

May 2025

## From the President

As usual, time seems to be flying by, and in under 3 months the Club will be holding its AGM. This means that nominations for positions on the Management Committee will be open in just over a month.

A number of people on the Management Committee have been serving in their roles for a several years and have decided that they will not renominate for the Committee, including myself. All these people have given their time to help with the smooth running of our great club, and I thank them for their service.

It is now time to have some new faces on the Committee, and I ask you to consider nominating for one of the positions on the Committee. Without volunteers to help in various roles, our club would not function as well as it does. A number of us on the Committee joined as relatively inexperienced players, including myself. It is a great way for newer members to get to know some of our very experienced players and learn from them.

If you think that you may like to join the Committee, or have any questions, please talk to me or any of the other Committee members.

**Tony McKinnon**



## From the Tournament Manager

The Tournament Committee is concerned about the continued incidence of slow play and the fact that there are some players who simply do not make any effort to keep to time. We do not wish our Directors to be continually hounding people, but the clock will be set at 14 minutes for 2 boards, 20 minutes for 3 boards and 26 minutes for 4 boards. Directors are empowered to remove boards if necessary and to award an *average* – or *average minus* score to repeat offenders (which would give the opposition an *average plus*). If players are concerned about the opposition being very slow, they should call the Director. For the enjoyment of all players, we ask that players make an effort to keep to the clock.

**Jeannie Ravn**

## Events coming up in June and July

The **WA week Open walk-in Pairs** will be held on **Friday, 6 June** at **12:30pm**.

The **Club Teams Championship** for Open and Novice teams (<100 MPs) will be held on **Sunday 8 June**, starting at **9:30am**. Cost is \$20 pp. Entry is via MyABF or by putting names in the red book.

The **SPBC Club winter pairs** (for SPBC members only) will be held over two **Mondays, 16 & 23 June, 2025**, starting at **12:30pm**. Cost is \$20 pp for both sessions. Entry is via MyABF or by putting names in the red book.

The **SPBC/MBC Masters in Teams of 3** is this year being hosted by Melville, and will be held on 22 June. This is a wonderful opportunity for new and less experienced players to participate in a teams event and learn from an experienced Master.

The **Club Novice Teams Championship** for players with under 100 MPs will be held over two Saturday mornings, **28 June** and **5 July**, commencing at **9:15am**. All novice players are encouraged to consider playing in this event. It offers a chance to gain red points, in a familiar environment, against players of similar ability.

## SPBC New Members

Welcome to the following new members whose applications to join SPBC have been approved by the Management Committee at the May meeting: Judith Baverstock, Bruce Jensen, Patricia Geer, Isabella Thambudorai, Margaret Trueman, Terry Slavin, Carmelina Grassi, Sharon Walsh, Donna Ayriss, Melanie Cartoon, Kara Passi, Ainsleigh Passi, Shaun Dinsdale and Silvia Clearwater.

## Masterpoint Ranking Promotions April 2025

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

Lorraine Inglis	Graduate Master	Susan Bailey	Silver Local Master
Helen Gibbs	Club Master	Judith Kelly	Silver Local Master
Gigi Hesterman	Local Master	Steven Kemp	Bronze National Master
Catherine Carr	Silver Local Master		

## Kitchen Duty Roster

The June kitchen duty roster calls for those with surnames beginning with **K, M, Q, T** and **Y** 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.

## Colds, Flu, and COVID

As winter approaches, we are entering the cold and flu season. 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.

Please do not let complacency allow flu, COVID and other respiratory illnesses to spread at our club and risk the on-going health of our members. If you any symptoms or have been a close contact with someone who has the flu or COVID or RSV, please stay away from the club until you are definitely in the clear.

Members who want to minimise their risks of catching a cold or flu-like viruses 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.

## Containers for change

The SPBC has recently been provided with two bins for collecting *Containers for change*. These bright green, locked bins are located in the bin area adjacent to the entry of the carpark and can be used by members who would like to donate any cans, plastic or glass bottles that are eligible for the 10c refund. The bins will be managed by a local Scouts club and all proceeds from the containers will be returned to the bridge club.

## 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. With many new players joining our club, here's a timely reminder about what needs to be alerted, and why.

Understandably, new players often ask: *Why do I have to announce that my partner's opening 1NT is 15-17 or that their 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.