

Daily Event Bulletin

The 6th South East Asia Bridge Federation Championships The 39th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships

Singapore | 11-15 December 2023

Issue 5 | Friday, 15 December 2023

Today's Schedule

09.30 - 11.45: Finals Round 1/
Consols Round 1-2

13.00 - 15.15: Finals Round 2/
Consols Round 3-4

15.30 - 17.45: Finals Round 3/
Consols Round 5-6

Championship Website



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

Event Photos



More photos can be found at
<https://bit.ly/seabf2023pics>

The Finals Await...

Team Amanda maintained their lead to win the Qualifying Swiss.

Going into the last round, Amanda had already secured first place with more than 20 VPs over second placed HKB. Ambassador and PHELCYLDRM were the last two open teams in the qualifying spots. HKB won their match against Magic Eyes to secure second place. PHELCYLDRM narrowly lost to Amanda and missed out on qualification by 0.93 VPs when Djarum Super defeated Ambassador 13.18 - 6.82 in VPs.

These are the finalists -

Open: Amanda (1st - 146.27 VPs), HKB (2nd - 132.17 VPs),
Ambassador (4th - 115.3 VPs), Djarum Super (5th - 113.6 VPs)
Ladies: Djarum LA (6th, 113.36 VPs) vs Ganesha Ladies (11th, 111.68 VPs)

Senior: Djarum Senior (3rd - 115.45 VPs) vs Magic Eyes (12th - 104.74 VPs)

Youth: Bobo Dird (13th - 103.46 VPs) vs Payoon Bridge (22nd - 67 VPs)

Commissions to PHELCYLDRM, Nautilus, Xia Shun and ACR JM who came close within 2 VPs but will have to contend for the Consolation Swiss.

This event is proudly brought to you by:



YORK HOTEL
SINGAPORE

Message from the Tournament Directors

DO NOT make unwelcome advances towards our staff members!

It has come to our attention that a visiting senior player has violated the physical boundaries of a young female staff member. In general, it is a long-term challenge to improve the gender distribution in the Bridge community. Such disrespectful behaviour simply undermines the community-wide efforts to provide a safe and welcoming environment for female players.

All players are reminded to observe personal boundaries and provide a respectful environment for all. **We will not hesitate to publicly name, shame, and ban players** for tournaments organised in Singapore on a lifetime basis, should any player display such unsavoury behaviour.

We hope that the incident was not out of any malicious intent, but be warned that there will be no tolerance for harassment behaviours and we **will** involve the relevant authorities if needed.

Please remember to count your cards at the start of each hand!

Again, several teams were penalized for not counting. It is a requirement in the bridge laws (Law 7B2) to count before looking at the cards.

Please silence your phones!

Any ringing phones will incur an automatic 2VP penalty.

Please beware of COVID-19!

There has been a resurgence of cases in Singapore and various parts of Southeast Asia. If you are feeling unwell or experiencing flu-like symptoms, please request for an ART kit from the Secretariat on Level 21. For your safety, elderly players, pregnant women, and people with weak immune systems, are advised to mask up in the competition venue.

Errata

We apologise for the following errors in yesterday's print edition:

1. The headline yesterday had Denny Sacul's age reported wrongly as 78, it should be 75 as mentioned in the rest of the bulletin.
2. On Page 2, David Law is the Honorary Secretary of the Malaysian Contract Bridge Association and not the President.
3. The North hand on the first hand diagram on Page 6 had a few extra cards in the North hand, which should only be holding a singleton ♠8.
- 4.

These have been corrected and updated in the online edition.

Trivia Corner

If you have already tried Chicken Rice, and love spicy food, it's time to try another similarly popular national dish in Singapore - Laksal! This spicy Peranakan noodle soup has a rich and creamy broth made of dried shrimp, coconut milk, and rempah (spice paste). The noodles are usually thick bee hoon or mee tai mak, topped with tofu puffs, fresh shrimp, cockles, and beansprouts. Sometimes, fishcakes, eggs, and various seafoods are added too.

The Singapore-style Laksa has a sibling - the Penang-style Laksa. This is completely different, as it has a sour broth instead, made of fish and assam. The noodles are topped with onions/shallots and herbs, and the rempah is also served separately.

Tourist Map



Scan for a curated Google Map.



Combined Teams Swiss Final Standings

| Rank | Team | VPs | Starting Table |
|------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | Amanda (O) | 146.27 | 11 (Home) |
| 2 | HKB (O) | 132.17 | 12 (Home) |
| 3 | Djarum Senior (S) | 115.45 | 31 (Home) |
| 4 | Ambassador (O) | 115.3 | 12 (Visiting) |
| 5 | Djarum Super (O) | 113.6 | 11 (Visiting) |
| 6 | Djarum LA (L) | 113.36 | 21 (Home) |
| 7 | PHELCYLDRM (O) | 112.67 | 3 (Visiting) |
| 8 | Nautilus (O) | 112.08 | 7 (Home) |
| 9 | Xia Shun (O) | 111.89 | 6 (Home) |
| 10 | ACR JM (O) | 111.82 | 3 (Home) |
| 11 | Ganesha Ladies (L) | 111.68 | 21 (Visiting) |
| 12 | Magic Eyes (S) | 104.74 | 31 (Visiting) |
| 13 | Bobo Dird (Y) | 103.46 | 41 (Home) |
| 14 | SGP (L) | 102.65 | 5 (Visiting) |
| 15 | Tiger (O) | 101.53 | 5 (Home) |
| 16 | Ganesha Open (O) | 100.79 | 6 (Visiting) |
| 17 | Ganesha Senior (S) | 100.15 | 7 (Visiting) |
| 18 | Bridge Hunters (O) | 97.59 | 1 (Visiting) |
| 19 | Eagles (O) | 97.11 | 2 (Visiting) |
| 20 | ACEH (O) | 84.63 | 4 (Home) |
| 21 | PH Open (O) | 72.93 | 1 (Home) |
| 22 | Payoon Bridge (Y) | 67 | 41 (Visiting) |
| 23 | RI (Y) | 52.49 | 2 (Home) |
| 24 | NUS (Y) | 9.64 | 4 (Visiting) |

Note: Best 4 Open Teams qualify for Finals, Best 2 Ladies, Senior and Youth Teams compete in a head-on final.
Tables 1-7 are Consolation Swiss (no carryover), rest are category finals.



Finals

Open Category:

Round 1 (9.30 - 11.45):

Table 11: Amanda (SGP) vs Djarum Super (IDN)

Table 12: HKB (HKG) vs Ambassador (HKG/CHN/SGP)

Round 2 (13.00 - 15.15):

Table 11: Amanda (SGP) vs Ambassador (HKG/CHN/SGP)

Table 12: HKB (HKG) vs Djarum Super (IDN)

Round 3 (15.30 - 17.45):

Table 11: Amanda (SGP) vs HKB (HKG)

Table 12: Ambassador (HKG/CHN/SGP) vs Djarum Super (IDN)

Ladies Category:

All Rounds(9.30 - 11.45, 13.00 - 15.15, 15.30 - 17.45):

Table 21: Djarum LA (IDN) vs Ganesha Ladies (IDN)

Senior Category:

All Rounds(9.30 - 11.45, 13.00 - 15.15, 15.30 - 17.45):

Table 31: Djarum Senior (IDN) vs Magic Eyes (THA)

Youth Category:

All Rounds(9.30 - 11.45, 13.00 - 15.15, 15.30 - 17.45):

Table 41: Bobo Dird (SGP) vs Payoon Bridge (THA)

Seating rights for the finals:

- Open Team Round Robin - Higher ranked team from qualifying will be the home team and have seating rights for all matches.
- Other Categories: Higher ranked team from qualifying will be the home team and have seating rights for 1st and 3rd segment. The visiting team will have seating rights for the 2nd segment.

Combined Teams Swiss Day 2 Vugraph Highlights

Board 13

All Vul
N Dealer

♦J863
♥732
♦Q842
♣J8

♦KQ5
♥AKQ6
♦J65
♣652

♦942
♥J984
♦T73
♣KQ9

♦AT7
♥T5
♦AK9
♣AT743

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | P | P | 1NT |
| X | 2♦A | AP | |

1NT was 14-16, and the X was penalty oriented. 2♦ was alerted and explained as showing ♦s and a major. After the trump lead was won in dummy, Gideon immediately led a small ♣ to the J and K. Another trump returned was won on dummy again and the ♣A cashed. Now a small ♣ from dummy discard the ♥2 from hand. Alan switched with ♣9 to his partner's Q, and the defence cashed a ♥ before returning a last trump but declarer could now claim the thirteenth trump, ♣A and 2♣ tricks for the contract.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | P | P | 1NT |
| AP | | | |

The defence cashed out 4 rounds of ♥s, declarer discarding ♣s from both hands. Kien Hoong returned ♣K to Peter's Ace, and he cashed his remaining five top tricks (4♦s and ♣A) for one down. 5 IMPs to Amanda.



L: Gideon Tan, R: Abby Chiu

Round 6: Amanda vs Ambassador

The first round of the second day sees team Ambassador back on Table 1 again.



L-R: Gideon Tan, Alan Sze, Russell Siew (VGO), Choon Chou (CC) Loo, Abby Chiu

In the Open Room, sitting NS for team Amanda are Gideon Tan (N) and Choon Chou (CC) Loo (S) versus Alan Sze (E) and Abby Chiu (W) for Ambassador.

Gideon and CC (NS) are playing Precision with a variable No Trump, while Alan and Abby play 2/1 with a short club.



L-R: Jim Lee, Kien Hoong Fong, Jing Kai Tioh (VGO), Peter Haw, Cheng Luo

In the Closed Room, for team Ambassador we have Jim Lee (N) and Peter Haw (S) versus Kien Hoong Fong (E) and Cheng Luo (W).

These two teams are no strangers to each other, with the various players having played with and against each other at various regional tournaments over the years for their respective national teams.

And we have the go from Chief TD Gerald Tan:

Board 14

All Vul ♠42
N Dealer ♥AK
 ♦AJ7653
 ♣KJ6

♠AJ93 ♠K8765
♥Q ♥974
♦Q42 ♦K
♣AT873 ♣Q954

♠QT
♥JT86532
♦T98
♣2

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | P | P |
| 1♣ | 1NT | 2♣A | P |
| 2♠ | 3♦ | 3♠ | AP |

Gideon played off his top two hearts, Abby ruffing the second round. ♠A and ♠J to the K drew the trumps and after a small ♣ to A and back towards the Q, declarer claimed 10 tricks.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | P | 2♥ |
| X | 3♥ | 3♠ | P |
| P | 4♥ | 4♣ | P |
| P | X | AP | |

The contract was played from the other side and Peter led his singleton ♣. Declarer won with the A, and drew trumps in two rounds. Contract made, +590 and another 9 IMPs for Amanda who now lead 14-0.

Ambassador picked up 2 IMPs on the next board and Board 16 was a push.

Board 17

None Vul ♠53
N Dealer ♥AKQJ94
 ♦QT2
 ♣J3

♠QT4 ♠J98
♥853 ♥T762
♦J875 ♦K63
♣642 ♣QT7

♠AK762
♥-
♦A94
♣AK985

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1♥ | P | 1♠ |
| P | 2♥ | P | 3♣ |
| P | 3NT | P | 4♣ |
| P | 4♥ | P | 6♣ |
| AP | | | |

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | 1♥ | P | 1♠ |
| P | 2♥ | P | 3♣ |
| P | 3NT | AP | |

The auctions in both rooms were similar until 3NT. CC Loo (Open Room) decided to bid on and jumped to 6♣ over partner's 4♥.

On the ♦7 lead, CC Loo played the 10 and covered the K with the A. ♣AK and a third followed and 12 tricks were claimed when trumps broke 3-3. At the other table, East was on lead instead and led the ♦6 which ran round to the 10 and declarer also claimed 12 tricks. 24-2 to Amanda.

Board 18

NS Vul ♠9
E Dealer ♥QT95
 ♦QJ654
 ♣K64

♠865 ♠AK
♥J72 ♥AK83
♦72 ♦KT83
♣J9832 ♣T75

♠QJT7432
♥64
♦A9
♣AQ

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| P | 1NT | X | 4♣ |
| 5♣ | X | AP | |

In the Open Room, declarer won the ♠Q lead with the A and played off ♥AK and another, CC Loo discarding the ♠10. The ♦Q was then returned to the K, A and 2. CC Loo returned a ♦ back and ruffed the third round with the Q, declarer discarding ♦6. A ♠ was returned for Gideon to ruffed, and a small trump return

followed. Declarer still had to concede the K of trumps for down 5.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| P | P | X | 2♠ |
| AP | | | |

On the ♦ lead, declarer won the first trick with the Q and only lost four top tricks in the majors. 14 IMPs to Amanda.

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

Board 20

NS Vul ♠AT43
E Dealer ♡A3
 ♦Q7
 ♣QJT3

♠KQJ9
♡KQT95
♦93
♣86

♠765
♡8
♦AKT864
♣952

♠82
♡7642
♦J52
♣AK74

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1♥ | P | 3♦A | X^ |
| 3♥ | 3NT | AP | |

Gideon thought for a while after 3♥ before producing 3NT which ended the auction. The ♥ lead went to the K and A, followed by 6 rounds of ♦s, East discarding two ♣s and a ♠ while West let go of a ♣ and three ♥s. Now declarer led a small ♣ to the J and East took his ♣AK whereupon declarer claimed the contract.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1♥ | X | 1NT^ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | P | P | 3♦ |
| P | P | 3♥ | AP |

In the closed room, the defence has ♠A, ♦AK and two trump tricks to take 3♥ one off. Another 11 IMPs and Amanda are now 49-2 up.

Board 21

NS Vul ♠2
N Dealer ♡QJT9875
 ♦AT
 ♣653

♠QJ6 ♠7
♡A64 ♡K32
♦KQ54 ♦J986
♣AQ2 ♣JT974

♠AKT98543
♡-
♦732
♣K8

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 3♥ | P | 4♠ |
| X | AP | | |

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | 3♥ | P | 4♠ |
| X | P | 4NT | X |
| 5♦ | X | AP | |

This board hinged on decision making by the East players. In the Open Room, Alan decided to pass the X of 4♠ which went two off. Kien Hoong in the other room decided to bid 4NT which landed the partnership in 5♦X.

Peter led off ♠K and then the 10 which was ruffed by his partner with the ♦10 and over-ruffed by declarer with the J. Declarer then played the ♦9 round to Jim's A. Jim returned ♡Q, ruffed by Peter for the setting trick. 12 IMPs to Ambassador.

Board 22 saw both Amanda pairs make a part-score at their respective tables:

EW Vul ♠J976
W Dealer ♡KQT6
 ♦J
 ♣T763

♠52 ♠AQ4
♡J832 ♡95
♦Q9854 ♦KT6
♣A5 ♣KQ984

♠KT83
♡A74
♦A732
♣J2

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 1NT | P |
| P | 2♣A | P | 2♦A |
| X | 2♥ | 3♣ | 3♠ |
| AP | | | |

As a sign of how bad this TD/Editor's sleep deprivation has been, I actually wondered out aloud on vugraph why did CC Loo choose to ask with 2♦ instead of showing ♠. My fellow TD colleague Patrick reminded me that he's still investigating if a ♠ game is possible!

A trump was led to the A and another small trump returned, won by the 8 in hand. Next came: ♦A, ♦ ruff, ♥ to A, ♦ ruff and now declarer exited with a ♣ to Abby's A. He returned the ♦Q, dummy discarding a ♣ and his partner Alan discarding the second ♥ in his hand. This was now the position with Abby to lead as West:

EW Vul ♥KQT
W Dealer ♣T7

♥J83
♦9
♣5

♠KT
♥74
♣2

♠Q
♣KQ94

Now a ♥ return would allow East to ruff and cash a winning ♣ trick to set the contract, but Abby chose to return the ♦9 ruffed by declarer with ♣ being discarded by the other two hands. Declarer played the ♠K next and now agonised over the ♥ position, eventually deciding to just take the top two instead of finessing to just make his contract.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | 1NT | AP |

A ♠ was led to the Q, and now declarer played the ♦T to the Q in dummy and returned another to the K. South took the third round of ♦s on which North discarded a ♣ and declarer claimed 11 tricks.

Board 23

All Vul
S Dealer

♠Q9
♥K4
♦JT762
♣5432

♠KJT62
♥QJ86
♦3
♣Q76

♠8754
♥973
♦9
♣KJT98

♠A3
♥AT52
♦AKQ854
♣A

Open Room:

| W: Chiu | N: Tan | E: Sze | S: Loo |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | 1♣A |
| 1♠ | X | 3♠ | X |
| P | 4♦ | P | 6♦ |
| AP | | | |

On the ♠ lead, declarer took the A and claimed 12 tricks.

Closed Room:

| W: Luo | N: Lee | E: Fong | S: Haw |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | | 1♦ |
| 1♠ | 2♦ | 4♥ | X |
| P | 5♦ | AP | |

In the Closed Room, on the ♠6 lead by West, declarer no longer had a loser in the suit and made all 13 tricks but still lost 12 IMPs on the board. Amanda 69-14 Ambassador.

Ambassador picked up 4 IMPs on the last board (3NT-3 by West in the OR vs 4♥X-2 by East in the CR), narrowly avoiding a 20-0 defeat.

Congrats to Amanda who won 69-18 and picked up 19.92 VPs on this round. With 99.08 VPs, they are now more than a match clear of second-placed HKB with 77.35. Can anyone else come close with four more rounds to go?

The Race Heats Up...

Going into the last round, this was the ranking table:

| Rank | Team | VPs |
|------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Amanda (O) | 134.89 |
| 2 | HKB (O) | 114.46 |
| 3 | Djarum Senior (S) | 109.67 |
| 4 | Ambassador (O) | 108.48 |
| 5 | PHELCYLDRM (O) | 104.05 |
| 6 | Magic Eyes (S) | 102.45 |
| 7 | Djarum Super (O) | 100.42 |
| 8 | Djarum LA (L) | 99.65 |
| 9 | Ganesha Open (O) | 98.34 |
| 10 | Nautilus (O) | 97.86 |
| 11 | SGP (L) | 96.36 |
| 12 | ACR JM (O) | 96.27 |
| 13 | Ganesha Ladies (L) | 95.5 |
| 14 | Bridge Hunters (O) | 93.77 |
| 15 | Bobo Dird (Y) | 92.08 |
| 16 | Xia Shun (O) | 91.89 |
| 17 | Eagles (O) | 86.4 |
| 18 | Tiger (O) | 85.95 |
| 19 | Ganesha Senior (S) | 84.57 |
| 20 | ACEH (O) | 76.01 |
| 21 | PH Open (O) | 72.93 |
| 22 | Payoon Bridge (Y) | 57.71 |
| 23 | RI (Y) | 48.07 |
| 24 | NUS (Y) | 5.22 |

Open: Amanda will finish first, but are playing 5th placed PHELCYLDRM who are in the last qualification spot but will need to ensure they score enough. Each of Djarum Super, Ganesha Open and Nautilus still have some hopes of qualifying if they win big and other results go their way.

Ladies: All to play for as only 4 VPs separate the three teams. Djarum LA has a heads-up against SGP so this match likely decides who qualifies unless Ganesha Ladies lose big to Bridge Hunters.

Senior: Djarum Senior has qualified. Ganesha Senior needs to win big against RI and hope Magic Eyes lose big against HKB.

Youth: Bobo Dird has qualified and now it is between Payoon Bridge (playing Eagles) and RI (playing Ganesha Senior). Payoon Bridge has a helpful almost 10 VP lead which should make them odds-on favourites to take the second spot.

Combined Teams Swiss Day 2 Vugraph Highlights (Cont'd)

Round 10: PHELCYLD RM vs Amanda

Amanda, already assured of a first place in the rankings, play 5th-ranked PHELCYLD RM in our last round of the Qualifying Swiss.

PHELCYLD RM are a mixed nationality team, with famous English legend Paul Hackett (N) partnering Ed Levy (S, also from England) sitting in the Open Room as NS. Derek Maggs (E) and Yiu Lin Chan (W) who are both local are the other partnership sitting EW in the Closed Room. For more about Paul, please see his biography by the English Bridge Union: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/biographies/paul-hackett>

Amanda needs no introduction by now and in the Open Room we have Choon Chou Loo (E) and Gideon Tan (W). In the Closed Room are Yukun Zhang (N) and Cheng Luo (S).



L-R: Paul Hackett, Choon Chou (CC) Loo, Russell Siew (VGO), Ed Levy, Gideon Tan



L-R: Yukun Zhang, Derek Maggs, Jing Kai Tioh (VGO), Cheng Luo and Yiu Lin Chan

In the Closed Room, for team Ambassador we have Jim Lee (N) and Peter Haw (S) versus Kien Hoong Fong (E) and Cheng Luo (W).

Paul and Ed are playing 4 card majors, not commonly seen in this part of the world.

Board 13 was a push board with both Easts making 9 tricks in 2♠. Amanda opened their account with 1 IMP on an overtrick in 2NT on board 14. Their opponents got two back on overtricks in 3NT on the following board.

Board 16

EW Vul ♠-
W Dealer ♥Q65
 ♦KQ9654
 ♣AQ54

♠6543 ♠AKT9872
♥8742 ♥KJ
♦JT73 ♦2
♣9 ♣873

♠QJ
♥AT93
♦A8
♣KJT62

Open Room:

| W: Tan | N: Paul | E: Loo | S: Levy |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| P | 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 3♠ | 5♣ | 5♠ | P |
| P | 6♣ | 6♠ | X |
| AP | | | |

Declarer took 10 tricks after a successful ♥ guess on trick 9.

Closed Room:

| W: Chan | N: Zhang | E: Maggs | S: Luo |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| P | 1♦ | 1♠ | X |
| P | 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♠ |
| P | 4♦ | P | 5♣ |
| AP | | | |

Declarer ruffed the ♠K opening lead, drew one round of trump and tried to play on ♦s. The second round was ruffed and ♠K returned but declarer now played a small ♦ towards table and claimed 12 tricks. 2 more IMPS to PHELCYLD RM who now lead 4-1.

The next board saw both Amanda pairs in 1NT at their respective tables:

Board 17

None Vul ♠AQ43
N Dealer ♥A852
♦K4
♣A43

♠JT5
♥QT4
♦T875
♣J72

♠K7
♥K963
♦AQ32
♣K98

♠9862
♥J7
♦J96
♣QT65

Open Room:

| W: Tan | N: Paul | E: Loo | S: Levy |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | 1♥ | 1NT | P |
| P | X | AP | |

Ed led ♥J, won with the Q in dummy. Next came a ♦ finesse and a small ♦ taken by the K. Paul now played ♠A and a small ♣, won by CC who then cashed his ♦ tricks ending in dummy. The ♥4 was then led from table, won by Paul with the A. Now declarer scores a ♥ and a ♣ for 7 tricks.

Closed Room:

| W: Chan | N: Zhang | E: Maggs | S: Luo |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| P | 1♣A | P | 1♦ |
| P | 1NT | AP | |

Derek led the ♥3 which went 7, 10, A. Yukun then led the ♣4 to the 10 and the J. The defence next took 3 ♥ tricks. Derek next exited with the ♦2 to declarer's K. When Yukun continued with ♦4, the defence took another 3 ♦ tricks. Now, Yiu Lin returned the ♠J, Yukun won the A.. On the lead of the ♠Q, Derek won the trick with his K but would be forced to lead away from this ♣K9 to allow declarer to win the last two tricks for two down. 2 IMPs to Amanda.

Board 18

NS Vul ♠J97
E Dealer ♥KT964
♦A
♣KJ42

♠AK6
♥A5
♦JT653
♣Q53

♠T832
♥3
♦KQ984
♣876

♠Q54
♥QJ872
♦72
♣AT9

Open Room:

| W: Tan | N: Paul | E: Loo | S: Levy |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | 2♦A | P |
| 2♥ | P | 2♠ | P |
| P | 3♥ | AP | |

Declarer won the ♦K lead, played trumps losing to the A. Now Gideon cashed ♠A and ♦J, ruffed. Paul now played two more rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and led the ♠Q. The defence can score two more tricks but declarer makes his contract.

Closed Room:

| W: Chan | N: Zhang | E: Maggs | S: Luo |
|---------|----------|----------|------------------|
| | | P | P |
| 1♦ | 1♥ | X | 2NT ^A |
| 3♦ | 4♥ | 5♦ | P |
| P | X | AP | |

Yukun led the ♦A before switching to a small ♥. Declarer still had to lose a ♠ and three ♣ tricks for three down. 8 IMPs to Amanda who now take the lead again this match 11-4.

Board 19

None Vul ♠AKJ7
N Dealer ♥T54
♦QT2
♣AT7

♠QT83
♥KJ87
♦K976
♣4

♠542
♥A6
♦J854
♣KQJ2

♠96
♥Q932
♦A3
♣98653

Open Room:

| W: Tan | N: Paul | E: Loo | S: Levy |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | | P |
| P | 1♠ | P | 1NT |
| AP | | | |

♦6 was led to 10, J, A. Ed successfully finessed the ♠J and led a small ♥ to the 9 and J. Gideon now tried a ♣, won by partner's J and another ♣ was returned to the Q. Ed now has ♠A, ♠AK but nothing more for one down.

Closed Room:

| W: Chan | N: Zhang | E: Maggs | S: Luo |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| | | | P |
| P | 1♦ | P | 1♥ |
| P | 1♠ | P | 1NT |
| AP | | | |

The first three tricks was similar to the other table but now Yiu Lin cashed the ♦K and led another ♦. Now Cheng led a small ♥ off the table and Derek won with the A and played the last ♦ over to Yiu Lin, who then led her ♣. But now declarer can just play ♣A, ♣AK and another ♣ putting her on lead to lead away from the ♥K7. Contract made and 4 more IMPs to Amanda who are now leading 15-4.

The next couple of boards were flat. Board 22 saw Amanda go off in 3 level contracts at both tables (3♣ in the OR and 3♥ in the CR) to concede 5 IMPs. Board 23 saw Yukun go off one less in 4♣ when the defence allowed him to discard a ♣ on a ♦ before they took their ♣ tricks. 3 IMPs and the score is now 18-9 with the last board to be played.

Board 24

None Vul ♠J865
 N Dealer ♥KQ54
 ♦JT6
 ♣QJ

♠A3 ♠QT4
 ♥J32 ♥T986
 ♦AK832 ♦Q7
 ♣854 ♣AT62

♠K972
 ♥A7
 ♦954
 ♣K973

Open Room:

| W: Tan | N: Paul | E: Loo | S: Levy |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1♦ | P | 1♥ | P |
| 1NT | P | P | X |
| P | 2♠ | AP | |

A balancing double by Ed saw Paul becoming declarer in 2♠. On the ♥10 lead, Paul won and continued another three rounds of ♥s, discarding two ♦s from dummy. CC Loo now tried the ♦Q, but the defence only made another three tricks - two trumps and ♣A - contract made.

Closed Room:

| W: Chan | N: Zhang | E: Maggs | S: Luo |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| 1♦ | P | 1♥ | P |
| 1NT | AP | | |

Yukun led the ♣Q and J, then ♦J. Yiu Lin cashed 5 ♦ tricks, and the two black As to make her contract. 5 IMPs to PHELCYLDRM but they still lost 14-18 to Amanda.

What happened at the other tables?

Table 2: HKB defeated Magic Eyes by a big margin to secure second spot.

Table 3: Nautilus won against Djarum Senior 14.22 to 5.78

Table 4: Djarum Super won against Ambassador 13.18 to 6.82. Djarum Super thus clinched the final qualifying spot in the open category, but Ambassador had enough to finish ahead of them.

Table 5: Djarum Ladies won against SGP 13.71 to 6.29. This did turn out to be the decisive match in the Ladies category.

Table 6: ACR JM won against Ganesh Open 16.55 to 3.45

Table 7: Ganesh Ladies won against Bridge Hunters 16.18 to 3.82, giving them a 9 VP lead over SGP.

Table 9: Xia Shun won against the maximum VPs against PH Open but was less than 2VPs shy of Djarum Super.

This was a real photo finish in the race for qualification with 4 teams (PHELCYLDRM, Nautilus, Xia Shun and ACR JM) within 2 VPs behind Djarum Super missing out. Hopefully they will have better luck in the Consolation Swiss.

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