

September 2026

From the President

A new committee has been formed following the AGM at the end of last month, with Gwyneira Brahma joining us as Vice President, and Trish Christy and Ken Strain joining as Committee members.

Members are no doubt looking forward to the Melbourne Cup on 3rd November and tickets will be on sale with Directors or by bank transfer very soon. Entry will be by numbered ticket only so please make sure you get yours before the day.

Please remember to continue considering car-pooling on the busy days since our car park can't hold everyone who wishes to come.

Happy bridging!

Jim Willetts



New Management Committee for 2026/2027

Following the AGM held on the 29 August 2026, the Management Committee members for the 2026/27 term are:

Jim Willetts	President	Gwyneira Brahma	Vice President
Chris England	Secretary	Dave Munro	Treasurer
Judy Palmer	House manager	Sue Shadbolt	Assistant treasurer
Rhonda Hulshoff	Member	Shane Brown	Member
Trish Christy	Member	Ken Strain	Member

Thank you to those who put up their hand to be on the committee. We should not take for granted that we can turn up to sessions each week to play the game we all love. The running of our Club depends on people who are prepared to take on these, and many more, roles.

SPBC Women's Pairs Championship and the SPBC Men's Pairs Championship

The SPBC Women's Pairs Championship and the SPBC Men's Pairs Championship were held concurrently over two Wednesdays, 9 and 16 September, with 14 pairs entering the Women's event and 11 pairs entering the Men's event.

The winners of the Women's Pairs were Sue McEntee and Cathryn Collins. In second place were Deana Wilson and Gwyneira Brahma, and in third place were Cassie Morin and Cynthia Belonogoff.

The winners of the Men's Pairs were Leon Ref and Merwyn Menezes. In second place were Nigel Dutton and Geoff Cross, and in third place were Bill Symons and Dave Munro. Prizes were presented by Jim Willetts.



Jim with Sue and Cathryn



Jim with Deanna and Gwyneira



Jim with Cassie



Jim with Leon and Merwyn

September 2026

Events coming up in October and November

The **Spring Pairs Red Point Walk-in** event will be held on Thursday, **8 October**, at **12:45pm**. There will be two sections: Open and Novice (for players with < 100mps).

The **Graeme Cronin Club Mixed Pairs Championship** will be held over two Fridays, **23rd and 30th October**, commencing at **12.30pm**. Enter via MyABF. Members only. \$20.

The **Australia-Restricted Pairs** for players with < 300 MPs (as of 31 August 2026), will be held at SPBC on **Saturday, 31 October** at **9:15am**. For SPBC members, the \$10 cost to enter is subsidised by the club. Cost to visitors is \$15. Normal green points will be awarded for the session by SPBC. The ABF will award red points at the national level after the results from all clubs have been compiled.

The annual **Melbourne Cup Day** event will be held on **Tuesday, 3 November**. Tickets are now available from Directors. Tickets are \$45 and includes Lunch, 2 drinks and Bridge. This is always a fantastic event. Great food, great company, great bridge, great fun! There are two raffle tickets attached to each ticket and must be presented to claim drinks.

The **Pam Smith Club Open Pairs Championship** will be held over two sessions on **Saturday 7 November**, starting at **9:30am**. The winner of this event is awarded the Kath Needham Trophy. This is a South Perth members-only event. Cost for the day is \$20 per person. Entry is through MyABF only.

Kitchen Duty Roster

The October kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **G, C, I** and **N** 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.

SPBC New Members

Welcome to our new members, whose applications to join SPBC was approved by the Management Committee at the September meeting: John Skinner, Vicki Smith, Stephany Pakaleva, Jillian Lewis and Jim Longwood.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions August 2026

Congratulations to the SPBC members who achieved new Masterpoint rankings at the end of August 2026.

Shelley Hird	Graduate Master	Angela Howlett	Bronze Local Master
Fred Huis	Graduate Master	Louann Mokrzycki	Bronze Local Master
Lesley Store	Club Master	Anne Bannister	Silver Local Master
Guy Kirk	Local Master	Des Beazley	Regional Master
Efram Gamba	Bronze Local Master	Peter Jones	Bronze Regional Master

Another 90th Birthday!

Congratulations to Chris Barton who celebrated his 90th birthday on 31st August. Many happy returns, Chris!

We hope to see you enjoying your bridge for many more years, especially since you are one of our most frequent players! A delicious chocolate cake was enjoyed by all those playing.



Jim with Chris

September 2026

Tuesday afternoon Devonshire tea

Our first Devonshire tea afternoon, held on Tuesday 15th September, was an overwhelming success! Several members contributed a wonderful selection of scones and other delicacies for the players to enjoy. There were so many goodies that there were enough left over for further enjoyment on Thursday - and still some more! Thank you to all you contributed to the delicious fare. The homemade jams were also very much appreciated. Thank you to Judy Palmer for organising the afternoon tea. In the picture are Judy with some of her helpers in the kitchen, and a some of the players tucking into the feast!



The next scones (and/or cakes) day will be scheduled some time in November. Watch this space!

Next Step Lessons

Next Step lessons are a great way for less experienced players to gain more bridge knowledge and skills, or for any players who'd like to revisit the content on offer. During October, Jan Howell will be running lessons on *Declarer play in No Trumps*. Jan's lessons will be held on Friday from 9:30 - 11:30am on 2, 9 and 16 October. Cost is \$30 for all three lessons. If you would like to attend, please contact Jan at janhowell53@gmail.com to book.

Volunteer Recognition Awards

This month the President acknowledged the contribution made to the club by two of our army of unsung volunteers:

PIP BRADY

Jim was delighted to recognise the contribution of Pip Brady, at the session on 22nd September. Pip has faithfully taken the tea towels home for washing for a long time, and we are very grateful for her untiring efforts. Thank you, Pip!



Pip with Jim



Jim with Gail

GAIL WRAY

Each first-Wednesday of the month, many of the night session's regular players enjoy a pleasant social gathering and Fish & Chip meal before they play bridge. Each month Gail makes the delicious salads that are enjoyed with the meal. Thank you, Gail!

Gail said that the organisation of Fish and Chip night is a group effort and acknowledged Mark Bannister and Graham Pain for their parts in ensuring all enjoyed their meal.

Anyone who would like to come to a Fish & Chip night is very welcome!

The next one is Wednesday, 7 October. Be there by 5:50pm to get your order in.

Regular fish is \$16, grilled is \$18. Cash only please.

From the Regulations of Bridge

With the wonderful situation of many new members joining the Club in the past 18 months (since the information below was last included in our Newsletter) the following is provided as potentially new information for more recent members, and a reminder to longer term members.

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 all seems 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 all players understand the meaning of bids that 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
Negative responses to conventional bids	eg 2 ♦ after a 2 ♣ opening
Transfer bids	
Any multi-two opening bid	Even if one suit is named
Relay bids	eg 2 ♥ after a 2 ♦ multi-two opening bid
Weak jump raises of your partner's suit in an uncontested auction	
Weak jump shift in response to partner's bid	eg 1 ♥ (pass) 2 ♠

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

SELF-ALTERING BIDS

There are some bids that are self-alerting, and these are not alerted by players.

These include: doubles, redoubles and cue bids.

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. They are well acquainted with the regulations and will be happy to help.