

Hong Kong Inter-City Bridge Championships

Hotel Mirimar, Aug 10-15, 2004



A film star presents the prizes, a lion roars and the friendly games begin

PLAYERS WHO missed the welcome lunch will be disappointed on three accounts. First the lavish banquet – a smorgasbord of fabulous food catering for all tastes but more importantly the Lion Dance. This spectacle, for all who attended wards off evil forces, offers good blessing and smooth going. Essential ingredients for a successful tournament. And lastly to see the beautiful and famous TV film star Josie Ho help present the past years winners trophies.

Robert Zajac, long standing member of the Hong Kong Contract Bridge Association and past bulletin editor, welcomed the players as the master of ceremonies. Nancy Neumann, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, then welcomed the players to the 26th Inter City Championships. This was followed by the trophy presentation. The highlight being the presentation of the Paul Jones Trophy won by the most popular member Ella Graca, pictured with Josie. This event runs over 10 months where players must play with a different partner each month. Only the seven best results are counted. At age 84 it was a great achievement for Honorary Member Ella. After the presentation of a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Josie Ho, which capped off a wonderful opening ceremony.



The dancing lion unfurls his welcome message

In this issue

- The inter-city's big moment in history
- Deal of the day
- Problem du jour
- IDG Frindship Cup in Beijing

Problem du jour

West		East	
♠ 3 2		♠ K 8 7 4	
♥ A K 4		♥ Q 7 2	
♦ 8 4 2		♦ 9 5 3	
♣ A J 9 4 3		♣ K 5 2	
N/nil			
West	North	East	South
	1♦	pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	pass
pass	pass		

North leads ♦A, K, Q. South follows twice then discards a low heart. North then cashes the ♠A and exits with another spade.

You win with ♠K in dummy. How do you continue?

Answer tomorrow

A message from the Editor

Nigel Rosendorff and I plan to provide you with a daily bulletin that you think has a good mix of information. You can expect:

- Results and news, including timetables
- Reports on key matches
- Fine plays that you can admire and perhaps learn something from
- A daily problem to entertain you over morning coffee

Nigel and I are here until late at night and we love to hear about the flashy things at your table – good and bad. Oh yes, don't forget – it is your job to report your partner's brilliancy to us. But you can tell us about your own tragedies!!

Announcement

Sorry No Smoking or Drinking in the Playing Areas

Under the regulations of the WBF and PABF, smoking or the consumption of alcohol (except for those taking part in the San Miguel "Happy Hour" Continuous Pairs) by players engaged in the on-going match is STRICTLY PROHIBITED in any part of the playing areas, in the rest rooms or elsewhere in this hotel, EVEN WITH THE CONSENT OF THE OPPOSING TEAM.

Noise Makers

To avoid the incurrance of possible procedural penalties (and the wrath of the Tournament Director), before entering the playing areas, please remember to SWITCH OFF ALL MOBILE PHONES, PAGERS and any communication devices.

Line-up

The first named team, the Home team, will sit NS in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room. However, the Visiting team has NO OBLIGATION to fill in the line-up form first. In fact, BOTH HOME AND VISITING TEAMS must complete their line-up 5 MINUTES BEFORE the start of that match.

Filling of Pick-up Slips

North/South is responsible for recording clearly the result of the board played on the pick-up slip before East/West could agree the score by initialing the slip. It is important that pick-up slips are properly completed so that we could produce official results timely for you to agree on.

Agreement of Results

The Team Captains are responsible for agreeing and signing the official result at the Result Table BEFORE THE END OF NEXT MATCH. Although the official results may have been signed by one of the two teams only, they will be deemed FINAL and CONCLUSIVE unless discrepancies are reported to Tournament Director by the other team.

Triumph for Precision

by Patrick Huang

THE TOP three teams at last year's Venice Cup, USA, China, Netherlands plus three other strong teams, Italy, Germany/Sweden and Indonesia played in this years IDG Friendship Cup International Women's Bridge International Invitational Tournament recently held in Beijing from August 3-8.

USA

Kathie Wei-Sender
Betty Ann Kennedy
Tobi Sokolow
Janice Seamon-Molson
Jill Levin
Sue Picus

Netherlands

Bep Vriend
Carla Arnolds
Anneke Simons
Jet Pasman
Fumke Hoogweg

China

Gu Ling
Zhang Yalan
Wang Wenfei
Wang Hongli
Liu Yiqian
Wang Ping

Round Robin Qualifying

1. Netherlands 91 VP
2. Italy 90 VP
3. China 72 VP
4. USA 69 VP
5. Indonesia 65 VP
6. Ger/Swe 63 VP
Semi finals (48 boards) Netherlands defeated USA 88-75 imps
China defeated Italy 174 - 99 imps
Finals (64 boards) China defeated Netherlands 120-94 imps
Play off (32 boards) Italy defeated USA 82-50 imps
First prize \$15,000US Second \$7,000US
Third place \$3,000US

(Rematch of 2003 Venice Cup Final)
Challenge Match between USA and China \$5,000US
64 boards China 193 imps USA 89 imps



Patrick, who sometimes coaches Chinese teams

China vs Netherlands Final

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

(Wong)		(Wong)	
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣*	1♠	2♦	3♠
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣(1-4)	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

* Precision

4♠ agreed ♣s & showed a ♠ control
4NT was RKC

(Vriend)		(Arnolds)	
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
4♣*	Pass	4♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣(1-4)	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

* Showed 4♥s & 6♣s

As can be seen 6♥s has no play but 6♣s is easy - another triumph for Precision.

The Hong Kong Inter-City has a remarkable place in history

THE HONG KONG Inter-City was launched in 1980. To find out more about this, we went straight to the man who was in the center of the action at the time, **Patrick Choy**. This is what Choy had to say.

It is a remarkable story in that it documents the assimilation of China into the world bridge community. Furthermore, the success that bridge had in overcoming political barriers became a benchmark for other sports as they pursued similar ends.

In 1979, bridge was not recognized in China and China was not a member of the FEBF and WBF. During that year, a delegation from Hong Kong went to Beijing for a friendly game of bridge and to discuss the steps to have bridge approved at government level. Later in 1979, a letter was sent to the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping¹, making the case for China to recognize bridge.

Deng was the logical target because he was known to have a keen interest in bridge. Nevertheless, it was a brave step because China was not long out of the Cultural Revolution and bridge was seen as a capitalist game.

But the response was quite remarkable. Deng not only read the letter, he also approved "Bridge as a sport", and ensured that it would fall under the wing of the Ministry of Sport. Furthermore, senior Government officials were appointed to the Chinese Bridge Association.

Wan Li, who was the Executive Vice Premier of China at the time became the CBA President and Yung Guo Tong, who was the Secretary General of the Advisory Committee, became the CBA Chairman.

Despite all this, China remained isolated in the bridge community. In 1980, the HKCBA had the bright idea of the Hong Kong Inter-City to help bring the Chinese into the international bridge arena. The first event

contained about 12 teams, including China but not Taiwan. Hong Kong won.

The next year, the HKCBA went to great length to try and bring Taiwan into the event. Patrick Choy, Vice Chairman of the HKCBA and Chairman of the Organizing Committee that year, visited Taiwan no less than four times for this purpose. He made the case that the consequence of no contact is isolation. The Taiwan bridge players, who were amongst the best in the world at the time, were very keen to play but they needed approval from their government.

This was no easy feat because the Government policy at the time was no contact. To be more precise, they could not compete with China directly, only indirectly. For instance, they could run in a 100 metre race but they couldn't wrestle each other.

So Choy was required to show that bridge was not a direct competition. He cleverly made the case that the person directly opposite you at bridge is your partner, and that your real opponents are the players in your seats at the other table. In other words, bridge is indirect competition. Another smart aspect of the HKCBA initiative was to make it Inter-City, not Inter-country. This diluted the sense of nationalism.

Presumably, the Taiwanese president, Chiang Ching Kuo accepted this and in a great step forward both China and Taiwan took part in the 1981 Inter-City.

Keen to avoid politicizing the event, China sent one team from Shanghai but none from Beijing. "Jing" means capital and that might have proved controversial.

Taiwan was keen to win so they sent two teams, which included most of their leading players. However, the pressure that was undoubtedly placed on them to do



Patrick Choy is a member of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Committee, the Upper House of the Chinese Parliament. He is the first multinational Corporation executive to be so honoured.

He has recently retired as a Corporate Vice President of the US communication giant, Motorola.

He has been the Vice President of the World Bridge Federation since 1998. He has long been a driving force in the HKCBA and he has occupied many offices. He now lives in Singapore.

well perhaps affected their performance and one team was knocked out in the round robin and the other was defeated by China in the semi final. Hong Kong defeated China in the final.

To avoid a swirl of spectators at the table, the HKCBA provided a vu-graph, a rare commodity anywhere in the bridge world at that time. Claude Rodrigue from England was brought in at the last moment as the commentator.

Later in 1981, China joined the World Bridge Federation.

1. **Deng Xiaping** was born in 1904, thus we are now in the 100th year since he was born.

He was the chief architect of the Chinese economic reform and modernisation. He was elected as the Honary Chairman of the CBA in the mid-80s, a position he held until he died in 1997.

What happened in 2003

LAST YEAR the Inter-City was held in November, postponed in August because of SARS. It was held at the Regal Kowloon Hotel and numbers were down by about 20%, which is not bad under the circumstances.

Twenty two teams started in the Open. The finals was between the Inter-City's most successful AIA team consisting of Edmond Tse, Patrick Huang, C. H. Kuo, Derek Zen, Samuel Wan and Peter Chun and the Guangzhou Lijian team of Yue Lin, Chen Ji En, Yu Shu Rong, Yuan Mian Long, Li Yong Quan and Zhang Guang Yang. After 64 boards, the closely contested affair saw the AIA team victorious by 29imps.

Of the four Ladies Teams a very close match was fought out between the Hong Kong Po Shun Technology team of Yan Ru, Sun Yan Hui, Zhou Li Hua, Xu Su Hong, Wu Xiao Pian and Ying Hong and the Leonora team of Wang Li Ping, Wang Wen Fei, Lu Qin, Gu Ling and Bao Wan Xian. The winners by 8imps was the Hong Kong Po Shun Technology team.

The Youth section saw three local teams battle it out. The two finalists were Our Future, consisting of L. H. Chin, Alick Ng, Y. C. Lai, Baron Ng, Tony Lau and Leung Cheuk Hin and the 3L team of Lo Wing Ho, Wilson Mok, K. C. Li, C. W. Chan, Sunny Lam and Rex Cheung. The aptly named team of Our Future were comfortable winners.

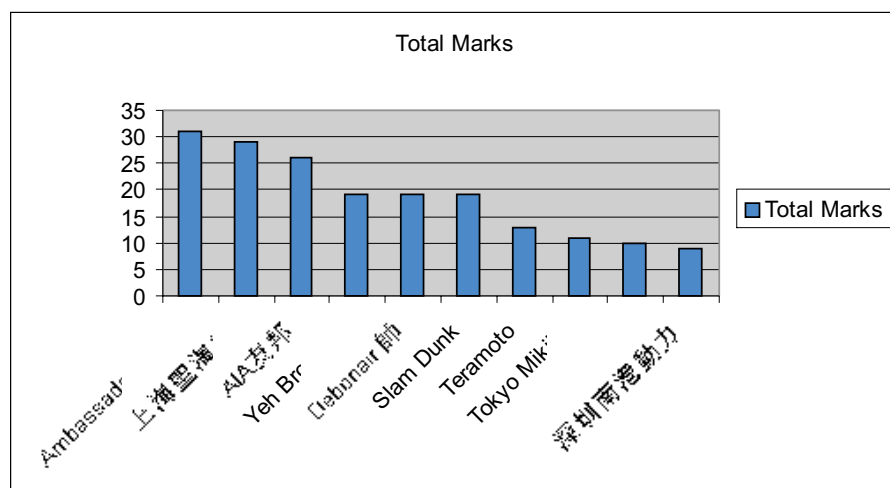
The players' market for 2004

The Inter-City may be a friendly competition but doing well still matters.

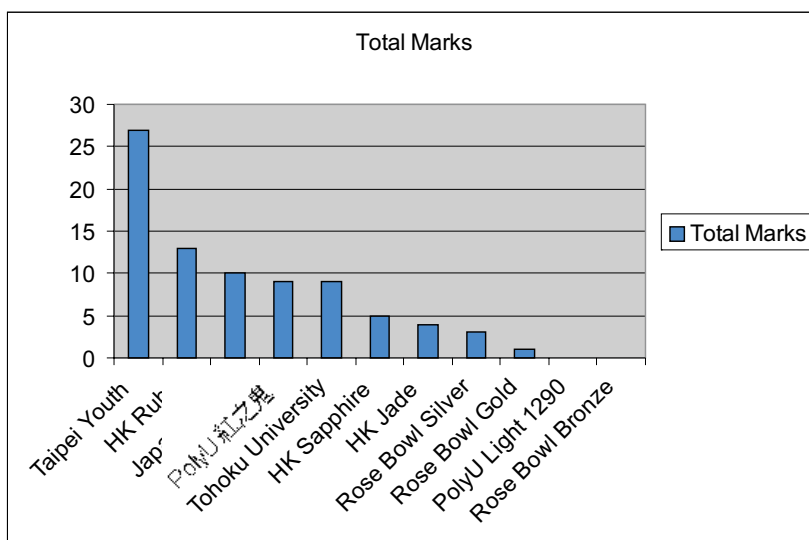
The seeding by the organisers is the official market but it is the players who have their hands on the pulse so we asked each captain to rate his or her top five teams.

Here is how they ranked the teams:

Open top 10:



Youth:



World champion Americans stop in Hong Kong en route to IDG Friendship Cup



Nancy Neumann, Kathy Wei, Tobi Sokolow, Sue Picus, Betty-Ann Kenedy, Janice Seamon-Molson, Shirley Chang.

They played 36 boards against HKCBA and lost!