

Newsletter

April 2018



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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4	<p>for renovating Club House (HKD2.3m).</p> <p>ii) The tenancy agreement for Club House has been signed effective Jan 1, 2018. The monthly rental fee is HKD13,000 which cover for Tues and Fri nights, and Sat and Sun full day.</p> <p>Internal Affairs:</p> <p>i) Intercity 2018: date still TBC, since Regal Hong Kong will very likely increase the price, organizing committee will need to find another venue. Decision will be made in January if possible.</p> <p>ii) Change of address for HKCBA: CL and LC will inform the government bodies (e.g. LCSD, SFOC) of the change in HKCBA registered address, LC will also be responsible for the redirect of mails from the GPO box and set up a mail box at the entrance area of the Club House for mail receiving. TL to change the address on HKCBA website. Will keep the telephone line unchanged for the moment until we have hired a Club manager to manage the daily routines and answer enquiries.</p> <p>iii) WBF TD Training: 6 people attended. No official announced yet. Cost of the training is EUR800 for Maurizio and EUR400 for Peter (Maurizio's secretary). RH will report the total expenses later.</p> <p>iv) House rules: LC has proposed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charge HKD1500 for renting the full Club House and HKD1000 for renting half of the Club House for bridge events per 4 hours. - HKD100 per table for Rubber Bridge per 2 hours. - Double price will be charged for non bridge events - No food from outside. Eating is only allowed at the open kitchen area and balcony upstairs. - Dress Code: No shorts, mini skirt, vest and sandals. - Drinking water: HK5 for unlimited consumption. <p>v) AGM: Scheduled on Feb 27, 2018. Notice will be issued by early Feb.</p> <p>vi) Patrick Huang Training Program: JT has proposed the assessment criteria for men's team in order to be able to select the best players for the Asian Game. The evaluation will consist of 1) 50% base on result of team games (the 2 teams will play against each other on a periodical basis), 2) 50%</p>		<p>CL</p> <p>CL, LC, TL</p> <p>RH</p> <p>PC</p>
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	<p>base on performance weighted by Patrick in consideration of player's manner and conduct as well.</p> <p>5 External Affairs: Nil</p> <p>6 AOB: i) Accounting Consultancy Service: CL will draft the job description for hiring the freelance consultant. Basically the person will need to work 20-30 hours per month and will receive HKD3000 as compensation.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2018 (Monday)</p>		
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11th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2018 (Monday)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Venue: 20/F, Kelly Commercial Centre, 570-572 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

Present: Officers:

Derek Zen – President (DZ)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung - Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

Crystal Tang (CT)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apology: Council member:

Louis Tam (LT)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): iv) Captain's report for 51 st APBF Championships: Still waiting for David CC Ng to submit the Senior Team report. PC will follow up.		PC
3	Financial Affairs: iii) Latest Bank Balance: HKD1.52m.		
4	Internal Affairs: vii) Intercity update: Agreement signed with Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Kowloon East Hotel from July 17 to Jul 21, 2018. Celebrity event will be held on July 16. Inter-professional		

	<p>game will not be organized this year.</p> <p>viii) Updated House Rules: Penalties (suspension of play from HKCBA event) may apply to those who violate the house rules or break the items of the Club House.</p> <p>ix) Trophy Replacement: Announcement released. Members to nominate and Council to decide which 3 names to keep before AGM.</p> <p>x) Tournament fees for trial: The current fee is charged base on HKD1500 per 4 hours session.</p> <p>xi) AGM 2018: will inform members the rental fee of the Club House as well as discuss the trophy replacement arrangement.</p> <p>xii) Recruitment of Accounting Consultant: Council endorsed for HKCBA to sign an agreement with Global Stone and Global Stone will provide the consultant service for HKCBA for a fee of HKD3000 per month.</p> <p>xiii) EBUScore: Council approved the purchase of the software (cost: GBR60)</p>		
5	<p>External Affairs: Nil</p>		
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>ii) Asian Game 2018: Council discussed the selection method for the event. Since there is no past record for Super Mixed team, the selection of representatives will be made from the current members in the Men and Ladies team. For Mixed Team, it will be open for registrations and Council to decide the representatives base on their external achievements for the past 4 years (which is also the requirement of Olympic Committee and SFOC). For Men and Mixed Pairs, similar to Super Mixed Team it will also be selected from the current Men and Ladies team. The sub-committee will draft a proposal for detail selection method.</p> <p>iii) Membership: will consult members the idea of using the CCBA member no. as their HKCBA membership no. If they do not have a CCBA member no./prefer not to use that no., we will generate a 5-digit member no. for them.</p> <p>iv) Newsletter: CT will take up the role to issue newsletter.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2018 (Tuesday) after AGM.</p>		

1st Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27, 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Venue: 20/F, Kelly Commercial Centre, 570-572 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

Present: Officers:

Derek Zen – President (DZ)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung - Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Louis Tam (LT)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apology: Council member:

Crystal Tang (CT)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): i) Captain's report for 51 st APBF Championships: Still waiting for David CC Ng to submit the Senior Team report. PC will follow up.		PC
3	Financial Affairs: i) Latest Bank Balance: HKD1.287m.		
4	Internal Affairs: i) Asia Cup: Council endorsed the following players to participate in the coming Asia Cup: Open: Derek Zen, Samuel Wan, Baron Ng, Tony Lau, KF Mak, WK Lai		

	<p>Ladies: Cathy Lee, Crystal Tang, Helen Yeung, Joyce Tung, Pearlie Chan, Zoe Li</p> <p>Senior: Edmund Tse, Vincent Li, Peter Chun, Peter Yeung, Karic Chiu, Roger Ling (to be confirmed as he might play in the Mixed Team). If Roger Ling cannot play in the Senior Team they will find a replacement.</p> <p>Mixed Team: to be confirmed</p> <p>Supermixed Team: will open for registration until mid of March and selection base on trial points system. The tight deadline is due to short notice from the organizer</p>		
5	<p>External Affairs:</p> <p>i) Asian Game: Selection committees will be formed to handle the selection process for each categories:</p> <p>Men's team selection committee: JT, LC, RH</p> <p>Ladies' team selection committee: DZ, WK, LC, JT, CL, Alan Sze</p> <p>Mixed Team selection committee: Formed by council members who have no conflict of interest</p> <p>Supermixed Team selection committee: Men and Ladies selection committee members</p>		
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>i) Special Voting members: Council endorsed to include CT and LT on the special voting member list.</p>		
	<p>The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2018 (Tuesday)</p>		

The Mind of the Expert

Samuel Wan

Zia Mahmood and *Jeff Meckstroth* are not a regular partnership, although playing together as a pair, they were really awesome and won the d'Orsi Trophy (Senior Bowl) together with *Hamman, Martel, Milner and Lall* at the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, Poland in 2016.

I followed them on Vugraph every evening for a week during the 2nd European Winter Games recently held in Monaco. Playing four handed (along with teammates *Boye Brogeland* and *Espen Lindquist*) under the banner of the Mahaffey team (there was no option - Mahaffey could not make it due to a health problem), they won the Zimmerman Cup in convincing fashion. As you may know, this hugely successful event was sponsored by Pierre Zimmerman whose team (*Zimmerman, Multon, Versace, Lauria, Helgemo, Helness*) failed to defend the title they won last year and had to settle for the bronze medal. Meanwhile, the Board-a-Match consolation was won by Team Lavazza.

I had a clear purpose - to determine what makes them superior. I was not disappointed as I soon spotted a few gems in bidding, opening lead and play:

Bidding

(1) Final against Team Ventin

Board 19

Dealer South/ EW vulnerable

North

♠ A109743

♥ J4

♦ Q1073

♣ 10

West

♠ KQ

♥ A86

♦ AJ52

♣ KJ82

East

♠ J5

♥ Q5432

♦ K64

♣ 643

South

♠ 862

♥ K109

♦ 98

♣ AQ975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Linguist</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
			Pass
1♣*	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ = various meanings, including a strong notrump

4♣ doubled was no picnic and the contract duly went three down (NS +800) owing to a defensive slip (could have been four down), not that 4♥ would fare much better.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
			Pass
1♣	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

3♠ made quietly for +140, so 12 imps to Mahaffey. Note Zia's silence despite holding 18 hcps. Credit the gain to his good nose.

(2) Round Robin 7

Dealer North/ Both Vulnerable

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ Q532	
	♥ KQ72	
	♦ K10	
	♣ A94	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ J86		♠ K1074
♥ AJ109		♥ 63
♦ 86532		♦ QJ974
♣ Q		♣ KJ
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ A9	
	♥ 854	
	♦ A	
	♣ 10876532	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	1♣*	1♦	2♦*
3♣*	Pass	3♦	5♣
All Pass			

1♣* = 3+ cards

Here, Zia bid aggressively. Perhaps like me, he is a strong believer of *bid aggressively when you are short in opponents' suit*.

There was nothing to the play. NS registered +600 without breathing hard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Kubac</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>
	1♣*	1♦	2♠*
3♣*	Pass	3♦	4♣
All Pass			

This sequence failed to bring home the bacon, 10 imps to Mahaffey.

(3) Semi Final against Vytas

Board 9

Dealer North/EW Vulnerable

	<u>North</u>		
	♠ 104		
	♥ KQ1043		
	♦ 65		
	♣ AQ64		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ 97		♠ KQ653	
♥ J9652		♥ ---	
♦ 3		♦ AQ10974	
♣ K10987		♣ 52	
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ AJ82		
	♥ A87		
	♦ KJ82		
	♣ J3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	1♥	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Dble
All Pass			

2♥* = Michaels, Spade and a minor

Here, Zia smelt blood. Note the disciplined pass over the Michaels cue bid – the subsequent double is thus unmistakably penalty. South led the jack of clubs and the contract went four down for -1,100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
	1♥	2♥*	2♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Sitting South in the Closed Room was Michal Klukowski, THE PRODIGY from Poland when he became the youngest World Champion at Wroclaw in 2016, at the age of less than 19 years old! Unfortunately, this time he failed to excel by doing what Zia did. Well...some things do get better with age...such as wine.

The play in four hearts was of some interest. East led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart to the king, East shredding the ♠6. Declarer continued with the ♠10 and East took the queen, cashed the ace of diamonds (declarer following with the diamond six) and exited with a spade. That was a mistake – a second diamond for partner to ruff and he could then exit with either the jack or nine of hearts. Declarer eventually made his contract for +420 but nevertheless this board generated 12 imps to Mahaffey, who emerged as eventual winners (84 – 76) in a nail-biting match. That is how crucial this board was.

Opening Leads

(4) Final against Team Ventin

Board 6

Dealer East/EW Vulnerable

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ A	
	♥ 874	
	♦ 95	
	♣ KQJ10986	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ QJ432		♠ K1098
♥ J9		♥ 653
♦ K762		♦ QJ1083
♣ A2		♣ 3
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ 765	
	♥ AKQ102	
	♦ A4	
	♣ 754	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Nystrom	Meckstroth	Palma
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	3♥*	Pass
3♠	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

It was difficult to blame South for making the plunge after the jump to five clubs. Time stood still as Meckstroth pondered over his lead (NS stopped wisely at five clubs in the Open Room so 20imps hinged on the choice). After what seemed like an eternity (in practice, about 10 seconds), Meckstroth emerged with the diamond queen...curtains.

I quickly made an important entry to Sam's Golden Rules: *When your side bid and supported a suit and opponents bid a slam, try leading something else.*

(5) Final against Team Ventin (Final segment)

Board 9

North Dealer/EW Vulnerable

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ A8	
	♥ QJ732	
	♦ J2	
	♣ 10754	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ Q1074		♠ 962
♥ K98		♥ A654
♦ A83		♦ 109654
♣ KQ6		♣ 9
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ KJ53	
	♥ 10	
	♦ KQ7	
	♣ AJ832	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Palma</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♦*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♠* = promising an unbalanced hand

That was certainly aggressive bidding by North South, but 3NT was entirely playable, on a single dummy basis.

Zia diagnosed the situation well and led...the heart King!

How many players would have the courage to do that in an extremely close match? Remember - the score was Mahaffey 86, Ventin 87 at that point.

I know, I know...a small diamond would also work in this layout but just in case partner had better heart pips...

Zia shifted to a diamond at trick two and the contract went three down for -150. North South wisely stayed at three clubs making at the other table so 6 imps to Mahaffey. This hand was critical for the championship as the final margin was only 5 imps (95 - 90).

(6) Round of 16 (Against Indonesia)

South Dealer/NS Vulnerable

<u>North</u>		
♠ 85		
♥ J9852		
♦ A952		
♣ 52		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ AKQ9764		♠ 32
♥ 3		♥ AK74
♦ 106		♦ KJ4
♣ KJ6		♣ AQ107
<u>South</u>		
♠ J10		
♥ Q106		
♦ Q873		
♣ 9843		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kawur</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Spot light on Meckstroth – who produced a small diamond in tempo, almost nonchalantly. An unsuspecting declarer played low from dummy....voila.

Commentators quickly pointed out – declarer might be more suspicious if Zia were sitting North. Another said: “*Kawur must be muttering – why are you doing this to me on Vugraph?*”

At the table, Zia was in a good mood: “*I don’t normally like to kiss man, but....*”

Linqvist at the other table wisely bid 6NT after a similar start, so +1020 to Mahaffey.

Play

(7) Round Robin 10

Board 3

South Dealer/EW Vulnerable

		<u>North</u>	
		♠ QJ9	
		♥ J97	
		♦ A87642	
		♣ 6	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ 75		♠ A4	
♥ AQ82		♥ K10653	
♦ J1095		♦ Q3	
♣ 1082		♣ AJ74	
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ K108632	
		♥ 4	
		♦ K	
		♣ KQ953	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stegarolu</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Ionita</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

At most tables, West led the jack of diamonds and declarer won in hand with the king and played a spade to the queen, East winning and accurately switching to a heart. West took the trick and continued hearts, declarer ruffing and playing the king of clubs. East won and returned a spade. From then on, declarer could only manage 9 tricks.

Watch Zia in action:

Time stood still at trick one when West again led the jack of diamonds – eventually Zia put up dummy’s ace of diamonds and played a club. East found the fine play of ducking, but to no avail. Declarer won, cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds three times (West pitching the eight of hearts). Declarer then played the king of spades from hand. He could not be prevented from making an overtrick, +690.

(8) Semi-Final (against Netherland red)

Board 19

Dealer North/EW Vulnerable

North

♠ KQ96

♥ AK8

♦ AK93

♣ A4

West

♠ AJ1032

♥ 9753

♦ 105

♣ 108

East

♠ ---

♥ QJ10

♦ QJ8642

♣ Q962

South

♠ 8754

♥ 642

♦ 7

♣ KJ753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the queen of hearts and declarer won and played three rounds of diamonds, pitching a heart and then ruffing the third diamond in dummy. West overruffed and returned a heart, declarer winning and ruffed another diamond with ♠7. West overruffed again, cashed the ace of spade and exited with a spade and declarer won, cashed two more spades and played clubs. He did not need to finesse as East had come down to two clubs, +420.

In the closed room, the Dutch declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and played a spade to the king. East's discard on this trick came as a shock. If declarer now pitches a heart on the king of diamonds, he is in a similar position to Meckstroth, but he fatally ruffed another diamond and West simply pitched a club (overruffing works just as well). Declarer came to hand with the ace of clubs, cashed the king of hearts and played a club to the king. West ruffed,

played a heart to East's jack and, with ♠AJ10 left, was assured of two trump tricks, +50 and 10 imps for Mahaffey

The following hand is solid attestation of Zia's table presence:

(9) Round of 16 (against Indonesia)

Board 3

South Dealer/EW Vulnerable

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ K32	
	♥ AKQ106	
	♦ KJ83	
	♣ J	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ J10654		♠ Q9
♥ J		♥ 53
♦ 92		♦ Q765
♣ K8654		♣ 109732
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ A87	
	♥ 98742	
	♦ A104	
	♣ AQ	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kawur</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

1NT = 15 – 17

2♦ = transfer

2♠ = Fit

4♠ = Kickback Keycard

4NT= 0/3 keycards

West led the jack of hearts and Zia won with dummy's ace and cashed two more hearts, East pitching the three of clubs and West the four of spades and the five of clubs.

Zia's next card was the jack of diamonds and he let it run. Perhaps he had read Terence Reese's tips on: *Watch the early discards*. The two 'idle fifths' had given Zia an impression that West was 5-5 in the black suits. In that case, his main hope was to find West with a doubleton nine of diamonds.

This was another big swing to Mahaffey who went on to the quarter finals.

Not all hands I show here are triumphs of the Zia - Meckstroth partnership. Here is one that they lost imps:

(10) Final (against Team Ventin)

Board 3

South Dealer/EW Vulnerable

<u>North</u>		
♠ Q9874		
♥ J103		
♦ J872		
♣ Q		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ A		♠ KJ632
♥ 98		♥ AQ2
♦ K54		♦ A103
♣ AK86543		♣ 102
<u>South</u>		
♠ 105		
♥ K7654		
♦ Q96		
♣ J97		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Hult</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♠	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

That was very well bid in the Closed Room as EW reached a respectable contract.

A priori, the slam makes when either clubs break 2-2 or the heart king is on side, roughly 70%...in fact, the odds improved after North's overcall. But when South led a spade and declarer cashed two rounds of clubs, he had to use the diamond king as entry and there was no longer a route to 12 tricks.

6♣ by West fares no better as North will likely lead the jack of hearts, so a somewhat lucky 13 imps to Team Ventin.

As the bulletin says – the Rueful Rabbit would have made 6NT!

After taking the ace of spades, he would play a small club! Now the entries are intact for executing the double squeeze....the four of diamonds would be the 12th trick for declarer.

Isn't bridge fascinating?