

From the President

This is my last President's message after three years as President of this great club. It has been an honour to service as President and a time that I will look back upon with fond memories. I would like to thank all the people I have worked with on the various committees over this time and all the volunteers who have given up their time to support the club. As I have said previously, a great club needs the help of willing people to support it, and this club has been blessed with many willing helpers.

It is now time for me to sit back and concentrate on playing bridge!

Tony McKinnon



SPBC Winter Congress

The **SPBC Winter Congress**, was held **1-3 August 2025**. The congress ran very smoothly thanks to the excellent organisation and management by Convenor Jim Willetts and by Director Neville Walker. Thanks also to Rachel McRae and her team of helpers for their wonderful hospitality over the weekend. The congress was well-attended. It was particularly pleasing to see 18 pairs enter the Novice Pairs event. The addition of the Novice pairs to our congresses continues to be a great success.

The **Welcome Pairs** event on Friday afternoon was attended by 32 pairs. The winners were Jonathan Free and Mimi Packer, with David Matthews and Hamish McCracken in second place, and Cassie Morin and Dave Munro in third place. The best pair under 300 Masterpoints went to Laura and Rob Breen. Best SPBC Pair went to Joe Louis and Wendy Harman. Prizes were presented by Tony McKinnon.



Tony with Mimi and Jonathan



David and Hamish with Tony



Tony with Dave and Cassie

The **Novice Pairs**, held on Saturday morning was won by Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon with Bruce Webber and Graham Wise in second place and Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin in third place. Prizes were presented by Jim Willetts.



Jim with Rory and Lynne



Bruce and Graham



Garry and Paul

SPBC Winter Congress (continued)

The **Open Pairs** event was held across two sessions on Saturday. A Qualifying round was held in the morning, with a Final and Plate and Consolation taking place in the afternoon. Placing first North/South in the qualifying round were Jackie Williams and Jan Howell. Placing first East/West in the qualifying round were Valerie Isle and Gwyneira Brahma.



Jim with Jan and Jackie



Jim with Gwyneira and Valerie

First place in the Final went to Beata Bieganski and Tuya Cooke, with Tad Bieganski and Andre Swider in second place, and Sue Shadbolt and Donna Crossan-Peacock tied with Nick Cantatore and Andrea Peretti for third.



Tuya and Beata with Jim



Tad with Jim



Jim with Donna, Sue, Andrea and Nick

First place in the Plate went to Trevor Fuller and Val Biltoft, with Tony Stevens and Ovidiu Calcan in second place and Hamish McCracken and David Matthews placing third.



Jim and Trevor



Jim with Tony and Ovidiu



Jim with Hamish and David

First place in the Consolation went to Cynthia Belonogoff and Vinod Nasta, with Mark Goddard and Rohan Bandarage in second place, and Jeff Veling and Bruce Penhey were placed third. Best pair overall under 300 Masterpoints went to Shane Brown and Gabrielle Bastow.



Jim with Mark and Rohan

SPBC Winter Congress (continued)

The congress concluded with the **Open Teams** event on Sunday. Sixteen teams participated. First place went to Team Packer: Chris Cullen, Jonathan Free, Mimi Packer, and Gill Gavshon. In second place was Team Leybourne: Marnie Leybourne, Trevor Fuller, Nick Cantatore and Val Biltoft. Placing third was Team Matthews: Tom Lemann, Geoff Holman, Chris Ingham, Martin Doran and David Matthews. Best South Perth Team went to Team Nakamatsu: Ian Clark, Dave Parnham, Susanne Gammon and Tomoko Nakamatsu. Prizes were presented by Jim Willetts.



Team Packer



Team Leybourne



Team Matthews



Team Nakamatsu

Club Rookies Pairs Championship

The SBPC Rookies Pairs Championship for players under 25 MPs, sponsored by Jones Ballard was held on Saturday 9 August. It was fantastic to see 23 Pairs enter this event. First place went to Binni Shah and Louann Mokrzycki, with Robert Velletri and Michael McGilvray in second place, and Susan Stone and Margaret Van Dam in third place. Best pair under 5 MPs went to Rob Lavis and Sophie Bastow. Prizes were presented by Kareena Ballard



Binni and Louann with Kareena and Jim



Robert and Michael with Kareena and Jim.



Margaret and Susan with Kareena and Jim



Sophie and Rob with Kareena and Jim

Events coming up in late-August and September

The **Australia-Wide Open Pairs** will be held at SPBC on **Wednesday 27 August** at **12:30pm**. 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 **SPBC Womens Pairs Championship** will be held over two **Wednesdays, 3 & 10 September** at **12:30pm**. This is a South Perth members-only event. Cost for the two weeks is \$20 per person.

The **Spring Open Pairs** will be held on **Wednesday, 17 September**, commencing at **12:30pm**. This red-point event is open to members and visitors, with normal table money of \$7 and \$10 respectively.

SPBC will hold a session for **Australia's Bridge Day Out** on **Tuesday 23 September** at **12:30pm**. This is part of an ABF Foundation event, where bridge players nationwide, united in fun and fundraising, will play the same deals on the same day in their local clubs to grow bridge in schools across Australia. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for visitors.

Kitchen Duty Roster

If your surname begins with one of the letters on the Kitchen Duty notice, please do your bit to assist with setting up and clearing away the kitchen before and after the tea break. Your help when rostered on will contribute to the smooth running of the tea breaks. 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.

New members

Welcome to following new members whose applications were approved at the August Management Committee meeting: Matthew Chamberlain, Chris Mulley, Suzanne Gilbey, Simon Weight, Abhinithi Sundaramoorthy and Simone Pettorina.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions July 2025

Congratulations to the SPBC members who have achieved new Masterpoint rankings at the end of July:

Susan Bryant	Graduate Master	Margaret Trueman	Club Master
Anne McLean	Graduate Master	Timothy Mason	Bronze Local Master
Dina Frost	Club Master	Sue Craig	Silver Local Master
Allan Mappin	Club Master	Suzanne Bidstrup	Silver Local Master
Helen Marsh	Club Master	Lillian Haagensen	Regional Local Master

Another reminder: Colds, Flu, and COVID

There are still many cold and flu-like illnesses going around. As per our SPBC By-laws, if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms you are required to stay away from the club until your symptoms have cleared. If you choose to come to the club with symptoms, you may find yourself in the uncomfortable situation of being asked by the Director to leave.

Members who want to minimise their risks of catching a cold, flu or COVID are encouraged to wear a mask and regularly use the hand-sanitiser provided. If you are concerned that someone at the club has cold or flu-like symptoms, please discreetly talk to the session Director.

SPBC Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on **Saturday 30 August** at **12.45pm**.

This year, for the second time, there is a ballot running prior to the meeting. This is to determine the role of President for which we have two nominations: Jan Howell and Jim Willetts. Please vote for the person who you would like to see in the role.

Ballot papers are available at the Director's desk. To ensure that only one vote per member is made, your name will be ticked off a list when you take your ballot paper. Please place your completed ballot paper into the ballot box, which will be kept on the side table at the director's station.

The **ballot will close at 12.40pm on Saturday 30 August**, five minutes before the AGM begins. Scrutineers will count all ballots. This will help to keep the meeting as short as possible.

No additional ballot papers may be given to members who lose their ballot paper or claim to have spoiled it. However, if you return the spoiled paper to a director, you can get another.

We still need a physical quorum of members present, so do, please, make every effort to attend.

Some interesting statistics about our bridge boards by Laurie Money

"North-South always have more points".

We've all heard this – and some of us have said it!

But is it true? While truth is an elusive entity these days, this particular statement is certainly **false**.

Some Facts:

There are 635,013,559,600 possible bridge hands – that's a few million more than 635 trillion.

All bridge clubs use a mathematically developed algorithm that generates random boards.

A small subset of these deals is dealt periodically at SPBC (and other clubs). We do them in 99 sets of 33 boards. Depending on the nature of sessions at SPBC we use between 15 and 20 sets a week. Here are some statistics from the latest generation:

In generating 99 sets of 33 boards we produce 3267 boards. Each board has 4 hands of 13 cards hence in this process we generate 13,068 hands. (A VERY small proportion of the total of the odd 635 trillion.)

The generating computer program provides some statistics about the generated hands. Noting that in a given board there are 40 High Card Points (HCP), in the latest generation the following HCP count occurred:

	North: 32635	East: 32900
	South: 32520	West: 32565
Total:	65155	65525
Representing:	49.9%	50.1%

This is pretty evenly balanced in my view!

PS: We should appreciate the volunteer work done by Danny Ravn and his team of dealers to ensure the integrity of the board sets on behalf of the club.

Volunteer recognitions

We are very fortunate at South Perth to have many volunteers and quiet achievers at our club. Without volunteers our club cannot operate. Some volunteer roles are more visible than others, but that does not mean the less visible ones are less important. Recently, Tony McKinnon had the pleasure of acknowledging two much appreciated volunteers in Mike Gale and Sarita Singh.



Mike and Tony

Mike Gale

After one Tuesday afternoon session Tony was approached by Mike Gale who mentioned that the club should consider becoming a member of the Containers for Change program. This would aid with recycling and also bring additional funds to the club. The Management Committee agreed that it was a great idea and Mike then organised for the club to join the program.

The program has been running for several months and the club has received its first payment for the containers which have been recycled.

We congratulate Mike for his initiative and encourage members to continue to contribute to this very worthwhile program.

Sarita Singh

Sarita has been a very familiar face at the Wednesday evening supervised session for many years. She willingly gives of her time and knowledge each week to support the teachers and Directors of the supervised session and encourages new bridge players in whatever capacity is needed. Sometimes that is by roaming and answering questions during the session play. Sometimes it is by playing with someone who does not have a partner and modelling good bidding and card play, then offering advice after each hand to all players at the table. Since the addition of the intermediate session on Wednesday evenings, Sarita has also made herself available to play and mentor players in that group, when needed.

Sarita's friendly nature and her keenness to grow bridge skills in new players have made her a most welcome Wednesday evening regular. Thank you, Sarita!



Sarita and Tony