

From the President

Happy New Year to all. I hope you had any enjoyable Christmas and found some time to relax with family and friends.

We have just completed our Summer Congress, which was very well attended and a great day of bridge, apart from the temperature in the playing room. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed the day. A big thank you to all those who helped behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

This year I would like to continue to improve the Club, beginning with a focus on the amenities at the Club, hopefully starting with new air conditioning in the playing room.

Tony McKinnon



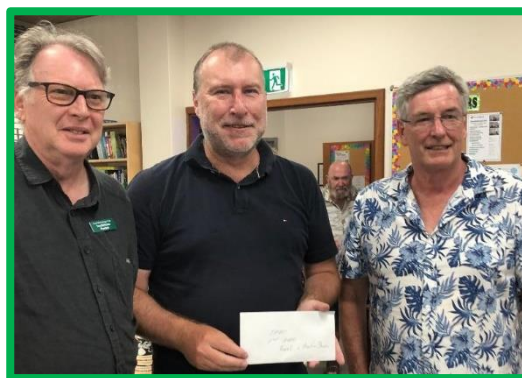
Swiss Pairs Congress

The first big event at SPBC for the New Year was the *2024 Swiss Pairs Congress*, held on Sunday, 7 January 2024. The event was well-attended, with all the 30 available tables filled. Congratulations to the winners of the event. In first place were Helen and Steven Rogoysky. Second place went to Karol Miller and Martin Doran, and in third place were Geoff Holman and Don Allen. Close behind, in fourth place were Gerry Day and Viv Wood. Best South Perth pair went to Gwyneira Brahma and Dave Munro. Prizes were presented by Club president Tony McKinnon.

Swiss Pairs Congress winners



Tony with Helen and Steven



Tony with Karol and Martin



Tony with Geoff and Don



Tony with Viv and Gerry

Kitchen Duty Roster

The January kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **A, L, S and Z** 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.

The request for individuals to mop up their own spills, especially on outside tables, seems to have fallen on deaf ears! Your spill – your responsibly. Please clean it up. No one wants to arrive for their break at a stained or dirty table or have to clean up after other people. If we all do our bit, we can all enjoy the facilities.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of others.

Events coming up in late January and February

After a false start to the *Final Red-point Fling for 2023*, this has been renamed as the **Red Point Rerun** and has been rescheduled to **Saturday, 20 January**. This is a walk-in event, commencing at 1:30pm. The cost is normal table money: Members \$7, and visitors \$10. All members and visitors are welcome.

The **Australia Day Open Pairs** will be held on **Friday, 26 January**. This is also a walk-in event, commencing at 12:30pm. The cost is normal table money: Members \$7, and visitors \$10. All members and visitors are welcome. Come along and join us for an enjoyable afternoon of bridge!

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* is also a great reason to create 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. Even if you decide not to play in red-point events, it's a good idea to have a system card. You may be surprised how valuable it can be to sit with your partner and complete one. There are many players at the club who would be willing to assist you, if you are not sure how to fill it in.

If you have a computer and printer, you can download a card, complete it electronically and print it for yourself. Electronic cards can be downloaded here: <https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/>

Lessons for beginners

Lessons for beginners start soon. **Please pass on information to anyone who you think might be interested.**

The next courses will be on:

Monday mornings starting **29 January**, from **9.45 to 11.45 am**. The last lesson will be on 25 March. (There will be no lesson on 4th March which is a Public Holiday).

Wednesday evenings starting, **31 January**, from **7.30 to 9.30 pm**. The last lesson will be on 20 March.

Both courses run for 8 weeks at a cost of \$100. Participants can switch between Mondays and Wednesdays in any given week. For more information contact Fiske: fiskebridge@bigpond.com or call Fiske on 0435 152 003.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions as of December 2023

Congratulations to the SPBC members who recently achieved new Masterpoint rankings:

John Busby	Graduate Master	Heather Sjoberg	Local Master
Sharyn Pearce	Graduate Master	Mark Mullins	Bronze Local Master
Aileen Watt	Graduate Master	Brian Shaw	Bronze Local Master
Dianne Heath	Club Master	Meike Schoolland	Silver Local Master
Gigi Hesterman	Club Master	Erik Moller	State Master
Kate Kirk	Club Master	Steven Kemp	Bronze State Master
Betty Lou Williams	Club Master	Mark O'Connor	National Master
Fred Fowler	Local Master	Laurie Money	Silver Life Master

McClutcheon Masterpoint Ranking

A special mention goes to Gwyneira Brahma, a SPBC player and Management Committee member, who 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. Congratulations, Gwyneira, on an outstanding year.

From the Laws of Bridge

Sometimes a Declarer might give an instruction to dummy, such as: "Run the Diamonds".

This line of play is described as incorrect procedure because according to Law 45B:

Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table. (This is intended to mean one card at a time).

So, while such an instruction should not be given, when used, it is interpreted to mean, "Run the Diamonds until I tell you to stop". If the Declarer then needs to stop running the suit, Declarer will need to instruct dummy to stop before the next diamond has been led, or at the very latest before the next player has played a card to the trick. Otherwise, the card will be deemed to have been played.

There is another important reason for discouraging this action:

Dummy tends to play the cards quickly and sometimes defenders have difficulty keeping up with play and may play too many or too few cards to the trick or they may have insufficient time to consider discards.

Dummy should take care to maintain an even tempo to the play in order to prevent these problems.

RECOMMENDATION to DECLARERS:

Rather than instruct dummy to run a suit and potentially cause unease at the table, play the cards one at a time. This is the action preferred by the World Bridge Federation Laws Committee.