

Newsletter

July 2019



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 2nd Council Meeting. 2019/20.....	3
Minutes of the 3rd Council Meeting. 2019/20.....	6
Minutes of the 4th Council Meeting. 2019/20.....	9
Captain's Report (23 rd APBF Youth Teams Championships 2019 – Kids Team)	12
Captain's Report (23 rd APBF Youth Teams Championships 2019 – Youngsters Team)	15
Are You Careless	19
Crocodile Rock	22
How Good is Your Dummy Play	24
Protecting a Huge Lead	26

2nd Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 30, 2019 (Tuesday)

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)

Zia Wai - Treasurer (ZW)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

Crystal Tang (CT)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Louis Tam (LT)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): i) M&A: Review and revise the M&A to meet the standard required by LCSD. ii) Anti-sexual Harassment Policy: PC will help formulate the policy for Council's review by the end of 2019.		ZW&CT PC
3	Financial Affairs: i) Latest Bank Balance: HKD762K		
4	Internal Affairs: i) Report of the latest status of Elite Sports affairs: Subsidy for		

	<p>full time and part time elites will be granted from April 1, 2019.</p> <p>ii) Hiring coaches and part-time administration staff: Council agreed for LC to be the temporary coach until HKCBA can hire a new coach (part time or full time). Tier B subsidy is approximately HKD1.5mil per year and can cover WBF and APBF events. HKCBA can use 5% of the subsidy to hire a part time staff (i.e. around HKD75,000 per year/HKD6,000 per month). Council agreed to hire a full time staff for 1 year contract instead of a part time so the person could also do the admin work for HKCBA on top of HKSI's duties. PC will draft the job description for the job posting.</p>		PC
5	<p>External Affairs:</p> <p>i) 18-Districts Bridge Championship follow up: There was a complaint filed to SF&OC regarding the registration process of the event. Detail explanation has been given to SF&OC before the deadline and pending for their reply.</p> <p>ii) Interport: PC to send invitation letters and COC to Macau and Guangzhou.</p>		PC
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>i) Bridge School: Council informed Sam Tseng the decision and that HKCBA hope to extend support to him in the near future on bridge promotion. For the Bridge School teaching method, LC proposed to follow the approach of CCBA and start the beginner class by teaching mini bridge. More details are attached for reference. Council will review the proposal and comments in the next meeting.</p> <p>ii) Suggested list of NPC: Council propose to create a suggested list of NPC and the people on the list are qualify for receiving subsidies on air ticket and hotel if they need to be NPC for APBF level or above tournaments in Open/Ladies/Senior/Youth series. Whether the person is qualified to be included in the list is subject to HKCBA assessment. They must have accumulated several times of NPC experiences and receive good feedback. HKCBA also encourage NPC to take care up to 3 teams in one single</p>		

	<p>tournament.</p> <p>iii) Council endorsed the following sub-committees:</p> <p>Board of Tournament Directors: Derek Zen, Ronald Hui, Charlie Lee and YC Lai</p> <p>Tournament Operation Sub-Committee: Ronald Hui, Charlie Lee, Zia Wai, Crystal Tang, Louis Tam, Samuel Yeung and Oscar Chan</p> <p>Secondary School Bridge League Teacher Advisors: Ronald Hui, Billy Szeto and York Kwan</p> <p>Appeals Committee: Derek Zen, Samuel Wan, LH Chin, Kenny Lau, Ronald Hui and Raju (2 more members may be invited to join the committee)</p> <p>Public Relations: Leo Cheung and Helen Yeung</p> <p>Librarian: Crystal Tang and Eric Chan</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2019 (Monday)</p>		
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3rd Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2019 (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)

Zia Wai - Treasurer (ZW)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

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): iii) M&A: Review and revise the M&A to meet the standard required by LCSD. ZW will arrange the directorship change first and Council to decide the EGM date to adopt the change made in the M&A. There is a need to change the AGM date (to be held no later than end of May) to align with the financial year from April 1 to March 31. iv) Anti-sexual Harassment Policy: PC will help formulate the policy for Council's review by the end of 2019.		ZW&CT PC

	<p>v) Hire a Part-time admin staff: Job Description to be post on HKCBA website and Job Market (Fee: HKD2072)</p> <p>3 Financial Affairs:</p> <p>ii) Latest Bank Balance: HKD780K (including approx. HKD200K subsidy for 2018 Asian Game to be repaid to the government)</p> <p>4 Internal Affairs:</p> <p>iii) Bridge School: 4 levels of classes will be introduced: Level 1: Mini-bridge (similar to CCBA method), Level 2: Contract mini-bridge (similar to CCBA method), Level 3: Elementary Contract Bridge and Level 4: 2 over 1 system & simple play techniques. To complete all 4 levels need approximately 40 hours lecture and there will be exam papers (to be approved by HKCBA Council) for each level. Participants who passed with score over 70% will be awarded a certificate.</p> <p>iv) Complaints regarding 18-Districts Bridge Championship: PC will reply to LCSD follow up questions: 1. If LCSD can provide a large venue we will be able to accommodate more teams in future, 2) Condition of Contest: we have already posted on HKCBA website and has sent to the captain of each participating team. For 2020 18-Districts Bridge Championship, HKCBA plans to hold a trial (if necessary) on April 30 to select only one team from each 18-Districts and the Championship to be held on May 1 during the 63rd Sports Festival.</p> <p>v) Tier B Sports Funding for 2019/2020: we received the approval for the Tier B Sports Funding. ZW will submit our budget plan to the government shortly.</p> <p>vi) Hire a Full Time/Part-time coach: PC to draft the Job Description.</p> <p>vii) Council endorse the winners of the Interport Trial to represent Hong Kong: Team 1: Wilson Leung/Mickey Law/Kongo Kong/Yiu Wai Sing/Peter Chow/HL Hau Team 2: Flora Wong/Bell Tam/Laurance Lo/Daniel Chui/Leo Cheung/CC Cheung</p>		<p>TL & LC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>ZW</p> <p>PC</p>
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	<p>viii) Council endorsed the captain's report for APBF Kids Team (prepared by Sam Tseng)</p> <p>ix) NPC list: LC has prepared a list of NPCs who can be recommended to representing teams in the future.</p> <p>5 External Affairs:</p> <p>iii) APBF Delegate's meeting: Will talk about the inclusion of Bridge in the Asia Indoor Sports Competition and also the election of Treasurer</p> <p>6 AOB:</p> <p>iv) CMSG Trial: It is not required for members to have at least 2 years of consecutive membership to join the trial.</p> <p>v) Clubhouse House Rule: will strictly enforce the house rules starting from July 2019. For those who do not meet the dress code requirement will be disallowed to enter the Clubhouse.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2019 (Monday)</p>		
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4th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 24, 2019 (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)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

Crystal Tang (CT)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Louis Tam (LT)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apology: Officers:

Zia Wai - Treasurer (ZW)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Follow up matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order):		
	vi) M&A: Review and revise the M&A to meet the standard required by LCSD. CT advised that there is a need to draft an Article of Association (A&A).		ZW&CT
	vii) Anti-sexual Harassment Policy: PC will help formulate the policy for Council's review by the end of 2019.		PC
	viii) Tier B Sports Funding for 2019/2020: ZW and WK will work together on the budget plan and submit to government.		ZW&WK
	ix) Hire a Part-time coach: PC will draft the job description.		PC

3	<p>Financial Affairs:</p> <p>iii) Latest Bank Balance: HKD841K.</p>		
4	<p>Internal Affairs:</p> <p>x) To organize an Asia Pair event (supported by APBF): APBF authorized NBOs to organize Asia Pairs (it could be held during Intercity). Council preliminary proposed to hold such event once every 2 years and each NBO can send up to 3 pairs to participate.</p> <p>xi) Amendment on the year-round tournament formats: For Invitational Team, it was proposed that the teams ranked 1st and 2nd in stage 1 will be awarded additional victory points of 40 and 35 respectively. For Open League, since there were 2 teams from Class A quitted the game this year, it was proposed that Team B3 and B4 will have the priority to fill up the 2 vacancies in Class A. It was also proposed that a max of 12 players is allowed in each team with up to 4 substitute players per team.</p>		
5	<p>External Affairs:</p> <p>iv) Letter to CCBA to support the inclusion of Bridge in 2022 Asian Game: Esther (APBF President) will write a letter on behalf of APBF first and will then inform NBOs to write letter as well.</p> <p>v) 2020 World Mind Sports Game: selection trial will be held early next year.</p> <p>vi) Hong Kong hosting 2021 APBF: It was proposed to organize the event around late May to early June subject to availability of Hotel. RH to check Crown Plaza Kowloon Hotel and revert. While for 2021 APBF Youth Championships it will be held in Indonesia (date TBC).</p> <p>vii) Possibility of hosting World Championship in Hong Kong: It is not likely for Hong Kong to be able to host the World Championships due to budget constraint. Will wait for WBF to send us their contract terms for review first.</p>		RH
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>i) DZ was appointed as the Executive Officer for Development</p>		

	<p>during last APBF Delegate’s meeting. The major responsibilities of this role is 1) To provide training to youth players, 2) To train up Directors, and 3) To advise on organizing further tournaments.</p> <p>ii) Interport: competition dates remain unchanged, venue TBC (either HKCBA Clubhouse or Hotel).</p> <p>iii) Budget for Youth Team: JT and XL shared the preliminary budget for Council’s review. Council requested a more detail breakdown and the current Youth team member list for Council’s review in the next meeting.</p> <p>iv) 2019 World Bridge Championships (Venice Cup): Helen Yeung informed that she could not participate in the coming Venice Cup. Council approved the Ladies Team to find a substitute to replace Helen and report back for approval.</p> <p>v) Eligibility for representation: WBF updated the criteria for representation in World Bridge Championships. Council will decide whether to follow WBF practice.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on July 29, 2019 (Monday)</p>		<p>JT&XL</p> <p>PC</p>
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Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Youth Championship 2019

Hong Kong Kids Team: DBS

Captain's Report

by Sam Tseng

The Championship

The APBF Youth Championship this year is held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4th to 11th April, 2019, at Montien Hotel Bangkok. This year, the organizer made it compulsory for participants to purchase accommodation package through them, so the whole team stayed in the competition hotel throughout the championship.

This is the first year that the Kids category (U16) is included in the APBF Youth Championship. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to lead the first ever Hong Kong Kids team to participate in the championship. Same as the other categories, the countries within Zone 6 competes for the berth for the World Youth Team Championship during the APBF Championship. But since Zone 6 is given 4 berths for the World Kids Championship, and only 4 countries participated in the Kids category, we are automatically qualified by the time we participate in the event.

Players

There are five players in the team, in which all of them are chosen from the Diocesan Boys' School bridge team. They are: Herrick Leung, Aidan Chan, Angus Chan, Andrew Wong and Max Chu. Aidan is aged 15, while the remaining players aged 14. All of the players learnt bridge through the beginners' course organized by the school, and taught by myself. The bridge experience of the players ranges from half year to two years, and none of them have participated in any bridge events outside Hong Kong. Besides the 5 players, Leo To, student from the same secondary school, was appointed as the team manager, to go with the team to help taking care of the young players. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Leo, who acted as a good assistant of mine during the championship.

There is no fixed partnership among the team. During the championship, they all play the same system, and partner with different players in the team, as assigned by the NPC. Herrick and Aidan, two of the more experienced players, played all rounds during the match, while the remaining three players shared the sit-out opportunities.

Target

Since this is the first time this category is included in the championship, I have totally no reference of the skill level of our opponents, except that some of the Chinese teams, such as the SX Teams and RDFZ Teams have secure foundation skills, that they will certainly be tough opponents to our team. After seeing the registration list, I set a conservative target, of reaching the rank of 15th out of 21 teams for our team. Besides target on the ranking, I also gave the team strict instructions in terms of both discipline and sportsmanship. I am pleased to

say that every player in the team managed to show a high level of respect to their opponents, maintain proper players' ethics throughout the match, and displayed high level of self-discipline during the championship.

Training

Most of the trainings for the team took place inside the school campus. From September, the beginning of the school year, I meet the team twice a week regularly, except during the school holidays. On Thursday lunch breaks, I give them lectures, and also exercises for practices and discussions, based on various topics, in bidding, play and defense. While for Friday afterschool trainings, it's mainly practical sessions, which they play certain number of boards each training under my guidance.

Besides attending trainings with me, they are also asked to complete certain training items on their own, including partnership bidding, which review will be done through online platforms, and also double dummy puzzles online. All of the players managed to complete trainings items properly.

One major downside about the training for the team is that most of them are unable to participate in local bridge games, which are held mostly during night time, since their parents does not prefer letting them return home very lately at night during school days. This largely minimize the experience they could gain before setting off for the championship. As a way to compensate, they are encouraged to join some of the weekend trainings of the Youngster team, in which they get to play with different opponents for practice.

Match Results

The 21 participating teams play a 14-round Swiss, with 16 boards per round, 1 team having a sit-out each round. Our team had a sit-out in Round 12. Out of the 13 rounds we played, we had 7 winning matches, and scored 9.78 VP on average per match. Total VP is 137.58, after being penalized for 1.5VP in Round 1 for a slow play. Table below is detailed result of the matches.

	Herrick	Andrew	Aidan	Angus	Max	Opponent	+ve IMP	-ve IMP	VP	Remarks
Round 1	N	W	E	S	-	Handan NO27 Middle School	48	29	14.8	-1.5 VP Slow Play
Round 2	S	-	N	W	E	SX - Venus	32	56	4.26	
Round 3	N	E	W	-	S	Shangbu Primary School	70	38	17.03	
Round 4	N	-	W	S	E	China RDFZ (BAXI)	22	66	1.45	
Round 5	S	W	N	-	E	Dalian Jimpu 1	22	42	5	
Round 6	N	-	W	S	E	PTT Heart	53	7	18.77	
Round 7	N	W	E	S	-	Toad Manado	58	38	15	
Round 8	N	-	W	S	E	PTT Ace	49	32	14.39	
Round 9	N	W	E	-	S	SX - Jupiter	38	33	11.48	
Round 10	N	W	E	S	-	Shanghai Shanlinglingshan	10	49	2.03	
Round 11	N	E	W	-	S	SX - Mercury	26	76	0.84	
Round 12	Bye								12.00	
Round 13	N	W	S	-	E	SX - Mars	15	54	2.03	
Round 14	N	W	E	S	-	PTT Queen	76	16	20	
								Penalty:	1.5	
								Total:	137.58	

Performance Analysis

Compared to our opponents, our team is obviously behind in declarer play techniques. At least one easy game contract is wrongly played each round, bringing severe loss to the team's result. This shows that the fundamental skills of certain players are not secure enough. To improve this problem, there is a need for junior players to gain more practice by playing even more, such that they can get the basic playing skills, such as percentage play, combined chances, safety plays, double finesse combinations firmly mastered.

One credit of the team that catches my attention is discipline shown in the bidding part. My instructions given to the team is properly followed, giving them no big bidding disasters throughout the event. That includes bidding game aggressively, disciplined preempts based on vulnerability, not bidding slams etc. For no doubt, it would lead to some loss sometimes, but by bidding with high discipline, the team managed to reach a reasonable contract most of the times.

Moreover, I appreciate that the team was able to maintain a very good team harmony, and give great support to one another, regardless of the mistakes each other made, and the winning or losing results they obtained. As an NPC, I think that this is critical to a team to maintain the good attitude, such that they can learn to appreciate but not judge, to reflect but not criticize, and to improve together through the process of the competition.

As a whole, the team has performed better than my expectation, which had given them a satisfying result at the end of the competition. I look forward to seeing more outstanding performances by these kids in championships in the near future.

Suggestions and Comments

With this newly added category in the Championship, I think it is time for Hong Kong to start promoting bridge to younger kids, such that we can maintain our competitiveness in the Asian youth field in the upcoming years. In the championship, we can see that China is already doing a very mature job in this area. For Indonesia and Thailand, they have already joined in the race, although their progress is not a great step ahead of us at this moment, they are certainly not opponents to be underrated in near future.

I believe, under the joint effort of the whole Hong Kong bridge community, there will be more teams, with increasing skill level, to represent Hong Kong in the Kids Championship in years to come.

Submitted by,
Sam TSENG
3 May, 2019

23rd APBF Youth Teams Championships 2019
China Hong Kong Youngsters Team
Captain's Report

By Joanna Chu

Introduction

The 23rd APBF Youth Teams Championships was held from 5-11 April 2019 in the Montien Hotel Bangkok, Thailand. There were totally 7 participating teams in the Youngsters series.

Three teams (Sam Tseng, Joanna Chu and HK Youth Team) competed in the APBF youth trial held in January and February. We won the trial after the 4-day match. Since we had only 4 players to compete in the trial, we invited Alex Seto and Ryan Choy from Sam Tseng's team to join our team.

The 3 pairs of Hong Kong Youngsters Team are as follows:

Sam Kung – Kenny Chan

Matthew Kan – Dickson Leung

Alex Seto – Ryan Choy

We had intensive training schedule right after the Chinese New Year holiday. There were 11 training sessions, at least three hours per session, before we went for the APBF Championships in April.

Objective

The team players are very young and inexperienced. All players are secondary school students from S.2 to S.5 except Ryan who is year 1 in university. As they are too fresh to national events, my objective is to secure a middle rank in the championships. Hopefully showing great characters and high spirits against all tough opponents.

Performance

The team performed unexpectedly well and ranked 1st in the first round robin. The team did well against weak teams, but they were not tough enough against stronger opponents.

The team performed badly in the second round robin. Some players showed anxiety and pressure after some losses to weak teams, and big losses to strong team.

Bidding, declarer play and defense of the team were not solid in general. Alex–Ryan did very well in bidding slams which proved to be successful. After 2 big losses in RR2, Matthew and Kenny showed anxiety and pressure and performed badly afterwards.

The results of RR1:

Round	Opponent	IMPs	VPs	Total VPs
1	Bye	---	12.00	12
2	Thailand	36-24	13.28	25.28
3	Indonesia	58-24	17.31	42.59
4	Japan	18-26	7.71	50.30
5	China	19-34	6.03	56.33
6	Chinese Taipei	51-21	16.37	73.06
7	Singapore	41-27	13.75	86.81

The ranking after RR1:

Rank	Team	VPs
1	China Hong Kong	86.81
2	Japan	85.71
3	China	85.48
4	Thailand	78.91
5	Singapore	72.59
6	Indonesia	52.50
7	Chinese Taipei	42.00

The results of RR2:

Round	Opponent	IMPs	VPs	Total VPs
1	Bye	---	12.00	98.91
2	Chinese Taipei	32-31	10.31	109.12
3	Indonesia	13-37	4.26	113.38
4	Singapore	5-67	0.00	113.38
5	Thailand	58-29	16.58	129.96
6	China	21-80	0.07	130.03
7	Japan	27-37	7.20	137.23

The final ranking after RR1 and RR2:

Rank	Team	VPs
1	China	205.29
2	Japan	163.41
3	Singapore	153.07
4	Thailand	148.90
5	China Hong Kong	137.23
6	Indonesia	111.09
7	Chinese Taipei	88.01

The correct butlers of each pair:

Players	RR1	RR2	Total boards
Sam Kung – Kenny Chan	0.095	-0.715	112
Matthew Kan – Dickson Leung	0.638	-0.801	144
Alex Seto – Ryan Choy	-0.073	-0.521	128

Conclusion

Despite the slightly unsatisfactory results, the team showed excellent team spirit throughout the tournament. Hopefully they got valuable experiences in the tournament. I wish they have a bright future in the coming bridge career.

Afterword

The tournament was held in the Montien Hotel Bangkok. The teams were forced to join the accommodation package for 8 days with a comparatively high rate, US\$70 per person per day, including meals. We emailed to the organizing committee for several times to ask whether we could stay in other guesthouses or hotels but they rejected our request. The policy is unreasonable and peremptory.

Besides the expensive hotel rates, the food provided was also unsatisfactory. The photos below show the food serving for dinner of the 2nd day (the 1st day of RR1). Only fried rice, steamed rice and vegetables were served. We observed that many players of other countries chose to dine outside the hotel. We made a complaint to Mr. Anthony Ching, CTD of the tournament after the dinner on the 2nd day, and the food provided was slightly improved afterwards. At least, there were eggs and spaghetti finally.



Are you Careless?

Samuel Wan

This hand came up in a Wednesday practice match organized for Elite Athletes.

Sitting South, you held this hand at Love All:

♠ AK92
♥ 93
♦ 1053
♣ KQ93

You opened proceedings with 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♠ and partner doubles. You bid 1NT (of course) and partner raises to 3NT.

LHO leads ♦K. Partner confidently puts down:

♠ 54
♥ AKQ102
♦ 842
♣ A52

RHO encourages and LHO follows up with ♦J, captured by RHO's ♦A, who then goes into the think tank before returning ♠J. How would you rate your chances?

Pretty good, I would say. Given that opponents cannot take 5 diamond tricks immediately, you can make your contract provided either hearts or clubs behave. How do you think the diamonds are divided?

Don't be naïve and think that opponents have blundered and blocked the suit. In all likelihood, LHO has 4 diamonds and RHO 3.

So LHO is 5-4 in spades and diamonds. Chances are that RHO guards both hearts and clubs, and can therefore be squeezed.

The intuitive play is to exit with a diamond so that RHO is squeezed when the fourth diamond is cashed, right?

There is one danger though – what if LHO guards clubs and is 5-0-4-4?

You can soon find that out by playing a round of hearts.

The extra precaution pays off – LHO discards a spade when a heart is played.

So LHO guards clubs after all and the squeeze no longer works because LHO discards after you.

Is there any remedy?

Yes, fortunately you have the 9 of clubs and can only hope that RHO holds JX or 10X.

You cash three rounds of hearts followed by two rounds of clubs and RHO obliges with JX.

Now you exit with a diamond.

The full hand is:

♠ 54
♥ AKQ102
♦ 842
♣ A52

♠ Q10876
♥ ---
♦ KQJ7
♣ 10864

♠ J3
♥ J87654
♦ A96
♣ J7

♠ AK92
♥ 93
♦ 1053
♣ KQ93

Did opponents put up the best defense?

Not really, if they cash four rounds of diamond and exit passively, there is no squeeze nor end-play.

Note that even a passive spade lead leaves you no chance, as the communication lines remain fluid for the defense.

Well, were you able to capitalize on the chance presented to you?

Crocodile Rock

Samuel Wan

One reads about the Crocodile Coup often enough but have you actually seen one at the table?

My partner Derek Zen produced this brilliancy in Round 1 of the Quadruple Pairs:

Board 16 W/EW

♠ KQ1097
♥ 642
♦ Q108
♣ J2

♠ J3
♥ AJ73
♦ K943
♣ AK6

♠ A6542
♥ K108
♦ A652
♣ 5

♠ 8
♥ Q95
♦ J7
♣ Q1098743

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
1♦(i)	1♠	2NT(ii)	3♣(iii)
3NT	All Passed		

- (i) EW plays weak notrump at this vulnerability
- (ii) A bit dubious, but nothing else stands out
- (iii) Looking for a paying sacrifice (will be -800 if caught speeding since the NS hands fit poorly)

As partner did not give me a raise, there is no future in the clubs department. I therefore opted to lead a spade.

This was covered by the jack and promptly taken by declarer's ace. Next, he played a heart to dummy's ace and finessed in hand, my queen scoring. This was a bit unlucky because after all, North did make an overcall. Also, declarer was finessing into the 'safe' hand.

I exited passively with a heart and declarer played a diamond to dummy's king. On the second round of diamonds, Derek played the queen nonchalantly, (but did I catch a wink in my direction in the process?). The queen, ace and jack produced a mighty crash.

At that point, had declarer paused to reflect on the bidding, he might have cashed out for down one. But he was not wrong to pin his hope on my holding the ♦10 (could I really be 1-3-3-6?), and when my partner triumphantly produced that card, declarer knew he had been taken to the cleaners. Down two vulnerable was a very good score to the good guys...

Credit must be given to my partner for working out in a split second that declarer had to hold the ♦A for the 2NT bid. He also had to play the ♦Q smoothly in order to earn the extra undertrick.

All said, bravo Derek!

How Good is Your Dummy Play?

Samuel Wan

This hand came up in the recently concluded Open Team of Six.

After two good wins in the event, your team lies in a respectable position. This hand comes up in the pivot round of the third match. Imagine you hold this spectacular ensemble as North in Board 2:

♠ AKQ964

♥ AK2

♦ --

♣ AK96

At unfavorable vulnerability, RHO deals and preempts with 3♦. A bit annoying, n'est pas? You double, stalling for time. LHO bounces to 5♦. This is passed around to you. With a shrug of the shoulders, you close your eyes and bid 6♠, which becomes the final contract.

LHO leads ♦Q. Partner puts down:

♠ J32

♥ J10984

♦ 1042

♣ 75

Well....at least the contract has decent chances.

You ruff this trick and lays down the ♠A. LHO surprises you by discarding a diamond. Now what?

.....

Let's see. RHO starts with 4 spades and at least 6 diamonds. You will have to hope that something good happens in the hearts and clubs departments.

You next play the Ace, King of clubs and breathe a sigh of relief as RHO follows.

The rest is straight forward – you ruff a club with ♠J (RHO shows out) and draw all the trumps by finessing against the marked ♠ 10.

You follow up by cashing ♥A (RHO plays a small card) and running the remaining trumps – keenly watching LHO’s discards.

The hand is an open book now. RHO is 4-1-6-2 and LHO is 0-4-4-5.

In the three-card ending, LHO must come down to QX in hearts and a winning club and you can throw him in with a club.

Note that after laying down the Ace of spades, you cannot ruff two rounds of clubs in dummy and pick up the trumps at the same time, even when RHO is 4-0-6-3 (he may apply a Lightner double in which case), but the suggested line also works with this layout.

The full hand is:

♠ AKQ964
♥ AK2
♦ --
♣ AK96

♠ 10875
♥ 6
♦ AK8653
♣ Q8

♠ ---
♥ Q753
♦ QJ97
♣ J10432

♠ J32
♥ J10984
♦ 1042
♣ 75

If you make this contract, your team will pocket close to 30 imps – in the subsequent replays, your teammates sacrificed in 7♦ doubled (-800) and, at the other table, pushed opponents to 7♠ down two.

Well, did you manage to keep your team’s hope alive?

Protecting a Huge Lead

Samuel Wan

Being a so-called ‘Elite athlete’ for the Sports Institute comes with certain obligations – each of us is required to practice a minimum of 60 hours per month. This means we need to find every excuse to play in the Association’s tournaments.

Against this backdrop, yours truly lined up a rather formidable contingent – namely, *Derek Zen, Roger Ling, Alan Sze and Abby Chiu* to play in the three-session Quadruple Pairs in May.

Thanks to a fabulous first session, we dashed out of the starting gate and led the field by a wide margin. This meant we had to protect that precious lead in the subsequent rounds.

My partner *Abby* played the following hand beautifully in the third session.

Board 13 N/Both

♠ KJ96
♥ AKQJ2
♦ 65
♣ A6

♠ Q54
♥ 1043
♦ K9874
♣ J3

♠ A1073
♥ 96
♦ QJ10
♣ K984

♠ 82
♥ 875
♦ A32
♣ Q10752

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	X(i)	2♥
P	4♥	All Passed	

- (i) A bit aggressive, but this was match points

East led the ♦Q and I sheepishly put down a mediocre dummy.

Partner went into the think tank for about one minute and proceeded quickly:

He ducked the first trick (important), took the diamond continuation and played a spade to the ♠J (LHO doubled, remember?). East took this trick and persisted with diamonds. *Abby* ruffed this in hand, drew one round of trump and played ♠K and a third spade, ruffed. When this survived, he drew all the trumps and then some.

In the three-card ending, East had to come down to the winning spade and K9 of clubs. The fourth round of spades finished him who, at this point, must have regretted tremendously about his earlier double.

On the forced club exit, having come this far, *Abby* was not going to guess wrong – he gallantly put up the queen and...curtains. A clear top for the good guys.

Note that if declarer did not duck the first trick, East could play a diamond to partner's king for a club return, killing the throw-in.

An alternative line was to play a club to the Ace and a club towards dummy before trumps were drawn but that would require clubs to be dividing 3-3, clearly an inferior option.

What about West overtaking the diamond at trick one and firing back a club? That wouldn't work either because this would potentially establish the club suit in dummy. Watch this - declarer would rise to the occasion (please excuse the pun) by going up with the Ace, followed by another club. East either had to give up the club winner altogether via ducking or take this trick (crashing the ♣J) and play a diamond. After this, declarer could simply play a club winner, overruffing West, draw two rounds of

trumps and play a third round to dummy. Now the club suit would provide two valuable discards and, courtesy of the spade finesse, the contract would come rolling home. Nonetheless, it would still be a very good effort for the defense.

One final twist – what if East held four diamonds and only three clubs?

Well...an alert declarer could watch the discards closely and work out the exact distribution. But if the pips did not give the show away, East deserved to win this battle of wits by baring the ♣K, didn't he?

The story had a happy ending (from our vantage point) – our quintet eventually won the event, with a margin of some 50 match points, translating into 6% in aggregate. Very well done, teammates!

如有會員有興趣投稿, 歡迎電郵到 wklai2@yahoo.com, 或與 Dicky Lai 聯絡(電話 94152075)