

From the President

We currently have 508 members. The end of February is the point at which members who have not paid their dues become non-financial. That means that when they come to the club to play, they will have to pay the higher rate for non-members and if they wish to renew membership they have to pay the rejoining fee. I urge anyone reading this and who has postponed paying their dues for this year to do so as quickly as possible in order to avoid these additional costs.

You may be interested to learn that we are currently averaging close to 540 tables played per month, which is 2160 players, or 500 players per week! I'm trying to find an efficient way of establishing whether this trend is upward, downward or stable so if anyone has kept historical records that go back a few years I would be most interested to hear from them.

The Management Committee is very keen to hear from those who have had defibrillator training recently enough that they remember what to do. We would like to have a list on the wall near the Director's desk so that if anyone needs help we can reach for a competent (or at least semi-competent) person as quickly as possible. I know that the defibrillator that we have guides the user in the steps required as soon as it is opened up, but we would still like to know of those who are competent since seconds can save lives.

Finally, congratulations to the winners in our competitions over the last month. I was particularly pleased to see 18 pairs entered into the Super Novice Pairs. It is the enthusiasm shown by our newer (and younger) players which represents the future of this club!

Jim Willetts



SPBC Summer Teams

The SPBC Summer Teams was held over two Wednesdays, 4 & 11 February 2026. Twelve teams participated. The winning team was Team Collins (Cathryn Collins, Sue McEntee, Jackin Claire and Bill Symons). In second place was Team Money (Laurie Money, Sandy Garber, Sue Shadbolt and Hilary Stilling). Third place went to Team Isle (Valerie Isle, Tony Stevens, Carol Newport and Clive Youdell). Best team under 150 MPs was Team Brown (Shane Brown, Tony McKinnon, Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin). Prizes were presented by Jeannie Ravn.



Team Collins with Jeannie



Team Money with Jeannie



Team Isle with Jeannie



Team Brown with Jeannie

SPBC Super Novice Championship

The SPBC Super Novice Championship (for players with fewer than 50 MPs as of 1 January 2026), was held on Saturday, 21 February. It was wonderful to see 18 pairs enter the championship, which was played as two fields – North/South and East/West – with the overall winner being decided by percentage. Placing first for N/S were Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin, with Judy and Andrew Palmer in second place, and Catherine Carr and Christine Massey in third. Placing first for E/W were Efram Gamba and Rod Basell, with Doreen King and Collin Griffin in second place, and Guy and Kate Kirk tied with Pat Hall and Louann Mokrzycki for third place. Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin were declared the overall winners with the highest percentage of 62.04%. Prizes were presented by Jeannie Ravn.



Paul and Garry with Jeannie



Andrew and Judy



Jeannie with Catherine and Christine



Rod and Efram



Colin and Doreen



Kate and Guy with Louann and Pat

Events coming up in March and April

The **Club Handicap Championship**, also known as **The Browning Cup**, is a two-session red-point event that will be held over two **Tuesdays, 10 & 17 March**, commencing 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!

The **SPBC Easter Congress**, proudly sponsored by TBIB Insurance, will take place from **Good Friday, 3 April to Easter Monday, 6 April**. The Welcome Pairs will be held on Friday afternoon starting at 1 pm; Open Pairs (all day) and Novice Pairs (morning only) on Saturday, commencing at 9:30 am; with Swiss Pairs commencing at 9:30 am on Sunday; and Open Teams on Monday, also commencing at 9:30 am.

The **Club Birthday Party** will be celebrated with a red-point event and cake for afternoon tea on **Saturday, 11 April at 1:30 pm**. Winners names will be placed on the Dora Wilson Trophy.

New members

Welcome to the following new members whose applications were approved at the February Management Committee meeting: Mavis Koay, Hilda Remedios, Lorna Breen, Marjan Heibloom, Judith Taseff and Kathy Gething.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions January 2026

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

Carol Van Melsen	Club Master	Andrew Palmer	Silver Local Master
Patricia Hall	Local Master	Sylvia Garlick	Regional Master
Rhonda Hulshoff	Local Master	Laura Breen	Bronze National Master
Kate Kirk	Local Master	Steven Kemp	Silver National Master
Lorna Tacey	Bronze Local Master	Jay Wongphasukchot	Silver Life Master
Mark Groves	Silver Local Master		

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.

First Aid volunteer

The club is still seeking a volunteer to be the designated first aider. Preferably, this would be someone who knows or is willing to learn how to use the defibrillator. The main duty would be keeping the first aid box stocked. If you think this is something that you could do, please contact a committee member for more information.

Bridgemates

Occasionally the keys on the Bridgemates become a bit sticky or difficult to use. If you find yourself with a Bridgemate that is not working properly, with a key not registering easily, please let the session Director know and they will find you another one.

Next Step Lessons coming up

DAY TIME

The following lessons will be held on **Tuesday mornings** with Fiske Warren: No need to book in advance. Cost is \$15 per lesson or \$40 for all three lessons.

24th March, 9.45 to 11.45am

MICHAELS CUE BIDS AND UNUSUAL NO TRUMP: Learn these useful ways to show two suited hands after an opponent has opened.

31st March, 9.45 to 11.45am

NEGATIVE DOUBLES: Learn this very important way to respond after an opponent makes an overcall.

14 April, 9.45 to 11.45am

BIDDING OVER OPPONENT's 1NT: Learn how best to come in after an opponent opens 1NT.

EVENING

The following lesson is the third in a series of three on Stayman and Transfers. The cost is \$10. Please book with Jan Howell at janhowell53@gmail.com

Thursday Evening 19th March 7.00 - 9.00pm

PLAYING STAYMAN and TRANSFERS: Practise playing hands using Stayman and Transfers.