

Newsletter

October ~ December 2016



HKCBA LTD

<http://www.hkcba.org>

Member of World Bridge Federation

Member of Pacific Asia Bridge Federation

Member of Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

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4th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 8, 2016 (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)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung - Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

Crystal Tang (CT)

John Tsang (JT)

Louis Tam (LT)

Ronald Hui (RH)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apology: KF Mak (KF)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): i) HKCBA affiliated members: During last AGM, one of the member suggested HKCBA to consider having affiliated member associations/clubs as it might be helpful for getting sponsorships from government. LC will form a committee to check if other clubs have interest to be our affiliated members and what benefits HKCBA can provide them. LC also proposed to apply for being an official member on the NSA list. The benefit is that we can get sponsor for external events from the government. The whole application and review process will takes around 1-2 years. LC will work with CL and PC to submit the application and documents.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Equipment pre-order list: CT will prepare the price for each items and submit to CL for review before upload on intercity website ii) Eating, drinking and speaking foul language: Council agreed to impose penalty on eating, drinking and speaking foul language during HKCBA event. Details will be announced in the coming HKCBA events and put on HKCBA website. 		CT, LT
3	<p>Financial Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Latest Bank Balance: HKD996K (including sponsorship for intercity) 		
4	<p>Internal Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) HKCBA website revamp progress: performing data testing now. After that will put the 2015-2016 data on the website. Will prepare the issue list/wish list and send to LC's staff for quotation. ii) Intercity update: Currently 27 Open Teams, 1 Ladies and 4 Youth Teams registered. iii) Interport Trial: Council endorsed the Trial winners as follow: Team A: KF Mak, WK Lai, Tony Lau, Baron Ng, Jim Lee, John Tsang Team B: Leo Cheung, Anthony Ng, Daniel Chui, Laurence Lo, Chris Fung, Patrick Yum 		
5	<p>External Affairs:</p> <p>Nil</p>		
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Nil</p>		
	The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2016 (Wednesday)		

5th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 6, 2016 (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)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung - Treasurer (CL)

Council members:

Charlie Lee (XL)

Crystal Tang (CT)

John Tsang (JT)

KF Mak (KF)

Louis Tam (LT)

Tony Lau (TL)

WK Lai (WK)

Apology: Ronald Hui (RH)

Item	Content	When	Action
1	Adopted minutes of last meeting.		
2	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): No outstanding item.		
3	Financial Affairs: ii) Latest Bank Balance: HKD1.36mil (including sponsorship for intercity)		
4	Internal Affairs: iv) HKCBA website revamp progress: Member function launched on July 5. Regarding the issue/wish list, Council approved to pay Sukon Hung HKD10K to fix all issues arise within the first 2 years.		

	<p>v) Intercity update: Currently 40 Open Teams, 7 Ladies and 12 Youth Teams registered. No title sponsor for this year.</p> <p>vi) Youth Team budget 2016: Council endorsed the budget prepared by JT. The total estimated expense is approximately HKD118k, which include HKD13k for APBF Congress, HKD60k for World Junior Championships, HKD19K for HKCBA regular tournaments, HKD12k for venue fee for training sessions, HKD9.6k for other tournaments outside HK, and HKD4k for team gathering.</p> <p>vii) Director's authority: There is query received regarding the authority of director in regular HKCBA tournaments, Council has asked Tournament Operations to discuss the proper procedures for consulting other directors, and whether there is any appeal process for regular tournaments for discussion in the next Council meeting.</p> <p>5 External Affairs:</p> <p>i) World Bridge Game in Poland: Since Ladies Team Committee cannot find 2 more players, only 4 players (Crystal Tang, Pauline Ling, Cathy Lee, Zoe Li) will play in the Ladies Team for HK. Council also appointed Samuel Wan to be the Non-Playing Captain for Open Team.</p> <p>6 AOB: Nil</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on August 10, 2016 (Wednesday)</p>		RH, XL
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6th Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 10, 2016 (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)

Pearlie Chan – Secretary (PC)

Christopher Leung - Treasurer (CL)

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	Matters raised in last meeting (by minutes order): viii) Director's authority: There is query received regarding the authority of director in regular HKCBA tournaments, Council has asked Tournament Operations to discuss the proper procedures for consulting other directors. It is concluded that players should not seek advice from Tournament Operations/Board of Tournament Director/ Appeals Committee to maintain the impartiality of the directors who might get involved in the appeal procedures later on.		
3	Financial Affairs: iii) Latest Bank Balance: HKD1.27mil		

4	<p>Internal Affairs:</p> <p>i) Open League: The September match will be moved to September 24 due to the clash of schedule with World Bridge Game.</p> <p>Open Pairs: Open Pairs Final will also be moved to the previous Sunday i.e. August 28</p>		
5	<p>External Affairs:</p> <p>i) 2016 四川攀枝花全國橋牌公開賽: The organizer invited Hong Kong to join the team event on December 8-11. They will cover the accommodation and meal expenses for one team. Council will appoint one team to go and no trial will be held.</p> <p>ii) 2018 Asian Game: Indonesia requested HKCBA to write a letter to OCA (submit with the letter from SFOC), and also connect with KCBL and Macau to do the same for their location to support the inclusion of Bridge in the Asian Game.</p>		CL & PC
6	<p>AOB:</p> <p>i) Online registration: in order to facilitate the registration and preparation process, it is suggested that players are no longer able to cancel their registration on the website after registration deadline. Players should contact director to cancel any registration. The director's name for each event will also be added to the website for easy reference.</p>		TL
<p>The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2016 (Wednesday)</p>			

加倍

Double

大家對加倍這個叫品，非常熟悉了。好像還沒有人對加倍叫品提出要求，例如最少要多少分才能叫加倍。因為我下面舉的例子，都是今年 9 月在波蘭舉行的世界橋牌大賽上 Open Team 的牌例，參加的牌手，都應是高手。他們在不同的牌情下運用加倍這個叫品。有成功也有失敗。

We are familiar with the bid “double”. It seems that some people have not specified the requirements for a double, e.g., the points required for a double. It can be illustrated from my following example. The hands are selected from the Open Team series in the World Bridge Competition 2016 in Poland. Those who participated should be experts. Some players used “double” in different situations, with successes and failures.

(1) Open Team RR13

Argentina – Japan

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

一桌叫牌： Bidding at one table:

W	N	E	S
	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	5♠
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

坐東的日本隊員以 3 分牌叫加倍，表示 2 高套，在同伴 2♠後，還跳叫 4♠，得到很好的結果。首攻♠後，6♦是打不成的，因為沒有空間讓他們交換牌情，未能發現 6NT 是鐵牌。另一桌，東沒有叫牌，南北停在 3NT，勝 13IMP。

The player of Japan Team who sat East doubled with 3 HCPs to show 2 major suits. After partner's response of 2♠, he even jumped to 4♠ and obtained very good result. On the 1st lead of a ♠, 6♦ could not be made.

Due to insufficient bidding space to exchange information, North and South could not discover that 6NT was cold. At the other table, East did not bid and North and South ended at 3NT. Japan team won 13 IMPs.

也不是只有日本一個隊持 3 分牌叫牌，同樣這副牌，還有其他隊在北開叫 1♣（強牌），東叫加倍表示 2 高套。可見，分不是叫牌的唯一因素。

也許這是你看到的在第 2 家叫加倍持最少牌力的牌吧。

Japan Team was not the only team which bid with 3 HCPs. Some other teams, after North had opened 1♣ (strong hand), East doubled to show 2 major suits. It illustrates that HCP is not the only consideration

for bidding.

也許這是你看到的在第 2 家叫加倍持最少牌力的牌吧。

Perhaps, this is the lowest HCP to double at the 2nd seat that you have ever seen.

(2) 有開叫點力的加倍 Doubling with an opening hand

RR1 Sweden -- Denmark

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

一桌叫牌 Bidding at one table

W	N	E	S
			2♥
Dbl	4♥	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

西有開叫牌力，叫了不很完美的加倍，

West had an opening hand but the double was not perfect.

首攻♠Q，被打成，如首攻♥或♣，莊家較難取到10墩牌。

First lead the ♠Q, 4♥ was made. If first lead a ♥ or ♣, it will be more difficult for the declarer to win 10 tricks.

另一桌叫牌 Bidding at the other table:

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

西的4♣也是打不成，只不過沒有人加倍而已。從這副牌來看，西持有的是最低的開叫牌力，又沒有4張♠，不叫最好。（確實有很多隊不叫）實際上，南北聯手18分有4♠鐵牌合約。東西聯手22分，沒有成局合約。

West's 4♣ could also not be made, but no one doubled. West held the minimum opening strength and did not have 4 times ♠, passing should be best. (Many teams, in fact, did not bid). In reality, North and South jointly had 18 HCPs and 4♠ was a cold contract; while East and West jointly had 22 HCPs but could not have a game contract.

(3) R16 USA - Spain

Board 15 你是西，持

You are West, holding:

15
S/NS
♠ --
♥ T 9 4 3
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ Q T 8 7 5

聽到叫牌 You listened to the following bids:

W	N	E	S
			Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT	2♠
?			

坐西的西班牙選手叫加倍，即

The player of Spain Team who sat West doubled, i. e.,

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

西的大牌點加上♠缺門，配合同伴 1NT 的牌力，叫加倍很理想，很成功，請看 4 家牌：

With West' s HCPs and void in ♠, coupled with his partner' s strength for 1NT, his double was ideal and very successful. Please see the 4 hands:

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

首攻♦Q，明手小，北♦K，第2墩北出♥，第3墩♣K，北♣A，如果北忍讓，莊家將沒有第10墩。現在實際打法，北♣A，第4墩再回將牌，接下來第5墩♦A，將♦，♣Q（如果北在莊家出♣K時不上♣A，則明手缺少一橋引），再將♦，剩5張牌：

Trick 1: First lead the ♦Q, dummy small, North ♦K.

Trick 2: North played a ♥.

Trick 3: ♣K, North ♣A. If North had in fact ducked, the declarer would not have 10 tricks. In reality, North placed the ♣A.

Trick 4: North returned a trump.

Trick 5: ♦A.

Trick 6: Ruff a ♦.

Trick 7: ♣Q (if North did not place the ♣A earlier after the

declarer's ♣K, the dummy would lack an entry).

Trick 8: Ruff another ♦. 5 cards remained in each hand:

# 15	
S/NS	
♠ --	♠ K J 5 4
♥ T 9	♥ -
♦ --	♦
♣ T 8 7	♣ 6

現在莊家送出♣，得到其他 4 墩。只輸 1 墩♦，2 墩♣。

The declarer gifted a ♣, and won the remaining 4 tricks, losing only 1 ♦ and 2 ♣ tricks.

也不是每一聲加倍都成功，下面二例的加倍都很失敗。

Not all “doubles” were successful. “Doubles” failed in the following 2 examples.

(4) R16 Netherlands -- Russia

Board 7

Russia 坐西選手持

The player of Russia Team who sat West held:

#7
S/All
♠ T
♥ JT64
♦ JT87
♣ A Q43

聽到叫牌 The bidding:

W	N	E	S
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
?			

3♣ 表示有一 5 張套高花套。

3♣ indicated having a 5-card major suit.。

W	N	E	S
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Dbf	Rdb	Pass	Pass
Pass			

西的牌力實在不夠叫加倍，即使指引首攻，♣ 的大牌也不夠，你看 4 家牌
 West's strength was in fact not sufficient to double. Even if the
 bid was lead-directing, its high cards in ♣ were inadequate. Please
 see the 4 hands:

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

如果南北叫到 3NT，只有首攻♣再♣，才能打成。

結果 3♣XX 被打成，-840。另一桌南北打 3NT，下 1，輸 14IMP。

If North-South reached 3NT, the contract could only be made if first-lead a ♣ and then another ♣, In the end, 3♣XX was made, - 840.

North and South reached 3NT at the other table, down 1. Russia Team lost 14 IMPs.

(5) QF Poland -- Sweden

Board 5 你是西，持

Board 5: You are West, holding:

#5
N/NS
♠ A 4
♥ A J T 6
♦ Q J T 4
♣ J T 4

叫牌 The bidding:

W	N	E	S
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

1♦ : 0 張起 = 0+ ♦ cards.

2♦ : 4 張♠ + 3 張♥ + 1 低花單缺 = 4-card ♠ + 3-card ♥ + singleton
/ void in a minor suit

專家曾經建議：對 2♠ 作平衡叫牌，要考慮對方如叫到 4♠，你要能打宕它。

實際西還是叫加倍，叫牌如下進行：

Some experts has suggested that: before you made a balancing bid against 2♠, you have to consider that when you can defeat opponents' 4♠ contract.

實際西還是叫加倍，叫牌如下進行：

In reality, West doubled. The bidding was as follows:

W	N	E	S
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

請看 4 家牌 Please see the 4 hands:

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

4♠ 打不宕，實際超一。

4♠ could not be defeated, up 1 in reality.

China Hong Kong Youngster Team
Captain's Report
16th World Youth Team Bridge Championship
3rd to 13th August, 2016

By: Charlie Lee

Background of the Championship

The 16th World Youth Team Bridge Championship took place in the Palazzo Dei Congressi in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy. The team travelled to Italy in different routes starting from 1st August. The team gathered at Milan on 3rd August, by train, taking around 2 hours by train from Milan to Salsomaggiore Terme, and settled down in the Hotel Gloria.

The venue's condition was excellent. However, the security there was very strict. Anybody who would like to get access to the venue were being inspected with their badges and scanned the QR Code before they can get into the venue. Also, anybody who would like to get access to the play area were not allowed to bring any electronic devices. So it was a bit complicated for me if I would like to watch other teams' performance in early rounds. Fortunately, I can put my belongings at the counter and get access to the venue. It is very important as the level of players in the youngster series were always hard to predict. I must watch for a few rounds so that I can get the idea of the level of the players in the series.

The hotel was nice too. It was just 2 minutes walking distance to the venue. Therefore, in every morning we have no pressure of rushing to the venue. Also, the players' lounge was very big in the venue, with many score boards and tables available. Moreover, the vugraph theatre was very good, it was located in a cinema-like room, so that everybody can sit comfortably to watch vugraph there. Last but not the least, there is a coffee shop inside the venue, instead of staying in the players' lounge or vugraph theatre, you can choose to have a nice cup of cappuccino in the coffee shop and watch BBO at the same time.

Training

The team was not having many sessions of gathered training. However, most of the players were playing in various events in HKCBA and BridgeHouse for practice, and we frequently review hands afterwards. On the other hand, each individual pair would have regular bidding practice in BBO. The team in general is quite self-motivated to take part in various bridge events, and ask for advice whether they have come to problem hands. This is greatly appreciated.

Participants of the team

The participants in the Youngster Team must be born on or after 1st January 1996. The Hong Kong Youngster Team consists of three pairs: Sam Tseng – Niko Man; Chris Chan – Jackson Tsang; Michael Wu – Alfred Lam. Sam is studying in the Department of Music in Hong Kong of The Hong Kong Baptist University. Jackson is

studying in Engineering in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Niko, Chris, Michael and Alfred are studying Risk Management, Pharmacy, Medicine and Insurance, Financial and Actuarial Science respectively, in the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

To participate in this year's World Youth Team Bridge Championship, we have to qualify for the berth in the APBF Youth Championship 2015, which was taken place in Bangkok, and also I was being the NPC. In the team, only Sam, Niko and Chris were in the same team in APBF 2015. However, 1 of the members in the APBF team has beyond the age eligibility this year, and the other two members cannot commit to this world championship due to work and study commitment. Therefore, Jackson, Michael and Alfred have joined the team as a squad to take part in this championship.

In the team, Sam and Jackson were taking part in the Istanbul, Turkey in the Youngster Series of the 15th World Youth Team Bridge Championship. Chris and Niko were in the APBF 2015. Alfred was in the APBF Congress this year in Beijing with Sam, Niko and Jackson. So Chris, Niko, Alfred and Michael were new to World Championship, and Michael is new to any international event.

Performance of the team

There were 18 teams in the Youngster Series this year. In the qualifying round, the match was in the form of a single round-robin, of 17 rounds. The schedule was not so tight. First of all, it was the opening ceremony on the 3rd August. Starting from 4th to 9th August, we have 3 matches for the first five days and 2 matches on the 9th August. Each team had to play against the other teams once in a 14-board match, therefore a total of 17 rounds. Qualification to the knock-out stage is determined by the accumulated VPs in the qualifying round, using 14-board WBF Continuous VP Scale.

Before going to the championship, we did not think that we can get into the knock-out stage. So before the championship we did not have a clear target, but simply to achieve as good rank as possible. However, when I observed the level of the players in different teams on the first day, and also a surprising won against the Swedish Team in Round 1, we probably set the goal to qualify at the early stage. After 3 days, we ranked 6, but we were very closed to the top 4 teams, therefore we set the target of remaining in the first 2 rank in the session. After 17 rounds, we were just 0.48 VP behind the second-ranked team, and qualify to the quarterfinal.

Datum of each pair and summary of the round-robin is as follows:

(Datum of each pair)

Name	IMP per board	Rank	# of boards
Jackson Tsang – Chris Chan	0.84	9	196
Alfred Lam – Michael Wu	0.83	10	126
Sam Tseng – Niko Man	-0.04	40	154

(Team score)

R	H/V	Opponent	Sam	Niko	Jackson	Chris	Michael	Alfred	IMP+	IMP-	VP	Acc. VP	Rank
1	V	Sweden	E	W	S	N			56	36	15.26	15.26	5
2	H	USA			S	N	W	E	27	22	11.58	26.84	3
3	V	China	S	N	W	E			26	32	8.13	34.97	6
4	H	Israel	E	W	S	N			50	29	15.46	50.43	5
5	H	Chinese Taipei	E	W	S	N			15	36	4.54	54.97	10
6	V	Poland	S	N			W	E	41	25	14.42	69.39	9
7	H	Bermuda			S	N	W	E	106	7	20.00	89.39	6
8	H	Brazil	S	N			W	E	45	13	17.34	106.73	4
9	V	Netherlands	S	N	W	E			21	33	6.52	113.25	6
10	*H	Germany			S	N	W	E	39	19	15.26	128.51	3
11	V	India			S	N	W	E	33	18	14.19	142.70	3
12	H	Latvia	E	W	S	N			50	38	13.48	156.18	3
13	V	Chile	S	N			W	E	49	22	16.55	172.73	3
14	*H	France			S	N	W	E	33	20	13.72	186.45	3
15	V	Denmark	E	W	S	N			29	20	12.71	199.16	2
16	H	Singapore			S	N	W	E	41	39	10.66	209.82	2
17	V	Italy	E	W	S	N			33	50	5.36	215.18	3

*BBO Vugraph Matches

The ranking after the qualifying round is as follows:

1.	Italy	225.36
2.	Germany	215.66
3.	China Hong Kong	215.18
4.	Israel	214.40
5.	Netherlands	210.16
6.	Poland	203.80
7.	Denmark	201.42
8.	USA	200.86
9.	Singapore	197.75
10.	France	193.28
11.	China	187.96
12.	Sweden	168.99
13.	Chinese Taipei	161.93
14.	India	153.48
15.	Latvia	134.45
16.	Brazil	88.58
17.	Chile	55.56
18.	Bermuda	24.18

Although it is slightly behind our target (remaining to be the top 2 teams), we can still select our semi-final opponent. Italy chose USA, Germany chose Poland and we chose Denmark, therefore Israel was against Netherlands in the Quarterfinal. The Quarterfinal is in 4 segments of 14 boards each. We had the seating right in the 2nd and the 4th segment, and the seating for all segments were home team. We had got a comfortable lead and finally won by 169.5:94 after winning all the 4 segments. On the BBO Vugraph Match (segment 3), our team had a considerable victory of 36:7. In the other quarterfinal matches, Italy won over USA by 169:88, Germany won over Poland by 141.5:116 and Netherlands won over Israel by 117:115.5.

Detailed result of the quarterfinal (10th August) is as follows:

											Accumulative	
	H/V	Opponent	Sam	Niko	Jackson	Chris	Michael	Alfred	IMP+	IMP-	IMP+	IMP-
QF0	C/O	Denmark									4.5	0
QF1	H	Denmark	S	N			W	E	38	27	42.5	27
QF2	^H	Denmark	E	W	S	N			52	31	94.5	58
QF3	*H	Denmark			S	N	W	E	36	7	130.5	65
QF4	^H	Denmark	E	W	S	N			39	29	169.5	94

^With seating rights *BBO Vugraph Matches

The first-ranked team in the qualifying has the right to choose the match for their semi-final opponent. Italy chose

our match as their semi-final opponent and they won over USA by 169:88, so we were playing against the Italian team in the semi-final, and Germany was playing against Netherlands in the other semi-final. The Semi-final is the same as the Quarterfinal, having 4 segments of 14 boards each. All 4 matches were on BBO Vugraph. We had the seating rights in segments 1 and 3, and all 4 segments we were seating as visiting teams. Although we were slightly heading the Italian team by 130:114.5 after 3 segments, we lost greatly by 6:36 in the 4th segment and entered the 3rd place play-off. Before the start of the semi-final, they were told to relax and play their best, as entering the semi-final already got the best result in the history of Hong Kong youth bridge. Leading by 15.5 after 3 segments, and initially being carried by 8.5 IMPs was already a result that a lot over our expectation. Therefore, I told them to take a good rest after that day and play their best for the 3rd place play-off.

Detailed result of the semi-final (11th August) is as follows:

	H/V	Opponent	Sam	Niko	Jackson	Chris	Michael	Alfred	IMP+	IMP-	Accumulative	
											IMP+	IMP-
SF0	C/O	Italy										8.5
SF1	^V	Italy	E	W	S	N			32	21	32	29.5
SF2	V	Italy	E	W	S	N			39	42	71	71.5
SF3	^V	Italy			W	E	S	N	59	43	130	114.5
SF4	V	Italy	E	W	S	N			6	36	136	150.5

^With seating rights

In the other semi-final match, Germany lost to Netherlands by 110:166.7. As a result, Germany is our opponent in the 3rd place play-off. In the play-off, there were 4 segments of 14 boards each. All four matches were on the BBO Vugraph. After the first 2 segments, we were comfortably leading by 66.67:21. However, in the third segment, opponents had reached a very thin small slam which we did not reach, and our team turned out to had a phantom sacrifice over opponent's game, 22 IMPs chased back. Also, in Board 9 we reached a good 4♠ contract, but maybe suddenly lacking in concentration on miscounting the tricks, the contract went down and we lost the chance of a 10-IMP gain. Moreover, in Board 10, there was a silly misjudge that we had ♠A6 ♥K2 ♦8 ♣AKQJ7542 and let our opponent stopped in 4♠ while it is an obviously sacrifice of 5♣. This board we were pushed by the opponent to 5♠ being one down and of course their 4♠ made, which cost us 12 IMPs. In the 3rd segment we seriously lost by 0:43. Which has made our originally comfortable lead of 45.67 IMPs becomes only 2.67.

After this segment, they were told to forget about everything before and put on all their concentration for the last segment. I asked them to think carefully and deeply in each hand in order to have all the correct moves.

Eventually, they won the last segment by 34:26. They won over Germany by 100.67:90 and got the Bronze Medal of the José Damiani Cup.

Detailed result of the 3rd place play-off (12th August) is as follows:

											Accumulative	
	H/V	Opponent	Sam	Niko	Jackson	Chris	Michael	Alfred	IMP+	IMP-	IMP+	IMP-
PO0	C/O	Germany									6.67	
PO1	V	Germany	S	N			W	E	28	9	34.67	9
PO2	^V	Germany	E	W	S	N			32	12	66.67	21
PO3	V	Germany			W	E	S	N	0	43	66.67	64
PO4	^V	Germany	E	W	S	N			34	26	100.67	90

^With seating rights

This is the history of the Hong Kong youth bridge to get into the semi-final in the World Youth Team Bridge Championship, and step on the stage to get an award. Moreover, from the result we can see that actually we were not that far from the Gold or Silver Medals. Therefore, our youngster team has really achieved a very good result.

Evaluation

Having away from the World Youth Team Bridge Championship for 10 years (I took part in the Youngster Series of World Youth Team Bridge Championship in 2006 in Bangkok), being an NPC is quite a special experience for me in the a WBF event. Same as before, I do not have quite an idea of the level of players in the series. To know the level of the other teams well, I frequently watched the BBO Vugraph and also went to the Open Room of the playing area to look at the performance of the other teams in the same series. Due to the insufficient experience of the team, I did not set a very rigid goal of the team regarding its rank in the series, but just asked them to enjoy the championship and try their best to achieve the best result. After the first day, I set the goal on qualifying to the quarterfinal, and after half of the round-robin, I set the goal on remaining at the top 2 teams in the round-robin. Although we were slightly behind our target in the qualifying round, the team achieved a good result and finally got the bronze medal. The team has a great room of improvements on partial contracts competitions, hand evaluations, especially on slam-bidding. It is a lot improved compared to the performance in APBF 2015. In this championship, they had avoided to miss those obvious slams or reaching slams with wrong trump suit, or those over board slams. One very obvious area of improvement is, the defence. Our team lost quite a number of IMPs on defence, luckily those were mainly overtricks, but it was quite a big cost in the knock-out stage. On the other hand, in general, the team maintains a good team harmony and partnership harmony, and also listen to my advice when I evaluated and shared my experience on handling various problems encountered at the table. They are willing to learn from their former bridge players, and interested to play in the international event, and the most important point is, they are willing to learn from their mistakes. This is a good sign for the future of bridge of Hong Kong in my opinion.

In my opinion, in any international event, we shall not only focus on improving the skills and techniques of the young players, but also their attitude towards to championship. Having high-concentration, and handling their emotions are the two important aspects that they have to learn when taking part in the international bridge events. It is not necessary for the team to be too depressed after greatly lost a match or too excited after greatly won a match. Also, sometimes they were just too cared about the mistakes made by themselves or their partners. Not only in the youngster series, but also other youth players. I think there were too much discussion in between

rounds, and the content of discussion was mainly about “why you return that card when defending the contract?”; or “why would you bid that way in that board?”. Instead of doing this, the spirit of maintaining good partnerships should be always thinking of what you can do better to avoid the mistakes and what you can do better to help partner when he or she encounters a problem at the table. These are what youth players nowadays did badly in my opinion.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the coach of the team, Mr. David Ip, who did so much to help the team to prepare for this championship. I would also like to thank all the Hong Kong bridge fans keep on cheering up the teams by whatsapp messages and on BBO Vugraph despite having a 6-hour time difference earlier than Hong Kong. Although I was very busy in the venue to check with everything, when I got these messages, they were the momentum for me and my team to do their best in taking part the championships.

I hereby wish these young players can learn from the experience of taking part in this kind of championships and carry on with this game in their lives. Last but not the least, I would like to thank to the HKCBA Council on behalf of the team on supporting the team to take part in the championship.



(From left to right) Charlie LEE (NPC), Chris CHAN, Michael WU, Alfred LAM, Sam TSENG, Niko MAN, Jackson TSANG

(Photo taken at the closing ceremony on 13th August, at the Palazzo

16th World Youth Team Championships

Report for China Hong Kong Junior Teams (3 – 13 August 2016)

Prepared by: John Tsang

Introduction

I am honoured to have the chance to lead our Junior Team to the World Youth Team Championships this year. It is always more exciting to get involved instead of kibitzing. My thanks to the huge support from the HKCBA, all of the trainees of the juniors and also for those who are concerned on how we do. It is also of our honoured to visit Salsomaggiore Terme where a lot of Italian and previous WBF bridge events were held there.

Background

The Junior Event is never a easy one to compete. The opponents are either talented or experienced. Many of the European teams members represented their own countries Open Series and one of the players is the Champion of the Bermuda Bowl (which probably plays better than mine). Some of them like the Adams from Australia were my opponents when I were in the Junior Teams around 4 years ago. So the target for our Junior Team was to get first 8 position in the round robin to enter the knock out stage.

Selection for the members

The selection was based on observing the manners, motivation and result of their matches. In fact, most of the members got the bronze medal in this year APBF Junior session, so they got good experience in facing the teams from other countries.

The selected participating members were

Ng Tsz Hong (Mark) – Chan Kwun Hei (Francis)

Wai Chui Fai (Zia / CF Wai) – Tang ZhiHao (Gavin)

Wan Tsz Tin (Vinci) – Chan Chun Kit (Xavier)

Training & Preparation for the members

1. A series of seminar is provided on a monthly basis throughout the years
2. Face to face practise sessions
3. Participation of the HKCBA events
4. Session on preparation of opponents bidding system
5. BBO match scheduled on a monthly basis

Result

CHINA HONG KONG							
Round	Opponent	IMPs		VPs		Total VPs	Ranking
		HKG	Opponent	HKG	Opponent		
1	POLAND	46	58	6.52	13.48	6.52	15
2	FINLAND	23	25	9.34	10.66	15.86	14
3	EGYPT	37	21	14.42	5.58	30.28	10
4	COLOMBIA	64	26	18.17	1.83	48.45	9
5	ENGLAND	29	26	10.97	9.03	59.42	10
6	AUSTRALIA	11	56	1.02	18.98	60.44	12
7	ARGENTINA	58	17	18.53	1.47	78.97	11
8	FRANCE	17	18	9.67	10.33	88.64	11
9	CHINA	20	46	3.62	16.38	92.26	12
10	NETHERLANDS	16	39	4.15	15.85	96.41	12
11	ITALY	45	25	15.26	4.74	111.67	12
12	HUNGARY	37	45	7.56	12.44	119.23	13
13	NORWAY	35	43	7.56	12.44	126.79	14
14	SWEDEN	6	30	3.97	16.03	130.76	14
15	JAPAN	44	22	15.66	4.34	146.42	14
16	SINGAPORE	18	36	5.15	14.85	151.57	15
17	BANGLADESH	38	24	13.96	6.04	165.53	14
18	USA2	6	42	2.09	17.91	167.62	15
19	GERMANY	48	22	16.38	3.62	184	14
20	CANADA	50	3	19.18	0.82	203.18	13
21	USA1	27	43	5.58	14.42	208.76	14

1. The Junior Team ranked 14 out of the 22 teams with 208.76 VP.
2. Compared with our targets, the difference was 34.27 VP.
3. Our team won almost all the match where the opponents had lower VP than us and vice versa.

Final Rankings		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	POLAND	291.73
2	SWEDEN	280.08
3	CHINA	277.15
4	USA1	276.43
5	NORWAY	276.11
6	NETHERLANDS	275.37
7	SINGAPORE	258.83
8	ARGENTINA	243.07
9	AUSTRALIA	238.03
10	ITALY	232.97
11	USA2	230.67
12	HUNGARY	226.31
13	FRANCE	214.41
14	CHINA HONG KONG	208.76
15	ENGLAND	194.48
16	FINLAND	175.70
17	JAPAN	150.92
18	CANADA	142.62
19	BANGLADESH	121.83
20	EGYPT	117.43
21	COLOMBIA	115.48
22	GERMANY	55.12

Performance of the team

On the whole, the team was disciplined and consistent. They seldom quarreled with others and were pretty focused on how to win the match. It can also be seen that their performance kept in a certain standard throughout all rounds.

Before the trips, two main issues were reminded. The first was to hunt for more vul game, the second was to avoid overbidding to slam. The reminders were well received. In the main game, they only overbid to slam for 2 times over the 294 boards and the players showed more aggressiveness to hunt for the vul game.

Despite the three wins and one loss (by 1 imp) on the four vugraph matches, it can be seen that the card played by some of the members are pretty far from optimal. The vigorous but pretty accurate competitive biddings were also the characteristic of World Junior series, our members were often being pressured to make many difficult decisions which sometimes they finally guessed wrong.

Butler and Evaluation of each pair

Butler

Vinci Wan – Xavier Chan +0.20

Gavin Tang – CF Wai +0.11

Francis Chan – Mark Ng -0.27

Vinci Wan – Xavier Chan

On the technical side, Vinci is already a good bridge player while Xavier still has some rooms to improve. On the other hand, both of them tried their very best for every match and their performance is better than the expected due to the accuracy in bidding the contracts.

Gavin Tang – CF Wai

This pair is reliable, so they are responsible for versus most of the strong team. The positive datum reflects on their good bridge potentials. To further improve, they need to appropriately give more pressure to the opponents during the bidding process.

Francis Chan – Mark Ng

They can do well but this is not their time. Traditionally they tended to pass too frequent so I reminded them to take an active role in competition. This doesn't work well as they were not too familiar with the new situation I proposed. The active roles fired back sometimes so they did not perform as well as they were in the training.

Suggestions for future China Hong Kong Junior Teams

For the players who would like to represent the Junior Teams in the future, the following is the suggestions I proposed:

1. Go deep on playing and defense. Most of the time there is definite solution here.
2. Keep flexible in the bidding. You have to agree the solutions with your partner.
3. Do not overtry to any 5 level contracts unless you are certain.
4. Stay hungry for the vul game.
5. Play more matches outside HK with the partner.
6. Know your partner well. Make sure that you are helpful to him.
7. Know your opponents well. Make sure you roughly have an idea on what they can do and what they can't do.
8. Set your own targets every year.
9. Read good books and solve every problems inside it without looking at solutions.
10. Seek advice from the good players and take the chance to versus good players as much as possible.

Miscellaneous

Zia and Francis were truly helpful in organizing the trip. The hotel was wonderful and the travel arrangement was fluent.

I would like to take the chance to thanks the participating members. They were positive at each other and I did not have to worry on the discipline issue. It is usual for the juniors to have disagreements and discussions on the hands but most of the time they focused on how to play in next round instead of winning the disagreement battle.

The competition is always keen on the World Junior series. For HK, plenty of past participants of this events became the star players. I hope most of the participating members will soon become the star players in HK and help promoting the bridge game.



Captain's Report
China Hong Kong Open Team
World Bridge Games, Wroclaw 2016

Samuel Wan

September 25, 2016

Expectations

The China Hong Kong Open Team is a relatively young team that had won the selection by defeating the pre-tournament favorites. Granted, the team comprising *Bubble Ho, Gordon Ho, C C Mok, L H Chin, Yiu Wai Sing and Mickey Law*, while ambitious, did not have much international experience under their belt. Nevertheless, members of the team were determined to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity – they even rented a car to stay behind for a comprehensive tour of Eastern Europe. Spirits were high.

A total of 53 countries enrolled in the Open event, a smaller number than usual. The teams were divided into three groups: A, B and C, each playing a complete Round Robin. After 17 matches (of 16 boards), the top 5 teams from each Group along with the team in the best 6th position would go through to the Knock-out Phase. The China Hong Kong Team was slotted into Group B.

Before we set off, I made the following observations:

Favorites (3)

Poland
Monaco
USA

Strong Teams (4)

England
Turkey
Japan
Argentina

Middling Teams (5)

Latvia
Mexico
Norway
Belgium
Iceland

Weak Teams (5)

Kuwait

Tunisia

Pakistan

Bosnia Herzegovina

Lebanon

I said that if we play really well, we might end up 8th but otherwise, we could be 13th. I also confessed that my role as Non-Playing Captain was really handcuffed – because I had to play in the Senior Teams which was assigned a different time table, I would be unable to help them decide on the line-up and at the same time, deal with the logistics. They were pretty much on their own.

The prediction turned out to be fairly accurate as this was the packing order when the Round Robin concluded:

1. Poland	239.28 (<i>reached the Semi-Final</i>)
2. England	225.30 (<i>reached the Quarter-Final</i>)
3. Japan	223.67 (<i>reached the Round of 16</i>)
4. USA	221.29 (<i>reached the Round of 16</i>)
5. Monaco	207.93 (<i>reached the Final</i>)
6. Argentina	187.74
7. Iceland	186.95
8. Turkey	185.52
9. Norway	178.05
10. Belgium	161.71
11. Latvia	158.05
12. Pakistan	157.80
13. Tunisia	154.17
14. Bosnia Herzegovina	136.69
15. Mexico	126.76
16. Lebanon	125.18
17. China Hong Kong	94.06
18. Kuwait	87.85

I should mention that the team of Monaco, despite warming up slowly in the Round Robin, performed credibly in the Knock-Outs and finished as 1st Runner Up, losing narrowly to the Netherlands in a well-fought, low-scoring Final.

Team Performance

Admittedly, the China Hong Kong Team performed below their best and finished a disappointing 17th, averaging 5.53 VP per match. While the team won 503 imps in 17 matches (an average of 30 imps per match), we handed over 898 imps (average of 53 imps per match) on the debit side of the ledger.

Part of the reason for the erratic showing was that we had an unlucky draw, having to tackle powerful teams like Poland and Monaco on Day One. The losses dealt a severe blow to team morale and confidence. Also, the field was much tougher than expected – no opponent turned out to be a push-over. Even the ‘weak’ teams put up a strenuous fight. When the dust settled, we only managed 3 wins out of 17 matches (all on Day Two) and suffered two disastrous blitzes in the process.

I briefly went through the match records and found that the Team did not enjoy much luck – we went down in two slams due to horrible breaks: 4-0 in one case and 3-0 in the other. Had those trumps behaved normally, we would no doubt achieve significantly better scores in those encounters.

The match-by-match results are listed in the attachment.

Pair Performance

Of the three pairs, *Bubble Ho and Gordon Ho* put up the steadiest performance with a near average datum. Please refer to the attachment for the pair and round-by-round datum:

<i>Bubble Ho/Gordon Ho</i>	- 0.12 imps per board over 192 boards
<i>C H Chin/C C Mok</i>	- 0.86 176 boards
<i>Yiu Wai Sing/Mickey Law</i>	- 1.38 176 boards

Conclusion and Recommendations

- This is a team with excellent temperament and harmony. I have never seen any of the players engage in heated arguments in the post mortem, either publicly or privately.
- Hopefully, this tournament will provide valuable experience for all of them.
- On reflection, the future of bridge for Hong Kong doubtlessly lies with the younger players.

Good partnership understanding is of paramount importance, as opposed to individual potential, flair or acumen.

- Bridge is played in a more aggressive fashion nowadays and is dominated by natural systems with loads of modern gadgets and agreements.
- Where finances permit, professional coaching (as opposed to amateurish) may make a difference once a team is selected.
- If we examine countries like Japan, China, England, Sweden, the Netherlands and of course, USA, they seem to have a fair number of players playing professionally. This in turn means monetary incentives must be in place to stimulate progress.
- We need to send players to participate in as many international tournaments as possible for exposure.
- Although players in Hong Kong have made slight improvements in skills over the years, other NCBOs have made humongous strides in progress. There seems to be a bigger and bigger gap in the skill levels.
- While the Hong Kong players displayed occasional glimpses of brilliancy, our opponents are making very few mistakes. Thus, the focus of future training should be on 'how not to lose' instead of 'how to win'. In other words, our players should be able to follow the mainstream thinking, and stand their ground when things are not going well during a match. Though I did not say anything at the time, I have witnessed an abundance of 'individualism' and 'heroism' during the competition, resulting in reckless decisions leading to unnecessary mistakes and blunders. There should be ample emphasis on discipline.

CHINA HONG KONG

		<i>IMPs</i>		<i>VPs</i>			
<i>Round</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	HKG	Opponent	HKG	Opponent	<i>Total VPs</i>	<i>Ranking</i>
<u>1</u>	<u>LEBANON</u>	37	62	4.08	15.92	<u>4.08</u>	12
<u>2</u>	<u>POLAND</u>	27	49	4.62	15.38	<u>8.7</u>	16
<u>3</u>	<u>MONACO</u>	20	56	2.41	17.59	<u>11.11</u>	17
<u>4</u>	<u>BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA</u>	43	34	12.55	7.45	<u>23.66</u>	17
<u>5</u>	<u>KUWAIT</u>	43	38	11.48	8.52	<u>35.14</u>	17
<u>6</u>	<u>PAKISTAN</u>	9	87	0.00	20.00	<u>35.14</u>	17
<u>7</u>	<u>ICELAND</u>	35	17	14.60	5.40	<u>49.74</u>	17
<u>8</u>	<u>JAPAN</u>	25	45	5.00	15.00	<u>54.74</u>	17
<u>9</u>	<u>BELGIUM</u>	26	59	2.83	17.17	<u>57.57</u>	16
<u>10</u>	<u>TUNISIA</u>	27	47	5.00	15.00	<u>62.57</u>	17
<u>11</u>	<u>TURKEY</u>	36	43	7.97	12.03	<u>70.54</u>	17
<u>12</u>	<u>LATVIA</u>	41	67	3.91	16.09	<u>74.45</u>	17
<u>13</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u>	46	67	4.81	15.19	<u>79.26</u>	17
<u>14</u>	<u>USA</u>	1	77	0.00	20.00	<u>79.26</u>	17
<u>15</u>	<u>NORWAY</u>	26	57	3.12	16.88	<u>82.38</u>	17
<u>16</u>	<u>ARGENTINA</u>	37	50	6.48	13.52	<u>88.86</u>	17
<u>17</u>	<u>MEXICO</u>	24	43	5.20	14.80	<u>94.06</u>	17

Butler Open B

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Chi Chiu MOK (China Hong Kong)		-31	-6	9		-31		-11	-19	-18	-9		-3		-3		-30	-152
Gordon HO (China Hong Kong)	-9	10		11	-7		5		-19		10	-16	-18	-5		-2	18	-22
Lok Hang CHIN (China Hong Kong)		-31	-6	9		-31		-11	-19	-18	-9		-3		-3		-30	-152
Sing Chiu LAW (China Hong Kong)	-20		-38		14	-58	12	-12		-17		-4		-73	-32	-14		-242
Wai Lam HO (China Hong Kong)	-9	10		11	-7		5		-19		10	-16	-18	-5		-2	18	-22
Wai-Sing YIU (China Hong Kong)	-20		-38		14	-58	12	-12		-17		-4		-73	-32	-14		-242

Ladies Team Captain's Report

We sent Ladies Team to Poland under the training scheme & funding of 2018 Asian Game, so there was no trial held, as only the present team registered.

At a relatively late stage, it transpired that one of the player has important family issue so cannot go, her partner, not wishing to form a new partnership within such a short period, also elected to retire from the team. Despite our effort to seek replacement, given the long tournament and short notice, there were no volunteers, in the end the Council decided that we had to accept the 4-ladies' team, a rare exception to our normal practice.

The team members are Pauline Ling – Crystal Tang, Cathy Lee – Zoe Li. Apart from Pauline, the rest are young enough so physical stamina was not a concern, and Pauline seemed in excellent health.

I was nominated (per force) as their captain as I also would be playing in the senior team. As a result, I was a Captain only in name, most of the work was arranged and done by the players themselves, but our team has one advantage: they do not need to consider the line up! The role I played during the whole tournament was to give them occasional encouragement, handle appeals if happened (did not happen), and promised dinner if they achieve average 13 VP per match on any date. Well, I did treat them to a one bigger dinner.

Surprisingly, the ladies performed very steadily, the disaster struck on day 3 when they were blitzed by both USA and Scotland and for a time dropped to 13th (excluding the first day), but they do recover and maintain a steadily game, and managed to win 4 matches after that, so in total, our ladies won six matches out of a total of 16 matches.

Before we set off to Poland, my estimate is this team with only 4 players, would likely end up 14th or 15th i.e. last quadrant, as the field was quite strong. The fact that they eventually ended up 11th is to be commented. A summary of individual match result and datum is enclosed herewith.

The fact we had a better than initially expected good result maybe a combination of the following factors:

- 1) The team spirit was always there, I never heard any quarrel between teammates, nor between partnership.
- 2) We knew we were underdog, as such the expectation of our team was never high, so there was no burden whatsoever.
- 3) In a way a 4-ladies team may have its advantage on a short tournament (total 6 days 48

boards per day), so they do get a lot of practices, and occasional wins help lifting their morale.

- 4) They got an average of 9.1 VP for the 16 matches they play, not a bad result at all, considering they got two zeros!

Observation

After the tournament I did talk with individual players, their comments are rather similar, with the except of USA team, they did not feel other teams are that much better. Over 80% of the IMP lost was their own fault, mis-understanding, wrong judgment, over-sight, carelessness, blunder, or timid. If any one pair can play their best, they would surely qualified for the knockout(8 teams qualify).

This is nothing new, Bridge is a game of mistake, and that is always my main target in training the ladies team – first and foremost, cut down our own silly mistakes, just by doing so we can surely improve > 50% of our result. Nevertheless, it is easier said than done. Frankly, nothing can replace experience, only those enduring a tough tournament really understood how important it is that we should cut down our mistakes.

I personally never watched them playing in any match, but looking at their datum, I was quite pleased that they could withstand the pressure. Pauline – Crystal -0.28 IMP per board is bit regrettable, but acceptable given the competitions. I was extremely happy with Zoe – Cathy as they almost held their ground against their opponents i.e. -0.03 IMP/board, truly a remarkable achievement.

Naturally there are thousands of things they need to improve. I only hope that after the sufficient serious training and enough exposure in big tournaments, one day our ladies can represent Hong Kong and be on the stage of the victory dinner.

Derek Zen

Team score for qualifying rounds

Round	Opponent	IMP+	IMP-	VP	Accumulate VP	Rank
1	BYE	0	0	12.00	12.00	8
2	GERMANY	11	32	4.81	16.81	9
3	IRELAND	0	20	5.00	21.81	14
4	TUNISIA	76	20	19.69	41.50	10
5	NEW ZEALAND	24	30	8.24	49.74	9

6	CHILE	52	29	15.56	65.30	8
7	ITALY	39	46	7.97	73.27	9
8	USA	2	71	0.00	73.27	11
9	SCOTLAND	5	65	0.00	73.27	12
10	INDIA	55	32	15.56	88.83	13
11	PALESTINE	49	30	14.80	103.63	12
12	DENMARK	38	60	4.62	108.25	12
13	POLAND	12	39	3.74	111.99	12
14	FRANCE	20	21	9.69	121.68	12
15	ICELAND	74	31	18.44	140.12	11
16	CANADA	25	22	10.91	151.03	11
17	CHINESE TAIPEI	19	31	6.72	157.75	11

Overall ranking of group B women

Rank	Team	VPs
1	FRANCE	243.30
2	USA	240.41
3	GERMANY	230.02
4	ITALY	220.05
5	NEW ZEALAND	204.90
6	POLAND	199.49
7	CHINESE TAIPEI	193.63
8	SCOTLAND	190.92
9	DENMARK	186.56
10	CHILE	169.29
11	CHINA HONG KONG	157.75
12	CANADA	150.28
13	IRELAND	141.34
14	ICELAND	126.20
15	INDIA	97.51
16	PALESTINE	87.95
17	TUNISIA	82.40

Butler of pairs in group B women

Name	Butler	Rank	No. of boards
LEE Cathy Yi Ki - LI Suet Yu Zoe	-0.03	27	256
LING Pauline - TANG Tsz In	-0.28	34	256