

From the President

The wonderful news from the ANC held in Brisbane recently, was the WA Women's Team won the National Women's Team competition. Congratulations to Marnie Leybourne, Leonie Fuller, Gwyneira Brahma, Stella Steer, Cathy Hood, Pauline Collett and Allison Stralow (NPC). Four of these players are Home Club members of South Perth!

In recognition that we are moving to a cashless society, the club has recently purchased an electronic payment device for the bar. Drinks can now be purchased via card, which cut down on the amount of cash deposits into our bank, which is getting increasingly difficult with bank closures. Of course, cash will still be accepted.

Tony McKinnon



SPBC Annual General Meeting for 2025

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 August at 12:45 pm. Please consider coming to meeting to show your support for our Club and the incoming Management committee. We are still looking for a potential new Treasurer. Please contact Shane Brown (0407 087 401) for more information.

SPBC Winter Pairs

The **SPBC Club winter pairs** (for SPBC members only) was held over two **Mondays, 16 & 23 June**. There were 22 pairs who entered the competition. After the first week, Tomoko Nakamatsu and Lyn Toft led the field, closely followed by Hamish McCracken and Marnie Leybourne in second place, and Merwyn Menzies and Bill Symons in third place. The second session was won by Merwyn and Bill, with Nick Cantatore and Val Biltoft in second place, and Tomoko and Lyn in third place. When the results were combined for the overall places, first place went to Merwyn and Bill with Tomoko and Lyn in second place, and Hamish and Marnie in third place. Prizes were presented by Tony McKinnon.



Tony with Bill Symons



Tony with Lyn and Tomoko

SPBC Winter Congress for 2025

The **SPBC winter congress** will be held from **Friday 1 to Sunday 3 August 2025**. The Welcome Pairs, from **12:30 pm on Friday** will start the congress. Saturday 2 August will see two different events: an all-day Open pairs and a half-day, morning Novice Pairs (for players with fewer than 100MPS at 1 April 2025), starting at 9:30am. The Open Teams will conclude the congress on Sunday. Entry is via MyABF: www.myabf.com.au

SPBC Novice Pairs Championship

The **Club Novice Pairs Championship** for players with **under 100 MPs** was held over two Saturday mornings, **28 June** and **5 July**. It was terrific to see 22 novice pairs playing in the competition. When the results for the two sessions were combined for the overall places, first place went to Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin, with Pat Murphy and Marlene Edland in second place, and Kogie Naidoo and Stephen Chang in third place. Best pair under 25 MPS went to Aileen Watt and John Busby.



Paul Fielding and Garry Mullin



Marlene Edland and Pat Murphy



Kogie Naidoo and Stephen Chang

Other events coming up in August

The **Club Rookies Pairs Championship** for players **under 25 MPs** will be held on **Saturday 9 August**, commencing at **9:15am**. All rookie players are encouraged to consider playing in this event.

The **Winter Evening Pairs**, an open walk-in event, will be held on **Tuesday, 12 August** at **7:00pm**.

The SPBC session for the **Australia-Wide open pairs** will be held on **Wednesday, 27 August**, at **12:30pm**.

SPBC New Member

Welcome to new members, whose applications to join SPBC were approved by the Management Committee at the June meeting: Angeline Christie, Tracy Kudelka, Mary White, Brendan Gaynor, David Hughes and Ray Gorham.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions June 2025

Congratulations to the SPBC members who have achieved new Masterpoint rankings in June:

Richard Turnley	Graduate Master	Katherine McGregor	Bronze Local Master
Kareena Ballard	Club Master	Tony McKinnon	State Master
Heather Nisbet	Club Master	Angelique Morin	Bronze State Master
Patricia Robinson	Club Master	Helen Lewis	Bronze National Master

Kitchen Duty Roster

Please check the Kitchen Duty notice on display in the kitchen at the start of each month. 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

State Novice Pairs

Congratulations to Tony McKinnon and Shane Brown who won BAWA's State Novice Pairs competition held at Undercroft Bridge Club on Sunday 20th July.

The Art of Claiming: Courtesy and Clarity at the Bridge Table by Gwyneira Brahma

An Odd Refusal to Claim

Recently, I encountered a rather baffling situation at the table. Declarer had drawn all the trumps and was in dummy, ready to run a solid seven-card suit. There was absolutely no chance for our side to win another trick, so I conceded. To my surprise, declarer declined the concession and proceeded to play out each remaining card—slowly and deliberately—dragging out what was essentially a foregone conclusion. It felt like a needless waste of everyone's time.

I considered calling the director but honestly thought that would just take up more time. When the hand finally ended, I asked declarer why he hadn't just claimed. His answer left me speechless: *"I never claim. I think it's rude and disrespectful to the opponents."*

I sat there, utterly dumbfounded! Claiming in contract bridge isn't just about efficiency—it's also about respect for your opponents and proper observance of the laws that govern our game. Yet even experienced players sometimes hesitate to claim, fearing disputes or misunderstandings. So, let's take a moment to explore why claiming is both polite and legally sound, and how it can actually enhance the bridge experience for everyone at the table.

Why It's Polite to Claim

Claiming respects your opponents' time and acknowledges their intelligence. Dragging out obvious tricks risks appearing patronizing or even unsporting. On the other hand, making an over-confident or vague claim without explanation can be equally discourteous. The sweet spot is a thoughtful claim made with clarity.

Tips for Claiming Gracefully

1. **Pause and Explain** – Don't just toss down your hand. Clearly say what you plan to do: "Drawing trumps, then cashing my hearts – claim the rest." Acknowledge outstanding trumps: If any are still out, mention them and how you'll handle them.
2. **Invite Questions** – Allow opponents a moment to review and, if necessary, challenge politely.
3. **Stay Calm if Contested** – If someone disputes your claim, it's not personal. Let the director handle it.

In short, claiming isn't just about ending a hand—it's about maintaining flow, fairness, and fellowship. When done well, it's one of the many signs of a player who understands both the game and the table.

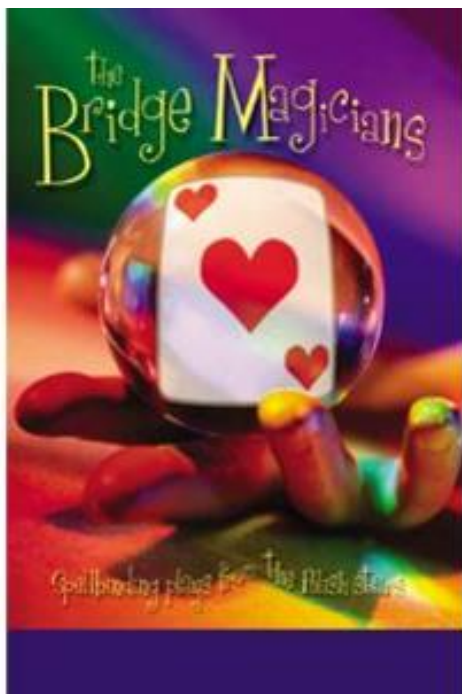
After a Claim or Concession

- **Play ceases:** No more cards should be played once a claim is made.
- **Cards are faced:** All players should face their remaining cards so the claim can be reviewed.
- **No further explanation:** The claimer cannot add to or revise their statement after the claim is made.
- **Opponents have options:**
 1. **Accept the claim** as stated.
 2. **Dispute the claim** and call the director.
 3. **Request to play on**—but only if *all four players agree including dummy*. This is rare and not recommended, as it can undermine fairness.

If the claim is disputed and the director is called, the hand is **not played out**. Instead, the director adjudicates based on the claim and the cards visible.

Claiming, when done with clarity and courtesy, is a mark of an experienced and considerate player.

From the Library

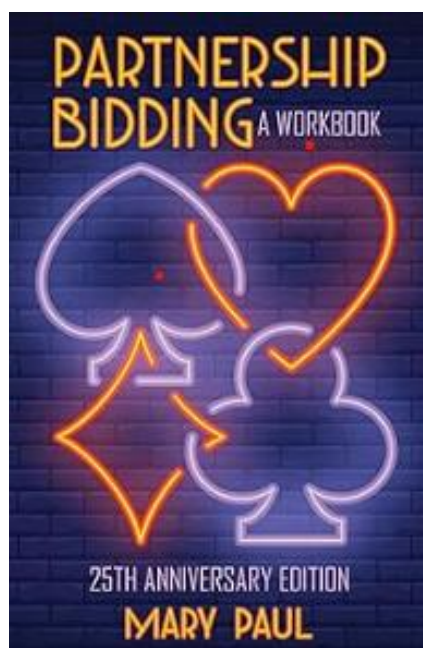


Book Spotlight: *The Bridge Magicians* by Mark Horton and Radoslaw Kielbasinski (2001)

If you've ever wondered what it looks like when bridge borders on sorcery, *The Bridge Magicians: Spellbinding Plays from the Polish Stars* offers a front-row seat. Co-authored by renowned bridge journalist Mark Horton and Polish expert Radoslaw Kielbasinski, this 192-page gem showcases the dazzling rise of Poland's elite players on the international stage.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Polish teams stunned the bridge world with their fearless bidding systems and uncanny card play. Horton and Kielbasinski pull back the curtain on these enigmatic stars, presenting a curated collection of hands that are as instructive as they are jaw-dropping. From bold sacrifices to subtle squeezes, each deal is annotated with insight and admiration.

What makes this book stand out isn't just the technical brilliance – it's the storytelling. Horton's commentary brings the drama of each hand to life, while Kielbasinski provides cultural and strategic context that deepens appreciation for the Polish style of play.



***Partnership Bidding – A Workbook: 25th Anniversary Edition* By Mary Paul**

If you've ever had a bidding misunderstanding with your regular partner – and who hasn't? – this workbook might be the most practical tool you'll ever add to your bridge library.

Originally published in 1995 and updated for its 25th anniversary, *Partnership Bidding – A Workbook* is a hands-on guide designed to help bridge partners align their bidding systems, conventions, and defensive agreements. It's not a textbook in the traditional sense – it's a conversation starter, a system builder, and a relationship strengthener all in one.

By working through the questionnaires in this book with their partner, readers will be able to refine their bidding system, select conventions and agreements that suit their style, define their defensive carding agreements, and give their game a winning edge.

The Library has a hard copy and a PDF version of this book if you want to write in it with your partner let me know gwynaira@brahmawealth.com.au and I will email you the PDF version.