

From the President

Now that the Christmas holiday period is over, things are starting to return to normal at the Club. Table numbers are up considerably, which is great. The majority of members have renewed for another year. Membership is around 470 at the moment, which is good for this time of the year. I must thank Garth for all the time he puts in organising renewals. It really is a big job.

With the recent hot weather, it has not been an ideal temperature in the playing room at times. The portable fans have helped with the air movement and the Directors have helped by moving players to the cooler areas of the room. I recently met with the Council and the contractors that have been appointed to replace the air conditioning. The good news is that the replacement of the air conditioners in both the playing and supper rooms is currently scheduled to take place in March. There may be some disruption at the Club when it is being replaced in the playing room. I will update you further when I have a firm date for the work. I am certainly looking forward to a new air conditioner and I am sure most of you are as well.

Tony McKinnon

Kitchen Duty Roster

The February kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **B, D, E and V** to assist with setting up and clearing away the kitchen before and after the tea break. Please contribute to the smooth running of the tea breaks when rostered on. Instructions are on the wall in the kitchen if you are not sure what needs to be done. Many hands make light work, and if we all do our bit, the inconvenience to those rostered on is small. Thank you for your cooperation.

Volunteer Recognition - Joan Barnett

The activities of our club could not run smoothly without the input from a dedicated bunch of volunteers. This is particularly the case for our supervised sessions where players are allowed to attend without a partner. Here the volunteer is asked to partner a newbie or, if there is a half-table, to assist the sit-out pair to bid some chosen boards. Joan carries out both of these activities in an encouraging and informative manner at the Monday morning session. When she is filling up a table, all the players benefit from discussion of the hand and when she is mentoring a sit-out pair, the players comment on how helpful she is. The supervised session has been running since 2019. Joan has been there from the beginning, and for years before that she helped on a Thursday morning. Many thanks for your support, Joan.



Tony with Joan

Events coming up in late February and March

The **Club Restricted Pairs Championship** will be held at 9:15am on **Saturday, 24 February**. This event, proudly sponsored by *Jones Ballard*, is for club members only, who have fewer than 50 masterpoints. This event is a fabulous, gentle opportunity for less-experienced members to play in a red-point event. If you and your partner both have fewer than 50 masterpoints, please consider coming along. Even though it is a Championship event, it runs just like any other club session. You will play against friendly and welcoming members of similar ability. And who knows, you might even find your name on the Honour board!

Playing in the *Club Restricted Pairs Championship*, or any red point session, requires you to have a System card. If you don't have one, please ask a Director for a system card to complete before the event and bring it with you on the day. There are many players at the club who will be able to show you how to fill out the card if you need assistance.

The **Club Summer Teams** will take place over two **Wednesdays, 13 & 20 March** starting at 12:30pm. Cost is \$20 per person for both weeks and includes a free drink at the end of the second week. Prizes will be awarded at the completion of the second week. Now is the time to consider putting a team together. Please register your team in the red book.

South Perth Easter Congress

The **SPBC Easter Congress**, proudly sponsored by DFG legal, will take place from **Good Friday, 29 March** to **Easter Monday, 1 April**. The Welcome Pairs will be held on Friday afternoon, Open Pairs on Saturday, Swiss Pairs on Sunday, and Open Teams on Monday.

This four-day congress is our club's major event of the year. It is always a fantastic congress, so please consider coming along. But fantastic congresses can only happen with a lot of hard work behind the scenes. There are already many people busily planning the organisation and logistics of the playing sessions, but we will need more volunteers to assist across the weekend. Our congresses have a great reputation for their hospitality, so if you have some time across the Easter weekend to help, please contact Sue Shadbolt or Rachel McRae.

McClutcheon Masterpoint Ranking

As mentioned in the January newsletter, Gwyneira Brahma, a SPBC player and Management Committee member, earned the most *Red* points in Australia for 2023. Gwyneira also headed the McClutcheon lists for Grand Masters. That is, she earned the most *overall* points (gold/red/green) for 2023 in the Grand Master ranking category. Gwyneira was awarded a certificate from the ABF for her achievement, which was presented to her by our club president.



Tony with Gwyneira

2024

Youth Bridge

Youth bridge at South Perth is off to a strong start. Fourteen players, some new, some experienced, came along to our first weekly youth night. The youth sessions start with a 15-minute lesson about bidding and card play, followed by an opportunity to play some boards. The session concludes with sometime to socialise over pizza. We have even had a few of the players stay on and play in the regular Tuesday night club session.

If you have any children, grandchildren or other young people in your life who are interested in playing bridge, they would be very welcome to come along. Please contact Danni Fuller for further details: 0411289663.



Recycling

Thank you to members who are supporting our club's recycling program. The program is a service to assist our members to do their bit for the planet and is operated by a volunteer. The club does not make any money from it.

A reminder that there are some things that we are not able to recycle. All materials need to be sorted into groups, as listed in the table below, before they can be taken to the recycling centre, so we really need you to sort things *before* you bring them to the club. Please do not bring in large bags of intermingled objects that have to be sorted as we don't have 'sorting fairies' at the club!

Bread bag tags	✓	Please keep separate from other materials and place in the container
Can pull-back tops	✓	Please keep separate from other materials and place in the container
Plastic lids	✓	Please keep separate and place in the container – <i>preferably with the paper or cardboard inserts already removed.</i>
Assorted small plastic items (as in the photo)	✗	These are not being collected as they cannot be sorted by the recycling machines. <i>Please put these in your rubbish bins at home</i>
Metal lids (or plastic lids with metal inserts)	✗	These are not being collected. <i>Please put in your own recycling bins at home.</i>



Small plastic items like these cannot be recycled.