



# **SOUTH PERTH DECLARER**

## **February 2023**

### **News from the Management Committee**

It is sad to have to bring this matter up. One sometimes wonders what the inside of some people's houses look like...

Members are free to use the club facilities when they come to play bridge and this might, from time to time, include using the kitchen to prepare a meal (some people play two consecutive sessions...) However, if you use any of the facilities, PLEASE clean up after yourself. The club has no elves and the cleaner is not paid to do dishes. Nor are the directors, for that matter. The directors do put used cups and glasses into the dishwasher (all of which should have been neatly stacked in the white plastic holders for ease of transport and stacking), however should not be expected to clean up after you.

### **South Perth Restricted Pairs Club Championship**

SPBC recently held the Restricted Pairs Club Championship with 26 pairs taking part. This event is for members having less than 50 masterpoints and is a great entry point for players to start playing more competitive bridge.

Sue Jensen and Maureen Nelson took the top honours (pictured, right, with President, Tony McKinnon).

The placegetters were:

First: Maureen Nelson and Sue Jensen  
Second: Paulette Johnston and Jan Taylor  
Third: Stephen Chang and Kogie Naidoo



### **Club Recorder**

Many members may not be aware that a) SPBC has club recorders; and b) what a recorder actually does. We are, unfortunately, stuck with the term "recorder" (it is used by the World Bridge Federation), so no point in suggesting a name change to something more suitable, like arbiter.

If something happens that makes you feel uncomfortable, the director should normally be your first point of call. This is especially so if there has been an irregularity at the table. However, if the matter is not directly related to the Laws of Bridge, then you can approach one of the club recorders. Recorders can deal with a range of matters, such as rudeness, bullying, unethical behaviour and even cheating. Things like rudeness and bullying don't even have to have occurred at the bridge table. For example, many years ago a member got abused in the car park by another player, who was ultimately banned from playing at the club for a period of time.

Most matters dealt with by a recorder are relatively minor and may be addressed verbally. With more complex matters, the recorder may undertake an investigation, which may require a written report and may also be recorded so that, should the behaviour persist (i.e multiple complainants), further action may be taken.

The club recorders are currently Garth Scotford and Gordana Komadina.

### **Latest Promotions**

Bronze National Master:	Mei Huang
Silver Local Master:	Dick de Graaf, Kathy Murray and Barbara Norman
Local Master:	Anne Bannister and Tim Mason
Graduate Master:	Dianne Heath



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### Coming events

SPBC is holding two big events in March. First, the Club Summer Teams event is being held on Wednesday afternoons 8 and 15 March, entries via the red book. If you don't have teammates, please feel free to add your names as a pair. Note, you must be a member of SPBC to compete in this event

Then on Saturday afternoon, 18 March, the club is holding its birthday party (and the Dora Wilson Trophy). This event is open to everyone and there is no need to enter ahead of time.

Looking forward to April, perhaps start booking in your favourite partners or teammates for the club's *DFG Legal* Easter Congress, which is always well attended. Members should also start considering ways in which to help with this event as many hands make light work. Thank you!

### Improving your bridge

A club member sent me the following hand, wondering how best to bid it. What would you do, and why?

Dealer: W     ♠ K T 5 4 3  
 Vul: none    ♥ K Q J 4  
               ♦ J 8 7  
               ♣ T

♠ A 7	N	♠ Q J 9 6 2
♥ T 8 6	W     E	♥ 5 3 2
♦ K Q 2	S	♦ A 9 3
♣ Q J 8 6 4		♣ A 5
♠ 8		
♥ A 9 7		
♦ T 6 5 4		
♣ K 9 7 3 2		

The bidding (playing Standard):

West	North	East	South
1C	1S	?	

Note, West must open 1C, with the intention of following up that bid with 1NT, to show 12-14 and a balanced hand.

North overcalls 1S. X would also be a possibility, however North doesn't have enough points to X and then bid his 5-card major.

Therefore, 1S is a better overcall.

Now it is East's turn. East has three choices, either 2NT (shows 10-12 points with spades "stopped"); double, or pass. What would you do?

2NT is an OK bid. It certainly describes your hand and your spade stopper (ability to stop the opponents from cashing lots of winners in their suit) is robust. (Unfortunately, 2NT doesn't make!)

What about X? Well, that bid is a definite **NO**. What does X mean in that seat? It means you have hearts!

Remember, two suits have been bid and now you want to X. It tells partner to pick one of the other suits. A X here is TAKEOUT. You are NOT allowed to wink at partner and say something like "this time it is for penalties".

But boy oh boy you want to X, don't you! You have three "sure" spade tricks (Q J 9 x x sitting over the 1S overcall will make three tricks if you don't lead spades yourself); and you have two Aces, for a total of five tricks and partner opened the bidding, so must have something over there!

So, what you do is you get partner to X. You PASS. South will probably pass (1NT might not be a terrible bid by South, but one should normally hold 8+ points to bid 1NT after partner has overcalled). What you hope is that your partner can X, so that you can then PASS again! And North will be left to play 1SX, making just five tricks, for an E-W score of +300.

West's X in this position is known as a balancing double and most good partnerships require a X in the pass out seat like this to cater for such occasions as this.