

From the President

This has been a very busy month! First and foremost, have been the discussions with the City of South Perth about the potential for the club to occupy new premises at Challenger Reserve. The Facilities Committee, led by Jan Howell, have been deeply involved in the discussions, listening to comments, and feeding back to the Council's project team those things that we really need to have changed to the outline plans in order to keep us happy. I sent out a message to all members updating you of the status of the plans, what it offers for the future of the club and asking for your comments. If you missed the message, it is reproduced at the end of this newsletter, and I would urge you to follow the links to the Council's website where you may view the plans. The commenting period closed on October 27, so it is now too late to make comments to the project team, but it is by no means too late for us to influence details of the design, since this will only be started next year.



If you have played recently, you will no doubt have noticed that the TV in the supper room has called it a day. There is a new one on the way, and a new whiteboard too. And I hope that a small renovation to the bar area will have been completed by the time you read this. So you see we are not giving up on the current clubhouse yet!

There are two excellent articles in this issue which are worth your attention, firstly a review about online programs to help learners progress their bridge by Kathy McGregor, and secondly a piece by Gwyneira Brahma about the proper use of the Takeout Double.

Jim Willetts

Mixed Pairs Championship

The SBPC Mixed Pairs Championship was held over two Fridays, 10 & 17 October 2025, with 20 pairs entering the event. First place went to Mark Goddard and Joscelyn Charters, with David Matthews and Cynthia Belonogoff in second place, and Jim Willetts and Hilary Stilling in third place. Best pair under 300 MPs went to Laura and Rob Breen. Best pair under 100MPs went to Simon Orton and Angelique Morin. Prizes were presented by Jim Willetts.



Joscelyn and Mark with Jim



David and Cynthia with Jim



Hilary and Jim



Simon and Angelique with Jim



Laura and Rob with Jim

Events coming up in November and December

The **SPBC Open Pairs Championship** will be held over two **Saturdays, 1 & 8 November**, at **1:30pm**. The winner of this event is awarded the Kath Needham Trophy. This is a South Perth members-only event. Cost for the two weeks is \$20 per person. Entry is through MyABF only.

The annual **Melbourne Cup Day** event will be held on **Tuesday, 4 November**. Doors will open at **11:00am**. We will watch the race at 12:00, and then enjoy a delightful lunch before moving into the playing room for the hat parade, followed by a fun afternoon of bridge. **Cost is \$45** and includes, lunch, a drink and bridge. Sweeps will also be available on the day. Tickets are available for pre-purchased from the Director at your regular bridge sessions.

The **Spring into Summer Pairs** will be held at SPBC over two Tuesdays, **18 & 25 November 2025** commencing at 7:00pm. **Cost is \$20** for both sessions. Entry is via MyABF. Payment may be made with MyABF bridge credits or EFT to the SPBC account.

Save the date: The annual **Christmas Party** will be held on **14 December 2025**. Bridge will commence at 1:30 pm and a buffet-style, seated-dinner will follow. Cost is \$50 per person, all-inclusive. Bookings are essential and confirmed only on payment. Tickets will be on sale soon.

The **Festive Open Walk-in Pairs** will be held on **Tuesday, 23 December 2025**, commencing at 12:30pm. No need to book. Normal table money. Come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon of bridge.

A **Last Chance Red Point Fling** will be held on **Tuesday, 30 December 2025**, commencing at 12:30pm. No need to book. Normal table money.

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.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions September 2025

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

Annette Woolley	Graduate Master	Chalis Donley	Regional Master
Kathryn Kemp	Club Master	Barbara Norman	Regional Master
John Rea	Club Master	Brian Shaw	Regional Master
Mark Groves	Bronze Local Master	Mark Goddard	Gold Life Master

New members

Welcome to following new members whose applications were approved at the October Management Committee meeting: Rory O'Hanlon, Lynne Roberts and Lee Li Yen.

Water Cooler



Dave Munro hard at work

The water cooler in the supper room flooded the floor yet again earlier this month. Fortunately, our new Treasurer, Dave Munro, was at hand and was soon mopping up the spills from the errant cooler. Not sure this was what Dave signed up for in his new role! However, his efforts, and those who assisted were greatly appreciated, and the supper room was back to its usual self in no time.

The cooler has been fixed, yet again, and on last check was working properly. However, there is a drainage issue with it.

PLEASE DO NOT pour liquids into the water cooler's drain.

Online Bridge Resources

There are many online bridge resources that can be accessed to support players who would like to improve their bridge. It is difficult for new players to determine which ones are useful. For many, usefulness will be a personal preference, related to the platform it is available on, cost and level of own experience. Following is a review of two resources, kindly provided by Kathy McGregor.

Learn Bridge by Wesley May

This app is suitable for both Apple iPhone and Android phones.

Excellent learning tool. This programme builds your skills on Declarer play. It is interactive and easy to follow. Suitable for beginners and intermediate levels. These levels are free.

I have been playing bridge approximately four years and I still play this programme on my phone a number of times a week. It taught me about establishment and promotion to gain extra tricks. I had covered finessing in our lessons and a number of other times but it was only after playing it on this programme did it begin to make sense, and I was able to introduce finessing, sometimes successfully to my game. It also taught me sometimes you must ruff a loser before drawing all the trumps. This may sound basic to some, but you don't know what you don't know. I highly recommend this program and use it to refresh my skills on many occasions.

Improve your game with Bridge128

Learn new strategies, gain confidence, and rank higher with classes for all levels on the e-learning site Bridge128.com This is free for the first four weeks.

This is an excellent interactive learning programme. One game is released each day Sunday to Saturday. Starting on level one progressing through to level 7. Each level getting more complex daily. Before play, the bidding is explained. Once the dummy is revealed a hint on how to play is available. i.e. should you finesse or drop the missing queen and how to exploit length. At the completion of each game a walk through is available showing the best way to play to win maximum tricks. You can play each level as many times as necessary for you to grasp the play. Level six and seven is equivalent to playing in the open section. I know why I am still playing in the intermediate section but feel I am being mentored through every game, and my play is improving by using this tool.

Understanding the Takeout Double and How to Respond by Gwyneira Brahma

In competitive auctions, one of the most powerful tools in bridge is the takeout double. It allows you to enter the bidding even without a long suit of your own, helping your partnership compete for the contract and find the right fit.

However, recently I've seen many players making takeout doubles just because they have opening points. This is wrong, and it drives me crazy. A takeout double isn't simply a points-showing bid; it promises a specific shape and support for the unbid suits. Misusing it puts the partnership in poor contracts and causes unnecessary confusion. This article explains what a takeout double really shows, how to respond, and the common traps to avoid.

WHAT IS A TAKEOUT DOUBLE?

A takeout double is made after the opponents open the bidding, instead of overcalling in a suit, you double - asking partner to bid their best suit.

To make a classic takeout double, you should have:

- Opening strength or better (usually 12+ high-card points)
- Shortness (0–2 cards) in the opponent's suit
- Support for the unbid suits, ideally at least 3-card support in each

Example:

Opponent opens 1♦, and you hold:

♠ A Q 7 3 ♥ K 8 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K J 6 4

You don't have a good 5-card suit to overcall, but you have opening strength, short diamonds, and support for the other suits. A double is perfect.

💡 A takeout double says: "Partner, I have opening values and support for the other suits — please pick your best fit!"

Example of a Poor Double:

Opponent opens 1♦. You hold:

♠ K Q 8 ♥ A 9 ♦ Q 8 6 5 ♣ K 9 7 3

This hand has 14 HCP but no diamond shortage and no major suit support. A double here is misleading. You should pass and hope partner balances.

Key point: A takeout double promises shape and strength — not strength alone.

RESPONDING TO A TAKEOUT DOUBLE

When your partner makes a takeout double, you are expected to bid, even with a weak hand. Partner is relying on you to keep the auction alive. Your response depends on your strength and suit distribution.

0–8 HCP — BID YOUR LONGEST SUIT AT THE LOWEST LEVEL

- Choose your longest unbid suit, even if it's weak.
- Prefer a 4+ card major over a minor if lengths are equal.
- If you don't have a clear suit and you're too weak for No-Trump (or lack a stopper), you may have to bid a 3-card suit — sometimes even at the 2-level.

Example 1:

Opponent opens 1♦, partner doubles. You hold:

♠ K 7 4 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ T 8 5 3 ♣ 9 7 4

→ Bid 1♥ even though it's only a 3-card suit.

Example 2:

Opponent opens 1♠, partner doubles. You hold:

♠ K 5 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ T 8 6 ♣ J 9 5 2

→ Your only unbid suit is clubs at the 2-level. You must still bid 2♣ even with a weak hand DO NOT BID NT!

Example 3 (Weak Two):

Opponent opens 2♥, partner doubles. You hold:

♠ 9 7 4 ♥ 8 7 5 6 2 ♦ T 7 3 ♣ J 8 2

→ You may have to bid 2♠ with only three cards Do not pass and leave it in for Penalty!

9–11 HCP WITH A GOOD SUIT — JUMP IN YOUR SUIT (INVITATIONAL)

Shows extra strength and a decent suit, inviting partner to game.

12+ HCP — CUE BID OPENER'S SUIT OR JUMP TO GAME

A cue bid (bidding opener's suit) is forcing and asks partner to describe their hand so you can find the best game or slam.

NO-TRUMP RESPONSES TO A TAKEOUT DOUBLE

If you don't have a clear suit to bid, you can respond in No-Trumps — but this shows strength, not weakness. You should have a balanced hand and a stopper in the opponents' suit.

Bid	HCP Range	Description
1NT	8–10 HCP	Balanced hand with a stopper in opener's suit. Denies a good 4-card suit. Non-forcing.
2NT	11–12 HCP	Invitational values, balanced, with stopper(s).
3NT	13+ HCP	Game-going values, balanced, with at least one solid stopper. Typically denies a 4-card major.

FINAL THOUGHT

A well-timed takeout double is one of the most effective ways to get your side into the auction and find your best fit. But the key to success is partnership understanding — both players must know what the double and the subsequent responses mean.

- ✗ Don't double just because you have points.
- ✓ Double when you have the right shape and strength and respond with discipline, even when the hand is awkward.

Prospective Rehousing of the Club to Challenger Reserve, Manning (where the Manning Bowling Club is located)

The message below was sent out by President Jim during the month to all members and the relevant parts are reproduced here for the benefit of those who may have missed it in their emails.

This is an idea that has been through a number of permutations over some years so you may think that you have heard it all before. However there now appears to be real traction behind the project coupled with a genuine desire on the part of the City of South Perth to listen to the needs of the club.

In considering whether to embark on the journey towards a move for the club, your committee is most interested in achieving the following:

- An increased number of playing tables
- A larger supper room
- More parking spaces, including an increased number of ACROD bays
- A teaching room.
- No reduction in the other facilities that we currently enjoy.

Over the last few weeks representatives of the club have met and corresponded with the Council in multiple meetings. The new proposals aim to provide a single building which can house the Bridge Club alongside bowling, soccer, cricket, function rooms and perhaps some other small clubs. From these interactions has emerged the following:

- A concept plan for an L-shaped double-storey building with the Bridge Club occupying the ground floor in the corner of the L. Our requirements in terms of area and facilities have been met.
- Parking, entrances and flows of people are catered for in such a way that intrusions into the bridge area will be minimised.
- The bridge club will have its own entrance. Close by there will be ca. 90 parking bays with ample parking for the other clubs closer to where they are located.
- Parkland situated near our alfresco area will be available for overflow use when we host large events (and will have some casual seating and barbecues).

Plans have been released for public comment. You may inspect the proposal by following these links:

[Challenger Reserve Masterplan Concept Design](#) and [Challenger Masterplan Drawings](#)

At this stage this is an outline plan which serves to engage with all the clubs involved and the general public as to whether it looks like it will work. The detailed design phase will follow later, and this is the time when iterations around the details of the arrangement will best be handled.

Quick Summary: The layout appears to give us everything we have requested in the new building. The Council team also appears to be ready to make any modifications to layout required to make us entirely happy.

If you have any comments on the plan I encourage you to bring them to the attention of Jim Willetts, Jan Howell, Tony McKinnon or Shane Brown since we would like to integrate any comments from bridge members into a consistent club response to Council. *Comments that have been received so far have generally been supportive and tending to mention details which the Committee believe can be handled with the Council's project team during the detailed design stage next year.*

The timing going forward is as follows:

- Feedback to the Council's project team will be assembled into a report to Council.
- Council meeting seeking approval for detail design ca. 10 December

Should Council approve the concept plan, the possible timetable for development would be as follows:

- Detailed design early to mid-2026
- Tender process for the building contractor, 3rd quarter 2026.
- Council endorse the final cost and choice of builder - likely towards end-2026?
- Construct, probably in stages due to the disturbance being created to existing users. Likely completion end-2029?

Given the above, there is still a lengthy period of time for us to enjoy our existing clubhouse, and therefore we will continue to maintain it in optimal condition for successfully hosting our bridge in the meantime.