

# 9 December

## SHBC Teams Championship

Rakesh Kumar

The postponed Teams Championship event was finally able to be held on Saturday 7 December. It was a moral victory for the EVANS team (Lynleigh Evans - Chris Bayliss - Margaret Malcolm - Fiona Khoo) who won all 8 of their matches. Unfortunately for them, the winning margin in 5 of those matches was relatively small, so they were overtaken on the Victory Points score by the LYE team (Tony Lye - Stephen Brabyn - Mardi Svensson - Rakesh Kumar).

One of the highlights of the day was seeing Chris at the table again – and in such good spirits!! He and Lynleigh played well too, finishing at the top of the pair datums.

Another highlight was the excellent lunch – many thanks to Margaret Malcolm for organising this. And many, many thanks to Steve Brabyn for undertaking the extremely tedious task of manually scoring the entire event after the BridgeMates had a conniption, as well as to Chris Bayliss for checking all of the scores.

Of course there were lots of interesting deals in the course of 8 matches of 6 boards. Here is one, which I will present to you as a problem. Nil vulnerable, partner is the dealer and after two passes you open 1NT with this hand:

♠AQ53  
♥KJ108  
♦A5  
♣A63

Your LHO doubles, which is described as showing a 4-card major a 5+ minor suit. Partner bids 2H, a transfer to spades, and RHO bids 3C. You bid 3S, LHO bids 4C, partner bids 4S and after 2 passes LHO now bids 5C! This is passed back to you. What will you do?

Many wildly distributional hands turned up during the day. This was perhaps the wildest of them:

<b>19</b> S/EW	♠ –	♠ 984	N	S
	♥ AT962	♥ KQJ754	NT	
	♦ KQJ6432	♦ AT7	♠	
	♣ 2	♣ A	♥	4
♠ QJ62			♦	4
♥ 8			♣	
♦ –			Opt res: NS 3D; 130	
♣ KJ987654	♠ AKT753		E	W
10	♥ 3		NT	
7 14	♦ 985		♠	1
9	♣ QT3		♥	
			♣	2 3

No game can be made by either side, but the table of results indicates that not too many were about to stop below game! As you can see, there were swings in almost every match:

<u>North-South</u>	<u>East-West</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Score</u>		<u>Imps</u>	
			<u>Lead</u>	<u>Tricks</u>	<u>NS</u>	<u>EW</u>
<a href="#">1 Fisher</a>	<a href="#">5 Hall</a>	3♠ S	H	7	100	-6 6
<a href="#">2 Zaranski</a>	<a href="#">9 Parker</a>	5♦ X N	C	8	500	-12 12
<a href="#">3 Lye</a>	<a href="#">6 McKenna</a>	5♣ W	D	9	200	3 -3
<a href="#">4 Evans</a>	<a href="#">1 Fisher</a>	4♦ N	C	10	130	6 -6
<a href="#">5 Hall</a>	<a href="#">4 Evans</a>	5♦ X N	C	10	100	0 0
<a href="#">6 McKenna</a>	<a href="#">3 Lye</a>	5♣ W	D	10	100	-3 3
<a href="#">7 Minchin</a>	<a href="#">8 McGain</a>	5♦ N	S	10	50	6 -6
<a href="#">8 McGain</a>	<a href="#">7 Minchin</a>	6♦ X N	C	10	300	-6 6
<a href="#">9 Parker</a>	<a href="#">2 Zaranski</a>	5♣ W	D	10	100	12 -12

Meanwhile, back to that first deal. It's hard for North to resist doubling for penalties, but that turns out to be a bad idea, because this was the layout:

<b>11</b> S/-	♠ AQ53	♠ -	NT	
	♥ KJT8		♠ 4 4	
	♦ A5	♥ A765	♥ 3 3	
	♣ A63	♦ K93	♦ -	
♠ K76		♣ KQJ985	Opt res: NS 5SX; -100	
♥ Q		♠ JT9842	E W	
♦ QT742		♥ 9432	NT	
♣ T742		♦ J86	♠ -	
18		♣ -	♥ 2 2	
7 13			♣ 5 5	
2				

As the cards lie, 5C is unbeatable. What's more, if North bids on to 5S, the only way that can be set is for East to start with ♥A and another heart for West to ruff! Otherwise, 11 tricks are easy when ♥Q pops up.

All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, with good humour all round and some good results for those trying Teams bridge for the very first time. Which is how it should be ...



# 16 December

## SHBC Christmas Party

Rakesh Kumar

SHBC had a very enjoyable Christmas party in the late afternoon on Saturday 14 December – there was plenty to drink, great food, a President's speech which acknowledged many dedicated volunteers, and the annual awarding of trophies.

Of course before that there was bridge – and one could be forgiven for believing that the dealing computer had also been imbibing the Christmas spirit(s) because some of the deals were extraordinary. Not only were there three 6-5 hands, there was a 7-5 and an extremely rare 7-6 hand, which has a probability of only 0.0056%.

This deal featured two double fits and generated a lot of action:

<b>BD: 21</b>	♠AT9	<b>Dlr: N</b>	
	♥53	<b>Vul: NS</b>	
	♦T8		
	♣AKT875		
♠J64		♠2	
♥KJT962		♥A874	
♦AQ5		♦K976432	
♣3		♣2	
	♠KQ8753		
	♥Q		
	♦J		
	♣QJ964		
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N	
		T	
N	5	5	11
S	5	5	11 7
E	5 5		11
W	5 5		

North of course opens 1C but after that almost anything was possible. At our table East chose to ignore the 4-card heart suit and overcalled 3D. South bid 3S and West raised directly to 5D. With what I thought were 3 likely defensive tricks, I doubled, which stopped partner from bidding on at adverse vulnerability. However, the double turned out to be a very bad idea, as 5D is glacially cold. So is 5H – and sadly, so is 5S ...

The range of results can be seen in the table overleaf:

Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
5♠ by NS	=	650	1
4♠ by NS	+1	650	2
3♠ by NS	+3	230	1
4♦ by EW	+2	-170	1
4♦ by EW	+3	-190	1
5♦ by EW	+1	-420	1
5♦ by EW	+2	-440	1
5♥ by EW	=	-450	1
5♥ by EW	=	-450	1
5♦X by EW	=	-550	1
5♥X by EW	=	-650	1

The board with the 7-6 hand was challenging in a different way. South will usually start with a 2NT opening showing a balanced 20-21 (or 22) hcp and West will of course overcall in hearts, but North will now jump to 4S. At several tables, including ours, that was the end of the auction. Reaching 6S is difficult unless West decides to back in with 5C. As it turns out, slam in either diamonds or spades is unbeatable!

**BD: 22**    ♠AJT8653    **Dlr: E**  
♥                    **Vul: EW**  
♦T8764  
♣3

♠		♠9742
♥AKT8542		♥J93
♦		♦932
♣KT8742		♣A96

♠KQ  
♥Q76  
♦AKQJ5  
♣QJ5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
					T
N	6	6			5
S	6	6		10	5
E	5	6			20
W	6	6			

