cards remaining in each hand:

#9	♠ J
N/EW	♥ --
	♦ --
	♣ A T 6
	♠ --
	♥ 8
	♦ 6
	♣ K 9

出最後一張♠時, 因為東要守衛♥, 他不能墊♥, 你可以墊♥8, 對西形成低花擠牌, 你就打成了。由東守衛♥, 是由牌情決定的。先看整副牌

When the last ♠ is played, as East has to guard ♥, he cannot discard ♥, you can discard the ♥8, and create a squeeze in minors on West and you can succeed. That East has to guard ♥, is dependent on the layout of cards. Let us look at the 4 hands:

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

最後各剩 4 張牌： The last 4 cards held in each hand:

#9	♠ J	
N/EW	♥ --	
	♦ ---	
	♣ A T 6	
♠ --		♠ --
♥ --		♥ 9
♦ Q		♦ J
♣ J 8 7		♣ Q 3
	♠ --	
	♥ 8	
	♦ 6	
	♣ K 9	

這副牌來說，由西守衛♥，行不行？不行，因為東不能守衛♣，西將在♥和♣中受擠。如果出 2 輪♥，東忍讓 2 次，也不難打成。你一共出 2 輪♥，再 5 輪♠：

For this board, can West guard the ♥? No, because East cannot guard the ♣, West will be squeezed in both ♥ and ♣. If declarer plays 2 rounds of ♥ and East ducks twice, the contract can still be made. You just play 2 rounds of ♥ and 4 rounds of ♠:

#9	♠ 3	
N/EW	♥ --	
	♦ A T 5	
	♣ A T 6	
♠ --		♠ --
♥ --		♥ A 9
♦ Q 8 7		♦ J 9 2
♣ J 8 7 2		♣ Q 3
	♠ --	
	♥ J 8	
	♦ K 6	
	♣ K 9 5	

出最後一張♠，東不能墊♥，
 When the last ♠ is played, East cannot discard a ♥.

#9	♠ --	
N/EW	♥ --	
	♦ A T 5	
	♣ A T 6	
♠ --		♠ --
♥ --		♥ A 9
♦ Q 8 7		♦ J 9
♣ J 8 7		♣ Q 3
	♠ --	
	♥ J	
	♦ K 6	
	♣ K 9 5	

你出3輪♦，投入到西，你得到最後3墩♣。
 實戰中西首引♥，沒有給莊家表演擠牌的機會。但叫到6NT且打成，已得到100%的頂分。

You play 3 rounds of ♦, throw in West and you win your last 3 tricks in ♣.
 In reality, West first lead a ♥, and did not give the chance to the declarer to execute a squeeze. However, with 6NT bid and made, declare has got a top score of 100%.

世界級牌手的積極叫牌

World-class bridge players' aggressive bidding

世界級牌手積極叫牌的非常多，雖然積極叫牌不一定贏，但要取得勝利，不積極叫牌恐怕不行。這裡所謂積極，就是不能按照傳統的分數來叫牌，要按實際贏墩來計算，我不能提供計算贏墩的公式，但聯手的牌，有配合，或有長套，都會增加贏墩。

World-class bridge players made many aggressive bids. Though aggressive biddings may not win, it is difficult to win if you do not make aggressive bids. “Aggressive” here means we cannot just bid based on traditional high card points but winning tricks. I cannot provide the formula for winning tricks. However, if there are fits or long suit, the number of winning tricks will be increased.

2014 年第 4 季，有很多世界級橋牌賽，我這裡只舉一些積極叫牌的牌例來報道。看看現在世界級牌手是如何積極叫牌。

In the 4th quarter of 2014, there were many world-class bridge competitions. I only report some examples of aggressive bidding here to see how the modern world-class bridge players bid.

- (1) 10 月在三亞舉行 OpenTeam 半決賽。October 2014, Sanya, Semi-final competition of Open Team:
Monaco -- Diamond

#16	♠ A K Q 9	
W/EW	♥ A J 8	
	A 2	
	♣ K 6 3 2	
♠ J 7 4 3 2		♠ T 8 5
♥ K		♥ 9 7 5 4
♦ 9 6 4		♦ Q J
♣ J 7 5 4		♣ A Q 9 8
	♠ 6	
	♥ Q T 6 3 2	
	♦ K T 8 7 5 3	
	♣ T	

叫牌: Bidding

W	N	E	S
	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass			

這裡 3♦ 是♥套, 4♣已同意♥將牌, 4NT 表示 0 或 2 個控制, 可能北認為是 2 個控制, 發動向大滿貫進軍, 最後缺 2 個關鍵張叫到小滿貫。但橋牌也講一點運氣, 這牌的運氣就不錯, 首引♦, 全取 13 墩, 贏 11IMP, 因為另一 桌叫牌:

Here, 3♦ means ♥ suit, 4♣ agrees ♥ as trump, and 4NT shows 0 / 2 controls. Perhaps North considered South had 2 controls and so wanted to try a grand slam. As two keycards were missing, they stopped at a small slam. However, bridge requires some luck too and they had good luck. On the 1st lead of a ♦, they won 13 trick and 11 IMPs. The bidding at the other table was as follows:

W	N	E	S
	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

這裡前 2 輪叫牌一樣，北的 3NT 似乎表示和南的♥不配，4♦就不知他理解為第 2 套還是仍讓他轉移♥。聯手 26 分，有 6♥。

坐南北叫到 Slam 的是 Fantoni 和 Nunes

The bids in the 1st 2 rounds were the same at both table. North's 3NT appeared to show mismatch with South's ♥. North might not understand whether 4♦ means 2nd suit or re-transfer to ♥ again. They jointly held 26 HCPs and could make 6♥.

The North and South players who bid a slam were Fantoni and Nunes.

(2) 11 月法國邀請賽 November, Invitational Team competition in France:

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

叫牌 Bidding:

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

在 4♦後，我們一般橋友可能叫 6♥。坐北是 Fantoni，他叫 5♦，從南(Nunes)看一定是單缺，而且♠也不會太長，否則有必要扣叫♦嗎？本來南已扣叫 4♦再扣叫 5♦，不是只表明♦的情形，而是♠上還有輸張，能解決嗎？南的♦K 能墊♠，所以跳叫 7♥。也許他們默契非常好，贏 13IMP.另桌叫牌：

After 4♦, most of our bridge friends would just bid 6♥. North was Fantoni and he bid 5♦. From South's (Nunes) point of view, it must show a singleton/void and his ♠ suit would not be too long else it was not necessary to cuebid ♦. South has already cuebid 4♦ and North cuebid 5♦ again. It indicates not just the condition of ♦, but also a losing trick in ♠. South's ♦K can discard the

losing ♠ and so he jump bid 7♥. Perhaps, there understanding was excellent and they won 13 IMPs. The bidding at the other table:

W	N	E	S
			2NT
Pass	3♦	Dbl	4♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(3) 12月在北京舉行的世界智力精英運動會 December, World Mind Game Elites Competition, Open Pair 第2節 2nd session

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

叫牌 Bidding:

W	N	E	S
	1♠	3♣	4♣
5♣	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

一共有 12 桌比賽，公開組有 6 桌，女子組有 6 桌，在 BBO 上可以看到 6 桌比賽，在能看到的其他 5 桌上沒有一 Pair 叫 6♠。

打牌很簡單，首引 ♣ K，將，♠ 到 ♠ A，將第 2 張 ♣，♦ A 回手，♠ K，再送 ♠，其他都是你的。

There were a total of 12 tables, with 6 tables for open pairs and 6 tables for lady pairs. You can watch 6 tables on BBO and only one pair out of these 6 tables could bid 6♠.

The play was rather simple. First lead the ♣ K. Ruff, a ♠ to ♠ A, ruff the 2nd ♣, ♦ A back to hand, ♠ K and then give a ♠, the rest are yours.

(4) 同上 Same as above

#13	♠ A	
N/All	♥ Q 8 6 4 2	
	♦ A Q T	
	♣ A T 8 5	
♠ J 9 5		♠ K T 8 6 4
♥ T 7 5 3		♥ --
♦ 6 4 2		♦ J 9 5 3
♣ Q 6 3		♣ K J 4 2
	♠ Q 7 3 2	
	♥ A K J 9	
	♦ K 8 7	
	♣ 9 7	

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	A.P.	

在看到的6桌中，只有2 Pairs 叫到6♥。

Out of 6 tables seen, only 2 pairs could bid 6♥.

打牌不困難，也有運氣。首引♦3，明手♦K，送♣到東，東再出♦，調將，發現東西將牌4—0分配，原計劃大將牌將2次♣行不通，好在西雖有4張♥，仍有3張♣，3張♦，6♥成約不成問題。

The play is not difficult and there is luck. First lead the ♦3, dummy ♦K, gave a ♣ to East, East returned another ♦, drew trumps and discovered the trump distribution of East-West to be 4-0. The original plan of ruffing ♣ twice was not feasible. Luckily, though West had 4 times ♥, he had 3 times ♣, 3 times ♦, making 6♥ was not a problem.

(5) 同上 Same as above:

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

W	N	E	S
		Pass	2♣
Dbl	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	pASS	

首引♥，將，調2輪將，因為東西將牌2-2，已有12墩，如果是3-1，就要將4次♥，如果首引♠，將牌3-1，就打不成。

這一對南北是 Israel 選手

First lead a ♥, ruff, drew 2 rounds of trump. As the trumps were 2-2, declarer had 12 tricks. If the trumps were 3-1, declarer had to ruff ♥s 4 times. If the 1st lead was a ♠, and trumps 3-1, the contract could not be made.

這一對南北是 Israel 選手 This North-South were Israel's players.

同場，另一對牌手 Fantoni 和 Nunes 一樣叫到6♣，首引♠，已無法打反明手（Dummy Reversal）打法，但運氣很好，由於東西♣是2-2分配，一樣打成6♣。

In the same session, another pair, Fantoni and Nunes, also bid 6♣. First lead a ♠, it was not possible to play dummy reversal. However, they had luck, as ♣s were 2-2, they could also make 6♣.

W	N	E	S
		Pass	2♣
Dbl	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	A.P.	

(6) 10月 Polish Premier League October, Polish Premier League

#21	♠ T 5 4	
N/NS	♥ A 9 8 6 4	
	♦ A K J 3	
	♣ 4	
♠ K 8 7 2		♠ A Q 9
♥ 5 2		♥ 3
♦ Q 4		♦ 8 7 6 2
♣ J T 8 7 5		♣ A K Q 6 2
	♠ J 6 3	
	♥ K Q J T 7	
	♦ T 9 5	
	♣ 9 3	

有一隊的叫牌非常積極，他們坐南北方向時

A team was very aggressive in their bidding. When they sat North-South:

W	N	E	S
	1♥	2♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

東首引♣，再♣，打成啦。

East first led a ♣, and another ♣, the contract 4♥ was made.

他們坐東西方向時: When they sat East-West:

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

南首引♥，再♥，也被打成。勝 14 IMP.

South first lead a ♥, another ♥, 4♠ was also made. They won 14 IMPs.

你有沒有留意，所有叫到 Slam 的牌，除有一定點力，最重要是有配合的將牌?

Have you noticed that for all the slams bid, in addition to HCPs, the most important thing is the matching of trump?

Three Gems from Chang Bai Shan

Samuel Wan

The Stage

After the Invitational Tournament in Beijing, Derek asked me to play in the CBS Cup from December 27 to 30 in Jilin. “What?” I exclaimed. “It must be freaking cold there at this time of the year!” “Well....around -10 degrees Celsius,” Derek replied. “But you lived in Toronto before, didn’t you? By the way, there is quite a bit of prize money at stake...” This sounded more like an order than a request, so I succumbed and we spent some time rounding up teammates. Eventually we convinced Leo Cheung and Dicky Lai and thus have a respectable ensemble heading for the snow.

Getting to the playing venue in Jilin City was a challenge. The only direct flight was from Shenzhen so we booked four tickets. Derek understandably decided to have a bit of luxury and flew business class, which cost a mind-boggling \$18,000! I of course declined to spend money like that. As we boarded the plane, CAAC announced that there were still some seats in business class and asked if any passengers flying coach would like to upgrade at the token amount of RMB 1,600. Being a good partner, I toyed with the idea but quickly rejected it – just to protect partnership harmony ☺

78 teams showed up, comprising literally the crème de la crème in China. After two gruesome days of qualifying Swiss, we miraculously placed 8th but narrowly missed the final (and the money) by 0.7 VPs. You see - only seven teams plus the sponsor got through to the knock-out stage. After that, we lost some steam and it was all downhill.

Here are three interesting hands. See how well you would fare in our shoes:

Hand 1

North dealer/Both Vulnerable

North

♠ K1093

♥ 6

♦ QJ532

♣ AQ8

South

♠ A876

♥ AJ

♦ K84

♣ J962

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1♦	X	XX
1♥	P	P	1♠
2♥	2♣	P	4♠
All Passed			

West leads ♥10 and East contributes ♥K. How would you play the hand?

Given the take-out double, trumps threaten to be 4-1. To guard against that, it would be wrong to ruff a heart immediately. Better develop the side suits first.

You play a club to the queen, which East takes with the king, expectedly. He returns the ♣7. Now what?

Since you plan to run dummy's diamonds at some point, it would be good technique to play the ♣9 from hand, preserving dummy's entry. LHO covers with ♣10 and you take it with the ace. Next you play ♠K and the ♠10, RHO splitting.

Don't tell me you win this trick! You should duck!! LHO shows out, confirming the bad news.

The hand is pretty much an open book now. Say RHO returns a third club (the suit turns out to be 3-3). You take this trick and switch to diamonds. There is not much the defense could do – you simply ruff a heart in dummy with ♠9 and play on diamonds.

It would be futile for RHO to force you twice in hearts because the trump coup position cannot be altered.

The full hand was:

North

♠ K1093

♥ 6

♦ QJ532

♣ AQ8

West

♠ 2

♥ Q1098542

♦ 97

♣ 1043

East

♠ QJ54

♥ K73

♦ A106

♣ K75

South

♠ A876

♥ AJ

♦ K84

♣ J962

Hand 2

West Dealer/None

North

♠ 73

♥ AK102

♦ 742

♣ AJ43

South

♠ A654

♥ Q876

♦ A106

♣ Q6

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
-------------	--------------	-------------	--------------

P	1♣	P	1♥
---	----	---	----

X	2♥	P	4♥
---	----	---	----

All Passed

West leads ♠J. How good are your prospects?

Given the double, hearts rate to be 4-1 offside, in which case you have an inescapable trump loser. You also seem to have three losers in spades and diamonds. Can you somehow compress these four losers into three?

Let's see. ♣K should be onside and it would be wrong to play clubs from dummy. However, you should duck the first trick, maintaining communications.

West persists with another spade. You take this trick perforce and advance the ♣Q, covered by K and A. Now duck a diamond to West, who exits with a trump, East's ♥9 forcing out your queen. You cash the ♦A, play a club to the jack and ruff a club. Only then should you ruff a spade to play a fourth round of clubs. East is caught – if he discards on this trick, you can ruff cheaply. If he ruffs with ♥J, you shred your last diamond and later score a diamond ruff. A beautiful elopement!

The full hand was:

North

♠ 73
♥ AK102
♦ 742
♣ AJ43

West

♠ KJ108
♥ 3
♦ Q985
♣ K1098

East

♠ Q92
♥ J954
♦ KJ3
♣ 752

South

♠ A654
♥ Q876
♦ A106
♣ Q6

Notice that you must refrain from touching even one round of trumps – else your communications will be entangled. Note also that defense can prevail with a diamond lead. But who would find that at the table?

Hand 3

East Dealer/None

North

♠ Q94
♥ K93
♦ AQ82
♣ AJ2

South

♠ AK10762
♥ -
♦ KJ5
♣ 9864

	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	1♠	
P	2♦ (GF)	P	2♠	
P	3♠	P	4♦	
P	4♥	P	4♠	
P	5♣	X	P	
P	XX *		P	5♥ **
P	6♠	All Passed		

* First round control

** South should bid 6♦ at this point – a beautiful contract. Count the tricks: 6 spades, 4 diamonds, 1 club and a heart ruff

Well....you only live twice. Right now, your mission is to bring home 6♠.

LHO leads ♣10. You play the jack from dummy and RHO takes this with the queen. He then goes into the think tank – this is good news because it means there is no club ruff. After what seems like an eternity, RHO exits with a diamond. Take it from there.

Since RHO does not return a heart, he rates to have the ♥A. In any case, you need him to hold that card for the contract to have any chance.

The solution lies in a trump squeeze! Watch this:

Run five rounds of trumps, leaving the last trump in your hand - discard a heart and a club from dummy. Then play four rounds of diamonds. In the three card ending, dummy has K9 of hearts and the ace of clubs. You have a trump in hand and 98 of clubs. You won't misread the situation as RHO is marked with KQXX in clubs. If he leaves the ♥A bare, you can ruff it out. Alternatively, if he bares his ♣K, you can drop it and your hand is good. Voila.

The full hand was:

North

♠ Q94
♥ K93
♦ AQ82
♣ AJ2

West

♠ J83
♥ QJ6542
♦ 97
♣ 107

East

♠ 5
♥ A1087
♦ 10643
♣ KQ53

South

♠ AK10762
♥ -
♦ KJ5
♣ 9864

Would you have something to write home about?

Bob Hamman's Favorite Contract

Samuel Wan

Bob Hamman always tells his partner: "When several bids are available in an auction, ALWAYS choose 3NT."

Here are some play and defense problems involving the contract of 3NT. The hands are picked from the recently concluded 14th Elite Invitational Bridge Tournament in Beijing. Our Hong Kong team including yours truly did not fare well as we faltered early on and never really recovered. Let's see how well you do:

Hand 1

Dummy

♠ 1043

♥ 532

♦ AKJ

♣ KQ73

Declarer

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ98

♦ 732

♣ A82

Bidding goes 1♣ - 2♣ (inverted) - 2NT – 3NT

LHO leads ♠2, RHO plays ♠Q, a nice development from your point of view. There seems to be a zillion chances for the 9th trick. How do you proceed?

Hand 2

Dummy

♠ 982

♥ 54

♦ AKJ93

♣ Q96

Declarer

♠ K10

♥ AQ32

♦ Q6

♣ A8752

This time, the bidding goes 1NT – 3NT. LHO leads ♠6 to which RHO plays ♠3 (standard signals). How would you plan the play?

Assuming you cash 5 rounds of diamond (they break 4-2), LHO discards ♣3, ♣10 and ♥10 while RHO throws ♠4 on the fifth diamond. Now what?

Hand 3

Dummy

♠ 975
♥ J73
♦ K765
♣ J93

Declarer

♠ Q108
♥ AQ6
♦ AQ108
♣ AK8

Auction goes 2NT – 3NT. LHO leads ♠4, RHO follows with ♠6 and you take the trick. The hand seems straight forward, doesn't it?

Hand 4

This time you are West, and have to defend a contract of 3NT

Dummy

♠ K53
♥ 432
♦ K752
♣ AJ6

You

♠ Q1092
♥ AJ105
♦ A6
♣ 873

You somehow decide to lead the ♠9 (0 or 2 higher honors). Partner follows with ♠4 and, without batting an eyelid, declarer takes it with ♠A. Next he lays down the ♦Q which you capture with ♦A. The moment of truth has arrived. Well...do you or don't you?

BoB Hamman's Favorite Contract (Solutions) *Samuel Wan*

Hand 1

Dummy

♠ 1043

♥ 532

♦ AKJ

♣ KQ73

Declarer

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ98

♦ 732

♣ A82

Contract: 3NT. The opening lead has given you two tricks in spades. Your task is to develop a 9th from hearts, diamonds or clubs.

At first glance, a triple finesse in hearts seems most appealing. However, you cannot combine that chance with diamonds because when you lose the third finesse, the defense will have scored 5 tricks. You can, however, test clubs before taking the third heart finesse. The total chance of success works out to be $87.5\% + 4\% = 91.5\%$, which is rather good.

Can you improve on it?

Let's see, the contract can be made when

- clubs break 3-3, or
- hearts break 3-3, or
- heart king onside, or
- heart jack ten both onside, or
- diamond queen onside, which may not be necessary because various squeeze chances may materialize, either automatically or if you are able to read opponents' distribution accurately

All that works out to be very close to 100%!

At the table, the Hong Kong declarer played a heart to the 9, losing to the 10. Back came a spade, followed by a heart to the queen and king. LHO cashed two spade tricks, predictably.

On the fourth spade, a heart was thrown from dummy and a diamond from hand, while RHO discarded a diamond.

LHO exited with a club. This was taken with the queen in dummy and a third club was played to the ace (this sequence is important). On this trick, RHO discarded yet another diamond.

The hand became an open book – LHO guarded clubs and RHO guarded hearts, so no one could guard diamonds. Declarer cashed the ace king of diamonds and....bingo, the non-simultaneous double squeeze brought home the bacon!

The full hand was:

	<u>Dummy</u>	
	♠ 1043	
	♥ 532	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ KQ73	
<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>
♠ A762		♠ Q98
♥ K10		♥ J764
♦ 865		♦ Q1094
♣ J1094		♣ 65
	<u>Declarer</u>	
	♠ KJ5	
	♥ AQ98	
	♦ 732	
	♣ A82	

At the other table, repeated diamond leads took away the squeeze and declarer gloomily went down.

Hand 2

<u>Dummy</u>
♠ 982
♥ 54
♦ AKJ93
♣ Q96

Declarer

♠ K10
♥ AQ32
♦ Q6
♣ A8752

This time, the bidding goes 1NT – 3NT. LHO leads ♠Q on which RHO plays ♠3 (standard signals). How would you plan the play?

Assuming you cash 5 rounds of diamond (they break 4-2), LHO discards ♣3, ♣10 and ♥10 while RHO throws the ♠4 on the fifth diamond. Now what?

Spades appear to be 5-3. You can engineer a throw-in against LHO.

On the diamonds, you pitch two hearts and a small club from hand. Now you cash the ♣A, aiming to strip LHO of clubs. Surprise, surprise, LHO drops the ♣K! I hope you are alert enough to throw the blocking ♣9 from dummy. Now cash the clubs – LHO is again squeezed. He is forced to keep KX in hearts plus a winning spade. Now a spade exit finishes him off. 12 tricks in all - unbelievable!

The full hand:

Dummy

♠ 982
♥ 54
♦ AKJ93
♣ Q96

LHO

♠ AQJ65
♥ K107
♦ 82
♣ K103

RHO

♠ 743
♥ J986
♦ 10754
♣ J4

Declarer

♠ K10
♥ AQ32
♦ Q6
♣ A8752

Could the defense make it more difficult for you?

You bet, on the diamonds, LHO could shred two hearts and a club (as he would have done so without the heart king). Since you only have one entry to dummy, you may choose to finesse in hearts instead of a throw-in (needless to say, a symmetrical throw-in may work – cash the heart ace and exit with a spade). At the other table, declarer missed the throw-in and went down.

One final comment: if you play this way, you may go down if LHO is 5422 or 5431. Nevertheless, with such a hand, he may find a bid (either both majors or spades and a minor) over 1NT.

Hand 3

Dummy

♠ 975

♥ J73

♦ K765

♣ J93

Declarer

♠ Q108

♥ AQ6

♦ AQ108

♣ AK8

Bidding goes 2NT – 3NT. LHO leads ♠4, RHO follows with ♠6 and you take the trick perforce. The hand seems straight forward, doesn't it?

Is this another throw-in?

Don't let me fool you. From the play of the first spade trick, it looks like LHO has led away from AKJ42. You have scored an unexpected trick, and must take full advantage of the present.

For the throw-in to work, you need to strip LHO of his exit cards AS WELL AS read his distribution accurately. You also need him to hold both the heart king and club queen. This is too specific compared to the simple heart finesse.

After cashing the diamonds, you should advance the heart jack from dummy. RHO (who is a good player) follows with a small heart nonchalantly. Should you change your plans?

It is too late now. You are already committed. Run it – it scores! Now repeat the heart finesse (to rub salt into the wound) and register an effortless +630.

The full hand was:

Dummy

♠ 975
♥ J73
♦ K765
♣ J93

LHO

♠ AKJ42
♥ 109
♦ J92
♣ 754

RHO

♠ 63
♥ K8542
♦ 43
♣ Q1062

Declarer

♠ Q108
♥ AQ6
♦ AQ108
♣ AK8

At the other table, teammate led an unerring ♠K before shifting, leaving declarer with no chance of making his contract.

Hand 4

This time you are West, and have to defend a contract of 3NT

Dummy

♠ K53
♥ 432
♦ K752
♣ AJ6

You

♠ Q1092
♥ AJ105
♦ A6
♣ 873

Rightly or wrongly, you decide to lead the ♠9 (0 or 2 higher honors). Partner follows with ♠4 and, without batting an eyelid, declarer takes it with ♠A. Next he lays down the ♦Q which you capture with ♦A. The moment of truth has arrived. Well...do you or don't you?

At face value, partner has ♠J4 and you can adopt a passive defense by persisting with spades.

However, this approach has several flaws:

- You do not know how many tricks declarer can take at this juncture. He may be able to score 2 spades, 3 diamonds and 4 clubs
- Declarer could have created a camouflage by not taking the first trick with spade jack, in order to hide his heart weakness
- Even if declarer does not have 9 tricks at this point, he can take 8 tricks (2 spades, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs) before throwing you in with a spade to score the 9th trick in hearts (presumably with the king)

Desperate measures are called for – you should shift to the ♥5.

Partner lit up considerably, takes his ♥K and returns the ♥9. Curtains!

The full hand was:

	<u>Dummy</u>	
	♠ K53	
	♥ 432	
	♦ K752	
	♣ AJ6	
<u>You</u>		<u>Partner</u>
♠ Q1092		♠ 864
♥ AJ105		♥ K98
♦ A6		♦ 9843
♣ 873		♣ 942
	<u>Declarer</u>	
	♠ AJ7	
	♥ Q76	
	♦ QJ10	
	♣ KQ105	

Notice that an initial heart lead would work just as well.

Did you earn your team a game swing?

Not a chance. At the other table, the defender holding your hand led a pedestrian ♠2 and his partner cooperated brilliantly by playing a discouraging ♠4. It was not hard to find the heart shift from then on.

Lesson learned - Playing bridge is a hard way to make a living in China!

New arrangement for APBF/WBF trial starting from bridge year 2015-2016

From next bridge year (2015-2016) onwards, any player who wishes to participate in any APBF/WBF trials (Open, Ladies and Senior series) must be a HKCBA member for at least 2 consecutive years. So, if you would like to participate in the coming APBF/WBF trials in bridge year 2015-2016, you must be a HKCBA member in this bridge year 2014-2015. Please note that a registered player is not counted as a HKCBA member.

If you are planning to participate in the trials in bridge year 2015-2016 but not yet be a HKCBA member this bridge year, or you have any enquiries related to HKCBA membership, please feel free to send email to members@hkcb.org or contact Mr. Dicky Lai by mobile at 94152075.

Schedule

Feb – Mar 2015

3 – Feb	Invitational Team 8
7 – Feb	Open League 8
10 – Feb	IMP Pairs 3
13 – Feb	Paul Jones Pairs 6
24 – Feb	AGM Pairs
28 – Feb	Senior Bowl
3 – Mar	IMP Pairs 4
7 – Feb	Open League Round of 16
10 – Mar	Invitational Team 9
13 – Mar	Paul Jones Pairs 7
17 – Mar	Team of Six 1
21 – Mar	Team of Six 2 & 3
28 – Mar	Open League QF
31 – Mar	IMP Pairs 4