

The 6th South East Asia Bridge Federation Championships

The 39th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships

Singapore | 11-15 December 2023

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Championship Website **Thanks Everyone and See You in Indonesia!**



Scan to view the live score, schedule, and online bulletin.

The Championships came to a conclusion on Friday evening with the Finals and Victory Dinner. In the Open Team Finals, team Amanda (Singapore) successfully defended their title, picking up three wins out of three including a dramatic comeback in their final match against HKB (China Hong Kong) who are the runners-up. In the Ladies Finals, Ganesha Ladies (Indonesia) played a huge third set to win against Djarum LA (Indonesia) 137-95.

The Senior Finals saw both teams tied 124-124 after 48 boards but Djarum Senior (Indonesia) wins the tie-break on account of their higher qualifying rank versus Magic Eyes (Thailand).

Bobo Dird (Singapore) took a huge 66-14 lead in the first set in the Youth Finals and won 155-107 against Payoon Bridge (Thailand).

In the Consolation Swiss, Nautilus won their last match against SGP (L) to win the Consol Swiss. Their opponents complete a Singaporean 1-2 finish while Ganesha Open (Indonesia) finished third despite a loss to Ganesha Senior.

Unfortunately, today brought yet another sad news that Malaysian/UK legend Dick Shek has also passed on. A full obituary can be found on the last page of this bulletin.

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Finals Results

Open Teams

Round 1

Table	Home	Visiting	IMP	VP
1	Amanda	Djarum Super	37-27	12.8-7.2
2	HKB	Ambassador	76-47	16.58-3.42

Round 2

Table	Home	Visiting	IMP	VP
1	Amanda	Ambassador	39-31	12.29-7.1
2	HKB	Djarum Super	39-37	10.61-9.39

Round 3

Table	Home	Visiting	IMP	VP
1	Amanda	HKB	40-18	15.38-4.62
2	Ambassador	Djarum Super	28-38	7.2-12.8

Rank	Team	VPs
1	Amanda	40.47
2	HKB	31.81
3	Djarum Super	28.39
4	Ambassador	18.33

Ladies Team

	1	2	3	Pen	Total
Djarum LA	25	46	24		95
Ganesha Ladies	42	35	60		137

Senior Team

	1	2	3	Pen	Total
Djarum Senior	37	58	29		124
Magic Eyes	46	21	57		124

Note: Djarum Senior wins the tie-break with higher qualifying rank.

Youth Team

	1	2	3	Pen	Total
Bobo Dird	66	44	45		155
Payoon Bridge	14	41	52		107

Consolation Swiss Results

Rank	Team	VPs
1	Nautilus (O)	80.92
2	SGP (L)	75.8
3	Ganesha Open (O)	72.23
4	ACEH (O)	71.41
5	Ganesha Senior (S)	69.08
6	Eagles (O)	69.02
7	Bridge Hunters (O)	66.82
8	Xia Shun (O)	57.87
9	PHELCYLDRM (O)	55.9
10	Tiger (O)	54.15
11	PH Open (O)	47.46
12	RI (Y)	41.67
13	NUS (Y)	27.67

Past SEABF Winners

Year	Venue	Open	Ladies	Youth	Mixed	Senior
2016	Singapore	Singapore	Indonesia	Singapore	Thailand	Indonesia
2017	Depok	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia
2018	Makati	Singapore	Indonesia	Singapore	Indonesia	Indonesia
2019	Kuala Lumpur	Indonesia	Indonesia	Philippines	Singapore	
2022	Bangkok	Singapore	Thailand	Thailand	Singapore	
2023	Singapore	Singapore	Indonesia	Singapore	Singapore	Indonesia

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

The Singapore Contract Bridge Association would like to thank the following individuals for their kind donations:

Ms Anlin Ho and Mr Jen Chan Ho

The daughter and son of the late Mr Hweng Sheng (HS) Ho - who was a long-time supporter of Singapore's bridge scene - they are continuing their father's legacy, sponsoring the annual HS Ho Challenge Trophy. We are very grateful for their continued support in helping the local bridge community to flourish.

"During his active life, he (Mr HS Ho) represented Singapore in many international bridge competitions and has won a lot of prizes. Mr. Ho was also a committee member of SCBA for a long time. At the last stages of his life on Earth, despite not being able to remember many things, he talked a lot about playing bridge....he also told us how proud he was to see bridge getting more and more interest in Singapore, and the younger generation come up and be able to perform very well in the international competitions."

Mr Aaron Sim and Mr Shawn Koh

They are both in the business of giving control to individuals, be it for taxes in life, or wealth they leave behind for their loved ones.

They specialise in setting up trusts and also plan for the funding in trusts, for both corporations and individuals around the Asia region.

Based in Singapore, they leveraged the country's strategic tax haven and common law position to meet the immediate needs of their clients, as well as crafting and executing long-term plans.

Yoke Lan Tan (Mrs Foo)

A long-time fixture in Singapore's bridge scene, Mrs Foo is well known for being a generous soul, often sponsoring food at social events. Currently still a committee member of the Association, Mrs Foo has often gone above and beyond behind the scenes in helping to ensure the success of the Association's various events. Words of gratitude can't express our appreciation for her.

We would also like to thank Ms Anlin Ho, Mr Jen Chan Ho, Mr Aaron Sim and Mr Shawn Koh for gracing the Victory Dinner with their presence and giving out the prizes.

SCBA President's Farewell Address

Dear Bridge friends,

Thank you once again for joining us for the 6th South East Asia Bridge Federation Championship and the 39th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships. I hope that all of you have enjoyed your time here and had ample opportunity to demonstrate your Bridge skills against the best players in the region.

The Championships has witnessed a wide diversity of players, from the youth to young, and the still quite young. We also have a significant number of females playing in the event. As a mind sport with an inbuilt element requiring teamwork, I hope that we can continue to showcase Bridge as the sport for community interaction and building. I remember the times when I was young, picking up the sport at 17 to today which showcases the many opportunities that the Bridge world has to offer. For many of you, it has certainly been a journey well-travelled, and that we would be eager to say yes to learning about the sport if given the first opportunity to do so.

While the high level of diversity is desirable, it is unfortunately not uncommon to also hear of many prominent Bridge figures leaving us, such as our legendary Pak Denny on Wednesday. I am also sad to announce that two more prominent members of our Bridge community also left us this week.

On Tuesday, 12th of December, one of our members in the prominent Bridge community, Professor Yu Chun Yee, passed away from rectal cancer at the age of 87. Just today, Dick Shek, one of Malaysia's top Bridge players, also passed from fourth stage cancer at the age of 73.

Du Yu is very well known in the music world for his talent with the piano. In 1971, Dr Yu became the first British examiner at the Royal Academy of Music. A Chinese-American professor; in 1989, Dr Yu was awarded the title of Academician of the Royal Academy of Music by Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom, becoming the first Asian to receive this honour.

During his free time, the other activity which Dr Yu enjoys, is of course, Bridge. Dr Yu started playing Bridge in the UK while staying in the Royal College of Music in the 1950s, and hence had an experience of more than 60 years. Dr Yu was one of the key members in the Bridge section of Singapore Recreation Club, where he was appointed Captain and led SRC to victory in many tournaments including our National League and Inter-Club Premier league. During his high period, SRC also produced three national players, of whom he discussed strategy with to optimise performance.

It reminds me that we are in a fortunate position to play Bridge, no matter when and how we learned it. I hope that all of us will bring this beautiful sport to wider segments of the public no matter where we come from and will go from here.

I would like to congratulate all players who participated, or survived in this prestigious event, and especially the winners who have demonstrated great skill to come out on top in this competitive event. For the rest of you, you may not have won the top honours, but you have certainly won a lot more experience and the friends made over the event. Our Bridge community may not be large, but it can certainly be cohesive.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Lan, Shawn & Aaron, Anlin and Jen Chan Ho. Your contributions have made this event possible. I would also like to give thanks to the organising committee, the rest of the directing team, operational staff at the Top of the York, caddies, and vugraph operators for working tirelessly during the event. It has not been easy but all of you have made it. Now let's enjoy the dinner, and please have a good time, and stay safe here before you go back. Thank you.

Luwen Koh,
President, Singapore Contract Bridge Association

Roll Of Honour

Open Pairs

Gold: UK

Paul Hackett - Ed Levy

Silver: China Hong Kong/China

Patrick Choy - Chuan Cheng Ju

Bronze: Indonesia

Jemmy Bojoh - Paulus Sugandi

Mixed Teams

Gold: Singapore - Mixed Nuts

Zeying Lam, Gideon Tan, Jiening Xu, Nuoyi Xu

Silver: Singapore - SGP

Gang Chua, Ann De Guzman, Choon Chou Loo, Cheng Luo, Choon Cheng Seet

Bronze: Indonesia - Ganesh Mixed-1

Taufik Asbi, Lusje Bojoh, Beni Ibradi, Dewita Sonya, Isman Ramadi, Tracy Polii, Herry Herdian (NPC)

Consolation Swiss

Gold: Singapore - Nautilus

Yucheng Ai, Dongke Fang, Jianyu Hu, Jin Xiang Ong, Jiening Xu, Nuoyi Xu

Silver: Singapore - SGP (L)

Ann De Guzman, Jie Min Kho, Lan Li, Choon Cheng Seet, Jay Min Soh, Sock Ngin Tan

Bronze: Indonesia - Ganesh Open

Taufik Asbi, Lusje Bojoh, Beni Ibradi, Dewita Sonya, Isman Ramadi, Tracy Polii, Herry Herdian (NPC)

Open Teams

Gold: Singapore - Amanda

Kien Hoong Fong, Choon Chou Loo, Cheng Luo, Gideon Tan, Yukun Zhang

Silver: China Hong Kong - HKB

Gordon Ho, Baron Ng, Crystal Tang, Zia Wai, Flora Wong

Bronze: Indonesia - Djarum Super

Taufik Asbi, Lusje Bojoh, Beni Ibradi, Dewita Sonya, Isman Ramadi, Tracy Polii, Herry Herdian (NPC)

Ladies Teams

Gold: Indonesia - Ganeshas Ladies

Fera Damayanti, Tracy D Awuy Polii, Dewita Sonya, Riantini, Nur Afifatur Rohinun

Silver: Indonesia - Djarum LA

Yunita Firy, Fransisca Martanti, Della Ayu Nobira, Dessy N Rahayu, Ernis Sevita, Monica Ayu Triana

Bronze: Singapore - SGP

Ann De Guzman, Jie Min Kho, Lan Li, Choon Cheng Seet, Jay Min Soh, Sock Ngin Tan

Senior Teams

Gold: Indonesia - Djarum Senior

M Bambang Hartono, M Apin Nurhalim, Bert Toar Polii, Triworo Sugeng, Tanudjan Sugiarto, Handojo Susanto

Silver: Thailand - Magic Eyes

Esther Chodchoy Sophonpanich, Somchai B., Panjaroong J., Prapongse M., Saguan L., Virat C.

Bronze: Indonesia - Ganeshas Senior

Paulus Halim, Herry Herdian, Kikik Hikmat, Isman Ramadi, Tonny P Sastramihardja, Liliek Sudirahardjo

Youth Teams

Gold: Singapore - Bobo Dird

Jun Yang Ang, Xin Guan, Han Wei Koh, Derek Lee, Timothy Wu

Silver: Thailand - Payoon Bridge

Pimwaree Kong-Ngern, Sahasan Leevorawat, Palagorn Phansamdaeng, Sararut Pranonsatid, Thanaporn Rimnong-Ang

Bronze: Singapore - RI

Bryan Kow, Ethan Lauw, Nelson Qi, Ethan Lauw, Marvin Lai (Coach)

Open Pairs Winners



Mixed Teams Winners



Ladies and Senior Teams Winners



Open and Youth Teams Winners



Tournament Organizers and Staff



Top row: L to R: Kelvin Ong (President - Organizing Committee), Chayes Luang-On (TD), Gerald Tan (Chief TD), Luwen Koh (TD, President - SCBA), Zhao Song (Chief Scorer), Bingxue Song (Scorer), Patarathom Ueatrakan (TD), Siew Luie Soh (Operations Director, Assistant Treasurer - SCBA)

Middle row: Olivia Clare Low (VGO), Estee Row (VGO), Zachary Paik (VG), Russell Siew (Chief VGO, Competitions Secretary - SCBA), Jing Kai Tioh (VGO)

Bottom row: Shen Ting Ang (TD, Bulletin Co-Editor), Sophia Ng (Bulletin Co-Editor)

We would also like to thank those not pictured here: Gerald Cheo (Club Manager - SCBA, Duplication Co-ordinator), Shiuann Lih Lau, Emerald Lo, Zhuo Xun Lee, Ruhui Seet, Gabrielle Ang (Duplication/Caddying), Sida Wu (VGO), Tiffany Tse (Reviewer), Yoke Lan Tan (Logistics, Committee Member - SCBA)

Finals Vugraph Highlights

Round 1: Amanda vs Djarum Super

Team Amanda were impressive in the qualifying rounds and are now 48 boards away from successfully defending their title.

The team roster is slightly different this year - with Choon Chou Loo and Gideon Tan replacing Cheng Yen Lam. The SEABF Championships is the last of a long bridge calendar year for the quintet who have represented Singapore (in various categories) at the APBF Championships, World Championships and Asian Games just in the past 6 months!

Their opponents Djarum Super are no strangers to this event either, having finished third in last year's finals. The sextet are all long established players in the region.

Both teams met each other in Round 5 of the qualifying swiss, with Amanda beating Djarum Super 29-20 over 12 boards on that occasion. Interestingly the two teams also played each other in the first round of last year's finals with Amanda winning 57-20 over 16 boards then.



L-R: Gideon Tan, Anthony Soebroto, Choon Chou (CC) Loo, Agus Kustrijanto - Photo credits: Russell Siew (VGO)

In the Open Room, sitting NS for team Amanda are Gideon Tan (N) and Choon Chou (CC) Loo (S) versus Anthony Soebroto (E) and Agus Kustrijanto (W) for Djarum Super. Both pairs at this table play Precision.

In the Closed Room, sitting NS for team Djarum Super are Leslie Gonha (N) and Paulus Sugandi (S) versus Yukun Zhang (E) and Kien Hoong Fong (W) for Amanda. Similarly, both pairs also play Precision.



L-R: Leslie Gonha, Yukun Zhang, Paulus Sugandi, Kien Hoong Fong - Photo credits: Jing Kai Tioh (VGO)

Djarum Super were the first off the starting blocks with 5 IMPs in the first 3 boards.

Board 4

All Vul	♠QT5
W Dealer	♥3
	♦KQJT74
	♣T75

♠AKJ42	♠763
♥AQQT92	♥J876
♦6	♦953
♣AJ	♣842

♠98	♠
♥K54	73
♦A82	J876
♣KQ963	♦953

Open Room:

W: Agus	N: Tan	E: Soebr	S: Loo
1♣	3♦	P	P
4♦	X	4♥	AP

Closed Room:

W: Fong	N: Gonha	E: Zhang	S: Sugan
1♣	3♦	P	P
4♦	X	4♥	AP

The auctions at both tables were carbon copies but the play was not. In the Open Room, the ♦2 was led and continued - the defence never managed to get a ♣ trick.

In the Closed Room, the ♣K was led and Paulus cashed the ♣Q and the ♦A before exiting with a ♠ and the defence managed to score a trick in each suit. One down and 12 IMPs to Djarum Super who now lead 17-0 without any reply.

A few IMPs were exchanged on the intervening boards to take the score to 19-2 at the halfway mark of the match.

Board 9

EW Vul
N Dealer

♠AQJ973
♥-
♦KQ93
♣QT9

♠-
♥K9
♦A87642
♣J8632

♠2
♥JT76532
♦T
♣AK74

♠KT8654
♥AQ84
♦J5
♣5

Open Room:

W: Agus	N: Tan	E: Soebr	S: Loo
1♠	P	4♠	
AP			

After the ♣A lead, Anthony continued with a low ♥ and declarer claimed 11 tricks.

Closed Room:

W: Fong	N: Gonth	E: Zhang	S: Sugan
1♠	3♥	4NT	
5♦	P	5♥	X
P	6♠	AP	

The ♦10 was continued on the second round and the defence scored a ruff along with their two Aces to take the contract two off. 11 IMPs to Amanda.

Djarum Super picked up another 8 IMPs on Boards 10 to 13 and the score was 27-13 in their favour coming into the last three boards.

Board 14

None Vul
E Dealer

♠AT32
♥AQ92
♦5
♣T542

♠K8
♥KJ4
♦Q643
♣Q983

♠Q97
♥85
♦KJ9872
♣76

♠J654
♥T763
♦AT
♣AKJ

Open Room:

W: Agus	N: Tan	E: Soebr	S: Loo
	P	1♦	
P	1♥	P	2♥
P	4♥	AP	

Gideon played the trumps for no losers and was able to claim after establishing the side ♠ suit.

Closed Room:

W: Fong	N: Gonth	E: Zhang	S: Sugan
	3♦	P	
3NT	AP		

After Yukun's first seat pre-empt, Kien Hoong tried 3NT. Leslie led ♥A and another, won by Kien Hoong in hand with the J. Now he knocked out the ♦A, but defenders were still able to take 6 tricks to take the contract two off. 8 IMPs to Amanda who now trail by 6 IMPs.

Board 15

NS Vul
S Dealer

♠T3
♥AKJ4
♦-
♣AT96532

♠AJ54
♥T632
♦A965
♣J

♠Q9872
♥7
♦KQT2
♣874

♠K6
♥Q985
♦J8743
♣KQ

Open Room:

W: Agus	N: Tan	E: Soebr	S: Loo
			P
P	2♣A	P	2♦
P	2♥A	P	2♠A
X	3♦A	4♠	5♣
X	AP		

After a Precision 2♣ opening and a high level competitive auction, North ended up as declarer in 5♣, doubled by West. Declarer was able to use ♦ ruffs to get back into his hand to draw the trumps and lost just the two ♠ tricks to make his contract.

(Board diagram reproduced for convenience)

Board 15

NS Vul ♠T3
S Dealer ♡AKJ4
♦-
♣AT96532

♠AJ54 ♠Q9872
♥T632 ♡7
♦A965 ♦KQT2
♣J ♣874

♠K6
♥Q985
♦J8743
♣KQ

Closed Room:

W: Fong	N: Gonth	E: Zhang	S: Sugan
			P
1♦A	2♣	2♥A	X
3♠	4♥A	4♣	P
P	5♣	5♠	X
AP			

The other table got into a high level competitive auction as well and Yukun pushed on with 5♠, doubled by Paulus.

The defence took the ♥A, ♣K and continued with ♠K which was ruffed. Kien Hoong now tried a ♦ to get back to hand but this was ruffed. After another ♣ return, Kien Hoong ruffed and entered dummy with a ♥ ruff to pick up the trumps and the rest of the tricks. Down 1 and 12 IMPs to Amanda who now have a lead of 33-27!

Board 19 was a push, both tables playing 3NT making exactly 9 tricks.



Open Room in Play - photo credits: Russell Siew (VGO)

Board 16

EW Vul ♠KQ87
W Dealer ♡Q8
♦84
♣QJT3

♠T ♠A965
♥AK42 ♡J5
♦JT976 ♦32
♣J97 ♣AT543

♠J432 ♠T9763
♦KQ5 ♦2

Open Room:

W: Agus	N: Tan	E: Soebr	S: Loo
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♠	AP	

After a ♦ lead, the defenders eventually scored a ruff in that suit to take a fifth defensive trick but declarer still made his contract.

Closed Room:

W: Fong	N: Gonth	E: Zhang	S: Sugan
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	3NT	P	4♣
AP			

The same lead was made at the other table and declarer managed take 9 tricks but was still one off. 4 IMPs to Amanda who come from behind to win 37-27, scoring 24 IMPs on the last three boards for a dramatic comeback victory!

In the other match, a high scoring match saw HKB defeat Ambassador 76-47 to clinch 16.58 VPs to take the lead after the first round. Amanda are behind with the 12.8 VPs after this round and the title will almost certainly go to the winner of their heads up match in the third and final round.

Postscript

The heads up match did decide the winner, again with a dramatic comeback. Team Amanda were down 6-17 at the halfway mark, but the second half was one-way traffic of 34-1, winning the match handily 40-18 and successfully defending their title.

The Ruff and The Endplay

NS Vul
E Dealer
♠AQJ52
♥AKQ7
♦K43
♣8

♠T643	♠97
♥J3	♥T9852
♦AJT98	♦72
♣A3	♣QJ42
♠K8	
♥64	
♦Q65	
♣KT9765	

And now, a hand from the consolation swiss. This is Board 18 from Round 3, contributed by Marvin Lai. Say North is declarer in 4♠, and East leads the beer card, ♦7. A quick count gives 5 ♠s (if trumps are 4-2 or 3-3; 5-1 is gnarly), 3♥s, and the ♦K. Where do we find the tenth trick?

There are now several lines of play involving ruffing a third round of ♥ in dummy, whether with the K or the 8. As the cards lie, ruffing high is better. Say declarer decides to cash two ♥s and ruff a third round high, draw three rounds of trump and then play either ♥Q (as shown) or a fourth trump :

♠52	♠
♥	♥T
♦43	♦2
♣8	♣QJ4
♠	♠
♥	♥
♦AJT	♦Q6
♣A3	♣KT9

West is endplayed to lead away from one of the minor suit Aces, giving the tenth trick.

But the ruff is not necessary - simply cash five rounds of trumps and three rounds of ♥s. Now comes the throw-in:

♠	♠
♥7	♥T
♦43	♦2
♣8	♣QJ
♠	♠
♥	♥
♦AJ	♦Q6
♣A3	♣KT

Now a ♦ allows West to cash his two tricks in the suit, but it forces West to either lead away from or cash the ♣A and the ♣K will be the tenth trick.

Obituary: Dick Shek (1950-2023)



Born in 1950, Dick was well-known both in South-East Asia and in the UK where he lived in and played from 1967 to 2008. He passed away today (15 Dec 2023) at the age of 73.

Dick had an illustrious bridge career in England where he first arrived as a student of Queen Mary University, London in 1967. Around a decade later, he turned professional and represented Great Britain in the European Championships twice. He also represented England multiple times in the Camrose. Dick is also a Gold Cup winner (1991), double Crockfords' winner (1986 and 2003) and four time Spring Fours winner (1984, 1986, 1990 and 1992). Dick also managed the famous ACOL Bridge Club from the early 1980s.

After moving back to Malaysia in 2008, he represented Malaysia in several zonal qualifiers and ASEAN. He won the 2014 Asean Open Pairs, 2nd in the 2019 Asean Open Teams, the best achievement by a Malaysian team. He won several national events in Malaysia and was passionate about teaching and imparting his knowledge - he was the national team coach in 2013 - and that is his greatest legacy.

The SEABF Championships organising committee and the Singapore Contract Bridge Association mourns the loss of yet another international legend and expresses our deepest condolences to both Dick's family and our neighbouring Malaysian bridge community for their loss.

(David Law contributed to the text of this obituary and the photo.)