

Hong Kong Inter-City Bridge Championships

Hotel Miramar, Aug 10-15, 2004



The qualifying is over...

So who missed out?

THE PLAYERS CHOICE, at the start of the event, to make the finals were, Ambassador, The team from China - Team 6 Section B, AIA, Yeh Brothers, Debonair, Slam Dunk, Teramoto and Tokyo Makiko. Not bad! Only half right. Perhaps the surprise packets were Dracula and Shermans lot.

The top four in Section A were;

1. AIA: Edmund Tse, Patrick Huang, C. H. Kuo, Derek Zen and Samuel Wan 227 Vps
2. Teramoto: Tadashi Teramoto, Hideki Takano, Masaaki Takayama and Shoko Fukuda, Jason Hackett 207 Vps
3. HZHK (Hang Zhou Hong Kong): Zhang Yu, Zhu Wei Xia, Robert Zajac, Sally Wang and Ringo Lee 192 Vps
4. S. Z. Nan Gang Power: Zhang Bang Xiang, Wang Rui, Zi Hua-Bie and Jialing - Sheng 170 Vps.

The top four in section B were;

1. Yeh Brothers: Yeh Chan, Chen Chi Hua, Wu Ching Hsiang, Wu Chia Hsing, Shen Chi Kuo and Yang Hsin Lung 207 Vps
2. Sherman's Lot: Yue Lin, Zhang Guangyang, Sherman Ng, Huang Yong, Lou Xiang Zheng and W, C. Li 196 Vps
3. Ambassador: Patrick Choy, Fu Zhong, Ju Chuancheng, Anthony Ching, David Chan and Lawrence Lau 196 Vps
4. Dracula: Alan Sze, W. K. Chan, W. K. Lai, K. F. Mak, Henry Wong and Steve Wong 191.5 Vps.

The quarter final matches will be;

- AIA vs HZHK
Teramoto vs S. Z. Nan Gang Power
Yeh Brothers Vs Dracula
Shermans' Lot Vs Ambassador

In the Youth, the players choice were, Taipei Youth, HK Ruby, Japan Youth. Not bad only one right! The top four were

1. HK Jade: L. H. Chin, Y. C. Lai, Baron Ng, Leung Cheuk Hin, Tony Lau and Eric Ta, 228 Vps
2. Taipei Youth: Tzu-Lin Wu, Yi-cheng Pan, Chih-hung Chien, Chung-Wen Liu, Wei-bung Wang, Yen-hsiang and C. H. Quo (NPC), 210.5 Vps
3. Tohoku University: Yokoi Hiroki, Ajiki Kadai, Kan Satoshi, Shiga Motoaki and Uokoi Hiroki, 199 Vps
4. L. H. Chin, Y. C. Lai, Baron Ng, Leung Cheuk Hin, Tony Lau and Eric Ta HK Sapphire: Sek Ching Hang, Kwok Wai Kuen, Joseph Cheung, Yim Ka Wing, Lo Wing Ho and Chow Yee Mei, 187 Vps.

The Semi final matches will be;

- HK Jade vs Tohoku University
Taipei Youth vs HK Sapphire

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- Match report - round 8
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- What happened



Kan Satoshi - reached the semis even though he had no chance to use his flair - see page 3

Special offer

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Speak to Nigel or Paul.

Australian Bridge Magazine, published and edited by Paul Marston, is produced every two months. It has reports on most of the majors bridge events in the world as well as instructive articles from Ron Klinger, Eddie Kantar, Mike Lawrence and Paul Marston.

The bidding forum has a panel of some 30 expert players, including many of the biggest names in the world.

The October issue will include an extensive report on the 2004 Hong Kong Inter-City.

What could be...

The best-bid hand of the tournament

Board 22 from round 8:

<p>♠ K Q 10 4 ♥ A K 2 ♦ 7 6 3 2 ♣ Q 7</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ 9 8 7 6 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K 10 6 5 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 2 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ J 9 8 3</p> <p>♠ A J 8 5 3 ♥ J 4 3 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ A</p>
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In spades you have 11 top tricks and you will easily make 12 if the diamonds break 3-2. Even if diamonds don't break, you can always make 12 by some squeeze or another, though you may not know which one to go for at the table.

But forget all that – lift your sights. If diamonds break 3-2 you have 13 tricks in diamonds. The only trouble is how to bid it.

Patrick Choy and Ju Chuancheng from the Ambassador team showed us how. In their match against HKZS, they bid like this:

South (Choy)	North (Ju)
1♣ ¹	2♠ ²
2NT ³	3♠ ⁴
4NT ⁵	5♠ ⁶
5NT	6♦ ⁷
7♦	pass

1. Precision - 16+ any shape
2. 14-15 HCP balanced
3. relay
4. 4♦ and 4♠
5. Key card on spades. (4♥ would be key card for diamonds.)
6. Two + ♠Q
7. One king

Apart from a possible trump loser, Choy knew that the absolute worst hand his partner could hold was:

♠ K Q x x ♥ A x x ♦ x x x x ♣ K x

Even then he would need an extra honour to bring the count up to 14 HCP. In other words, Choy knew that it would be an excellent grand slam.

Patrick Huang said, "I consider this hand a strong candidate for the best

bid hand of the tournament." We agree.

Natural systems would have no chance to duplicate this success because South opens in spades and North shows four card support. Thereafter, the partnership is glued to spades. Some pairs might even end up in 7♠, a very poor contract, which goes down as the cards lie.

To make 7♠, first the diamonds must divide 3-2. Then on a club lead, 7♠ will only make if West has both ♣K and ♥Q. Without a club lead, you can also catch East in a criss cross squeeze if he has both ♣K and ♥Q. This is the ending:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ A	♥ J 4
♦ —	♦ —
♣ Q 7	♣ A

An opponent with both honours has been forced to bare one of them. All you have to do to succeed is guess which honour has been bared.

In the other room, the North-South pair bid to 6♠ so that was 10 imps to the Ambassador team.

The Ambassador team

We asked, why the Ambassador name? Simple! Before the FEBF became the PABF, Patrick Choy was the FEBF ambassador to the WBF.

You may have seen the fascinating interview with Choy in Bulletin 1, where he revealed the momentous beginnings of this Inter-City tournament. Choy also emphasized the importance of this event in this day and age to promote bridge in Hong Kong and Asia. He said, "The youth of today spend time on computer games and at discos but none is as good as bridge, including chess. Bridge is the intellectual game to the supreme degree. You only have 13 cards and a very limited language – just 15 words (excluding director!) which make 35 possible bids to describe 600 million different combinations.

The skill in bridge more mirrors life than any other game. You have to compete to get anywhere. You have to



Anthony Ching - the driving force behind the Inter-City

communicate and cooperate with your partner.

This is why Deng Xiaoping used to use bridge to stay alert in his thinking. It was the vitamin for his wisdom."

The rest of the Ambassador team is Fu Zhong, David Chan, Lawrence Lau, Ju Chuancheng and Anthony Ching.

Ching is the driving force behind the Hong Kong Inter City. Without him the event would not continue to be the well organized, sparkling event that it is.

Ching is a systems analyst, businessman and a former academic. He lives in Hong Kong with wife Vivian, though they did have a long stint living in Canada, which cut into Ching's bridge. They have a daughter Jennifer (25, not a bridge player).

Ching started playing bridge in 1965. He has directed 9 FEBF and PABF events, usually as the Chief Director. His first Far East was in Hong Kong in 1973. (This event was also a first for your editor, who was playing for New Zealand, and for Zia, playing for Pakistan.)

Ching won the last year's Hong Kong Open Teams. His skill as a bridge



Continued on page four

Match report - round 8

Youth series

Tohoku Uni

v

HK Sapphire



Wai Kuen Kwok - decided not to support his partner for hidden reasons

AS USUAL THERE was action aplenty in the Youth section round 8 when Tohoku University met HK Sapphire. Of the 14 boards only three were flat (no swing). The score 42 imps to 38 in favour of Tohoku University reflect this fun action packed match. Let's have a look at some of the deals.

First points went to the boys from Tohoku University when North, Wai Kuen Kwok refused to support his partner. Victor Mollo had a wonderful character in his famous book "Bridge in the Menagerie" the Hideous Hog - who not surprisingly did all he could to become the declarer. The hog also possessed great card play skills to back his "hoggish" bidding. Perhaps Kwok was trying to emulate the hog. We expect that this was not the case and asked Kwok why he called 4♥, he said, "I don't know!"

Board 17 ♠ J 10 4 3
N/nil ♥ A K 8 7 6 5
♦ K Q
♣ Q

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

♠ A K 9 6 5
♥ 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ K 9 8 7

West	North	East	South
	1♥	pass	1♠
2NT	4♥!	pass	4NT
pass	5♦	pass	5♥
all pass			

Board 19 was a small swing to the Tohoku boys when they opted for 3NT rather than try for slam in diamonds which the Hong Kong team tried but giving up and then having to settle in 5♦.

Another 11 imps to the Tohoku boys when the Sapphire players in the closed room took a vulnerable sacrifice which should not have cost that

much had Ka Wing Yim for HK made his non vulnerable game on the following hand.

Board 21 ♠ K J 5 2
N/NS ♥ K J
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 8 5 4 3

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

♠ A 10 9 8 7 4
♥ 9 4 2
♦ J 3
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	2♠
dble	4♣	pass	pass
dble	all pass		

Two down for -500

Cheng	Yim		
West	North	East	South
	pass	1♥	1♠
2♠	3♠	4♥	all pass

South, Yokoi Hiroki started with ace and another club won in dummy with the ♣10. It seems a simple matter of playing a heart to the queen, cash the ♥A, draw the last trump for ten tricks but Yim was scared of a ♣ ruff and played a heart to his ace and then ducked a heart to North's king. Sadly the ensuing club return allowed South to ruff for one down for an 11 imp loss. But HK Sapphire struck back on board 22 stopping in 6♠ when their Japanese counterparts pressed on to the reasonable grand slam in spades. The trick though is to get to 7♦.

See Best Bid Hand of the Tournament.

On board 23 Ajiki Kadai took a fine view to make a penalty double rather than compete to 2♥.

Board 23 ♠ A 5 3 2
S/all ♥ 8 3
♦ Q J 10 5 2
♣ 8 2

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

♠ 9 8 4
♥ K 9 6
♦ A 7
♣ A J 10 7 5

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1NT	2♦	dble	all pass
-500			

In the other room North wisely kept quiet and East transferred to hearts making West, Joseph Cheng, the declarer in 2♥, which went one down. How you might ask? North led the ♣8, South won the ace and shifted to the ♠9, ♠J, ♠A. North then played ♦Q, ♦K, ♦A. South returned a diamond, North winning who exited with the ♣2. West won and played ace and another heart, South winning the ♥K and exiting with a spade. Declarer then hoped that North held the missing heart, ruffed a club in dummy and then played a diamond allowing South to score the ♥9 for the setting trick.

On board 25 HK Sapphire clawed back 14 imps when the Japanese pair of Kan Satoshi and Ajiki Kadai bid to 6♥ missing two aces and the Hong Kong lads stopped in game. In response to 4NT key card East Kan had to call 5♠ to show two aces and the queen of trumps. Now West couldn't sign off in 5♥!

On board 28 HK Sapphire picked up 11 imps when they sailed into 5♦ down 3! But this was a pick up as their team mates were doubled in 3♠ making when West made the unsuccessful lead of the ♥A allowing declarer to score his ♥K. Board 30 was one of the flat boards, difficult to reach the cold 7♥ contract by South after East opens the bidding. A strange way to end a swingy match.

Dracula's vampires defeated - from page 2

player combined with his organizational skills, makes him one of the world's leading tournament directors.

Dracula's vampires defeated

In round 9, the Ambassador team goes to Transylvania on an important business trip. There they encounter Count Dracula, a Transylvanian nobleman. Their journey into the remote Eastern European landscape is fearsome, although initially they are charmed by the Count's generosity and intelligence. Gradually, however, they come to realize that they are prisoners in Dracula's castle, and that the Count is a demonic being who plans to prey on the teeming masses of Hong Kong.

Dracula leaves the Ambassador squad to die at the hands of his team of six vampires: Alan Sze, W.K Chan, W.K Lai, K.F Mak, Henry Wong and Steve Wong. But Ambassador attempts a desperate escape, headed by Patrick Choy and Ju Chuancheng.

N/nil	♠ Q 4 2		
	♥ K 8		
	♦ K Q J 9		
	♣ Q 7 5 2		
♠ 8 6 3		♠ J 7	
♥ J 6 5 3		♥ A 10 7 4 2	
♦ A 7 6 5 4 2		♦ 10 8 3	
♣ —		♣ 10 9 8	
	♠ A J 10 9 5		
	♥ Q 9		
	♦		
	♣ A K J 6 4 3		
Choy West	Steve North	Ju East	Henry South
	1♦	2♥	3♣
4♥	pass	pass	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

This made without trouble but that was still 10 away when the Ambassador North-South bid 6♣, which makes with equal ease. Steve might have raised to 5♣, after which, Henry would no doubt raise to 6♣ but I am more inclined to place the blame with Ju for his 2♥ bid. It was that gay effort that shut off Dracula's blood supply when West was able to raise to 4♥.

Then this:

N/NS	♠ Q J 7 6 3 2		
	♥ K Q J 6 3		
	♦ A		
	♣ 4		
♠ K 10 8 4		♠	
♥ 9		♥ A 10 5	
♦ Q 9 8 7 3		♦ K J 10 6 5	
♣ K J 8		♣ A Q 6 5 2	
	♠ A 9 5		
	♥ 8 7 4 2		
	♦ 4 2		
	♣ 10 9 7 3		
Choy West	Steve North	Ju East	Henry South
	1♠	dbl	pass
2♦	2♥	6♦!	all pass

This final blow from Ju delivers the killing blow to Dracula just as the sun falls behind a black cloud. For now at least, the corpse of the high flying Dracula is safely in its coffin. Ambassador won 25-5.

Help requested

We are compiling a list of the all time winners of the Hong Kong Inter-City tournament.

This is so that future Bulletins can present this information to recognise the champion players and to give participants the rich sense of occasion that goes with this event. We would like to know in all three categories: open, women and youth.

To help us, would anyone who knows a winning team please email it to Paul Marston - pm@grandslam.com.au

or drop a note into the Bulletin desk.

There is no hurry about this - we will keep compiling the list long after the 2004 event has finished.



What Happened?

When we start playing bridge, we look for the best conventions in search of the impossible dream - **perfection in bidding**.

As we gain experience we realize that this is unrealistic. I once asked a top player which is the best range for a balancing 1NT 10-14, 15-18, 12-14.

He looked at me quizzically and said, "It is not relevant what you play - what is important is that you both have a firm agreement!!"

This piece of advice would have saved local players **Sukon Hung** and **Keith Chu from PolyU** on the last board of round 8.

Board 30	♠ A K Q 10 9 4		
E/all	♥ A		
	♦ A 7 5		
	♣ 10 5 4		
♠ 8 6 3		♠ J 5 2	
♥ 8 6 3		♥ J 7	
♦ J 9 8 6 3		♦ K Q 4	
♣ 7 3		♣ K Q 8 6 2	
	♠ 7		
	♥ K Q 10 9 5 4 2		
	♦ 10 2		
	♣ A J 9		
Keith Chu West	North	Sukon Hung East	South
		1NT	pass!
Pass	dbler	pass	pass
Redble	All Pass		

The defence did not falter taking all the tricks for -3,400 surely a record!

We asked Sukon Hung for an explanation of what went wrong. West Keith Chu meant redouble as S.O.S., explained Sukon, I thought it was for business and passed, I was not overjoyed when I saw dummy."

Thanks to Sukon Hung for being a good sport and putting on a sad look for our camera.