

From the President

We have recently held the Club Summer Teams event. I was so happy to see that almost half the field were Novice level players or below. It is great to see so many less experienced players participating, as those players are the potential future of our club. The behaviour of all players was excellent, making the day enjoyable for all and this helps to encourage the less experienced players to continue to play in higher level competitions.

Well done to all.

Tony McKinnon



Club Restricted Pairs Championship

The Club Restricted Pairs Championship was held on Saturday, 22 February. This event was for club members only, who had fewer than 50 masterpoints as of the 1 January 2025. It was fabulous to see the Championship extremely well attended, with 30 pairs filling 15 tables. Players enjoyed a special morning tea provided by our sponsor Jones Ballard. The winners were Paul Fielding and Jane Erzay, in second place were Rachel McRae and Simon Orton, in third place were Margaret Martin and Richard Cohen and fourth place went to Trish Christy and Barbara Norman. Best pair under 25 MPs went to Graham Pain and Anne Bannister, who came 7th overall, and best pair under 5 MPs went to Veronica Woodward and Mike Gale, who came 9th overall.

Club Restricted Pairs winners



Paul Fielding and Jane Erzay



Simon Orton and Rachel McRae



Richard Cohen and Margaret Martin



Trish Christy and Barbara Norman



Graham Pain and Anne Bannister



Mike Gale and Veronica Woodward

Club Summer Teams

The Club Summer Teams was held over two Wednesdays, 19 and 26 February. Twelve teams participated in a round robin, with 5 matches of 6 boards played each week. The winning team was Team Dutton (Nigel Dutton, Kimberley Zhao, Nick Cantatore, Val Biltoft), in second place was Team Brahma (Gwyneira Brahma, Dave Munro, Deana Wilson, David Schockman), and in third place was Team McKay (Murray McKay, Neville Walker, Valerie Isle, Ovidiu Calcan). The best team under 300 MPs went to Team Brown (Shane Brown, Tony McKinnon, Gabrielle Bastow, Erik Moller) and the best team under 150 MPs went to Team Hulshoff (Rhonda Hulshoff, Barbara Daniels, Marie-Fran Hall, Barbara Maitland).

Summer Teams Winners



Team Dutton



Team Brahma



Team McKay



Team Brown



Team Hulshoff

Kitchen Duty Roster

The kitchen duty roster calls members to help 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 as a heads up, the **March** roster will be for members with surnames starting with **H, O, P Mc and Mac**.

Events coming up in March and April

The **Club Handicap Championship**, also known as **The Browning Cup**, is a two-session red-point event that will be held over two **Tuesdays, 18 and 25 March 2025**, starting at **12:30pm**. The handicap for this event is determined by players' ABF masterpoint ranking. This means all players, whether grand masters or graduate masters can compete in the one event with a more level playing field. It's another great opportunity for some of the less-experienced players to earn some red points!

The Club Birthday Party will be celebrated with a red-point event and cake for afternoon tea on **Saturday, 5 April** at **1:30 pm**. Winners names will be placed on the Dora Wilson Trophy.

The **SPBC Easter Congress**, proudly sponsored by DFG legal, will take place from **Good Friday, 18 April** to **Easter Monday, 21 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. Entry to the events is through MyABF.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions for January 2025

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

Andrew Palmer	Bronze Local Master	Ovidiu Calcan	Silver Local Master
Heather Sjoberg	Bronze Local Master	Rob Breen	National Master
David Hedgcock	Silver Local Master	Sue Shadbolt	Life Master

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined the club recently:

Mike Taylor, Henk Meydam, Max Petrich, Jayant Mehl, and Samuel Raj

Can you help?

We are still looking for a volunteer who is able to help with maintaining our outdoor area. The area is well-used by members, especially during tea-breaks and during congresses, but it doesn't take care of itself. It mostly involves keeping the area clean and tidy, about once a week. Since we have not had an individual offer to take this on, perhaps there are some members who would be willing to participate in a roster to look after the area. If you think you could help out on a rostered basis, please contact Judy Palmer judypalmer356@gmail.com

Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones should be either turned off or set to silent when in the playing room. The sound of phones going off, with incoming calls or texts, is very disturbing to other players when they are concentrating on their game.

Lately there has been an increase in mobile phones going off and the Management Committee has decided to take steps to encourage players to turn their phones off. Initially the Directors will give a verbal warning to players whose phones go off in the playing room. If this does not rectify the issue, then we will consider introducing a fines system.

We understand that there are times when players may be expecting an urgent call. If this is the case the player should inform the Director prior to the start of play. **Please be considerate of other players and turn off your phone or set it to silent.**

There's always something new

by Marnie Laybourne

Leone Fuller has been playing bridge a long time so people could be forgiven for thinking that she may have "seen it all". She did two "firsts" during the finals in the women's teams event at the Summer Festival in Canberra.

For the finals, screens are used. These cut diagonally across the table and reach to the floor. During the bidding, a board is passed under a screen, which is lifted once the opening lead has been made so that players can see the cards on the table, but not the people on the other side of the screen.

For the most part, you don't talk, and you certainly don't say anything that may be heard on the other side of the screen. Most of the time, explanations about bids are written down for your screen mate, although one tends to mouth "15-17", "transfer", or whatever, for some of the bids.

So, my screen mate Dagmar Neumann, and I wondered what was going on when we heard Leone say, quite loudly, "Are you going to try to bid over the top of me, Jody?" Jody Tutty started laughing and as the board was pushed under the screen, we saw the joke. Leone had opened 7NT! She had picked up:

Hand 31	♠ A K Q J	
Dealer: S	♥ A	
Vul: N/S	♦ A	
	♣ A K Q J 6 4 3	

I wanted to bid 10NT, as I provided the K Q of diamonds and the club Ten! Anyway, 7NT was the opening bid at all four tables in the final and was a first for Leone.

Another first for her was making a first bid (other than pass) at the 5-level, vulnerable and holding a Yarborough (no points):

Hand 10	♠ K Q J 8 2		
Dealer: E	♥ A K T 9 2		
Vul: All	♦ T		
	♣ T 5		
♠ 5		N	♠ A 7
♥ Q 7 3		W E	♥ J
♦ K 8 5 3		S	♦ A Q J 2
♣ A J 7 4 3			♣ K Q 9 8 6 2
	♠ T 9 6 4 3		
	♥ 8 6 5 4		
	♦ 9 7 6 4		
	♣ -		

The bidding:

East	South (Leone)	West	North (Marnie)
1C	Pass	2D (1)	3C (2)
5C	5S !	All pass	

(1) Limit raise in clubs, promising at least 5

(2) Both majors

The club Ace was led. Leone ruffed and after drawing trumps, cashed the heart Ace. When East played the Jack, she took the heart finesse, ending with 11 tricks. Our teammates were in 5D at the other table, making 12 tricks, so it was a double swing and 15 imps in our favour.

One of the most interesting hands in the finals was the following:

Hand 19 Dealer: S Vul: E/W	♠ A K 8 ♥ A K Q T 2 ♦ A ♣ K T 8 6	
♠ 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ - ♦ K J 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 9	N W E S	♠ J 4 ♥ 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ Q T 8 ♣ 4 3 2
	♠ Q T 9 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A Q J 7 5	

South (Leone)	West	North (Marnie)	East
1NT (1)	3D !	X (2)	Pass
3H (3)	Pass	4NT (4)	Pass
5D (5)	Pass	5NT (6)	Pass
6C (7)	Pass	7NT	All pass

- (1) 10-14, denies a four-card major
- (2) "Do something sensible partner!" (promises 12+ points)
- (3) "I have 3 hearts"
- (4) Keycard in hearts
- (5) One keycard
- (6) "Do you have any Kings?"
- (7) "No"

There are a lot of interesting points with this hand. First, West entered the bidding, vulnerable, holding four points....

Fortunately, when I asked Leone to do something sensible, she did NOT pass for penalties! 3D by East-West makes! It goes to show that one can bid boldly!

As Leone and I play a relay system (Moscito), we do not often use a keycard ask. However, with this hand it worked as we set the suit with Leone's 3H bid.

Once Leone confirmed that she did not have any Kings, I knew that she had to have some Queens and Jacks for her opening bid, so her lack of a King rather encouraged me, on this occasion, to bid 7NT. I chose no trump rather than our heart fit as it would avoid any pesky opening lead ruffs or a badly-breaking heart suit (obviously, I did not know Leone had the heart Jack).

At the other table, our opponents played in six clubs, so it was a pick-up for us.