

## From the President

Volunteers are the life blood of any community organisation. Without them a club such as ours fails to exist. Luckily, our club has a dedicated group of hard-working and well-meaning volunteers. Our volunteers take on a wide range of roles, many of which are carried out behind the scenes. I try to make every effort to thank those people when I get an opportunity, but I realise that I do not get to thank everyone. So, thank you to all our volunteers who work so hard for the club.



The Management Committee is currently reviewing how we can recognise our volunteers in a more meaningful way. I welcome any suggestions you may have.

**Tony McKinnon**

## Kitchen Duty Roster

The October kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **G, C, I and N** to assist with setting up and clearing away the kitchen before and after the tea break. All members (who are able to do so) are requested to assist with kitchen duty when they are rostered on. Many hands make light work, sharing the burden, so it is not an arduous task. If you are unsure what to do, there are notices on the walls in the kitchen with instructions and information on where to find everything you'll need.

## Club Mixed Pairs Championship

The club Mixed Pairs Championship was held over two Fridays, 13 and 20 October. Congratulations to the winners, Phil Bapty and Tomoko Nakamatsu. Second place went to Mark Goddard and Joscelyn Charters, and in third place were Dave Munro and Gwyneira Brahma.

**Club President Tony McKinnon presented prizes to the winners:**



Phil Bapty and Tomoko Nakamatsu



Mark Goddard



Gwyneira Brahma and Dave Munro

## Happy Birthday!



Liz with her birthday cake

Liz Farr celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday at SPBC, during and after the Saturday afternoon session on 21 October. Players were treated to a delicious cake for afternoon tea, and Liz generously provided nibbles and a free drink for everyone after the session.

It was a lovely way to acknowledge Liz's milestone birthday, and a pleasant time was had by all who were there to join in the celebration.

Many happy returns, Liz.

## Events coming up in late October and in November

The **Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs** will be held at SPBC on Saturday morning, **28 October**, commencing at 9:15am. The event is open to all player with fewer than 300 MPs. Cost to enter is \$10 per person and includes a booklet (provided after the session!) that discusses each of the hands.

Our annual members-only **Melbourne Cup Luncheon and Bridge** is on the **7 November**. Doors open at 11:00am. Participate in cup sweeps if you wish and watch the race at 12:00, which is followed by lunch. Adjourn to the playing room for the hat parade, followed by a pleasant afternoon of bridge. Cost \$35 includes lunch, and a drink. Please enter your names in the red book to facilitate catering.

The **Spring into Summer Tuesday Evening Pairs** is a members-only, two-session red point event that will be held on **21 and 28 November**, with cash prizes (with the amount dependent on numbers). Starts 7:00pm. Entry is \$20. Enter via the red book.

## Masterpoint Ranking Promotions

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

Rob Breen	Bronze State Master
Margaret Mackenzie	Bronze State Master
Erik Moller	Regional Master
Sylvia Garlick	Silver Local Master
Kevin Pass	Silver Local Master
Denise Pass	Silver Local Master
Wendy Brindle	Local Master
Richard Cohen	Local Master
Jenny Cooper	Local Master
Sue Craig	Local Master
Maria Dennis	Local Master
Wendy Brindle	Local Master

## Lessons for Beginners

**Lessons for beginners:** The last 8-week course for this year, being held on Monday mornings 9:45 to 11:45 or Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9:30, commenced 16 and 18 October. These lessons, with Fiske Warren are an excellent entry into the world of Bridge. Lessons are hands-on, practical and notes are provided. If you know anyone interested in learning how to play, please encourage them to consider learning with Fiske at SPBC. Lessons will run again next year, starting on Monday 29 January and Wednesday 31 January 2024. Contact Fiske for further information: [fiskebridge@bigpond.com](mailto:fiskebridge@bigpond.com) or mobile: 0435 152 003

## Lessons for new and intermediate players

If you are a new or intermediate player looking to further develop your bridge knowledge, the *Next Steps* lessons might be for you:

**Declarer play in suit contracts**, with Jan Howell, Monday evenings, 16 & 23 October 7.30 – 9.30pm

**What system do we play?** with Jan Howell, Monday evening, 30 October, 7.30 – 9.30pm

**Common Bidding Mistakes** with Fiske Warren, Tuesday morning 14 November, 9.45 – 11.45am

**Negative Doubles** with Fiske Warren, Tuesday morning 21 November, 9.45 – 11.45am

Further enquiries to Jan: [janhowell53@gmail.com](mailto:janhowell53@gmail.com) or Fiske: [fiskebridge@bigpond.com](mailto:fiskebridge@bigpond.com)

Lessons on other topics will be offered from time to time, provided there is sufficient support. If you have a suggestion for a lesson please email Jan Howell, Chair of Education and Membership Committee at [janhowell53@gmail.com](mailto:janhowell53@gmail.com).

## New SBCB members

Welcome to the new SPBC members whose memberships were endorsed at the October MC meeting:

Sophie Bastow, Carol Van Malson, Joan Peters, Bob Peters, Leonie Maley and Helen Gibbs.

## System cards

It is a BAWA requirement that matching system cards are made available by each member of a partnership at **any red point event**, including any SPBC members-only event. This helps to eliminate a lot of question asking and, hopefully, reduce the incidence of *unauthorised information*.

For those who do not have a system card, the club has a supply of simple system cards that are ideal for use by players whose system is straightforward. Completing one of these with your partner can be a great way to ensure you have a common understanding of your system and the conventions that you have agreed to play. If you have different agreements with different partners, you will need a system card for each partnership.

If you would like a system card to complete, please ask a Director.

In the September newsletter, there was an explanation of Law 73C, about 'unauthorised information':

## LAW 73C

*When a player has available to him unauthorized information (UI) from his partner, such as a remark, question, explanation, gesture, mannerism, undue emphasis, inflection, haste or hesitation, an unexpected alert or failure to alert, he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorized information (UI).*

Here is another example, using a mistaken call, to assist with understanding how this should play out at the table:

### Consider the bidding sequence:

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1NT	pass	2♦*	pass
2♥	pass	3♦?	

(\*2♦ alerted by W)

East has forgotten they are playing transfers, and his 2♦ bid was a weak take-out which opener was supposed to pass. The alert by West has provided him with a wakeup call. He now knows they are playing transfers and tries to correct his mistake by bidding 3♦, hoping his partner will get the message and pass.

Alerts and explanations are provided for the benefit of opponents, not as system reminders for the bidding side. Once East has heard the alert and explanation he is in receipt of *unauthorized information* and if his bid was not what he thought it meant, he must avoid taking any advantage of that. Therefore, in this example, to avoid using the *unauthorized information*, he should have passed the 2♥ call.

In trying to get the auction back on track with a 3♦ bid, East has acted on *unauthorized information*, provided by his partner's alert. However, following East's 3♦ bid, West would be expected to keep bidding because 3♦ is now showing East holds five hearts and four diamonds and enough points to invite game. Therefore, the final contract should be 4♥ or 3NT.

If West passes after East bids 3♦, you can expect the opposition to call the Director after play has finished because the cards held by the declaring side do not match the bidding – and it is reasonable for them to conclude that *unauthorized information* has influenced the bidding. The Director will determine if the score should be adjusted. The result of the 3♦ contract will only be allowed to stand if it is a worse score than the possible outcomes of the bids that would have been made without using the *unauthorized information*:

2♥, 4♥ or 3NT. This is to ensure that the declaring side are not permitted to benefit from taking advantage of *unauthorized information*.

Provided East passes the 2♥ bid, the Director need not be called because no one has done anything wrong. The 2♦ call was a mistake. Mistakes happen and are not infractions. The alert and explanation, if one was given, were correct.

New and inexperienced players who are still learning the complexities of bidding may sometimes make bids without fully understanding their system, which could be seen by the opposition as using *unauthorized information*. Don't be upset if the opponents call the Director. Think of it as a learning experience!

**Recommendation:** Problems such as these can often be avoided if each member of the partnership has a completed system card and checks it before the game starts.