

South Perth Declarer



January 2025

From the President

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

We have already completed our Summer Congress, which is the first congress of the year in WA. As usual, it was extremely well attended and everyone I spoke to said they had a great day. A big thankyou to everyone who helped to make this such a successful event, especially Jim Willetts, the Convenor, and Neville Walker, the lead director.

I look forward to this being a great year of bridge at the club. We would like to continue to improve our club this year. If you have any ideas, please speak to me or any of the other committee members. Look forward to seeing you at the bridge table this year.

Tony McKinnon



Swiss Pairs Congress

The first big event at SPBC for the New Year was the *2025 Swiss Pairs Congress*, held on Sunday, 5 January 2025. The event was well-attended, with all the 30 available tables filled. Congratulations to the winners of the event. In first place were Gerry Daly and Viv Wood. Second place went to Pim Birss and Alan Cransberg, and in third place were Ian Clark and Dave Parham. Best South Perth pair went to Wendy Driscoll and Bob Prince. Best pair under 300MPs went to Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon. Best pair under 150 MPs went to Shane Brown and Gabrielle Bastow. Prizes were presented by Club president Tony McKinnon.

Swiss Pairs Congress winners



Tony with Viv Wood and Gerry Daly



Alan Cransberg and Pim Birss



Dave Parham and Ian Clark



Bob Prince and Wendy Driscoll



Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon



Shane Brown and Gabrielle Bastow

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. Many hands make light work! And as a heads up, the February roster will be for members with surnames starting with **B, D, E and V**.

Events coming up in late January and February

The **Australia Day Open Pairs** will be held on **Monday, 27 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, 22 February**. This event, proudly sponsored by *Jones Ballard*, is for club members only, who have fewer than 50 masterpoints as of the 1st January 2025. 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

A new series of lessons for beginners starts soon. Word of mouth is an excellent way to promote the lessons and encourage new players to discover the wonderful world of bridge, and to keep our club growing.

Please pass on information to anyone who you think might be interested.

The next courses will be on:

Monday mornings starting **3 February**, from **9.45 to 11.45 am**. The last lesson will be on 31 March. (There will be no lesson on 3 March which is a Public Holiday).

Wednesday evenings starting, **5 February**, from **7.30 to 9.30 pm**. The last lesson will be on 26 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 for November and December 2024

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

Michael Gale	Graduate Master	Angela Howlett	Local master
Helen Marsh	Graduate Master	Rose Symonds	Local master
Patricia Hall	Graduate Master	Garry Mullin	Bronze Local Master
Fiona Diaz	Graduate Master	Donna Dennis	Bronze Local Master
John Busby	Club Master	Lesley Maff	Silver Local Master
Karen Andrus	Club Master	Sharon Chapeikin	Regional Master
Susan Higginbottom	Club Master	Jane Venter	Bronze Regional
Rebecca Parrott	Club Master	Robyn Wansbrough	State Master
John Munut	Club Master	Gabrielle Bastow	Bronze State Master
Aileen Watt	Club Master	Tom Peacock	Bronze National Master

New Members

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

David Gendreau, David Gallagher, Hugh Alguire, Elizabeth Adamson and Simon Orton.

Emergency contacts

It is important that we have a current emergency contact for all member who attend the club.

We ask that all members please check that you have an up-to-date emergency contact on file in *Pianola*.

To do this, you need to log into your (free) Pianola account at <https://app.pianola.net>

Your username will most likely be your email address. If you cannot remember your password, there is a link you can click under the login box. Alternatively, please talk to a committee member who will be able to help you, or pass on your emergency contact information to someone who can update it in Pianola for you.

Can you help?

We are 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.

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 phones or set them to silent.

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Volunteer recognition

Alfred Leung and Mark O'Connor are our wonderful IT experts.

It is extremely frustrating whenever something goes wrong with your computer software or equipment, but these two are always on hand to help solve our issues, normally quietly behind the scenes.

Alfred has been our Webmaster and Mark is our go to person for IT hardware. Many thanks to both Alfred and Mark for their support.



Alfred Leung and Mark O'Connor

From the Library

Some people have been asking why they still keep getting reminder emails when they have returned the book they have borrowed. There are two possible reasons for this, firstly they have returned the book to the shelf not in the return slot under the library bookshelf. The second reason might be that I have been away and not had a chance to empty out the return shoot.

How to check books out

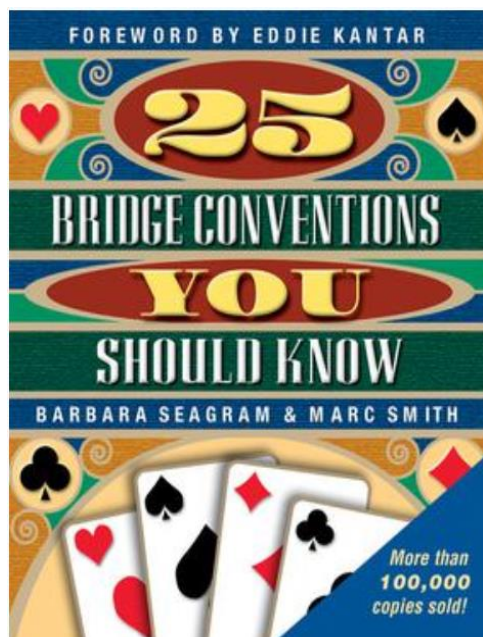
1. Go to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/SouthPerthBridge> on your computer, phone or tablet or on the computer in the club lobby.
2. Click on the book or books you are interested in & select checkout.
3. Enter Password – welovebridge & select your name.
4. Collect the book from the bookshelf or if it is an ebook send an email to gbrahma13@gmail.com
5. When you are finished return the book in the Returns slot under the bookshelf.
DO NOT PUT IT BACK ON THE SHELF!

Alternatively, there is a sheet on the library bookshelf to record your borrowing details. Just write your name and the name of the book on it and take the book home with you.

If you are a new member & your name is not listed on the library database, please take the book and email gbrahma13@gmail.com with the name of the book, your name and phone number so that your name can be added to the list for next time.

There are some fabulous books in our SPBC library. Thank you to Gwyneira Brahma, our Librarian, for providing the following review.

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Award Winning Book for Beginners - 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know, 4th Edition by Barbara Seagram

The book is aimed at beginners, with each chapter outlining a single convention, including takeout doubles, negative doubles, and cuebid raises. All chapters are followed by a quiz.

Since its publication, the book has sold over 300,000 copies, and won the American Bridge Teachers' Association *Book of the Year (Student)* award.

It doesn't take long before beginning bridge players want to know more about bidding systems, and especially about conventions. The authors have selected 25 basic conventions and treatments that novice players can easily assimilate into their own methods. They explain clearly and concisely how to use each one, and how it fits into a standard bidding system.

Conventions included in the book:

1. Blackwood and Gerber
2. Jacoby and Texas Transfers
3. Stayman 2♣ Response to 1NT
4. Takeout Doubles
5. Weak Two-Bids
6. 2♣ Strong Artificial Opening
7. Reverses
8. Negative Doubles
9. Roman Keycard Blackwood
10. Jacoby 2NT Forcing Major Raise
11. Splinter Bids
12. Reverse Drury
13. Help suit game tries
14. Cuebid Raises
15. Balancing
16. Michaels Cuebids and Unusual NT
17. Control Bids
18. Fourth Suit Forcing
19. New Minor Forcing
20. Responsive Doubles
21. Lead-directing Doubles
22. Lebensohl