

From the President

My second year as President ended last month with the Club's AGM. I would again like to thank everyone for their support and help this last year.

The AGM was very well attended. Earlier this year we altered the Constitution to allow prior voting for Management Committee positions. I believe this was a great success as it resulted in 113 members casting their votes, which is significantly more than the number of votes at previous AGMs. It was also pleasing to have many people attend the AGM in person.

Due to a late nomination withdrawal, all those members who nominated for a Management Committee position were successful. We have a number of new faces on the Committee, which is great to see, and I look forward to working with all of you this year. Finally, a big thank you again, to those long serving members of the Committee who have done a great job and are now taking a well-deserved break.

Tony McKinnon



Management Committee 2024/2025

Tony McKinnon	President	Jim Willetts	Vice-President
Chris England	Secretary	Shane Brown	Treasurer
Rachel McRae	House manager	Sue Shadbolt	Assistant treasurer
Gabrielle Bastow	member	Laurie Money	member
Judy Palmer	member	Rhonda Hulshoff	member

SPBC Life Membership



At the AGM, Tony McKinnon, on behalf of the Management Committee, nominated Cassie Morin for Life Membership. The nomination was accepted and those present at the meeting unanimously supported the nomination.

Cassie is a long-term volunteer for our Club. She has willingly taken on many roles over many years at the club, including serving as Club President. She is currently the Bar manager, a role that has a lot of responsibility. Her nomination is well-deserved. Congratulations, Cassie.

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. September Roster: **Mc, Mac, H, O and P**

September 2024

Club Open Pairs Championship

The Club Open Pairs Championship was held over two Saturday afternoons, 31 August and 7 September 2024. Prizes were presented by Tony McKinnon. In first place were, Marnie Leybourne and Nick Cantatore, in second place were Nigel Dutton and Marie-France Merven, and in third place were Mark O'Conner and Gordon Dunlop. Congratulation to the winners.



Tony with Marnie and Nick



Tony with Marie-France and Nigel



Tony with Mark and Gordon

SPBC Womens Pairs Championship

The SPBC Womens Pairs Championship was held over two Wednesdays, 4 & 11 September. Prizes were presented by Tony McKinnon. In first place were, Valerie Isle and Carol Newport, in second place were Wendy Driscoll and Jan Blight, and in third place were Sue Pynt and Vivian Zotti. Best pair under 100 Masterpoints were Judy Palmer and Jean Lam. Congratulation to the winners.



Tony with Valerie and Carol



Tony with Jan and Wendy



Tony with Sue and Vivian



Tony with Jean and Judy

Pharmacy 777 Open Pairs

The **Pharmacy 777 Open Pairs** was held on **Wednesday, 18 September**. In first place were, Nigel Dutton and Kimberley Zhao, in second place were Treveo Fuller and Marnie Leybourne, and in third place were Tony Stevens and Ros Warnock. First place winners each received a hamper of gifts from our sponsor of this event, Pharmacy 777.



Nigel Dutton and Kimberley Zhao

Events coming up in late-September and October

The **Mixed Pairs Championship** will be held over two **Friday** afternoons, **18 & 25 October 2024**, commencing at **12:30pm**. Cost for the two weeks is \$20 per person, with a free drink provided at the end of the Day 2 session. Please put names in the red book if you intend to enter.

The **Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs** will be held at SPBC on Saturday, **26 October 2024** commencing at 9:15am. Entry is open to all players with fewer than 300 Masterpoints as of 30 September 2024. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for visitors. Costs include the \$5ABF entry fee, and a \$2 subsidy for SPBC members. If intending to play, please put your names in the red book.

Masterpoint Ranking Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have recently received a masterpoint ranking promotion.

Janie McCagh	Graduate Master	Christine Johns	Local Master
Tenny Von Roretz	Graduate Master	Raymond Gray	Local Master
Peter Sage	Graduate Master	Lyn Vanstan	Bronze Local
Michael McGilvray	Club Master	Chris Massey	Silver Local Master
Helen Clarke	Club Master	Kathy Murray	Regional Master
Dale Nelligan	Club Master	Laura Breen	National Master
Judith Arrowsmith	Local Master		

Volunteer Recognition – Chris Massey

Chris is one of our group of silent volunteers working away in the background making the Club a great place to play bridge. For several years she has been responsible for keeping our outdoor patio area clean. You will not often see her working, but occasionally, if you listen carefully while playing, you will hear the sound of a garden blower in the background. She does a great job, and one which we will appreciate more as we spend more time in the patio area now that winter is over. Thank you for all your work, Chris.



Chris Massey with Tony

Recycling Volunteer Needed

And speaking of volunteers ... We are looking for someone to take over the recycling program at the club. The recycling program was started to assist our members to recycle some of the smaller items that are very tempting to put in the bin! Jan Howell has very generously been managing the recycling but would like to hand it over to someone else. If you think this is something you might be interested in doing, please contact one of the Management Committee members for more information about what is involved.

Finding nine tricks

Some hands are easy to play, others take a little bit of effort to find a line that can work. Take this hand from the first night of the BAWA online spring pairs.

Hand 29 Dealer: N Vul: All	♠ A J 8 4 ♥ A K Q 4 3 ♦ A J ♣ 9 4	
Lead: ♦ 8	N W E S	
	♠ 9 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ Q T 9 4 ♣ K Q 8 7 2	

The bidding should be straight-forward: 1H by North, 1NT by South, followed by 3NT by North, given South will have denied both three hearts and four spades with the 1NT bid.

The lead was the diamond eight. At first glance, it appears there are eight tricks: one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and one club, although the diamond and club tricks will still require a little bit of work. They aren't "quick" tricks.

There are additional opportunities in the spade suit, especially if the spade T is in the West hand. Two finesses in spades from South will often create a second trick.

Additionally, the heart suit could provide a ninth trick if the enemy's hearts break 4-3.

Finally, the club suit offers options. Say the club Ace is in the East hand. Leading twice towards the KQ may provide a ninth trick. Likewise, perhaps the clubs will break 3-3 and could furnish overtricks.

Which line is the best? Think about what you would do before reading on.

There are a few things to consider. First you can only afford to lose four tricks. There is one certain diamond loser, at least one club loser (possibly two), at least one or two spade losers and a heart loser.

Also, entries to the South hand are extremely limited. The only one that you have for sure is a club. Therefore, it is unclear whether you will have the chance of leading twice from South towards the spade holding in the North hand.

Likewise, aiming for more than one trick in clubs is risky. First, the Ace has only a 50% chance of being onside. Second, even if it was onside, East could take the second club trick and never let you in to enjoy a second trick in that suit. Also, a 4-2 break in clubs is more likely than a 3-3 break.

This leaves the heart suit. Odds are funny things. When there is an even number of cards missing, the suit is more likely to break unevenly (a 3-1 and a 4-2 break are more likely than 2-2 or 3-3). When an odd number of cards are missing, they are more likely to break evenly. Therefore, a 4-3 break is more likely than a 5-2. So, picking up an extra trick in hearts is odds-on to work.

However, there is one problem to negotiate. If you start working on hearts immediately, you are going to have to start looking for discards and that could become painful if the hearts don't break and you have to change horses and try for a second spade trick (which the defenders may manufacture for you anyway, as they are going to have to lead something when they get in!)

So, at trick one rise with the diamond Ace and play a LOW heart. At the table, East won this trick, cashed the diamond King and played another diamond, won by South. South immediately played the club King, won by West. Now, South had an entry back to hand with the club Queen in order to enjoy the last diamond, and then with the hearts breaking, took the four heart tricks (reaching them with a spade). Nine tricks and contract made. The full hand:

Hand 29 Dealer: N Vul: All	♠ A J 8 4 ♥ A K Q 4 3 ♦ A J ♣ 9 4	
♠ Q T 2 ♥ T 6 2 ♦ 8 7 6 3 ♣ A T 3	N W E S	♠ K 5 3 ♥ J 9 7 5 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ J 6 5
	♠ 9 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ Q T 9 4 ♣ K Q 8 7 2	