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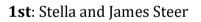
WA Bridge

Volume 24 Issue 5 September 2024

The Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Open Swiss Pairs sponsored by Daisy Pool Covers

The Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Open Pairs is Western Australia's premier event. It is a National Open Swiss Pairs Gold event which attracts significant prize money and awards Player Qualifying Points to each eligible player finishing in the first four places. Well done to our winners:

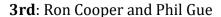






2nd: Alan Cransberg and Kimberley Zhao







4th: Ben Thompson and Renee Cooper





President's Report

By Ian Clark

After holding very successful events at Undercroft BC (Novice Pairs Championship) in July, Melville (GNOT State Finals) and WABC (Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Swiss Pairs) in August, we have a broad range of events at many different venues over the next few months:

- 1. Country Championships on 7 & 8 September in Bridgetown,
- 2. HGR Memorial Mixed Pairs and Restricted Pairs on 14 & 15 September at Melville,
- 3. Daytime Open Pairs starting on 25 September at Nedlands.
- 4. Rosendorff Women's Pairs on 29 September at WABC.
- 5. Super Vets Swiss Pairs on 27 October at WABC,
- 6. Teams Championship starting on 31 October at Nedlands.
- 7. Grand Master Restricted Pairs on 3 November at West Coast,
- 8. Novice Congress on 10 November at Joondalup and
- 9. Golden West Swiss Pairs on 16 & 17 November at Mandurah.

The support of our partner bridge clubs in hosting these events is gratefully received. Without this, we would be unable to deliver such a broad range of events at a wide variety of excellent venues.

I hope all our WA players can enter at least one event at a location that suits you.



Tim, Stella,
James and
David—winners
of the Orange
BC Teams
whilst over
playing in the
ANC.



GNOT Metro winners— Gwyneira Brahma, Dave Munro plus Stella and James Steer.



Second Place—The Pol Team, however they were non-contending so third and fourth are playing in the Knockout and Swiss GNOT Final.

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 By Helen Rogoysky

EDITOR:



Helen Rogoysky - 2023 0400323070 bawafocus@hotmail.com



Around the Clubs

By: Helen Rogoysky

Northern Districts Bridge Club

By Ann Hooper

Winners of the last few Red Point events are as follows:

Monday 13 May 2024
Gill and Ross Blakey with 64.4%
Chris Price and Lyn Fakira with 68.33%.

Thursday 13 June 2024 Chris Price and Astrid Piller with 57.41 Margaret Carter-Pyne and Lee Carter with 61.31%





Monday 22 July 2024 Graham Woodard and Astrid Piller with 60.29% Gary Wood and Chris Price with 67.59%



Thursday15 August 2024

Carol O'Grady and Lyn Fakira with 59.14% Gary Wood and Elizabeth Martinengo with 60.91%



Congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated. Each time we hold a Red Point we have a delightful afternoon tea. Special thanks go to those who contribute their time and cooking skills. We really appreciate your efforts.

The Club is going along well with good attendance numbers and a very efficient Committee.

Our website is ndbc.bridgeaustralia.org where you can find all the latest information about our Club and where to find us if you wish to visit.











Maylands Bridge Club

By Ilana Meyer

Maylands Bridge Buff Turns 100!

It was exciting celebrating our oldest member, Margot, who turned 100 on the 2 nd August. An excellent afternoon tea was held in her honour, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Wishing Margot many more healthy and happy years of bridging.



<u>Alan Baldock Memorial Trophy</u> 17 July 2024

1st Luba Klein & Louis Klein

2nd Joyce Archibald & Rosemary Cant

3rd Richard Maker & Ian Pleydell





One Day Pairs Congress

RED POINT EVENT

Restricted to 150 Masterpoints as at 30 June 2024

FRIDAY 1st November 2024

Seated by 9:20 for a 9:30am start

R A Cook Pavilion

55 Gummery St, Bedford

Director: David Burn

Convenor: Rosemary Cant

BYO LUNCH Tea and coffee provided

Table Money \$30.00

Cash Prizes

Enter via MyABF or contact the Club maylandsbridge@gmail.com

Kalgoorlie Bridge Club

By Sue Lia

Recently the Kalgoorlie Boulder council held a Seniors Expo, show casing what's available in Kalgoorlie for seniors.

The Kalgoorlie Bridge Club had a display photo shows Sue Lia and Mary Williams . Thanks to Kerry, Janet, Barry and Val for also attending on the day.

Our aim was to make contract with people wanting to learn to play Bridge, hence lessons started in May.



Rockingham Bridge Club

By Pat Ditchfield

The Rockingham Bridge Club celebrated its 45th birthday and a great lunch was held on 5 July to celebrate the occasion.

Life member Ron Philpot with his wife Betty cut the cake with President Di Brooks

The Hon Paul Papalia CSC, MLA, Patron of the RBC was there to congratulate the club for their 45 years of wonderful service to the community.





Kalamunda Bridge Club

By Di Van Santen

Christmas in July

We had a great time had on Sat 27th July celebrating Christmas in July - a good excuse to dress up, decorate, eat and have fun. About 70 people attended with our local Labor MP, Tania Lawrence, as a guest who took some time to learn about playing Bridge.







Christmas in July Results: Section A: North/South 1st: Dawn and Phil Snook



East/West

1st: Ross Pringle and Ronnie Malthouse



Section B North/South

1st: Carmen Jackson and Stephen Thyer



East/West

1st: Bernard Szalkowski and David Harris



Our AGM was held on Sat 10 August with Jean-Paul Tedeschi continuing as President with Di Barker as Vice-president, Barbara Bibby as Secretary and Kate Sayer as Treasurer.



West Coast Bridge Club

By Hilary Heptinstall



We celebrated the 90th birthday of long time West Coast Bridge Club Member, Sylvia Mata, in July. It was a very happy occasion for us all.

The results of our G.N.O. T, Heat were: 1st Anton Pol. Wence Vahala, Marlene Medhat, Ray Wood

2nd Patrick Garnett, Christina Wu, Peter McCann, Martin Broome

3rd Marion Bogue, Kate Nadebaum, Sarita Singh, Jay Wongphasaukcot



The results of our Club Championship Teams Competition were:

1st Anton Pol. Wence Vahala, Ray Wood, Marlene Medhat.

2nd Shirley Bloch, Peach Partis, Maureen Phillips, Cathy Slaughter

3rd Robin rRse, Nerilyn Mack, Michael Plows, Yvonne Plows

The results of our Club Championship Pairs

Competition were: 1st Ray Wood and

1st Ray Wood and Marlene Medhat

2nd Anton Pol and Wence Vahalla

3rd Maureen Phillips and Cathy Slaughter



West Coast Bridge Club AGM

This was held on the 18th August with a very good attendance. The following members were elected.

President - Sue Vincent

Vice- President – Adele Philpot

Secretary - Colleen Stone

Treasurer - Barry Clarke



Flowers were presented to retiring long-time volunteers:

Master Points
Secretay:
Hilary
Heptinstall and
committee
members: Sally
Brittliffe and
Peach Partis



There are still a few places left for our West Coast

Congress which will commence at 10.00 am on Sunday September 8. Entries via MYABF.



Fremantle Bridge Club

By Jenny Langridge

Following the Fremantle Bridge Club 2024 Annual General Meeting, members farewelled Alexis Keynes after her three-year tenure and welcomed new President Sue Simper.



L-R Alexis Keynes & Sue Simper

West Australian Bridge Club

By Martin Doran

At WABC, July started with Red Point Week, a good chance to win some of those elusive red points, and slightly easier than normal with many of the State's best players away at the Australian National Championships in Orange. There was also another Marvellous Monday sponsored by Aspire2Wealth and organised by our Marketing Sub-committee with the usual thought provoking quiz by John Nelson.

The <u>Novice Pairs Championship</u> was won by Cilla Butler – Patricia Rothery from Vicki Bakker – Anne Siopsis.

The <u>Daytime Pairs Championship</u> was won by Jonathan Free - Joann Theriault from Kaiping Chen – Angeline Christie.

Andy Hung returned for Term 3 lessons and a new and very popular course on Minor Suit Bidding. Andy was just back from playing in a North American Bridge Congress (NABC) where he did really well. There are three of these NABC events each year in Spring, Summer and Fall and they have become popular with a lot of very good international players attending. This year's just completed summer NABC was held in Toronto, Canada and in the last major event, the three day

Roth Swiss Teams, the team of Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung and Nabil Edgtton - Michael Whibley came 3rd in a world class field. Well done.

In September and October there are a number of club championships being held and of course the November jackpot week. It hard to believe but the Christmas Congress isn't that far off either.

There has been some action across at the Hospice site with the sewer pipe diversion works starting a bit later than expected. A temporary site office has been placed on site. The club was notified that parking would not be affected but it seems that some parking bays were commandeered last week.

The Council are also determined to put the "path" in across the front of the bridge club despite the petition signed by 380 members of WABC and recommendations by council staff to postpone the work. The petition was given to Councillor Noel Youngman, an elected councillor from the Dalkeith Ward of the City of Nedlands Council by Veronica Ntoumenopoulos and over 100 came out in front of the WABC building in support. Sandra Brewer, the newly endorsed Liberal candidate for Cottesloe in the State Government was also present, to offer her support. The Council have said they would try to keep any disruption to a minimum and provide temporary disable parking when necessary.

Disclaimer:

It is BAWA policy not to accept advertising from persons or organizations believed to be unreliable or financially irresponsible. We are not responsible, however, for the performance of advertisers, the delivery or quality of the merchandise or services, or the legality of any particular program. BAWA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to refuse any advertisement.

South Perth Bridge Club

By Gabrielle Bastow

The SPBC Winter Congress, was held 2-4 August 2024. The congress ran very smoothly thanks to the excellent organisation and management by Convener Bev Laurie and Director Neville Walker. The congress was well-attended. It was particularly pleasing to see so many players enter the Novice Pairs event. This is the first time an event for novice players has been held at a SPBC Congress and it was a great success, with the club hosting 26 pairs for the Saturday morning session, many of them first-time congress attendees.

The Welcome Pairs was held on Friday afternoon. The winners were Gwyneira Brahma and Dave Munro, with Cassie Morin and Cynthia Belonogoff in second place and Mark Goddard and Bob Prince in third place. The best pair under 300 MPs went to Laura and Rob Breen. Best SPBC Pair was shared by Jenny Simpson and Wilma Coloper; and Joe Louis and Wendy Harman.



The Novice Pairs, held on Saturday morning was won by Divyesh and Rina Shah. Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon were in second place; Rachel McRae and Tony McKinnon in third place; and Gabrielle Bastow and Shane Brown came fourth. Best Pair under 25 MPs went to Michael McGilvray and Robert Velletri. Best SPBC Pair went to Brian Shaw and Sue Craig.



The Open Pairs event was held across two sessions on Saturday. A Qualifying round was held in the morning, with a Final and Plate taking place in the afternoon. Placing first North/South in the qualifying round were Renee Cooper and Jane Reynolds. Placing first East/West in the qualifying round were Geoff Holman and David Matthews. First place in the Final went to Fiske Warren and Deana Wilson.



Gerry Daly and Viv Wood came in second place and David Schokman and Geoff Yeo placing third. First place in the Plate went to Mark Goddard and Rohan Bandarage, with Brian Wade and Jenny Dawson in second place and Dianne Dwyer and Jonathan Free placing third. The Best SPBC Pair overall went to Cynthia Belonogoff and Vinod Nasta. Best pair overall under 300 MPs went to Dorothea Hasley and Alan Puckey.

The congress concluded with the Open Teams event on Sunday, with 14 teams participating. First place went to Team Laybourne: Marnie Leybourne, Trevor Fuller, Leonie Fuller and Nick Cantatore. In second place was Team Dwyer: Dianne Dwyer, Jonathan Free, Lynne Milne and David Burn. Placing third was Team Daly: Gerry Daly, Viv Wood, Tom Lemann and Val Biltoft. Best SPBC Team went to Team Morin: Cassie Morin, Jan Blight, Valerie Isle and Wendy Driscoll.



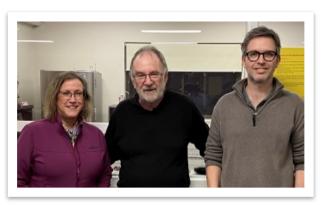
Mandurah Bridge Club

By Ian Jones

The winners of the Winter Swiss Congress held in July were Gerry Daly and Viv Wood.



Runners up were Marnie Leybourne and Hamish McCraken.



Third place was awarded to Deanna Wilson and Chris Mulley.

Geoff Holman and David Matthew were fourth and Gwyneira Brahma and Dave Munro fifth.

Kimberley Zhao and Alan Cransberg were the Best Country pair.



Under 300 Masterpoints winners were Tom Burton and Sharon Schneider.



Best Mandurah Pair were Peter Knight and Gary Watkins.



Under 150 Masterpoints winners were Lyn Clarke and Mei Zhao.

Thanks to Tournament Organiser Sandra Hardie and Congress Director Neville Walker for a successful event.

In August, the Club held the annual Teams of 3 with Mentors event. Winners were Lyn Clarke, Ann Kelley and Gary Watkins, with mentor Colin Hunter, the only team out of 18 teams to win all six of their games. Well done. Runners up were Catherine Vallet, Mimi de Ravel and Marie Dulcer, mentored by Roz Trend.



Nedlands Bridge Club

By Linda Bedford Brown

Club Mixed Pairs



Winners: Gwyneira Brahma and Dave Munro



Second: Hamish McCracken and Deana Wilson



Third: Terri Garbutt and Jonathan Pynt

August Sunday Congress



Winners: Gerry Daly and Tom Lehman



Second: Geoff Holman and David Matthews



Third: Judy Havas and Chris Ross



Best Restricted Pair: Frank Van Bockxmeer and Jeff Veling

Coming up -

Sep 25^{th} BAWA Open Pairs held over 3 Wednesdays

 $\frac{October\ Nedlands\ Spring\ Congress\ Oct\ Fri\ 4^{th}}{1pm-Sat\ 5^{th}\ 10.00am-Sun\ 6^{th}\ 10.00am}$

November 5th Melbourne Cup 11.30am. Cost is \$35 for both lunch and bridge. Bridge will commence after the Cup. This event is very popular and early booking is advised. Sweeps - Spot prizes – Best Male and Female hat prize!

Perth CBD Bridge Club

By Ann Spiro

In August, the Perth CBD Bridge Club celebrated its second anniversary at Citiplace Community Centre.

Although we began as a small social club with only four players, the Perth CBD Bridge Club now

forms part of the Australian Bridge Federation and regularly hosts 10-16 players each week on Wednesday evenings.

The Perth CBD Bridge Club welcomes players of all skill levels, and even offers beginners their first lesson free! Light refreshments are provided, and don't forget parking is free at Citiplace after 6pm.





SATURDAY BRIDGE

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER

Nigel Dutton is writing a weekly column, it doesn't matter what level your game is this will be informative, educational and instructive and at times tongue in cheek!

Want to improve your bridge results?
Then visit:

The Real Deal Workout

with Ron Klinger
5 Bridge Questions
(bidding, leads, declarer play, defence)
and their solutions per week. By subscription
For details: please go to the
www.ronklingerbridge.com website.

November Deadline

October 25th is the deadline for inclusion in the November Focus.





Leading Partner's Suit

By: Di Brooks

Many, many moons ago, almost too many to count, Rockingham Bridge Club was host to Ron Klinger. Ron's lecture for the day was "Leading Partner's Suit". I remember this visit in particular. There were 8 tables. We all had the same hands to play at the same time

The theme was consistent throughout the afternoon. "If you hold a doubleton in partner's suit, "Lead the Highest".

North, the opener had shown 12 point + in his opening, East overcalled 1S, South bid 2NT, West passed, North closed the contract with 3NT. West on lead held Qx in spades, but had a 5 card heart suit held by J10976 and lead the HJ. Declarer played for his 9 tricks and the opponents registered -600. This only happened at one table. The other 7 tables recorded a score of +100 for E-W.

Mr Klinger was very patient. He asked the disobedient Leader of her chosen card and was told JH. Ron explained how important it was to lead the partner's suit, especially as East will have other entries to his hand and could then cash all his spades to take Declarer's contract down. He got the table to bid the hand again. West was on lead and insisted on the JH. Our esteemed teacher walked away.

The moral to this story is to LEAD PARTNER'S

SUIT.

There are several reasons why this action is recommended.

- A) The lead might keep the Declarer to his limit of tricks.
- B) The lead might take Declarer's contract down.
- C) Thirdly, this will keep partner happy.
- D) If you don't lead partner's suit, you had better have a void in their suit!!!!!
- E) Lastly, you might be looking for a new partner!!!

Happy Partner, Happy Relationship.

Reasons we Overcall.....

- A) We show we have our own suit and the points that go with the bid.
- B) We hope to play the hand.
- C) We may also push the opener and his responder to a higher unmakeable contract.
- D) The overcall is Lead Directing, giving their partner an indication of which suit to lead... And finally,
- E) the overcalling side might be non vulnerable against the Vulnerable game contract, therefore a sacrifice might be the right thing to do. Better to give away -500, than the opening side to receive +600.

Remembering that sacrifice is more advantageous than "Suicide".

Happy bridging.

BAWA Novice Pairs

Thirty-six pairs compete in Novice Pairs Championship held at Undercroft Bridge Club in July.

Congratulations to the winners: Rina and Divyesh Shah (pictured with BAWA president, Ian Clark).

Rina and Divyesh will participate in the 2025 Gold Coast Congress with 1st prize subsidies of \$1.000.

Runners up were Trish Christy & Mei Zhao with

third place-getters Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon.

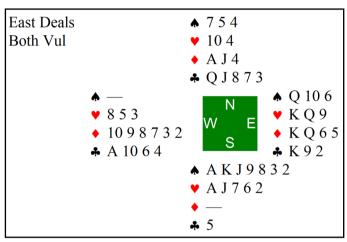




Freak Show

By: Ron Klinger www.RonKlingerbridge.com Improve Your Bridge Online

Sweden in its first win in the World Open Teams in 2012 could have done better on this deal from the final against Poland:



Both Easts opened 1NT. The Polish South made the practical bid of 4S. West led the D10, ace, and South pitched the club loser. Then came the H4, queen, ace. South later ruffed a heart, finessed the spade and had twelve tricks for +680.

At the other table the Swedish South bid 3S, a poor choice. The idea was to wait for a minor suit bid from West, after which he could show the hearts. South is still waiting, as it went Pass: Pass: Pass: Here, too, the lead was the D10. South made twelve tricks, +230, but lost 10 Imps.

Although 4S is sensible, one might miss a slam. North did have 8 HCP. Give North a holding including HK-Q-x-x or HK-x-x-x would be enough for an excellent slam. To cater for that possibility, South might bid 2NT to show a gameforcing 2-suiter. When North bids 3C, South can bid 3S and then pass North's 4S.

In the playoff for third, East opened 1NT and the Irish South bid 2C, showing hearts and another suit. That looks risky. Even if 2C shows the majors or a variety of hand types, North might pass. In fact West bid 2D: Pass: Pass: 4S, All pass, +680.

The other table was exciting:

Monaco North-South:

West North East South
--- 1NT 4S
5D Pass Pass 5H
Pass 5S Dble All pass

West led the CA, but South made 11 tricks, +850 and +5 Imps.

In the Women's final, both Easts opened 1NT. The English South bid 4S, All pass, +680. The Russian South bid 2C, majors and ended in 5S, just making. In the Women's Playoff for third place, France and Poland were both in 4S.

In the Seniors Final, Hungary vs USA, both tables bid 1NT: 4S, all pass, +680, no swing.

Seniors' Playoff for third, France N-S:

West North East South
--- --- 1NT 2C
2D 2S 3D 4D
Pass 4S All pass

Lead: DK. North-South +680.

Sweden North-South:

West North East South
--- -- 1D 2D (1)
5D! Pass Pass 5H
Pass 5S All pass

(1) Majors. Lead: DK. N-S +680.

"After my partner went off in three games that were cold. I had him arrested."

"What for?"

"Impersonating a bridge player. "



Who's Who In WA Bridge!

By Helen Rogoysky



If you have ever played against Alan Cransberg then you know that he is not easy to miss, even disregarding his height he has a wonderful makes everyone feel at ease. Thank you Alan for taking the time to answer these questions.

When did you start playing?

We were a card playing family and my Dutch parents often had people round to play bridge. I had lessons with Nigel Dutton who was running classes at South Perth in the early 90s after my friend Pim Birss suggested we should learn to play. I played for a few years and then had 25 years with no bridge while working overseas and raising four kids. I started again in 2017 when I retired from full time work.

First home club: South Perth **Current home club:** Mandurah

What system do you use?

I play 5 cd majors with a weak NT with Pim and Standard Modern Precision (SMP) with Kimberley Zhao.

What made you interested in learning/playing the game?

Always interested in competitive games (played a lot of sport) and loved cards as a nice way to spend time with people and have some fun.

What do you like most about bridge?

The variety of the game - no two hands are alike. Plus, I like being around people and learning new things. I dislike seeing how some partners treat each other or their opponents. Seek first to understand then to be understood is a favourite saying of mine. Bridge players often have this the wrong way round.

If you're not playing bridge what else do you

like to do with your time?

I like to catch up with the kids who are all starting their careers and did not get a lot of Dad's time when I was working, get the boat out (we live on the canals in Mandurah), playing golf and tend to be a sports junkie with a particular passion for friendly disposition that AFL and West Coast Eagles.

Most memorable bridge moment?

Probably winning the HGR Mixed a last year with Kimberley - we got to table 1 way too early and had to bat away all these players that were much better than me. Managed to hang on

Most faraway place you've played bridge?

Played a couple of games in Knoxville (Tennessee) while working over there.

Most memorable hand that you have had?

Nothing stands out – they all have their own challenges and opportunities. The good ones I normally muck up....

Favourite convention?

Love it when I can open 2D in SMP – shows a 10-15 point 4415 hand (with a card missing) and lots of conventions to the right game/slam if partner has the points

Advice to new player?

Listen and learn – ask questions as most people will help. Do not let people get to you – there are a lot of very different cats in the bridge world.....they mean well mostly.

Do you play online?

When I have time, I use BBO for practice but much prefer in person bridge.

What did/do you do for work?

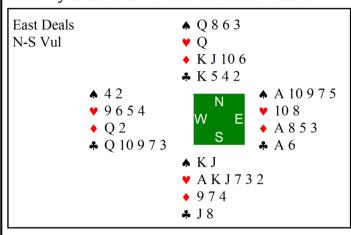
Had a 37 year executive career with Alcoa based in Australia and the US. Ran their Global Mining, Refining and Mining operations out their New York HQ. Spent a lot of time on planes as we had operations in over a dozen countries - loved the job and the people. Now I work 2-3 days a week with Directorships and Not For Profits.



South Perth Teams R6 B22

By David Schokman

Often after an event there is always one hand that hoping that any missing heart honour would be bothers people as the result could well have changed positions on the podium and this deal from the South Perth congress teams was certainly one of them that affected our result.



East will pass. South opens 1H. 1S by West and North doubles, a negative double, showing at least 4-4 in the minors and about 8+ points. Pass by East. South bids 2H, almost certainly guaranteeing six hearts in. There could be a situation where you are forced to bid a five-card suit denying any suitable alternative bid.

North now bids 2NT, which shows a good 10-11 points with a spade stopper, and must deny holding two hearts, (over the 2H bid, showing six). What would you do as South? Playing match point pairs I would pass without any hesitation, but playing in a team's match there have to be different options. Firstly, do we have the values to make a game, and certainly the quality of the opposition may be considered. I had to make this decision. To both questions the answer had to be ves. As for the quality of the opposition, Marnie Leybourne, Leone Fuller, Nick Cantatore and Trevor Fuller; it could not have got much better. My partner had made a negative double over 1S, showing some values, and both minors. He then bid 2NT over my 2H, now showing 10 -11 points, with a spade stopper, and lacking two hearts. I held two of the four top spade honours. Did West have 6 spades or 5? Obviously, the West hand is limited, so do I pass, bid 3NT or 4H? In the end the two spade honours swung it in favour of 3NT, in the West hand, which in not a totally unreasonable contention. A spade was led and there is no chance that 3NT can make as West had three aces and the required entries to score three spade tricks and two aces.

What if I had decided to bid 4H, which was bid at the other table. Deep Finesse has the advantage of always finding the best defence seeing all four hands and says that 4H cannot be made. Our teammates Chris Ingham and Geoff Holman, were possibly at a disadvantage as they were playing against Moscito and knew very little about the opponents hands after a 1D opening, showing hearts. So, as all the bids were relays, all Chris knew was that South had a 2, 6, 3, 2 hand with a good heart suit. The unusual lead of the diamond ace, followed by a diamond beats it, but no one is likely to find that lead. The ace of clubs was a popular choice against the lower-level contracts. Against 4H, a club lead, with a club continuation, and then a switch to diamond, after winning the spade ace, will give declarer a problem.

What are your chances? Win the club continuation and play the heart queen. Now you have a problem. Both 3NT and 4H appear to need a 3-3 heart break to make their contracts. In 3NT, after a spade lead, won with the ace, and continued you are forced to play for the 3-3 break. Have you any options in 4H? Let's see. Assuming a spade is led you win the second spade and cash the queen of hearts. Now ruff a spade. East will discard a club. Ruff this and draw trumps. They do not break and West has to make two discards Now play a club. If East rises with the ace and plays a spade you discard a diamond on the queen of spades.

If West ducks the club you take the king and discard a club on the spade queen. If West plays the ace of clubs and continues spades you win with the queen, discarding a diamond. Only three pairs bid to 4H and two were successful.

I have never been a great bridge analyst and if this is flawed, as I think that it may be, I do apologise. You may mock me so I suggest that you get an expert opinion from Fiske or Jonathan.

Another hand from the same set also cost us dearly. It was board 26. Holding K6, J108, K972, A865, vul against not would you open this hand in first position? Many would, but I would never do so. Our teammate played the same style and

passed staying out of the cold slam. At our table Nick opened with 1D and Trevor bid to 6D very quickly. However, would you consider looking for slam if west opens 1D, and then shows a 19–20 point hand?

We went into the last round leading by 5VPs and were thrashed by a better team sending us crashing to 4th - a most disappointing result!



Our First RealBridge Experience

By Esther Saunders

My partner and I heard that the numbers for the country GNOT were very low this year and on querying past entrants, we heard misgivings about one of the qualifying rounds being held online on RealBridge so we decided to give RealBridge a go before being committed to travelling to Melville for the first round.

I have to say, we were very impressed with our first RealBridge experience and have no problem at all entering the country GNOT with an opportunity to win a place in the final on RealBridge.

The occasional BAWA events that are held on RealBridge are a fantastic opportunity for country players to have games against top players and I'd encourage anyone to give it a go.

Some country players have expressed concerns about their internet dropouts but because most players do quick claims, we found we were often waiting for 3 or more minutes at the end of a round for other tables to finish. In this case, there'd be plenty of time for dropouts to log back on.

The whole process of getting on and playing is very easy. Once you enter via MYABF, you get an email on the day of the event with a link to click and that takes you straight there. You just have to enter your name and ABF number and then wait until the director puts you on a seat and everything is automatic from there. All you have to do is click your bids and click on the cards you want to play.

You don't need to type-chat at all, you just need to ensure your computer camera and microphone are working and you see the people at your table in real time and hear them, just like on Skype or Facetime. All players must ensure their device's camera and microphone are in working order and must always keep them on during play and this ensures the integrity of the game. You can easily see and hear if players in the same house are in different rooms.

We're quite enthusiastic about it and would encourage anyone to give RealBridge a go.

StepBridge also now has camera and microphone functionality so it's certainly the way of the future.



Editor's Note: Esther and Colin Saunders did make the Country GNOT Team and will be playing on RealBridge during September. Their team mates are Dianne Dwyer and Eamonn McCabe. The WA Provincial team is Florence Maltby, Trish Anderson, Steve and Helen Rogoysky (seen here pictured with Esther and Colin).



Investing in the Future

By David Fryda

How the ABF is revolutionising bridge club management and player experience

Our Mission

The Australian Bridge Federation's (ABF) mission for 2022-2025 is to guide and promote bridge across Australia, ensuring our community not only survives but thrives, even in the face of global challenges like COVID-19. To achieve this, we have focused on three key areas: growing the game of bridge in Australia, supporting our community and its diverse needs, and future-proofing our infrastructure to stay ahead of technological advancements while mitigating risks associated with obsolete technologies and single-person dependencies.

development project, which aims to revolutionise bridge club management and enhance the overall player experience through comprehensive, integrated technology solutions. As we move forward, it is essential to address the financial requirements needed to support this ambitious initiative while also covering the group's increasing operating costs and adjusting for inflation. This is why, at the ABF's annual general meeting (AGM) in May, the council voted in favour of some small but necessary rolling increases in our fees over the next three years to ensure the sustainability and continued growth of our beloved game.

ABF Financial History

Over many years, the ABF built a very healthy balance sheet and had sufficient cash reserves to cover the small operating deficits that became the norm for several years. The COVID years resulted in a couple of small surpluses for the ABF, but we have since returned to operating at a deficit again.

There is a broad range of reasons for these deficits, including the rising cost of operations in an inflationary environment. Staff and infrastructure costs have continued to increase, as have the costs of insurance, running the

Masterpoint Centre, maintaining our websites and sending representative teams to world championships.

MYABF Investment Proposal

In addition, the ABF has been investing heavily in technology for the past five years. In 2018, the ABF Board resolved to invest over half a million dollars in MYABF, a technology platform designed to:

- Support all Australian clubs and players by simplifying the administration of clubs and bridge events
- Make systems more user-friendly, easy to use, and accessible for players, improving their experience
- Reduce the many hours of effort needed by employees and volunteers to manage clubs, members, masterpoints, and scoring
- Address critical issues in the bridge community's technology infrastructure, such as single-person dependencies, obsolete technologies, and a lack of strategic direction
- Ensure systems function without interruption, meeting the high expectations of bridge players for reliable technology
- Streamline membership management, payment processing, and event entries, significantly reducing administrative burdens and providing more accurate reporting
- Provide an easy-to-use, all-in-one leading bridge technology solution for clubs and associations across Australia, enhancing the experience of bridge players at all levels
- Deliver a single integrated platform running on reliable IT infrastructure (in the cloud), available to all affiliated bridge clubs and players throughout Australia

At the time MYABF was proposed it was thought it could be delivered within three years and that the ABF had sufficient cash reserves to fund the development without charging clubs or players.

However, like many technology projects, the time and cost were underestimated due to unexpected challenges such as COVID-19, significant increases in inflation, additional club needs, and changes in personnel.

Since its inception in 2019, though managed by a single project manager and just one or two developers supported by a group of volunteers on a steering committee, the project has successfully transformed bridge event management across Australia and become the envy of many clubs worldwide. Nearly all bridge events nationwide now use MYABF as the portal, providing players with the information they require and the ability to enter and pay their fees seamlessly. More recently, several bridge clubs have transitioned to using MYABF for their club management, allowing their members to pay their table fees through their MYABF account.

MYABF Current State

By the end of 2024, the total investment in MYABF will be approximately \$900,000. The impact on the ABF's cash reserves has been far greater than originally anticipated.

Operating MYABF, in addition to its development, is also contributing to the ABF's rising costs. For example, when we pass event money that we have collected on behalf of clubs back to them we attempt to recover the transaction costs that Stripe have charged us. Although we aim to "break even," we have in fact incurred more costs than we have recovered. These operating expenses and additional behind-the-scenes administrative costs are covered from the ABF's general funds.

MYABF Future

Whilst MYABF is already offering significant savings and benefits to clubs and is admired worldwide, we still have more work to do to complete the development of MYABF. There are three core elements still to be done:

- 1. Complete club membership module to enable clubs to retire existing systems
- 2. Integrate masterpoint centre (MPC) with MYABF as MPC software is running on outdated software that is no longer

- supported
- 3. Integrate a scoring program with MYABF to reduce errors and overheads

To complete this development and cover the costs of the ongoing operation and support of the software, as well as address the deficits the ABF is incurring from their general operations, we estimate we will need to raise an additional one million dollars over the next three years.

Funding Our Future

The ABF has two main sources of income: capitation fees, a charge paid by all clubs based on their number of members, and masterpoint fees, which vary based on the colour (green, red, and gold) and grade of competition. Clubs and event organisers need to cover the cost of masterpoints in the fees they charge players each time they play.

As one might anticipate, both capitation and masterpoint fees have gradually increased over the years in alignment with rising operating costs. Recognising the financial strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we halved the capitation fees for a year to alleviate some of the financial pressures experienced by our members during this challenging time. This was in addition to funnelling over one million dollars in table fees from online games back to the clubs between May 2020 and September 2021.

Some alternative methods of raising the required funds were considered, but they all would result in even more costs to administer, so it was agreed that raising the capitation and masterpoint fees would be the best approach. Rather than solely burdening competition players with these additional costs, the ABF Council agreed at its AGM that, since the benefits of the ABF's operations and MYABF will be enjoyed by all, and are essential for the sustainability and growth of our bridge community, it is appropriate that the increases be shared by everyone.

Impact On Players

As a result, we will be increasing the annual capitation fee and masterpoints fees by less than \$4 a year for the next three years. This reflects our commitment to keeping bridge as an affordable pastime whilst providing huge benefits to players across the country.

Capitation Fee Increases for 2025, 2026, and 2027

Year	Capitation Fee Increase	New Total
2025	\$3.30	\$23.30
2026	\$3.30	\$26.60
2027	\$3.30	\$29.90

Masterpoint Fee Increases for 2025

In April next year the cost of masterpoints will increase as follows:

Colour	Current	April 2025		
Green	\$2.02	\$2.53		
Club Red	\$1.62	\$2.03		
Congress Red	\$2.14	\$2.68		
State Red & Gold	\$1.39	\$1.74		

sessions:

Session Type	Increase	Or Cost Per Player		
12-table	\$1.20	5 cents		
Red point event run over four sessions	\$20	\$1.50		
Gold point event run over four days	\$350	70 cents per day		

In 2026 and 2027, masterpoint fees will increase by three percent per year in line with inflation.

These increases have been calculated to raise the one million dollars required to cover the ABF's costs in 2025, 2026, and 2027. The \$900,000 investment already made by the ABF in MYABF is not being recovered. We expect our cash reserves to remain at or near the level they will be at the end of 2024 throughout the next three years.

We expect the vast majority of Australian bridge players will accept that these increases have been well considered and scrutinised by the ABF's management, Board, finance committee, and councillors, and therefore are being made with players' best interests in mind. However, there are, without doubt, some players who feel the increases are not justified or that the benefits will not flow back to them. None of us like it when costs increase, but we all value the continued prosperity of our bridge community and the reduced workload for our hardworking volunteers, making it easier for everyone to enjoy both playing and managing the game. Even with these increases the ABF's charges remain low in comparison with other nationally supported bodies.

The small team involved in the running of MYABF will be supporting clubs across the country as they implement MYABF so the benefits can be enjoyed as soon as possible.

ABF Technology Fund

At the AGM in May, the Council also resolved to establish an ABF Technology Fund and to redirect some historical ABF payments to the states and To put these increases in context, the following territories into this fund. The fund's objective will table illustrates the impact on some example be to reduce the impact of the costs to deliver and support the MYABF platform into the future. We will be seeking donations into this fund from players and sponsors, and at the 2025 AGM, the Council will consider, based on the success of the fund-raising, ways to pass the benefits back to players. This may come in the form of targeted relief to players with financial constraints or may even result in delays or reductions in the implementation of the planned increases in 2026 and 2027.

In Conclusion

Hopefully, this article helps you to understand why these increases are being implemented. If you have unanswered questions, we plan on distributing more information over the coming weeks to address them. Additionally, ABF management and Board members will be available at upcoming events for Q&A sessions, and if there is sufficient demand, we will run webinars to answer your questions.

In the meantime, I welcome comments and suggestions from members and I will try to respond within time constraints.



Director Please!

By: Helen Rogoysky

Our congress dealer extraordinaire and affable director Ian Rowlands agreed to be interviewed. Thank you Ian for agreeing to answer my questions.



When did you start playing bridge?

First time I played the game was 1984, but the first time at the club was 2005.

What made you interested in learning bridge?

While I learnt how to play bridge at high school, it was just a number of different card games I learned at the time (500 was more popular, as you could vary the numbers). However, I have an older cousin who played in Sydney and once she heard I knew about it, I got a stream of birthday and Christmas presents related to bridge. That kept my interest for a while. Years later, I ran into bridge being online and tried that for a little while. A few years later, I was looking for another hobby and bridge popped into my mind – so that's when I visited a club for the first time.

What is your favourite convention?

I like 2 over 1 and the conventions around it (some of which aren't standard). I found it much easier to find partner's hand at the lower level and have plenty of room to explore slam.

When did you start directing?

I took a director's course at Undercroft BC at the end of 2010. When I went there, I thought I was just going to learn the laws of the game properly and hence would improve my bridge play. It didn't quite turn out that way!

What drew you to directing?

It was the challenge of learning and understanding the laws. I picked up those parts of it relatively quickly (it helps when your club throws you into the deep end as soon as you have completed the exam!). Then I started looking at the movements, how they work and how they are different for multi-session events. I was very

fortunate to have somebody who encouraged that interest (Bill Kemp) and gradually challenged me further.

Most faraway place you have directed?

Gold Coast – I've directed there a couple of times and would like to do so more. If you want to accelerate your "table craft" as a director, going to such a big tournament and coming across situations you would never see in a club session is fantastic.

What is your most common reason to be called to the table?

Either insufficient bids or revokes. Insufficient bids take a bit longer to deal with most of the time, so it certainly seems like it happens more often even if it doesn't.

Do you have a favourite law?

I don't have a favourite per say, but I do have one which always brings a smile to my face – Law 63 A1 (establishment of a revoke). It is amazing how many times that somebody revokes by ruffing a card, and then immediately leads the suit which they just ruffed! You can't help but smile when that happens, and feel a little bit sorry for the player who did it.

Do you miss playing in congresses?

I tend to miss more events anyway because I often deal boards for the congresses – but the main ones I miss playing are the bigger gold point events. For me, it was about making a choice whether I am primarily a player or director – I don't have time to do both seriously, so I have made my choice.

Most memorable moment directing?

While I have experienced something worse since (I've dealt with 10 card since this happened), it was while directing at the Gold Coast and I came across a situation where there were 7 penalty cards – one person thought they were dummy rather than defending and started laying down their hand. It certainly gets you thinking hard as there are so many options available to the non-offenders. It was very memorable

because you have to think very quickly and clearly, and are constantly repeating similar options to opponents (the opponents have no idea what is going on and what they can do to take advantage of the situation).

What did/do you do for work?

I still work full time (hence my limited bridge time) as a software engineer, and have done so since leaving university a long time ago. I've worked in a large variety of industries while doing that – public transport ticketing companies, consulting firms, power companies, state tax departments, the police, mining companies and telecommunication companies. It's amazing how deep some areas of things we take for granted are, and how everything works with computing systems behind the scenes (or barely work

sometimes!). At least this background helped me understand the computerized scoring programs.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

One thing that has been on my mind for a long time is how normal players don't have an idea of why common director rulings are made how they can (legally) take advantage of any rulings against their opponents. It would take the stress away when the director is called, not be afraid to call the director, and realize that they can take some positive action when it happens. Maybe this is some area where it would be worth educating newer players – almost like a "directors course for players". I wonder if anybody reading this has thought about this before.

Upcoming Events

September				
Thursday 5th	BAWA Spring Online Pairs			
Saturday 7th—Sunday 8th	BAWA Country Championships			
Sunday 8th	West Coast Congress			
Saturday 14th—Sunday 15th	HGR Memorial Congress			
Saturday 20th—Sunday 21st	Geraldton Congress			
Thursday 25th	BAWA Daytime Open Pairs			
Sunday 29th	Rosendorff Women's Swiss Pairs			
	October			
4th	Nedlands Spring Congress			
Saturday 12th-Sunday13th	Busselton Congress			
Saturday 19th	Undercroft October Congress			
27th	Super Vets Swiss Pairs			
November				
Friday 1st	Maylands Annual Congress			
Friday 15th—Sunday17th Golden West				
Saturday 23rd-Sunday 24th	Undercroft November Congress			
Friday 29th—Sunday 1st	WABC Christmas Congress			

Note: Times and venues are subject to change: substitutes must be confirmed by the director: read conditions of entry for the event on the BAWA website.

EDITING OF MATERIAL

Contributors should note that the right to modify submitted material is retained by the Editor.

Team of 4 Results

OPEN	Played	Won	Loss	Draw	VPs
Nedlands	5	4	1		68.31
WABC A	4	2	2		41.38
Melville	4	2	2		39.95
Undercroft A	3	2	1		37.88
WABC B	3	1	2		30.24
Undercroft B	4	2	2		30.17
Mandurah	4	1	3		26.21
SPBC	3	1	2		25.86

INTERMEDIATE	Played	Won	Loss	Draw	VPs
WABC	6	4	2		85.41
Nedlands	5	3	2		54.48
Melville	5	1	4		44.33
Kalamunda	4	3	1		41.32
West Coast	5	2	3		40.78
Undercroft	5	2	3		34.53
SPBC	2	1	1		19.15

NOVICE	Played	Won	Loss	Draw	VPs
Joondalup A	7	6	1		115.00
Undercroft A	8	4	3	1	98.54
Melville A	8	5	3		93.79
West Coast	9	5	4		77.79
SPBC	7	3	4		68.18
WABC	6	4	2		67.53
Rockingham	7	2	4	1	60.97
Joondalup B	8	3	5		60.50
Undercroft B	6	3	3		53.51
Melville B	6		6		24.19

70% Results—Random Search

Kalgoorlie BC

77% Michael Fisher and Leanne Lapworth

72.5% Val Norman and Barry Aslett

70% Michael Fisher and Leanne Lapworth

70% Sue Lia and Mary Williams

Rockingham BC

75.7% Nicky O'Connell and Mike Fulwood 71.9% Helen Rogoysky and Steve Rogoysky

South Perth BC

75.4% Marnie Leybourne and Nick Cantatore

73.9% Nick Cantatore and Trevor Fuller

71.5% Rosalinde Kearsley and Johanna Thwaites

70.2% Mark O'Connor and Gordon Dunlop

70.0% J Margaret Martin and Jennifer Cooper

Swan Districts BC

72.4% Peter Walczak and Jeanne Walczak

70% Results—Random Search

Denmark BC

72.95% Joanne White and Tom Burton70.0% John Kenyon and Suzanne Yates

Bunbury BC

72.6% Colin and Esther Saunders71.4% Kevin Simpson and Neil Weir

Mandurah BC

74.1% Alan Cransberg and Kimberley Zhao
72.2% Steve Rogoysky and Eugene Wichems
71.7% Ursula Elson and Merle Proudfoot
70.8% Vera Hardman and Roman Gdowski
70.1% Pim Birss and Alan Cransberg

Fremantle BC

72.5% Sarita Singh and Cliff Collinson71.9% Maurizio Cardoni and Barbara Dickinson71.1% Jorgen Fugl and David Endicott

Melville BC

72.0% Robert Kirberger and Ian Clark70.8% Simon Orton and Tim Carvalho70.6% Ann Sarich and Paul Sarich

Willetton BC

77.0% Ken Harrison and Ameer Ali72.7% Geoff Rycroft and Charles Westcott

Joondalup BC

79.4% Tanya Dragojevic and Dianne Teeuwissen
74.6% Claudine Lapere and Dirk Lapere
74.4% Martin Broome and Peter MCann
73.5% Beata Bieganski and Tad Bieganski
73.5% Sue Mauger and Geoff Mauger
70.8% Claudine Lapere and Daphne Field

West Coast BC

75.0% Garry Hawkes and Ian Ferguson71.4% Ray Wood and Marleen Medhat70.8% Harold McKnight and Maureen Phillips

Kalamunda BC

74.3% Lynne Roberts and Rory O'Hanlon
74.1% Carmen Jackson and Stephen Thyer
72.9% Barbara Bibby and Lorraine Stivey
70.2% Doug Hegarty and Peter Cameron

WABC

Caroline Witting
72.3% Sylvia Bray and Ziggy Morawiec
71.4% Jonathan Free and Brenda Campbell
70.8% Andrew Edwards and David Woodliff
70.5% Belinda Taranto and Pattie McNamara
70.1% Marie-France Merven and Audrey Stokes

73.8% Veronica Ntoumenopoulos and

Maylands B

71.2% Linley Le Page and Richard Maker

Undercroft BC

74.1% Edward Roscoe and Brian Fensome
72.8% Diana Martin and Debbie Mahony
72.6% Anthony Eardley and Philip Oldershaw
72.4% Louise Collins and Terry Collins
72.0% Debbie James and Jenny Skinner
71.6% Susan Parkinson and Sally Jowett
70.4% Tony Morton and Carolyn Morton

Geraldton BC

75.0% Lesley Watson and Elise Criddle72.3% Bryan Baldock and Jeanette Day70.0% Bryan Baldock and Joyce Stibley

Community BC

81.0% Barbara Gold and Luba Klein





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