

# Newsletter

October ~ December 2013



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

# 目 錄

## Table of Contents

	Page
Minutes of the 4th Council Meeting. 2013/14.....	3
Minutes of the 5th Council Meeting. 2013/14.....	6
Minutes of the 6th Council Meeting. 2013/14.....	9
41stWBTC 觀後 (1) After Watching 41 <sup>st</sup> WBTC (1).....	11
41stWBTC 觀後 (2) After Watching 41 <sup>st</sup> WBTC (2).....	17
41stWBTC 觀後 (3) After Watching 41 <sup>st</sup> WBTC (3).....	20
41stWBTC 觀後 (4) After Watching 41 <sup>st</sup> WBTC (4).....	24
41stWBTC 觀後 (5) After Watching 41 <sup>st</sup> WBTC (5).....	29
Automatic Defense (by Alan SZE).....	34
Dunhuang Cup 敦煌杯 2013 (by Alan SZE).....	37
Masterful Dummy Play (by Samuel WAN).....	48
Schedule for 2013 (Oct to Dec).....	52

## 4th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 26, 2013 (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)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apologizes:

Officers:

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Council members:

CC Wong (CC)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): a) Mr. Gu said he will produce the souvenir programme capturing the past results and photos of Interport. Council will assist to provide him with the necessary details such as photos etc. He will reduce his sponsorship by approximately HKD20K for the		

	<p>souvenir programme expenses. Interport has now been confirmed to be held from August 30 to September 1, 2013.</p> <p>b) LC to advise on the possible venue for HKCBA tournaments.</p> <p>c) AL will send out the list of promoters for each HKCBA events for the new bridge year.</p> <p>d) YC Lai accepted to become part of the Board of Directors. So the Board will consist of DZ, RH and YC Lai.</p> <p>e) All equipments have been moved out of Thomas Ng's warehouse. The cups will also need to be moved and we need to find another place for storage.</p>		<p>LC</p> <p>AL</p> <p>TL</p>
3	<p><u>Financial Affairs:</u></p> <p>3i The latest bank balance is around HKD973,000. There is still around HKD200K expenses to be settled.</p>		
4	<p><u>Internal Affairs:</u></p> <p>4i APBF: Successfully held and most foreign teams felt that is was very good. The helpers were very helpful. Special thanks to the youth team and youth members for helping in the event.</p> <p>Result of APBF Team events: Open Team ranked 10/12, Ladies Team ranked 9/11, Senior Team ranked 4, 11 &amp; 14/15. Senior Team-Tse qualified for the World Senior Championships which will be held in Bali in September. Since 2 of their team members Fu Kwan and Peter Poon cannot join due to health and business reasons, DZ and Samuel Wan has been nominated to substitute their pair with Council's approval. WC Li will continue to be their NPC for the World Senior Championships.</p> <p>Result of APBF Open Pairs: Hong Kong players got the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up in the Final.</p>		
4ii	<p>Interport: Invitation letters have been sent to Guangzhou and Macau. DZ will contact Mr. Patrick Choy and Mr. Gui to form team for participation. TL will post the announcement and schedule of this event on HKCBA website and states that there will be Open Pairs (with cash prizes) for public participation. RH will follow up on the amount for cash prizes as it depends on budget and expenses for the event.</p>		<p>DZ, TL,</p> <p>RH</p>
4iii	<p>Invitational Team format: Finally there are 16 teams participating in the Invitational Team. Since it will be too long for a complete round robin to be played, Council agreed that 16 teams will be divided into 2 groups and</p>		

	<p>play a single round robin first. Then the top 4 teams in each group will play against the top 4 teams in another group. On the other hand, the bottom 4 teams in each group will play against the bottom 4 teams in another group. There will be a total of 11 matches. The accumulated VPs will decide the final ranking. Drawing of the group will be based on rankings of last year.</p> <p>5 <u>External Affairs:</u></p> <p>5i DZ suggested to let members know more about the latest situation of the following events, although some of them have not yet confirmed. TL will post on the website details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rosenblum and World Pairs to be held in Sanya, Oct 2014 (TBC by WBF)</li> <li>- Asia Cup to be held in China, August 2014. This event will have Open, Ladies, Senior and Youth series</li> <li>- APBF 2015 to be held in Thailand</li> </ul> <p>APBF Delegates meeting: The host country can decide the max no. of teams (either 2 or 3) each NBO can send for the APBF Championships.</p> <p>6 <u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>6i Edmund Tse agreed to sponsor Inter-Post Secondary Bridge Championships starting from this year. The sponsorship will cover all operation costs and scholarship for the winners.</p> <p>6ii Wing Lung Bank contacted WK and said they want to organize a bridge competition like what they did last year. LC will follow up.</p> <p>6iii All HKCBA tournaments will use the new continuous VP scale instead of the discrete VP scale.</p> <p>The next council meeting will be held on July 22, 2013.</p>		<p>TL</p> <p>LC</p>
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## 5th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22, 2013 (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)

Leo Cheung – Vice President (LC)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apologizes:

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

CC Wong (CC)

John Tsang (JT)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): f) LC to advise on the possible venue for HKCBA tournaments. g) The cups from Thomas' warehouse will be moved to RH's school next week. h) LC advised that the tentative date for Wing Lung competition will be November 2, 2013 (Sat).		LC

<p>3</p> <p>3i</p> <p>4</p> <p>4i</p> <p>4ii</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>6i</p> <p>6ii</p> <p>6iii</p>	<p><u>Financial Affairs:</u></p> <p>The latest bank balance is around HKD1,094,000. There is still around HKD200K expenses to be settled.</p> <p><u>Internal Affairs:</u></p> <p>Interport: RH presented Interport budget for council's approval. The preliminary budget involved HKD300,000 sponsorship for the event but since Mr. Gu will be producing the souvenir programme, the total sponsorship will be reduced by HKD20,000 to HKD280,000 for the expenses of the souvenir programme. The estimated no. of tables for Celebrity event is 6. The estimated no. of participants for the Interport Pairs is around 80 pairs while the venue can accommodate up to 50 tables (100 pairs). Interport Pairs registration fee is HKD400 for 2 days, around 36 pairs will be reserved for Rose Bowl players free of charge. There will be cash prizes for winners in the Interport Pairs: HKD4,000 for Champion, HKD2,000 for 1st runner-up, HKD1,000 for 2nd runner-up and HKD600 for 3rd runner-up. For Consolation session, HKD1,000 for Champion, HKD600 for 1st runner-up and HKD400 for 2nd runner-up.</p> <p>Enquiry from WC Li regarding formal dressing for the World Senior Championships: WC Li asked whether Council/HKCBA could sponsor formal suit (in addition to the jacket that HKCBA has already provided to all Hong Kong representatives) for the participants who will be playing in the World Senior Championships. Council rejected the request due to budget consideration. However the participants are allowed to arrange their own suit with logo and design but they need to obtain Council's approval before wearing in the World Championships.</p> <p><u>External Affairs:</u></p> <p>Nil</p> <p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>Open League: Council approved to waive the registration fee for the Youth Team, while for the Girls Team since they have two non-youth members in the team they need to pay ¼ registration fee for each session.</p> <p>HKCBA website revamp: Alan Sze volunteered to help, he will provide a proposal to Council for consideration.</p> <p>Wuhan APBF Youth Championships: Council approved HKD40,000</p>		
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	<p>subsidy for the participants. The subsidy will cover hotel, meal and transportation, excluding registration fee.</p> <p>6iv SSBL: Council endorsed Billy Szeto, RH and XL to be the advisors for SSBL.</p> <p>6v Tournament suggestions: Council received some suggestions regarding the format of HKCBA tournaments:</p> <p><b>Open Pairs:</b> It is suggested that there should be carry over from the qualifying session to the final session. However after discussion, Council agreed that it is not necessary, as for the World Open Pair they also don't have carry over. Council agreed that going forward the no. of qualified pairs should be limited to at most 40% of the total number of pairs.</p> <p><b>Invitation Team:</b> Council agreed that there should be incentive given to the top 4 teams in the 1st round robin to encourage teams to perform well and attain the top 4 places. Therefore additional VPs will be given to the top 4 teams:</p> <p><b>1st rank: +8VPs</b></p> <p><b>2nd rank: +7VPs</b></p> <p><b>3rd rank: +6VPs</b></p> <p><b>4th rank: +5VPs</b></p> <p>The next council meeting will be held on August 28, 2013.</p>		
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## 6th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 28, 2013 (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)

Christopher Leung – Treasurer (CL)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Council members:

CC Wong (CC)

Charlie Lee (XL)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Other:

Alan Sze (AS)

Apologizes:

Council members:

Arthur Lau (AL)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopt minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): i) LC will continue to look up for possible venue(s) for HKCBA tournaments.		
3	<u>Financial Affairs:</u>		
3i	The latest bank balance is around HKD938,000.		
4	<u>Internal Affairs:</u>		
4i	APBF Captain's Report:		PC

	<p>Endorsed the reports submitted by WC Li and Louis CM Chan. Pending submission by DZ for Ladies Team, Ringo Lee and Seneca Kwan for the 2 Senior Teams. PC will follow up.</p> <p>4ii Interport: Macau has yet to provide their players' list, PC to follow up with them. Dora Lee and WK Wong will substitute one of the Macau pair to play in the Macau Team as they need to arrive late, council endorsed. While Mr. Chan Sing Hung will represent Geely Mobile as Mr. Gui is not available to participate in Interport. As of now there are 23 pairs registered for the Interport Open Pairs. There will be 8 tables for the celebrity event and 9 youth helpers are needed to assist with scoring input etc. LC, KF and WK will be stand by for the celebrity event.</p> <p>5 <u>External Affairs:</u></p> <p>5i Wuhan APBF Youth Championships Result: U25 – ranked 4th and berth to World Youth Championships U20 – ranked 2nd and berth to World Youth Championships Girls – ranked 6th</p> <p>Total expenses for the tournament including registration fee is HKD60K. Council will start finding sponsors for next year's World Youth Championships to be held in Turkey.</p> <p>6 <u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>6i HKCBA trophies: It is now with Perfect and will be moved to DZ's office in the coming 2 weeks.</p> <p>6ii Open League: There was one team absent from the last session with very late notice. Council agreed that warning letter should be issued to them.</p> <p>6iii HKCBA website revamp: AS was invited to the meeting to present the proposals. 2 proposals were submitted for review (one of which costs HKD130K while the other one costs around HKD80K). The estimated time for completion of the website revamp is 3 to 4 months and aim to start using the new website from next bridge year. A working committee (which consists of TL, WK, AL and JT) has been formed to work with AS and report progress to Council.</p> <p>The next council meeting will be held on October 16, 2013.</p>		<p>PC</p> <p>RH/TL</p> <p>RH</p> <p>TL, WK, AL, JT</p>
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# 41st WBTC 觀後 (1)

## After Watching 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC (1)

在高手雲集的世界橋牌比賽中，我們除欣賞他們的高超技藝，也發現他們不足之處，可見打橋牌很難十全十美。第 1 天第 3 場，在 BB 的 Monaco 隊對印尼隊的 16 副牌中，有 5 副滿貫，但沒有 1 副 2 隊同時叫到，或者你來試試，有幾副牌你叫到正確的滿貫。

Many bridge experts took part in the World Bridge Competition. In addition to appreciate their excellent bridge skills, we could also discover some of their deficiencies. It indicates that it is difficult to be perfect in playing bridge. There were 3 rounds on Day 1. In the 16 boards played by Monaco and Indonesia competing for the Bermuda Bowl (BB), there were 5 slams. None of them was bid by both teams. Perhaps, you can try to see how many correct slams you can bid.

### (1) Board 3

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

Fatoni/ Nunes 坐南北時叫牌

The bidding when Fatoni and Nunes sat North and South:

W	N	E	S
			1♥
1♠	2♣	3♠	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

印尼隊停在 5♣。也許北的 4♦ 讓南叫到滿貫。

The Indonesia team stopped at 5♣。Perhaps, North's 4♦ enabled South to bid slam.

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

6♥和6♣都是鐵牌。

Both 6♥ and 6♣ are cold.

(2) Board 8

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

印尼隊 Tobing/Asbi 坐南北時叫牌

The bidding when Tobing/Asbi of the Indonesian team sat North and South:

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

首引♦4，6NT是不能完成的合約。Monaco 隊停在3NT，也沒有叫到最佳合約6♦。With the first lead of the ♦4，6NT could not be made. Monaco team stopped at 3NT and could not bid the best contract of 6♦.

在參加BB的22隊中，只有南非隊和荷蘭隊叫到最佳合約6♦。

Of the 22 teams participating, only the teams from South Africa and the Netherlands could bid the

best contract of 6♦ ◦

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

(3) Board 9

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

Monaco 隊 Helness 和 Helgemo 坐東西，  
Helness and Helgemo of Monaco team sat East and West.

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

任何首引，都有 12 墩

Whatever the 1<sup>st</sup> lead, there would be 12 tricks.

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

另一桌，印尼名將 Sacul 停在 3NT.

At the other table, the Indonesian famous player Sacul stopped at 3NT.

(4) Board 14

Monaco 隊一樣叫到 6♦，由於♣A 位置有利，成約沒有困難。

Monaco team could also bid 6♦. As the position of the ♣A was favorable, there was no problem in making the contract.

#14		
E/Nil		
♠ K T		♠ A J 3
♥ A Q J 2		♥ 3
♦ A K T 8 2		♦ Q J 9 7
♣ 7 6		♣ K T 9 5 2

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

印尼隊東西停在 3NT。

The East and West of the Indonesian team stopped at 3NT。

(5) Board 16

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

印尼隊坐南北時叫牌：

The bidding when the Indonesia players sat North and South:

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

只要打對♣，6♦和6♣都能成約，很多叫到6♣的選手，都打錯♣而失敗。這牌因首引♠而輕易做成。

If the playing of the ♣ is right, both 6♦ and 6♣ can be made. Some players who could bid 6♣ played ♣ incorrectly and went down.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> lead was a ♠, the contract was easily made.

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

另桌 Monaco 隊南北停在 3NT。

有滿貫的牌，有不少停在 3NT，最差是有滿貫，沒有 3NT，我舉這次比賽中一例：

Many slam hands were stopped at 3NT. The worst case was that a slam could be made while 3NT could not. Let me quote an example from the competition.

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

Monaco 和 Canada 對陣時叫牌：

The bidding when Monaco versus Canada:

Canada 坐南北時 The bidding when the players of Canada sat North and South:

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

Monaco 隊坐南北時 The bidding when the players of Monaco sat North and South:

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

2 隊都下 1，當然還是有不少高手，像 USA 1 隊，印尼，日本等隊都叫到 6♦。這是印尼隊坐南北的叫牌：

Both teams went down 1. Of course, there were other experts such as USA 1, Indonesia, Japan, etc which could bid 6♦. Below was the bidding of the Indonesia players sat North and South:

W	N	E	S
	1♦	1♥	2♥
3♥	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

任何首引，很容易取到 12 墩。

Whatever the 1<sup>st</sup> lead, 12 tricks can be easily won.



# 41st WBTC 觀後 (2)

## After watching 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC (2)

現在仍有部分高手，憑分先叫加倍，遇到對手強力阻擊，同伴很難想象你只有一套牌叫加倍，因為配合的牌，才有更多贏墩。

There are still some experts who would double first when having many high card points instead of bidding their suits. When the opponent preempts strongly, it is difficult for partner to imagine that you have a single-suitor and double. It is because matching can bring in more tricks.

請看 Round 4 Please watch Round 4  
Monaco ---Poland

Board 32

# 32	♠ A Q 8
W/EW	♥ A K Q 7 5 2
	♦ J 7 6
	♣ 2

你是北，上家開叫 2♠ (♠+minor)，不夠開叫牌力，你有近 8 個贏墩，當然要叫牌，叫什麼？  
You are North. Your RHO opened 2♠ (♠+minor) without the strength of an opening hand.  
You have 8 winning tricks and should bid. What will you bid?

北是 Helgemo，他選擇叫 Dbl，東加強阻擊，叫牌如下：

North was Helgemo. He chose to double. East preempted further. The bidding was as follows:

W	N	E	S
2♠	Dbl	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

首引♣，轉攻♠，看了明手牌，你都沒有辦法打，問題是憑分叫加倍，已是太老式，遇到這牌就出問題，北家想了很久，決定進手就出♥，讓西將吃，自己才取到8墩牌，可能他想，如果Pass同伴的4NT，損失最少。

Opponent first led a ♣ and then switched to attack with a ♠. After seeing dummy's hand, you have no way to make the contract. The problem is that using HCP to double is already old-fashioned. With his hand, the problem arises. North thought for a long time and decided to play ♥ whenever he gained entry and let West to ruff. He only won 8 tricks. Perhaps, he would think that passing partner's 4NT would minimize the loss.

另一桌叫牌：The bidding at the other table:

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

東的阻擊不力，不起作用。4♥輕易做成，Monaco 隊輸 14IMP.

East's preemptive power was not sufficient. 4♥ was easily made. Monaco team lost 14 MP.

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

這牌有套叫套的隊，都取到很好的結果。

All those teams which bid their suit got good results.

巴西隊對澳大利亞隊，坐北是名將 Chagas,他們的叫牌

Brazil versus Australia. The one who sat North was the famous player Chagas. Their bidding was:

W	N	E	S
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	A.P.	

結果下 2，+500 分。 The result was down 2, + 500.

老年組 USA 1 隊對荷蘭隊，坐北是 Schwartz

Senior series: USA 1 versus the Netherlands. Schwartz sat North.

W	N	E	S
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

結果正好，+420 分 The result was just right, + 420.

現在叫加倍的牌，更加注重牌型。

Nowadays, the emphasis is more on distribution when doubling.

# 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC 觀後 (3)

## After Watching 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC (3)

不要因為點少而不叫牌，要看你能不能幫同伴取得贏墩，這種看法，不是所有高手都接受，有贏墩不叫牌，輸分的機會多。

Do not pass because you have only few HCPs. You have to see how many tricks you can help your partner. This concept may not be accepted by all experts. If you have winning tricks but do not bid, you will more likely lose.

Round 3

中國對澳大利亞 China Versus Australia

Board 2

#2	
E/NS	
	♠ K T 7 5 3
	♥ 9 8 6 2
	♦ 9 3 2
	♣ T

假定你是東，叫牌如下進行：

Assume you are East and the bidding is as follows:

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♥
Dbf	1NT	?	

到你，叫牌嗎？如果你叫牌，又如果最後因此而失分，有人就會批評你，說你才有 3 分牌，就自由叫？是不是很為難。如果不叫，就算這牌輸了，可能也沒有人說你錯。事實上橋牌是以贏墩決定輸贏的，《分》是用來幫你計算贏墩的。

It's your turn. Will you bid? If you bid and lose as a result, someone will criticise you saying that you made a free bid with 3 HCP only. Isn't it difficult? If you do not bid, you will lose this board. Perhaps, no one will say that you were wrong. In reality, success or failure at bridge is dependent on the number winning tricks and HCPs are

used to help you establish your number of winning tricks.

同伴的加倍，一般都有 4 張♠，否則點力會更多，粗略估算，以♠為將牌，你的♠K 和將吃 2 次♣，可以幫同伴 3 墩牌，所以一定要叫牌。可惜實際叫牌是：

Partner's double usually implies having 4 times ♠, else he would have more HCPs. Based on a rough estimate, using ♠ as trump, your ♠K and the ability to ruff ♣ twice, would help partner with 3 tricks, so you must bid. However, the actual bidding was:

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

請看 4 家牌 Please look at the 4 hands:

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

任何首引，南北都有 9 墩牌，3NT 是鐵牌，另一桌叫牌：

Irrespective of the 1<sup>st</sup> lead, North and South will have 9 tricks and 3NT is cold. The bidding at the other table was:

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	PASS
Pass	Dbl	A.P.	

因防守失誤 4♠ X 被做成，這牌輸 15IMP。(這場牌中國隊勝 5IMP。) As the defending side made mistake, 4♠ X was made. The result was a loss of 15 IMP. (China Team won 5 IMP for this round.)

在南開叫後，從北來看，南北的整體牌點要超過對方，為什麼北第 1 輪不叫，讓人難以理解。至於防守 4♠，很難要求他們像 Fantoni/Nunes 那樣防守精密。

After South has opened bid, from North's perspective, North and South have more HCPs than the opponents. Why did North pass in the 1<sup>st</sup> round? It is difficult to understand. Regarding the defence of 4♠, it was difficult to require them to defend as meticulously as Fantoni/Nunes.

我們看 2 位坐東高手，在同樣叫牌系列後，叫牌的效果。

Let us watch 2 expert players who sat East - the effects after the same bidding system,

#### 日本對法國 Japan Versu France

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	1NT	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	A.P.		

日本的東不但叫 2♠，還第 2 次叫 4♠，結果 5♥X 下 2，另桌 4♥打成，勝 15IMP。

Japan's East bid 2♠ and even rebid 4♠, the result was 5♥X down 2. 4♥ was made at the other table. Japan won 15 IMP.

#### USA1 對 USA2

坐東是 USA2 隊的 Martel Chip，他判斷準確，認為東的 4♥ 一定成約，4♠在最佳防守下，僅下一。他的 3 分牌也叫了 2 次，我們應該向這些專家學習。

The one who sat East was USA2's Martel Chip. He judged correfelty and considered that East's, 4♥ must be made. He bid 4♠ which went down 1 on best defence. He had only 3 HCPs but he bid twice. We should learn from these experts

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

在 Senior 組的香港隊，這一輪遇到德國隊，最後香港隊勝 8 IMP.但是這副牌，德國隊坐東西時，由東主打 4♠X，被打成。(有很多桌打 4♠X 成約,防守本來很困難)，另一桌也由德國隊北打 3NT 成約，他們這副牌勝 15IMP.

In the Senior series, Hong Kong team met German team in this round and won 8 IMPs. However, for this board, when German players sat East and West, East played and

made 4♠X (4♠X was also made in many other tables. The defence was difficult). At the other table, German's North played and made 3NT. They won 15 IMPs for this board.

這副牌，按 Fantoni/Nunes 的防守，首引♥，第2墩出♦Q，當東出♣時，北先上♣K，再出♦，防守方可以取得♠，♥，♦，♣各1墩。

4♥是一定打成，你只輸2墩♦，1墩黑花色。♦10可以墊去1張黑花色。或者說，你一共取得6墩♥，2墩♣，1墩♠，1墩♦。

Fantoni/Nunes defended as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> lead a ♥, played the ♦Q at trick two. When East played a ♣, North played the ♣K 1<sup>st</sup> and then played another ♦. The defending side could win a ♠, ♥, ♦ and ♣.

4♥ is cold. You just lose 2 ♦ and 1 black card. The ♦10 can be used to discard a black loser. In other words, you can win 6 ♥s 2 ♣s, 1 ♠, and 1 ♦.

# 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC 觀後 (4)

## After Watching 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC

Round 20

(1)精彩的防守 Marvellous defence

# 29	
N/All	
♠ K J T	♠ 2
♥ T 6	♥ A 9 5 4
♦ K J 9 7	♦ A Q T 6 5 3
♣ A Q 7 5	♣ 4 2

叫牌: The Bidding:

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

1NT=12-14

假定 Assume 2♥=♥+ minor(54+)

首引 First lead ♥Q (從 from ♥KQXX 中首引 first lead ♥Q)

我這裡只說實戰的出牌, 相信大部分你也會這樣出牌:

第 1 墩你忍讓, 南跟♥2 歡迎, 第 2 墩北出♥8, 還讓, 南♥J。

第 3 墩南♣3, 飛牌嗎?, 西♣Q, 北♣K, 再回♣9, 西♣A

第 5 到第 10 墩, 西出 6 墩♦

Here, I just reported the actual play. I believe most of you would play similarly:

You duck the 1<sup>st</sup> trick, South plays the ♥2 to encourage. At trick 2, North continues with the ♥8, you duck again and South wins with the ♥J.

At trick 3, South returns the ♣3, do you finesse? West ♣Q, North ♣K, and returns the ♣9, West ♣A

Tricks to 10: West plays 6 rounds of ♦



# 29		
N/All		
♠ K J T		♠ 2
♥ -		♥ A 9-
♦ -		♦ 3
♣ 7		♣ --

北有 2 張♦，墊 1 張♥，2 張♠，南墊 3 張♠，1 張♣，出最後 1 張♦，南墊♠，你也墊 1 張♠，北也墊♠。各剩 3 張牌。南北所剩的 6 張牌是：3 張♠，2 張♥，1 張♣。

North has 2 times ♦, discards a ♥, 2 ♠s, South discards 3 ♠s, 1 ♣. On the last ♦, South discards a ♠, you also discard a ♠, North also a ♠ 3 cards remain in each other. The 6 cards remaining with North and South are 3 ♠s, 2 ♥s and 1 ♣.

# 29		
N/All		
♠ K J		♠ 2
♥ -		♥ A 9-
♦ -		♦ --
♣ 7		♣ --

該從明手出牌，你出哪 1 張？《顯然》北的 3 張牌是 ♥K3，♠A，對嗎？實際是從明手出♠2.你想不到南北剩下的是下面這樣的牌吧。這裡南非常配合，一直沒有墊 1 張無用的♥3.

Which should you play from dummy? “Obviously”, North’s 3 cards should be ♥K3, ♠A, right? In reality, the ♠2 was lead from dummy. Have you ever thought of the cards remaining the North and South? Here, South was very cooperative with North in not discarding his useless ♥3.

# 29	♠ A 7	
N/All	♥ K	
	♦ --	
	♣ --	
♠ K J		♠ 2
♥ --		♥ A 9
♦ --		♦ --
♣ 7		♣ --
	♠ Q	
	♥ 3	
	♦ --	
	♣ J	

結果下 1, 4 家牌是 The result was down 1.

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

南北是 Monaco 隊的 Fantoni 和 Nunes 。

Noth and South were Fantoni and Nunes of the Monaco Team.

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(2) Round 20

打不成的 5♣ 合約 Unmakeable 5♣ contract

南北叫到相當合理的 5♣, 如果防守方不出錯, 5♣ 是打不成的。仍有相當多牌手打成, 因為還是有人讀不準牌, 防守出錯。

North and South have bid a reasonable contract of 5♣, . If the defeding side does not commit mistake, 5♣ cannot be made. However, some players could make it because their opponents could not read cards correctly and misdefended.

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

很多桌的叫牌是: The bidding at most tables was:

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Dbl
2♥	3♣	3♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

我看到的 10 桌，防守都有錯，但也有莊家沒有把握好又送回去。

首引都是♥，將吃，一種是第 2 墩從明手出♦3，西♦K，防守結束。

一種是第 2 墩出♠A 到暗手，飛♦Q 到西的♦K，這時西回♥，又是 1 錯，明手將，調將，一共取到 6 墩將牌，3 墩♦，2 墩♠。

我看到的是 Fantoni 主打的 5♣，他也是♠A，飛♦Q 到♦K，西回♦到明手♦A，(非常好) Fantoni 此時考慮很久，出♦9，希望♦是 3-3 分配，但東將，合約已經不保。

I have watched 10 tables and found that they all defended incorrectly. However, some declarers did not make use the opportunity and gave back the gift.

The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was a ♥, ruffed.

One type was the ♦3 from dummy, West ♦K and defence ended.

Another type was ♠A to hand, finessed the♦Q to West's ♦K. West then returned a ♥ - another mistake, dummy ruffed, drew trumps, winning 6 trumps, 3 ♦s, and 2 ♠s.

I watched Fantoni's play of 5♣. He also played the ♠A, finessed the♦Q to ♦K, West returned a♦ to dummy's♦A, (very good).

Fantoni thought for a long time, then played the♦9, hoping that the♦s were 3-3, but East ruffed and the contract was doomed.

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

此時，專家級牌手不該會出錯。也即如果東回♥K，明手缺少 1 個橋引，只有 10 墩牌，但東回♠Q，幫助 Fantoni 起死回生，他♠K，用♣J 將吃♦3，調將♣K，再♣A 成如下牌形：

At this moment, expert players should not have made a mistake, i.e., if East returns the♥K, as dummy lacks an entry, declarer can only have 10 tricks. But if East returned a

the ♠Q, it helped Fantoni to resurrect. He could play ♠K, used the ♣J to ruff the ♦3, played the ♣K and then the ♣A ending in the following situation:

# 18	♠ --		♠ --
E/All	♥ J 9 6		♥ K Q 8 5
	♦ --		♦ --
	♣ 6		♣ --
♠ J 8			
♥ T 7			
♦ --			
♣ --			
	♠ T 9		
	♥ --		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 7		

到這時，還能難倒 Fantoni 嗎？

At this moment, how can it stump Fantoni?

# 41<sup>st</sup> WBTC 觀後 ( 5 )

## After Watching WBTC (5)

意大利隊對 Monaco 隊的決賽，意大利隊表演非常精彩，從開始就大幅領先，一直到最後，真有點出人意料之外。精彩的牌很多，我隨便舉 2 例，看意大利隊的表演

In the final match between the Italian Team and Monaco Team, the performance of the Italian team was excellent. It is quite expected that the Italian team would lead by a large margin from the beginning until the end. There were many wonderful boards. I just quote 2 examples to illustrate the performance of the Italian team.

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

意大利隊坐南北時的叫牌

The bidding of the Italian Team when they sat North and South.

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

季軍戰波蘭和 US1 隊都叫到 6♠，打成 6♠也不難。

In the match for 2<sup>nd</sup>-runner up – both Poland and USA1 teams could bid 6♠, and making 6♠ was not difficult.

Fantoni/Nunes 的叫牌 The bidding of Fantoni and Nunes:

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

可能 2♦ 的開叫，影響他們的滿貫叫牌。

Perhaps the opening bid of 2♦ had affected their ability to bid a slam.

Board 75 大勢已去的牌例 Not much can be done example

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

2 桌都由東主打 4♥，沒有打成的這桌叫牌：Monaco 隊坐東西

East became the declarer of 4♥, at both tables. The bidding at the table where the contract was not made:

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

首引♣A，再♣，他採取將♣，♥K進明手，♣K，再將♣。第6墩送將牌

這時南出♠，東已打不成了。(難以想象，高手會採取這條一定打不成的路線)

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was the ♣A, followed by another ♣. He chose to ruff the ♣, ♥K to dummy, ♣K, and ruffed another ♣. He gave a trump at trick 6. South played a ♠, and East could not make the contract anymore. (It is difficult to imagine that an expert would use such a line of play that cannot make the contract.)

所以必須建立♦，才有第 10 墩，這牌沒有打成，說明 Monaco 隊的大勢已去，沒有機會再翻盤，另桌由 Lauria 主打，首引♥A，北♥10，也許表示♠有大牌，南轉攻♠6，西♠2，北♠Q，莊家讓 1 墩，北再♠，明手♠A

In order to have 10 tricks, it is necessary to establish the ♦'s. That this contract could not be made indicated that Monaco's team could not do much anymore and it was not possible to overturn the result. At the other table, Lauria declared. The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was the ♥A, North ♥10, perhaps to show a high card in ♠s. South shifted to attack with the

♠6, West the ♠2, North the ♠Q, and Declarer ducked. North played another ♠, dummy the ♠A

# 75	♠ 3	
S/Nil	♥ T 7	
	♦ 9 7 6	
	♣ T 5 4 3	
♠ 7		♠ T
♥ K J 6		♥ Q 9 8
♦ K 8		♦ A J T 4 2
♣ K 7 6 2		♣ 5
	♠ K 9	
	♥ 2	
	♦ Q 5 3	
	♣ A Q 9 8	

第 4 墩♥J，暗手♥Q 蓋，出♦J，南♦3，明手♦8，贏到，接著♦K，出♥6 到♥9，♦A 墊明手♠，加上♦是 33，打成啦。（如果第 1 墩北不墊♥ 10，Lauria 這時的進手還有問題）現在已經可以說，意大利隊的冠軍已經到手。（因為還有 21 副牌，這樣的表演，很難追回當時已落後 79IMP.）

Played the ♥J at trick 4 , covered by declarer's ♥Q , played the ♦J , South the ♦3 , dummy the ♦8 , won, followed by by the ♦ K , played the ♥6 to ♥9 , used ♦A to discard dummy's ♠ , as the ♦s were 3-3, the contract was made. ( If North did not discard the ♥10 at trick 1 , Lauria's entries now would still have problem. )

At this moment, it is for sure that the Italian team would be the champion. (It is because it was difficult to earn back the difference of 79 IMP in the remaining 21 boards with such as performance. )

再看副 Monaco 隊 2 桌失分的牌

Board 22

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

Monaco 隊的 Nunes 坐南時叫牌

W	N	E	S
		1♣	2NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass



結果下 3，但另一桌叫到 4♠，首引♣，再將♣而下一，輸 12IMP。如果叫 3NT，打對♠就打成，將勝 3IMP。來回 15IMP。

The result was down 3. 4♠ was reached at the other table. The 1<sup>st</sup> lead was a ♣, followed by a ruff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♣ 而. 4♠, was down 1, a loss of 12 IMP. If 3NT was bid instead, it could be made if the ♠s were played correctly and there would be a gain of 3 IMP. The net result would be 15 IMP.

如果我們持南的牌，叫了 2NT，很多人就要批評你，你拿幾分牌就叫牌？所以你要找一位同意你叫 2NT 的同伴，也不是很容易的。

If we hold South's cards and bid 2NT, many people will criticize you for bidding with too few HCPs. So, you need to find a partner who will agree with your bidding of 2NT. I think it is not easy.

Automatic Defense (by Alan SZE)

Sometimes, as a defender, we might defend automatically. For example, when defending 3NT, partner led a 4<sup>th</sup> best, we will follow to establish his suit everytime we got in. Does this apply to ALL hands? Defense, needs cooperation.

In Match Points Pairs #1, I met the following hand. North opened 1♦, South responded an inverted minor raise 2♦. North then showed minimum and BAL with 2NT, and South raised to 3NT.

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

East naturally led his 4<sup>th</sup> best ♥3. West followed ♥K, declarer ducked. Declarer ducked again on ♥T return, and took the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♥. West got in with ♦K, and attacked♠. Declarer had no way to get the 9<sup>th</sup> trick except playing ♣ towards the J, since East would cash out his H if he had ♣A.

One month later, I saw another hand in Open League #2. From the bidding, East showed exactly 1444 and minimum, and West went into 3NT.

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

Some tables led his 4<sup>th</sup> best ♦3, North automatically continued ♦J and ♦4 when declarer ducked. Declarer then easily knocked out ♠A and sooner claimed for 10 tricks. For some players, these two hands did not worth any discussion. Simply and automatically defense. Or by double dummy, and said, ahhh... you shall shift to ♠ (in the first hand), or you shall shift to ♥ (in the second hand). Shall these be truth? Let's look in depth.

In the first hand, West is always right to shift ♠ in team game. Whenever East held ♠K or ♠Q, or ♥A9832, it was surely down in 3NT. But in Match Points, it looks stupid when partner having ♠Kxx ♥Q9832 ♦xx ♣xxx.

From East point of view, declarer could be having

- (a) ♠Kxxx ♥Axxx ♦JTx ♣Ax; or
- (b) ♠Axxx ♥Axxx ♦JTx ♣Ax; or
- (c) ♠Axxx ♥Axxx ♦KJx ♣xx; or
- (d) the actual hand ♠AKxx ♥Axxx ♦JTx ♣xx.

Basically, for all the hands, he can see that there is no entry for him to cash out the ♥, he shall indicate not to continue the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♥.

So, is there a way to do so? Yes. Do not automatically follow the 5<sup>th</sup> ♥ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> trick. Probably the ♥9 is the right card.

OK, then from West point of view. He also needs to count. East is known to have 5 cards ♥ since North did not have 5 cards Major. East do not follow the 5<sup>th</sup> ♥ indicating he wants a shift. Clearly ♠ was the suit.

In the second hand, North shift to ♥ at 3<sup>rd</sup> trick was correct in the actual layout. He could be the only defender let the 3NT making when declarer having ♥AKTx but ♦Qxxx, declarer could score 5♣+4♥.

So, could South help? Yes. Again, do not automatically follow the 5<sup>th</sup> ♦ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> trick. Probably the ♦10 is the right card.

From South, North has to have either one of the black Aces, otherwise declarer would cash out 10 tricks in blacks plus ♦A. Whichever it is, he had no entry for his long ♦. What he needs is partner having ♥Qxx to establish 2♥ tricks, as in the actual layout.

These two hands had a similar symptom, that the declarer did not have 5 cards in the open leading suit. Hiding the 5<sup>th</sup> best and play a card not naturally, shall indicate some special thing. In these hands, it showed "I had no entry to my suit". Are these very difficult? Personally, I think these are not VERY DIFFICULT. More importantly, did the defender count?

Another important thing is, defenders shall have a good habit to count and plan at trick one. The above analysis might not be able to get done in several seconds. Reasonable stop at trick one, on every hand, will give you, and your partner to count and plan. I doubt if the open leader stopped for a long time at trick two when partner returned simultaneously the open leader suit, and did not play the 5<sup>th</sup> best, will this cause any misinformation? Could anyone familiar with the LAW answer this?

## Dunhuang Cup 敦煌杯 2013 (by Alan SZE)

I was invited by Louis CM CHAN, a good friend and opponents known from Rose Bowl in my age, for the Dunhuang Cup 敦煌杯 2013 in early August. I eventually accepted the invitation to Lanzhou 蘭州 despite that the event might crashed with the Hong Kong Open Team Qualifying rounds. Our teammates are from local 甘肅省. Uncle CHAN Yiu also form a 4-men team from Macau in this event, and arranged everything for us.

For Teams event, there are 12 rounds of Swiss, with 8 boards each round, with Screens. As mentioned before, all the China event has already been using the WBF new 20 VPs scale. After the qualifying swiss rounds, teams will be distributed into Group A (16 teams), B (16 teams), C (14 teams), D (12 teams), according to the ranking.

I set the target for our team, it's rank 17-21, into Group B. We did not bad in the qualifying swiss, though we still made some mistakes. My partner isn't an experienced player, in round 1 board 5, he did not notice that the following bidding sequence misleading him and caused damage.

# 5

♠ T82

♥ T9543 发牌 N

♦ J4 局况 NS

♣ Q87

♠ 97654

♥ J

♦ 865

♣ KT95

N

W

S

E

♠ KQ3

♥ K862

♦ K973

♣ A2

♠ AJ

♥ AQ7

♦ AQT2

♣ J643

South	West	North	East
		Pass	1NT
X	2♠	Pass	2NT
X	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 1NT = 13-15 BAL
- 2♠ = NAT (on W/S), Transfer to 3♣ (on N/E)
- 2NT = NAT (on W/S), showed BAL hand (on N/E)
- 3♣ = NAT (on W/S), per transfer to 3♣ (on N/E)

I was surprised that my partner would bid with an 5332 hand. From my view, North free bids at 3 level with few hcps, must have shortage somewhere, and when EW not fit in ♠ (East did not pass 2♠), the shortage must be in ♣. And that's why I raised to 4♥. When dummy laid down and after the cards play, NS shall clarify the explanation on both screens, and perhaps shall summon the director claiming there's mis-explanation and mis-information. Doubling opponents in any 3-level contract will have at least

+500.

**18** ♠ KT87653 发牌: E  
♥ 87 局况: NS  
♦ K8  
♣ 64

♠ Q4 ♠ A9  
♥ AJ3 ♥ KQT9  
♦ AT9 ♦ 762  
♣ QJT83 ♣ A975

♠ J2  
♥ 6542  
♦ QJ543  
♣ K2

South	West	North	East
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1♦ = Precision, with uncertain number of ♦

2♣ = Game Forcing

In Round 2, board 18, I was on lead with South hand. Since opponents opened 1♦, I had no obvious good choice. I decided to hit for my partner suit by leading ♠J. Declarer took the lead, went to dummy by ♥, and go for the ♣ finesse. I took the trick and persisted with ♠. Bingo!! Partner cashed out to down 3. If the declarer duck the ♠ lead, partner has to find the killing ♦ shift. Could he? No idea. Declarer did not challenge him. Uncle CHAN Yiu on another table led the 4<sup>th</sup> best ♦ (under a natural 1♣ opening), the only killing lead, declarer put up ♦A immediately, however, North failed to unblock the ♦K, and thus 3NT was made in due course for Macau Team opponents.

**2** ♠ T95 发牌: E  
♥ Q3 局况: NS  
♦ K864  
♣ Q973

♠ AQ7 ♠ K  
♥ A98 ♥ J7652  
♦ T53 ♦ A92  
♣ AK62 ♣ T854

♠ J86432  
♥ KT4  
♦ QJ7  
♣ J

South	West	North	East
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1♣ = Precision, 16+ HCPs

1♥ = 8+ HCPs, 5+cards

3NT = To play ?!!

In Round 3 board 2, my partner led ♠10. Since I didn't know he's leading from 109x or 109xx. I followed an ambiguous ♠4. When declarer followed with the ♠7, everything shall be clear. Declarer played a small ♥ towards his ♥9. My partner took with ♥Q, and somehow returning an automatic ♠9, and missed the chance of knocking out the ♦A entry for the long ♥. Though 4♥ was cold, but we missed the chance. However, teammates opened 1NT and landed in 2♥.

**18** ♠ QT75  
♥ K *Dir: E*  
♦ QT9873 *Vul: NS*  
♣ 73

♠ K92  
♥ AT653  
♦ 5  
♣ KT84

♠ A863  
♥ QJ  
♦ A62  
♣ AQ62

♠ J4  
♥ 98742  
♦ KJ4  
♣ J95

W N E  
S

South	West	North	East
			1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

All NATURAL

Apart from our good scores or mistakes, we shall also learn from opponent well bid and play hands. In Round 4 board 18, our opponent landed in an excellent 6♣. The opening lead was ♦9. Declarer took with ♦A, and finesse ♥K immediately. When ♦ was returned, he ruff in hand, two rounds trumps to dummy, ruff the last ♦, ♠ to ♠A, draw the last trump and claimed, with ♠K entry, declarer was able to use the ♥A10 to discard two ♠.

Our teammates were also good enough to reach 6♣. However, he chose a different line of play, and went down.

**22** ♠  
♥ AJ94 *Dir: E*  
♦ AKT54 *Vul: EW*  
♣ K743

♠ Q864  
♥ 5  
♦ QJ98732  
♣ 6

♠ T  
♥ T832  
♦  
♣ AQJT9852

W N E  
S

♠ AKJ97532  
♥ KQ76  
♦ 6  
♣

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

3♠ = set suit, asking for cue bids

5♠ = 2 keycards, with trump Q (!)

In the team event, our slam bidding was good enough. In Round 4 board 22, I pretended to be having the ♠Q by the extra length, in which it did not work this hand. Partner expected I had the running ♠ and trying to protect for his ♣K, and landed in 6NT. The lead was ♠10, while partner tried to set up the trap by playing ♠J, giving no opportunity for the opponents to discard. But of course the opponents did not make any error to shift to ♣. 6NT down 2.



There were many 7♠X and 6♠X down across the field.... The ♥ slams still down as the cards lie...

**21**     ♠ AQ86     Dir: N  
 ♥ J6     Vul: NS  
 ♦ AKT86  
 ♣ 76

♠ K42     ♠ J975  
 ♥ K98743     ♥ AQT2  
 ♦ 7     ♦ J4  
 ♣ AT9     ♣ 842

♠ T3  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ Q9532  
 ♣ KQJ53

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass
Pass	Pass		

3♦ = PRE

Sometimes, you're doing good, but opponents would reduce their loss. In Round 8 board 21, we landed in a cold 5♦ with the simple finesse ♠K working. However, opponents showed their good judgment and sacrificed in 5♥, -500 rather than -600.

**4**     ♠ K843     Dir: W  
 ♥ Q6     Vul: Both  
 ♦ Q52  
 ♣ KT54

♠ JT952     ♠ AQ7  
 ♥ AJT4     ♥ 9853  
 ♦ 6     ♦ J98  
 ♣ QJ7     ♣ 962

♠ 6  
 ♥ K72  
 ♦ AKT743  
 ♣ A83

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	DBL	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	DBL
Pass	Pass	Pass	

All NATURAL

Good card reading skill is also needed for good scores. In Round 9 board 4, 3NT being DBL and presumed to be asking for ♠ lead. ♠J lead as requested. Although opponents could be leading 0/1 from AJ10, putting small in the first lead was always correct, since the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♠ will clear the situation. As expected, East shifted to ♥ when ♠Q come in, while West played the ♥10. It was very clear that S was 5-3, and nine tricks were there. When cashing out the ♦, with 4 cards ending, dummy had ♥6 ♣K105, declarer had ♥K7 ♣A8, West had to find a discard with ♥AJ ♣QJ7. I confidently played a small ♥ to bring down the ♥A when he discarded the ♥J smoothly. 10 tricks worth +950, and 8 imps.

**22** ♠ J32 Dir: E  
♥ Q9543 Vul: EW  
♦ JT96  
♣ 4

♠ K ♠ Q764  
♥ A876 ♠ J  
♦ A32 ♠ Q875  
♣ JT632 ♣ 9875

♠ AT985  
♥ KT2  
♦ K4  
♣ AKQ

South	West	North	East
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

2NT = 20-21 HCPs

3♦ = Transfer

Sometimes, declarer play is helped by the defense. In Round 12 board 22, I chose to upgrade the hand and opened 2NT. When ♣3 was led and dummy come down, I had no idea to play since there's obviously no entry to dummy. The ♣ AKQ would be using to discard the ♠ in dummy. Eventually, I chose to play ♦K from hand directly, at trick 2, targeting to lose 2♦ tricks and find the ♥J on the way. Surprisingly, ♦K was ducked, perhaps West was afraid that I need entry to dummy. The contract suddenly become easily making, I gave up another ♦, ♣ discarding the ♠ in dummy, and cross ruff. Ended up losing 2 trumps and 1♦. 4♥ making vs the other table got down in 4♠. 4♠ was easily down when declarer tried to double finesse the trump, and lost 2 Aces, 1 trump, and ♥ ruff.

We finished the qualifying swiss with 126.72 VPs (average 10.56 VPs per round), ranking at 21<sup>st</sup> out of 58 teams. And entering group B as wish.

**4** ♠ A32 Dir: W  
♥ J653 Vul: Both  
♦ AJ86  
♣ 52

♠ 87 ♠ KJT4  
♥ 9874 ♠ KT2  
♦ KQT2 ♠ 7543  
♣ J43 ♣ T7

♠ Q965  
♥ AQ  
♦ 9  
♣ AKQ986

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

ALL NATURAL

Again, our slam bidding was not good in the team event. In group B round 1 board 4, we reached an unqualified 6♣. 6♣ was cold as the cards lie, but I declared wrongly and got down. ♦K was led. East would be squeezed in Majors after an ♥ finesse and cashing out all trumps. With 5 cards ending, declarer had ♠Q965 ♥ A, dummy

had ♠ A32 ♥ J6, East had to discard from ♠ KJ104 ♥K10.

**7**     ♠ AT953     Dir: S  
          ♥ A976     Vul: Both  
          ♦ KQT  
          ♣ 6

♠ 84     ♠ QJ72  
 ♥ J2     ♥ 85  
 ♦ J5432     ♦ 98  
 ♣ J973     ♣ AQ842

♠ K6  
 ♥ KQT43  
 ♦ A76  
 ♣ KT5

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

2♦ = Any Game Forcing  
 3NT = Non-Serious 3NT

Eventually, we had a well bid 6♥. In group B round 1 board 7, when 2NT confirmed no 3 cards ♠ (typically it would be 2533), 3♥ showed ♥ fit, it was really good for North to hear the ♠K and subsequent ♦A cue bid.

**8**     ♠ KJ72     Dir: W  
          ♥ AQ75432     Vul: None  
          ♦ Q  
          ♣ K

♠ A     ♠ Q983  
 ♥ JT9     ♥ 6  
 ♦ KJT953     ♦ A864  
 ♣ 743     ♣ J852

♠ T654  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ 72  
 ♣ AQT96

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A good friend (and mentor) taught me that, it's always right to play in the 7 cards suit when you're having 7-4 (even 4-4 fit). This board might verify what he said. In group B round 3 board 8, we successfully landed in 4♥ rather than 4♠. After the ♦ lead and continuation, ♣K was unblocked. Two rounds trumps to dummy, cashing out ♣AQ to discard two ♠. And ♠ was led from dummy. 4♥ was easily made, while teammates defeated 4♠ by 2 Aces, one ruff, and the natural trump Q winner.

**22** ♠ T  
♥ AQJ832 *Dir: E*  
♦ 62 *Vul: EW*  
♣ A973

♠ QJ4      ♠ AK73  
♥ KT5      ♥ 94  
♦ AQJ      ♦ K98754  
♣ JT64      ♣ 8

♠ 98652  
♥ 76  
♦ T3  
♣ KQ52

South	West	North	East
			1♦
Pass	3NT	4♥	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sometimes, light open with shape does have its effect. In group B round 4 board 22, opponents landed in 3NT. Double dummy defense could have down it 5 tricks. My partner tried to save it by 4♥. If ♣ was 3-2 with ♥K onside, 4♥ was cold for 6♥ + 4♣. Now, it's just two off. Sadly, teammates landed in a no chance 5♦.

We eventually ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in Group B. Not a bad one.

We then participated in the Match Point Open Pairs right after the Team events.

**2**     ♠ AQT5     Dir: E  
           ♥ AK2     Vul: N-S  
           ♦ Q9742  
           ♣ 2

♠ KJ7     ♠ 986432  
 ♥ 984     ♥ T76  
 ♦ T8     ♦ 53  
 ♣ KQJT7     ♣ 95

15     ♠  
 10 0     ♥ QJ53  
 15     ♦ AKJ6  
           ♣ A8643

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	3	7	7	4	5
S	3	7	7	4	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

4♦ = RKC in ♦  
 4♠ = 0/3

**14**     ♠ K2     Dir: E  
           ♥ AQ74     Vul: None  
           ♦ AT7  
           ♣ KQT7

♠ JT54     ♠ Q96  
 ♥ T86     ♥ J92  
 ♦ 9542     ♦ QJ863  
 ♣ 96     ♣ J5

18     ♠ A873  
 1 7     ♥ K53  
 14     ♦ K  
           ♣ A8432

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	7	4	7	5	7
S	7	4	7	5	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

4♣ = RKC in C  
 4♠ = 2 KC without trump Q  
 4NT = ask lowest King

After a long long warm up period (the team event), we eventually bided and made two grand slams in minor, during the Open Pairs Qualifying. Board 2, the 7♦ scored 39.5 out of 41, whilst Board 14, the 7♣ scored 36 out of 41.

**17**     ♠ A75     Dir: N  
           ♥ J873     Vul: None  
           ♦ J  
           ♣ QT763

♠ KJ643     ♠ QT92  
 ♥ AQ     ♥ K42  
 ♦ AK97     ♦ Q853  
 ♣ 95     ♣ AK

8     ♠ 8  
 17 14     ♥ T965  
 1     ♦ T642  
           ♣ J842

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	5	2	6	6
W	-	5	2	6	6

South	West	North	East
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1NT = Precision, 13-15 HCPs  
 2♥ = transfer  
 5♣ = 1/4 keycard

We shall also learnt from opponents well bidding. We had a clear 0 (out of 41) in board 17. The ex-China National Team player Dong Lidang 董利黨 taking nearly 3 minutes consideration after the response of RKC, reached this excellent 6NT, losing just ♠A. They deserved the clear top.

The Open Pairs Qualifying have more than 40 tables, qualifying 14 tables into Final, with carry-over of 50% scores. Louis and me had a total of 530.50 = 53.91%, ranking 24 out of 84 pairs. That's 5% behind from the top pair.

Surprisingly, we had a very steady and nice performance in the Final !

<b>11</b>		♠ AK94	Dir: S																														
		♥ 2	Vul: None																														
		♦ K985																															
		♣ QT62																															
♠ Q62		♠ T87																															
♥ Q5		♥ AJ643																															
♦ QJT		♦ 76																															
♣ AK873		♣ J54																															
12	♠ J53	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	2	3	1	S	1	3	2	3	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣			♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	1			3	2	3	1																										
S	1			3	2	3	1																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																												
	♥ KT987																																
14	♦ A432																																
8	♣ 9																																

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Match Points Pairs, one of the crucial technique is, you opened 1NT at the right moment, and did not at the wrong moment. In board 11, if I opened 1NT with a good 5 cards suit, we would be landed in 2♥, which would be down plenty due to the bad ♥ break and lack of entries. However, 1NT on just one minor misdefense, down 1 got us 12 out of 13 (top = 13).

<b>12</b>		♠ 765	Dir: W																														
		♥ K9852	Vul: N-S																														
		♦ 2																															
		♣ K732																															
♠ AT8		♠ KJ3																															
♥ QT74		♥ AJ63																															
♦ AK97		♦ QJ4																															
♣ J8		♣ QT5																															
6	♠ Q942	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	4	3	3	5	W	-	3	3	3	5
	♣			♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-			-	-	-	-																										
S	-			-	-	-	-																										
E	-	4	3	3	5																												
W	-	3	3	3	5																												
	♥																																
14	♦ T8653																																
6	♣ A964																																

South	West	North	East
	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	



In board 12, whilst strangely, I opened 1NT with West and partner raised to 3NT. Again, the bad ♥ break making the 4♥ no chance. But when North normally led his 4<sup>th</sup> best ♥. We had 11 tricks and got 8 out of 13.

<b>23</b>		♠ AT94	<i>Dir: S</i>	
		♥ 85	<i>Vul: Both</i>	
		♦ 9863		
		♣ 964		
♠ Q8		♠ K53		
♥ AQ42		♥ JT93		
♦ AKJT7		♦ 42		
♣ 73		♣ AJT5		
4	♠ J762	♣♦♥♠NT		
16	♥ K76			
9	♦ Q5	N - - - -		
11	♣ KQ82	S - - - -		
		E 3 5 6 1 5		
		W 3 5 6 1 5		

South	West	North	East
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In board 23, due to some rebid problem, I again opened 1NT with West. This time we're in 4♥. On a passive ♦ lead, I just played small ♠ towards dummy, when ♠K scored and ♥K finesse successful, we have got another fruitful 11 out of 13.

<b>22</b>		♠ A65	<i>Dir: E</i>	
		♥ 3	<i>Vul: E-W</i>	
		♦ AKQT62		
		♣ AJ4		
♠ KQJT7		♠ 4		
♥ AJT		♥ Q874		
♦ J5		♦ 874		
♣ QT2		♣ K9853		
18	♠ 9832	♣♦♥♠NT		
14	♥ K9652			
5	♦ 93	N - 2 1 - 2		
3	♣ 76	S - 2 1 - 2		
		E 3 - - - -		
		W 3 - - - -		

South	West	North	East
			Pass
Pass	1♠	X	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When the tournament nearly come to the last round, I thought we're having a good chance to win. Concentration were needed. In board 22, I planned to X the 3NT and got the ♠ lead. Seems that my partner did not agree with it. Luckily, the ♣5 lead still set the contract by one trick. +100 brought us another 11 out of 13.

By getting 196.96 = 63.13%, we overcome the carry-over and got the champion for this event!!

Although the best pairs in China did not participate in this event, getting a Champion in an China Event is not an easy task. This journey shall bring me the sweetest memory, especially when the cash prize covering all the travelling expenses.

We're looking forward to see another Champion in China Event from Hong Kong players !!



# Masterful Dummy Play

*Another Bridge Movie*

*Samuel Wan*

This is a hand chosen from Round 16 against Poland, one of the serious contenders in the Senior Category (D'Orsi Trophy) at the 41<sup>st</sup> World Team Championship in Bali. (*For your information, Poland eventually came third, after beating France soundly by 50 imps in the play-off*).

Prior to this match, we have not been doing well and could only manage a pathetic 13<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams. This is a critical match, if we were to salvage any hopes of squeezing into the quarter-finals.

Imagine yourself in the Open Room, pitched against Apolinary Kowalski (*RHO – he won the World Mixed Pair in 1994 and came second in the Generali Individual in 1998*) and Jacek Romanski (*LHO – Bridge Olympiad champion in 1984 and 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the World Open Pairs in 1996*). This pair has been playing together for 10 years and is rated by their captain as the best senior pair in the entire field of the D'Orsi trophy.

The first two boards were uneventful. This is the third one.

Board 19    W/NS (direction switched 90 degrees)

You held this hand as South

♠ 74 ♥ K873 ♦ AKJ9 ♣ A42

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1NT
2♣**	3NT	All Pass	

\*            Polish Club, usually 12-16 balanced

\*\*           Both majors

Dummy put down a respectable collection

♠ AKJ52

♥ 9  
♦ 8642  
♣ Q73

Your hand was

♠ 74  
♥ K873  
♦ AKJ9  
♣ A42

LHO led ♥Q, RHO played ♥4 (UDCA).

*How would you plan the play?*

\*\*\*\*\*

There are basically three lines of play:

- (1) Duck the first heart and hope LHO continues the suit. However, the club spots are alarmingly weak and you are worried about a switch, which will deprive you of a sure heart trick
- (2) Win the first heart, hope the diamonds behave and subsequently guess spades correctly
- (3) Win the first heart and play one back instantly – in essence, you are praying for the opponents to screw up

*What would you do?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Since you are playing against former world champions, you can practically discard the third option.

*How would you picture the opponents' hands?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Let's see. Your side had 25 high card points combined, leaving 15 for the opponents. They could be divided 3 – 12 or 5 – 10.

*Which scenario is more likely?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Despite the 1♣ opening, my money is on 5 – 10 because RHO's third hand opening at favorable vulnerability could be based on a nice club suit.

LHO rates to be 4-5-2-2. The spade hook seems odds on, given the 4-2 distribution.

*But is there any way of eliminating the spade guess?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes. Firstly, duck the heart – this is relatively safe. For all he knows, LHO may think partner has AXXX or KXXX in hearts. It would be extremely difficult for him to shift to a club (more on that later).

On the expected heart continuation, RHO took the trick with the ace and continued with another one.

You grab the third heart and cash the ace of diamonds (just in case), then play a spade to dummy (again, just in case) and finesse in diamonds. It held, predictably, voila! After running the diamonds, you finally finesse in spades. If RHO takes it with the spade queen, he will be end-played to give you a club trick, along with an entry to redeem the third spade...nine tricks in all. Beautiful!

*Wait, what about an annoying club shift at trick two?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, you do have a counter measure, bearing in mind that without scoring the heart king, you only have 7 tricks.

You take the club shift with the ace, tackle spades and diamonds as before, and finesse spades on the second round of the suit. When the spade jack holds, cash the spade king and run the diamonds, ending in hand. Assuming you watch RHO's discards closely, you can endplay him in either clubs or hearts, yielding the 9<sup>th</sup> trick.

Hopefully, you do not need this fallback. After all, it would be close to a miracle if LHO could divine a club shift at trick two.

\*\*\*\*\*

The full hand was:

	♠ AKJ52	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 8642	
	♣ Q73	
♠ Q1096		♠ 83
♥ QJ1062		♥ A54
♦ 105		♦ Q75
♣ 65		♣ KJ1098
	♠ 74	
	♥ K873	
	♦ AKJ9	
	♣ A42	

Would you be able to spot this line at the table?

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hong Kong declarer, who shall remain nameless, took the first heart and tried to drop the spade queen – while this was not a silly blunder, one could perhaps criticize him for not possessing a good nose. At the other table, teammates stole the contract and played 2♥ as EW, going down two. This result translated into a loss of 5 imps rather than a gain of 11.

For those following the tournament, we eventually lost this match by 22 imps and thus scored only 4.62 VPs. The setback pushed us back even further – 14<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams, literally one full match from 8<sup>th</sup> placed Canada.

*PS. We recovered somewhat towards the last two days and eventually placed 11<sup>th</sup> – with a slightly above average score.*

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

# Schedule

# Oct – Dec 2013

OCT 2013		Event Name	Venue	Director
1	Tue	HK Open Team of 4-Final	Mariner Game Room	Kelvin Yim
5	Sat	Grand Slam Individual	Mariner Conference Room	Jerome Cheung
8	Tue	Tom Wong Swiss Pairs - S. (1)	Mariner Conference Room	Kelvin Yim
15	Tue	Tom Wong Swiss Pairs - S. (2)	Mariner Conference Room	Jerome Cheung
19	Sat	Open League (4)	Main Hall and Conference Room	Arthur Lau
22	Tue	Match Point Pairs (5-7)	Mariner Conference Room	WC Li
25	Fri	Paul Jones Pairs (1-7)	Mariner Conference Room	--- TBC ---
29	Tue	Invitational Team (3)	Mariner Main Hall	Kelvin Yim

NOV 2013		Event Name	Venue	Director
5	Tue	No Event	N/A	--- TBC ---
8	Fri	Paul Jones Pairs (2-7)	Mariner Conference Room	--- TBC ---
11	Mon	Open Ladies Pairs	LRC	--- TBC ---
16	Sat	Open League (5)	Main Hall and Conference Room	Arthur Lau
19	Tue	Match Point Pairs (6-7)	Mariner Conference Room	WC Li
26	Tue	Invitational Team (4)	Mariner Main Hall	Kelvin Yim

DEC 2013		Event Name	Venue	Director
3	Tue	No Event	N/A	--- TBC ---
6	Fri	Paul Jones Pairs (3-7)	Mariner Conference Room	--- TBC ---
10	Tue	Match Point Pairs (7-7)	Mariner Conference Room	WC Li
14	Sat	Open League (6)	Main Hall and Conference Room	Arthur Lau
17	Tue	Invitational Team (5)	Mariner Main Hall	Kelvin Yim
24	Tue	No Event - Christmas Eve	N/A	--- TBC ---
28	Sat	Life Master and Non-Life Master Pairs (1 & 2)	Mariner Conference Room	--- TBC ---
31	Tue	No Event - New Years Eve	N/A	--- TBC ---