

March 2024

## From the President

The new air conditioning system is now up and running at the Club. This is a very welcome improvement for the Club, and it has involved numerous conversions with the South Perth Council (who have paid for the system) over the past few years. I would like to personally thank all those involved over the years in helping to make this happen.

With the Club closed, it has given me the chance to play at other clubs. I may be biased, but I do believe that ours is a great club with a very social group of players, which adds to the enjoyment of playing at South Perth. I hope to see you back playing at the Club soon.

**Tony McKinnon**



## Kitchen Duty Roster

The March kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **H, O, P, Mc and Mac** 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 if we all do our bit, the inconvenience to those rostered on is small. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Restricted Pairs Championship

The Restricted Pairs Championship was held on 24 February. There was a very pleasing turn out, with 24 Pairs entering the event. Congratulations to the winners, Denise and Kevin Pass. Second place went to Kate and Guy Kirk, and in third place were Joan and Bob Peters. Prizes were presented by Club president Tony McKinnon .



Tony with Denise and Kevin



Tony with Kate and Guy



Tony with Joan and Bob

## Events coming up in late March and April

**The Club Birthday Party** will be celebrated with a red-point event and cake for afternoon tea on **Saturday, 6 April at 1:30 pm**. Winners names will be placed on the Dora Wilson Trophy.

A combined South Perth/Melville **Masters in Teams of 3** is being hosted **at SPBC on Sunday, 14 April at 9:30am**. For players with fewer than 150 Masterpoints, this is a fabulous opportunity for less experienced players to play with a Master. And if you have never played in a teams event, it is a great way to learn what teams bridge is all about. If you would like to play in this event, but need help to find a Master to play with, please contact Jeannie Ravn: [jdravn@bigpond.com](mailto:jdravn@bigpond.com)

The **Club Handicap Championship**, also known as **The Browning Cup**, is a two-session red-point event that will be held over two **Tuesdays, 23 and 30 April**, 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!

## South Perth Easter Congress

The **SPBC Easter Congress**, proudly sponsored by DFG legal, will take place from **Good Friday, 29 March to Easter Monday, 1 April**. The Welcome Pairs will be held on Friday afternoon, Open Pairs on Saturday, Swiss Pairs on Sunday, and Open Teams on Monday. Entry to the congress events is through MyABF.

This four-day congress is our club's major event of the year. It is always a fantastic congress, so please consider coming along. But fantastic congresses can only happen with a lot of hard work behind the scenes. There are many people who have worked hard behind the scenes, planning the organisation and logistics of the playing sessions, to ensure that it all runs smoothly. Many thanks to all concerned.

Thank you also to the many people who have offered their support to our House Manager, Rachel McRae, across the Easter weekend. Rachel has now been able to cover all the time slots needing assistance. Your time and generosity will ensure that the weekend will be a great success and that our reputation for hospitality, to all, but especially to our visitors remains intact!

## Club Open Pairs Championship

There has been a change to the dates for the **Club Open Pairs Championship**. The event is listed in the SPBC yellow 2024 Programme booklet to be played on Saturdays 13 and 20 July, which is at the same time as the ANC, when some of the clubs open players will be away. A change in the BAWA calendar, which governs when our red-point events can be scheduled, has opened-up an opportunity to move this to **Saturdays, 31 August and 7 September**.

## SPBC Carpark

The carpark at our club has one entry - from Barker Avenue, and one exit - into Brittain Street. These are clearly marked with signage. While it may be tempting to take a short cut and go against the signs, especially at times that are less busy, the entry and exit have been designated this way for the safety and well-being of all users. **Please do not enter the carpark from Brittain Street exit, nor exit it by the Barker Avenue entry at any time.**

## From the Laws of Bridge

### ALERTING

Players who have been playing bridge for a while are aware of the ABF ALERTING REGULATIONS and know that at SPBC we require players to abide by these.

However, understandably new players often ask: *Why do I have to announce that my partner's opening 1NT is 15-17 or that her 1C opening promises at least three clubs? After all, everyone I play against at this session learned and plays the same system, so why is the announcement necessary? And why must we alert an opening 2C bid and not 2C after 1NT?* It is all seem quite confusing!

Alerting and announcing are important, because as players progress and play against players outside the group they learned with, they will encounter opponents with many different bidding conventions. Many players change some of their bidding methods as they develop their skills. This means that every pair who says they play *Standard* or *Acol* may not use all the same bidding methods as another pair ostensibly playing the same system. And just the same way languages evolve, so do bidding methods.

It is important for new players to learn when to alert and announce bids and to do so as soon as they start playing. This will ensure players develop good alerting habits.

Doing so will ensure alerting becomes a normal part of the bidding process, and not something new that needs to be learned when players move out of novice sessions and come across different bidding conventions.

The purpose of the Alerting Regulations is to ensure that everyone understands the meaning of bids which may mean something other than what it appears.

To quote from the regulations:

*It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that players may not have secret agreements with their partners, either in bidding or in card play. All agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to the opponents.*

*The purpose of an alert is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a special meaning, or a meaning the opponents may not expect.*

These Regulations set principles and guidelines for the approved alerting procedures. The complete document is available at

<http://abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFAlertRegs2017.pdf>

Our own Club Programme in *Notes for Players: Alerting and Questioning*, provides the following advice:

- Be aware of the situations where you will be expected to alert.
- When asked about your partner's bid, give a full and frank explanation.
- You may ask about a bid ONLY when it is your turn to call or play.
- Avoid asking questions if you have no intention of bidding.
- Do not alert your own bids.

## Frequently used bids which must be alerted include:

- An opening bid of 2♣ unless it only shows a desire to play in clubs
- Any multi-two opening bid even if one suit is named
- Transfer bids
- Negative responses to conventional bids eg 2♦ after a 2♣ opening
- Relay bids
- Weak jump raises of your partners suit in an uncontested auction
- Weak jump shift eg 1♥ (pass) 2♠

Weak jump overcalls *do not* need to be alerted, but opponents are advised to ask what the bid means.

There are some bids that are self-alerting, and these are not alerted by players. These include: doubles, redoubles and cue bids.

## STAYMAN

The *Stayman* convention has been included amongst the self-alerting calls, but ONLY as described below:

Any 2♣ response to 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

eg: 1NT Pass 2♣

*Any other situations in which you use 2C as Stayman are to be alerted.*

eg: 1NT X 2♣ is to be alerted unless the club bid is natural.

1S 1NT Pass 2♣ is to be alerted unless the club bid is natural.

The 2♦ response to *Stayman* is always to be alerted.

Where 3♣ is used as *Stayman* over 2NT, it is also to be alerted.

## PRE-ALERTS

Players should be aware that if they are using conventions not commonly in use at the club that they are required to pre-alert.

If you have specific questions about alerting please ask a Director. All Directors are well acquainted with the regulations and will be happy to help.