



SOUTH PERTH DECLARER

March 2023

Happy Birthday!

South Perth Bridge Club has celebrated its 42nd birthday, which means it is younger than almost all of its members....

And speaking of members, our club is defying a trend across Australia and the world of declining numbers, with an overall increase in member numbers of 16 compared to last year!

In March 2021, the club had 354 home club members and 118 alternate members (a total of 472). At the same time last year, SPBC had dropped to 342 home club and 129 alternate members, for a total of 471.

We currently have 357 home club members and 130 alternate members, for a total of 487. That's worth a celebration!



News from the Management Committee

On 16 and 17 April, the vinyl in the supper room and kitchen will be replaced. The club will not close, however the supper room will not be accessible for most of the morning of 17 April. Alternative arrangements so that members can still get their "much needed" coffee, tea and biscuits will be made.

Like everywhere else in the world, costs continue to climb for almost everything. The price to members of name badges has now been increased to \$20 (this will not affect those that have already ordered badges; it will only be for orders from today). Even at a cost of \$20, the club is still subsidising the price of the badges in order to encourage members to purchase and wear them.

Some years ago, a number of members volunteered to be called on to use the defibrillator if there was ever a need to do so. This list will need to be updated, and a refresher course on how to use the defibrillator will be provided in the near future, probably on a Saturday in between the morning and afternoon sessions. Further details will be sent to members under a separate cover.

South Perth Summer Teams

Ten teams recently duked it out (in a very friendly way!) over two Wednesday afternoons under the direction of Jeannie Ravn, with the following results:

- First: Nick Cantatore, Leone Fuller, Trevor Fuller, Marnie Leybourne
Second: Phil Babty, Gwyneira Brahma, Dave Munro, Deanna Wilson
Third: Jeanne Hey, Valerie Isle, Leon Randolph, Tony Stevens.

Sad niggle

It is frustrating and annoying when you return to your car at the supermarket to find that someone has dinged it and left without leaving a note.

It is even sadder to consider that a member of South Perth Bridge Club would slink away after hitting another member's car. Unfortunately, this did happen, and I hope this message will help that person see the error of their ways and own up with an apology and the name of their insurance company.



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Latest Promotions

Bronze State Master:	Bob Mitchell
Bronze Local Master:	Erik Moller, Angelique Morin
Local Master:	Brian Shaw
Club Master:	Rosemary Green, David Honeychurch, Sandra Hopkins, Tina Miragliotta, Gail Wray
Graduate Master:	Barbara Giles, Tonna Kaminskis, Guy Kirk

Club Birthday

Anne Torlach cut the cake prior to everyone demolishing it (it was apparently delicious). Director Laurie Money got into the spirit of the occasion with a hat that is probably as old as the club...

The winners were Elsie Chua and Evelyn Tay (left below), with Rebecca Cooper and Pam Smith second (right below). Cassie Morin and Helen Arendts were third.



Coming events

On Friday 31 March there will be a special red point event with normal table money. It is an opportunity to work on getting a few more of those elusive red points!

This will be followed by the annual Easter Congress on 7-10 April.

Then, on Sunday 16 April the annual joint SPBC/Melville Masters in Teams of 3 will be held at Melville. This is an excellent opportunity for advanced beginner and novice players to learn more about the exciting world of teams bridge while getting to play with a master. It is a must-do event!



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Improving your bridge

Some of you may find the play of this hand a bit hard to follow, and that is OK. It is the sort of hand that authors such as Terrence Reece and David Bird dream up for their amusing books about monks, nuns, witch doctors and even a parrot playing “impossible to make” contracts.

Dealer: N ♠ A K J 2
 Vul: none ♥ 7 4 3 2
 ♦ A 8 6 3
 ♣ 3

	N	
	W	E
	S	

♠ 9 6
 ♥ A K Q 9 8
 ♦ K
 ♣ A 7 5 4 2

This hand was played in round five of the Summer Teams and my partner “gently” suggested that my 7H bid (after a rather complex auction) was just about the worst bid I had ever made in my bridge career (I still contend that the winner there is my pass following my partner’s GF 2C opening during a national final..., but I digress).

The club 10 was led. Now, the first rule when dummy goes down, count winners:

- 2 spades
- 5 hearts
- 2 diamonds
- 1 club

So, 10 winners for sure, so 3 to find which, looking at the South hand, comprises those three small club losers (the fourth can be thrown on the diamond Ace).

However, all three clubs can’t be ruffed as if the clubs are 4-3 (most likely), only two can be ruffed before the opponents will be able to overruff (dummy’s hearts are not high enough...)

So, declarer had to hope that the clubs were 4-3 and that two clubs could be ruffed. That brought the number of winners to 12. It looked like the only way to get a 13th trick was to take the spade finesse.

Of course, when the monks play such finesses never work...

So, how to play it. When things look dire, one is supposed to mentally place the critical cards (in this case, the spade Queen) into the hand(s) you need them to be. Also, play out the hand to see if something good happens.

The club lead was won with the Ace, and a club was ruffed. A heart back to hand and a second club ruffed. Now, one defender was out of clubs, so a third ruff wouldn’t work. Dummy’s last heart was played to hand and another heart played (the trumps were 3-1). The diamond King was played, followed by a spade to the Ace, diamond Ace and a diamond ruffed back to hand, leaving the following cards:

♠ A J East had had only one trump and had thrown a spade on the second trump, followed by the discard of diamonds.
 ♥
 ♦ 3 Declarer, in hand, now played the last heart, throwing the diamond 3 from dummy, and that “something good” happened. East threw the club King!
 ♣

♠ 9 So, the final two tricks were the club seven (the spade Jack was thrown) and the spade Ace. East was squeezed on the final heart and couldn’t hold both the winning club and two spades (to protect the Queen). The full hand:

♥ 8
 ♦
 ♣ 7



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 ♦ A 8 6 3
 ♣ 3

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

 ♠ 9 6
 ♥ A K Q 9 8
 ♦ K
 ♣ A 7 5 4 2

Partner was right. I shouldn't have raised her stress levels as the hand was played in 4H (+2) at the other table. Slam was bid at five of the 10 tables, and 13 tricks were made at three tables.