

SABA NEWS JANUARY 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee News

2010 Management Committee

President	Graham Terry
Secretary	Jackie Franco
Treasurer	John Roughan
Committee	Peter Chan*
	Angy Henn
	Carolyn Leach
	Ian Sando

- Elected by Committee to be Vice President

David Anderson:

David completed his four-year contract as Manager at the end of December 2009. The Committee would sincerely like to thank David for his work during that period. His previous work for the Club was recognised by the awarding of Life Membership and he always retained an interest in SABA while working in Queensland prior to his return to us at the beginning of 2006.

As SABA Manager, David worked tirelessly to keep things running as smoothly as possible. He introduced some changes which included the TV monitor on the Southern wall, updating our web site, saving bank and internet charges, preparing a monthly email newsletter, etc.

As a SABA Director, David's knowledge of the rules, movements, scoring, etc is probably the best in Australia and we are very pleased that he wants to stay at SABA as a Director. He has ensured that he retains an interest in South Australian bridge by representing the Reynella Bridge Club on the SABF.

AGM

This was held on December 6th. About 180 Members attended. The Committee was elected unopposed. Most questions and statements from the floor concerned the process of appointing the new Manager.

Power upgrade:

We are still waiting for ETSA to approve our upgrade. The application was put in almost 3 months ago and we cannot proceed until ETSA

approves (they have to ensure that they can supply our extra requirements).

Email Addresses

Last year we began to update our list of Members' email addresses so that we can keep you informed of coming events, lesson schedule (beginners, intermediate and advanced), Members looking for partners, etc. If you aren't yet on the email list and would like to be added please let Gary or one of the Directors know.

Graham Terry

BACK OFFICE NEWS by Gary Deaton

Hi all. My first newsletter as the new club manager and what an eye-opener the last week or so has been!! Hang on...Did I say a week, I feel like its been at least a month. Don't get me wrong, I am enjoying myself but there is so much going on I didn't realize all that happens in the background. It's something I took a little for granted until now. Before I start, I should say a big thank you to David Anderson who has been very helpful in showing me the ropes and helping me transition into the job. David, like me was doing the job as a part time manager (advertised as a 3 day a week job), and it is obvious to me already, that you have to love the club and the job, because a lot of the work wouldn't get done unless the extra hours are put in. So, on behalf of everyone at the club, thanks for all your effort David.

Last Monday (4th January) was my first day. I was keen, so I got here early, checked the place out counted the takings from Friday and Saturday when the doorbell rings. It's 9am, I thought. Who could that be? "David always had the door open by now" Oh, dear. On the job for only 90 minutes and I'd already made my first mistake.

So, as I said, it's Monday morning. It's one of our biggest days; there are also lessons on Mondays; It's Bridge Week as well, so even more lessons.

Can I pay my subs please? Gary, have you done the banking? Did you go to the Post Office? I started to wonder what I'd gotten myself into.

Then someone was kind enough to mention that the first week in January is one of our busiest weeks of

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the year. Thank Heavens for that. I'm now past that week so I can sit back, relax, put my feet up, 'cos it's all plain sailing from here on!!!

OK, my next job after surviving the 1st week is to produce the newsletter. I have had a look at a few of the previous Newsletters to see what I should put in them, but what do I know? I would be just guessing what people would like to see in "their" newsletter. So next time you're at the club drop into the office and tell me what you would like to see.



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Is a quarterly Newsletter enough to satisfy all the news from a club with 800 members? Surely not. Send me articles, stories or just tell me what you would like to see. My aim is to produce the Newsletter on a monthly basis.

Last week I was invited to Dinner by the Tuesday night "mob". They get together once a month for a social dinner and chat before bridge. One of the questions I was asked was whether someone could explain the Handicapping and the Grading system. No problems, see the article on page 4.

Whilst we are on the subject of requests, I was also asked to explain how Deep Finesse works. (You know, that stupid little box at the bottom of the score sheet that keeps telling me I should have made more tricks). Well, I can now tell my partner it's not always my fault. Thanks to David Lusk a

comprehensive explanation of that infuriating little box is provided later in the Newsletter.

2010 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
2010 Annual Subscriptions are due, and should be paid by March 15th. They are:
Full membership \$55
Pensioner and country membership \$35
A reduction of \$17, the total of the ABF & SABF levies, will be given where the player's home club is other than SABA.

So, what else is happening? Here are a couple of short headlines to let you know about some things that are going on.

Power Upgrade. It's only my second week and I have already been in touch with our electrician 4 times. We are still waiting for the ETSA rep to inspect the premises and give their approval for the upgrade. I have been assured that it will happen this week. Once we have approval, I have been told that the work can then be completed in 4 – 6 weeks.

Soft drink Prices. The people have spoken (and more importantly, have been heard). Soft drinks have been reduced to \$1.50.

Parking. Parking is continuing to be a major concern for the Committee and myself. There are no quick fixes but the club will be looking at a number of options over the coming months as well as arranging a meeting with the Unley Council. Watch this space!!! (Sorry about the pun, I couldn't help myself)

Member Survey. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a survey that will be provided to all members to complete in the next month or so. Why do we need a survey? Ultimately, the Committee and staff have only one real function at the club and that is to serve its members. It is our job to ensure that we provide pleasant, clean surroundings with all the facilities

For all the latest results don't forget to visit our Website at <http://www.saba.asn.au/>

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that members need and that the experience of playing bridge at SABA is as enjoyable as possible. It should be the goal of all Committee members and staff to strive to improve on all aspects of the club. To be able to improve we have to know where we are now. A simple analogy would be to imagine using a street directory to get somewhere when you don't know where you are starting from. It's impossible. When you get the survey it will ask some general questions and also ask you to rate facilities, ease of access, staff etc. Once we have the information, results will be published in a future newsletter. It may highlight certain areas where you, the members, think that we can do better. If that is the case we will also let you know what we intend to do about it. It will also give us better information on parking needs so we can take real data to the council.

Members Draw. One of the important issues for the club is a steady decline in membership and attendances. The distinction being that we could stop the decline in membership numbers, but if players who play 2 or 3 times a week start only coming once a week then the club is still getting less revenue coming in. SABA is a non-profit club but if numbers decline and costs go up, then table fees go up, and it is one of my tasks to ensure this doesn't happen. So the first (hopefully, the first of many) initiative I have started is a Members Draw on Friday evenings.

At the moment Friday nights only attracts between 12-14 tables and I have a goal that no session should have less than 20 tables. This is how it will work. Starting in February (Friday, 5th to be exact) a member's name will be drawn randomly from the computer and if that person is playing they win the prize. If they are not there then the prize will jackpot to the following Friday night. The prize will start with 4 playing vouchers and jackpot by 2 vouchers per week until it is won. Hopefully, this will encourage more members to come along on a Friday night and enjoy the company of a very social set of members (A number of Friday night players bring drinks and a plate and socialize after the session is over). It's a fun night, so come along and see for yourself.

Bidding Forums. Some members have asked if we will bring back Bidding Forums like we used to have on a Friday night. The short answer is YES. When and How have yet to be finalized, but I will keep you informed.

OK. Enough of my rambling. Don't forget to send me your ideas and call in and say hello anytime. Cheers for now ☺

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Deep Finesse? Is he good, or is he evil?

The Deep Finesse, program, which is used to generate and then analyse the hands played in SABA walk-in sessions, only provides details of the maximum number of tricks that can be taken where a pair has most of the cards in that suit.



Deep Finesse is a program which was developed just over a decade ago with the aim of assisting bridge journalists to accurately analyse hands and accurately report on working lines of play. The program also settled arguments amongst those who indulged in debate about whether one could or could not make a particular contract. Since 1999, a number of other programs have been written for the same purpose. They are frequently incorporated into records of computer-dealt hands in order to settle similar discussions at the table or after the game. The program passes this information to the players by summarizing the

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contracts that can be made by both sides in various denominations.

The program engages the computer to make its analysis with the distinct advantage of seeing all four hands at once. Hence it takes lines of play which reflect this fact. The line of play may be very different to that which may be taken by an expert player who is bound to make decisions based on the odds.

Hence the expert player will finesse and lose to a singleton King, something that the program would never do. The program also can start playing key suits with the knowledge that they are breaking evenly or badly, so first round finesses that would be anathema to a top player can be taken simply because the program knows that it will work. Deep Finesse never gets an "each way" finesse wrong when most players can only manage a 50% record. So next time you study the chart next to the hand record, you might understand that pronouncing something like "It says here that you should make x tricks", may be very tough on your poor partner who does not have the same advantages as the program. Remember that the numbers do not represent a prescription, only a statement of what is possible if you are allowed to peek at your opponents cards. So that slam you missed that needed 3 successful finesses and an even break in a suit is almost certainly a slam you didn't want to bid.

Kitchen News

Kitchen staff, like all SABA staff, are here to help make your day at the club more enjoyable. If you have any suggestions as to things we could be providing for lunch, please let me know. For example, we will be introducing toasted ham and cheese croissants when the cooler months arrive. Which leads me to my next point.

Extreme Weather Procedures

As a lot of daytime players will know, the club is still having power problems (Hopefully, this is the last Newsletter where I have to talk about this).

There are certain things the club can do to reduce the likelihood of a failure. They include:

- Switch off non-essential power and lights
- Turn off air conditioning to toilets
- No hot food provided by the kitchen
- Increase the Temperature setting on the Air Conditioning by 2 degrees

My apologies for any temporary inconveniences and ask that you be patient with us for a little longer.



What are the Odds of that?

The odds of picking up a hand that contains all 13 cards of

the one suit are 158,753,389,899 to 1.

The odds of picking all 6 numbers in Lotto are just over 8,000,000 to one. This means you are just as likely to win Lotto 20,000 times as you are of having a hand with 13 cards in the same suit.

The odds of having a hand containing all 4 aces are a mere 378 to 1. That's better. I'll just keep my eye out for the Aces.

When I first came to the Bridge club I used to come in on Tuesday nights, when my son was learning. One night I picked up AKQJ109875432 of one suit and an outside ace. It seems the odds of that happening were 104,374,352 to 1. That means if I played every day and night session at SABA every week of the year I won't see that hand again for another 6082 years!!!! Maybe I should have taken a picture.

*Alexander Botten
& Associates*

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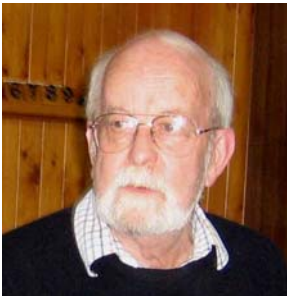
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Player Profile

[Ed Note: New section. I hope to have one each month, so if you see me approaching with questions in hand, don't be scared]

Graham Terry



Occupation Graham is a retired lecturer from Flinders University

When do You Play? Daytimes on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday [4 days with 4 different partners, now there's someone that likes a challenge]

How long have you been playing Bridge? 48 years

How long have you been a member of SABA? 25 years

What is your greatest bridge achievement? I can still play reasonable bridge despite my eyesight

Do you have any outside interests? Golf and Grandchildren. [Graham has 6 grandsons and one granddaughter]

If you weren't playing bridge today, what would you be doing? I'd probably be at the Casino. [Well done Graham, although I suspect that seeing

7777 come up at the Pokies is a lot more fun than in a Bridge hand]

Who do you follow in the Footy? I'm a local boy so I follow Sturt and the Crows. [Ouch, I guess 4 different bridge partners a week is the least of Graham's problems, but now I'm showing my bias]



'Til Death Us Do Part

Life is strange, eh. "Til death us do Part" is an old fashioned term these days. Partners seem to come and go. Partnerships are no longer forever. OK. It hurts for a while but we all get over it and move on. That's Life.

Wait a minute.

Hang on a second....

I'm just talking about Bridge??



"Unrelenting criticism that makes your life hell...are we talking about your mother-in-law or your bridge partner?"

(EDITOR'S NOTE) This is another new section. Please send me any stories you have about your partner. They can be:

- Funny
- Sad
- Infuriating
- Frustrating
- Aggravating
- ALL of the above
- They may even be complimentary!!!!

Names will be changed to protect the Guilty.

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This section could also include a “Dear Abbey” section. An example might be:

“Dear Abbey,

My partner insists on opening 1NT on any shaped hand and they seem to get to play most of the hands. What can I do?”

“Dear Frustrated Dummy,

Keep raising to 7NT until your partner gets sick of going off in doubled contracts all the time ☺”

As I said earlier, it’s up to you to let me know what you would like to read.

Handicapping and the Grading System

How do they work?

As I mentioned earlier, someone asked me to explain the Handicapping and Grading system. My “orders” were to keep all the Maths out of it. You know what I mean... Explain it in simple terms. Finally, I thought to myself. Something I’ve been trained for all my life. I do simple very well, just ask my partner!!
OK, Here we go. Easy one first.

Handicapping.

Handicaps are based on your average score, for that session, over the past 5 months. Your average is subtracted from 60% to give you a handicap. See, I told you it was easy.....

Let’s see if I can complicate it just a tiny little bit. It is only for the session you are doing with your normal partner. If you come in with someone who is not your regular partner, you will normally be given a set handicap of 10%. If you come in with a regular partner, but it is not your regular night, then you will also get 10%.

All of these handicap rules apply at the beginning of a new event and handicaps are set for the duration of that event.

Deeep breath...Are we still OK. Good. Lets add some more complications.

What if I decided to play on a Thursday afternoon with David Anderson. We’ve never played together before so we get the standard 10% handicap. WOW, I can almost feel all those nice

free vouchers already. **WRONG.** Directors have the discretion to handicap good players if they believe they hold an unfair advantage over the rest of the field. It is not uncommon to see some partnerships receive negative handicaps for an event. (*provide a big example*)

Finally, Why don’t handicap events attract MPs? The ABF do not allow masterpoints to be issued to handicap events (with the very occasional exception). So, whilst the club does do handicapping on a lot of events, the monthly winners are entitled to playing vouchers, but not Masterpoints.

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The Grading System

In hindsight, maybe I did the hard one first. Grading systems are used to “Normalise” scores across the room when running monthly events. Firstly, I’ll explain the basic mechanics of the system and follow up with a little bit of detail. Generally, during a monthly event the “A” grade section (I don’t like the terms A, B and C, but it’s the best I can think of for this explanation) will receive 100% of their score towards the monthly total. A 60% in A grade is worth 60% in the monthly event. B Grade generally receive .96 of their score. So, a 60% in B Grade will give you 57.6%. C Grade get .92 of their score, so their 60% gives them 55.2% in the monthly event. This is done to normalize scores across all sections for monthly events. The general rule of 100%, 96% and 92% for each grade can be adjusted at the

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start of each competition, at the discretion of the Director. This is done occasionally if the difference between two sections is seen to be a greater gap in experience than usual, or indeed if two sections are fairly even in experience.

I hope this answers more questions than it creates??

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Recent Winners - December

SATURDAY PAIRS

1st J Suggitt - G Terry
2nd A Eddie - R Williams
3rd H O'Dea - J Smith

MONDAY AM PAIRS

1st W Andrews - J May
2nd D Pozza - B Sitters
3rd J McCarthy - B Schaeffer

MONDAY AM HCP

1st T Clarke - G Miller
2nd B Atkins - J Blackstone
3rd D Bennetts - B Forsythe

JOHN & NORA MARTIN PAIRS

1st Y Shore - P Williamson
2nd S Leach - P Mika
3rd R Dohnt - J Suggitt

TUESDAY AM PAIRS

1st L Bilney - B Mann
2nd C & N Thompson
3rd S Bufton - P McErlean

TUESDAY PM PAIRS

1st R Grund - A Kelly
2nd D Baird - C Fowler
3rd L Barua - J Smith

WEDNESDAY AM PAIRS

JESSICA MUDD PAIRS
1st B Clarke - P Colmer
2nd D Hester - J Roughan
3rd A Bremner - I Hill

MARNIE ALLEN PAIRS

1st R Januszke - J Zollo
2nd B Clarke - P Colmer
3rd I Heairfield - B Mann

WEDNESDAY PM PAIRS

DECEMBER PAIRS
1st H Gray - P Mika
2nd P Teubner - N Welch
3rd R Lambert - S Leach

WEDNESDAY PM HCP

1st T Hind - J Johnson
2nd S Kingsborough - M Paris
3rd R Shaw - K Sloan

THURSDAY AM PAIRS

1st D Geary - S Havey
2nd M Banks - J Fricker
3rd S Bufton - M Genet

THURSDAY AM HCP

1st E & P Taylor
2nd P Draper - P Mulders
3rd L Day - R Patel

FRIDAY AM PAIRS

1st J Hone - J May
2nd M Choate - W Neill
3rd W Andrews - J Roberts

FRIDAY AM HCP

1st R Grant - T Weddle
2nd H Kite - I Parker
3rd R Postlethwaite - J Zerk

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FRIDAY PM PAIRS

1st B & R Boylen
2nd Y Hill - R Lambert
3rd J Carter - B Smith

FRIDAY PM HCP

1st B & R Boylen
2nd G Darby - M Keane
3rd J Crane - G Donnelly

WOMEN'S & SENIORS TRIALS QUALIFYING Saturday February 13th, SABA clubrooms.

To be run as a Swiss Butler pairs event.
**NOTE: Unless you have sufficient Open
Playoff points, or played in the State
team in 2009, playing in this event is the
only way that you can qualify for either
of these Finals.**

**The top placegetters will get half price
entry to the Women's or Seniors Trials
Final.**

**Times 9:30 to 12:30, & 1:15 to 5:15.
Entry fee \$40 per pair.**

Why are People So Unkind?



What is it about Bridge that brings out the worst in us? Is there anything that we can do about it? Count to ten!! Bring a stress ball to the table!! Or maybe we should just try harder.

The SABA Committee has developed a set of guidelines on Codes of Conduct for Directors, SABA staff and players. These will be released in the near future. As I have said before, and will undoubtedly say again, one of the main aims of all SABA staff is to make playing Bridge as enjoyable as possible. Frustrations at the table affect the enjoyment of your partner and opponents. Does criticism help? **Absolutely not.** Your partner is more likely to make further errors if they are thinking about what has just been said or

having to look at the frown coming from the other side of the table. We all make mistakes. It is not a deliberate attempt to punish. So, what should we do? How about something as simple as:
"OOPS, sorry partner"
"No problems Partner"
And then just move on to the next hand. OK, sounds simple, but may take a little practice. As I said earlier, a set of guidelines on player conduct and behavior is on its way. Now would be a good time to start practicing.

So, I'm Supposed to have 13 cards?

There have been a number of occasions this month



where the wrong number of cards have been dealt and typically one hand will have an extra card and one will be short a card. This happens occasionally when we are

using new cards. The hands are dealt automatically and are no longer done manually. This is a good thing as the dealing machine generates approximately 1200 hands per week!!! So, if you pick up a hand that has too many or too few cards, simply call the director and they will sort it out whilst you commence your next hand. Checking that the hand has the correct number of cards is the responsibility of each player and counting your cards before you start the hand is a good habit to get into (It's also in the rule book).



Betty: 'I guess a bottom's a bottom?'
Fred: 'Yes, but two bottoms in a row really is too much.'

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Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee does an excellent job each year in raising money for various projects around the Club. Committee members are Jacjje Franco, Yvette Bolaffi, Helen Dennis, Linda Alexander and Carolyn Leach. Everyone on the committee are volunteers and give up a great deal of their time to help the Club. Without their efforts we would either have to go without certain things, or it would have used up valuable money that the club needs to function. Last year is a great example where money was raised (\$10 000, which is a fantastic effort) to provide the new front door. Without their efforts we may not have been able to have the new door until possibly next year. I'm sure all members appreciate their efforts. So what can we all do to help.

- Buy raffle tickets when they are on. Remember, every \$ made goes straight back into the club
- Next time you are having a spring clean out, consider whether the item is worthy of a spot on the trading tables that are organized from time to time.
- Participate in fundraising events when they come up.
- The committee are always looking for baked goods for the trading table. I will let everyone know when the next trading table is scheduled.
- The committee are also looking for people to help out on the pleasant Sundays. The next pleasant Sunday is scheduled for the 21st of March.

We all owe a great deal to the efforts of a few of our members and a little bit of support from each of us will go a long way to helping them reach their target for 2010.



But will he Remember my Name?

I was at the AGM in December and there was some discussion over my appointment. This was understandable and expected. David is held in high regard with the

vast majority of members and that's great. I think it's a testament to David's efforts that so many people wanted to talk about the appointment. But the scariest thing I heard that morning was when someone commented that David knew everybody by name and "would the new manager know everyone's name". Sadly, the answer is no. Some people are blessed with rugged good looks, charm, a great personality, wonderful sense of humor, modesty and a good memory. Sadly, I don't have a good memory. ☺

I keep a picture of my family in my wallet. That's so that when I get home each night I can use the picture to check that I'm in the right house!!! So, I will do my best, but if I do forget your name please be patient with me and I'll do my best to remember the next time. Thanks.

ENOUGH OF THE CHIT CHAT. SHOW ME SOME HANDS?

Really, what sort of hands? What would you like in this section? If you are an average player like myself, then I don't want to see "that special hand" that was played by a really



good player and requires a double squeeze play, and a trump coup whilst rubbing your tummy and patting your head at the same time. No. No. No.....I would prefer to see 'normal' hands that were not played very well during the week. You know the hand I'm talking about. You open up the score sheet to find ½ the scores are NS and the other ½ are EW. There are 620s, 170s, 140s, -200s and you ask "Was that supposed to be our contract partner?" How can we bid that? And if we did bid it, how does it make?

I would prefer to be able to provide advice in this area that will help the majority of players in the club.

Some questions that could be answered are

- My partner bid Spades and the opposition are in 3NT. I have a nice 5 card suit of my own! Should I lead my suit or my partners?

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(Whilst not based on anything more than self preservation, some people use the simple rule that if you lead your suit and it's wrong then it's your fault, but if you lead partner's suit

- The opposition are in 6NT. Should I lead my Ace? Is it really that bad to lead away from KJ?
- When is it best to make a safe lead and when should I be aggressive?
- What is the 'Rule of Eleven' and how does it work?

Again, this is your Newsletter, so tell me what you would like to see. I am in the office every day, so call in and say hello (Don't forget to wear your name tag, so I don't get embarrassed when I forget your name again!!!)

Coming Events

Here are some things to put in your diary.

Frank Coyle Pairs: Monday mornings in February.

State Singles Championship: Monday nights from February 8th, State red mps, a regular pairs event, however to get a final placing you need to have played in more than one partnership.

Daytime Teams Championship: no longer a Mixed event, alternate Wednesday days from February 3rd (missing the Gold Coast week).

Kath George Pairs: Alternate Wednesday days from February 10th.

Open Trials Final & Consolation: Thursday nights from February 4th, nominations close Feb 1st & are restricted to an even number of pairs.

Jean Harbison Pairs: Friday mornings in February.

Len Thompson Pairs: Friday nights in February.
Members Draw starts on the 5th Feb

Women's/Seniors Trials Qualifying: Saturday 13th February.

Swiss Pairs Congress: Sunday 21st February.



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Canberra News

As this Newsletter goes to print the South West Pacific Teams has come to a close and most players have found their way home.

South Australia was well represented in most events with some notable performances from our Seniors players.

David Anderson and George Smolanko were part of the winning Neill team in the Senior Teams.

John Zollo and Roger Januske then made it a South Australian double by winning the Senior Swiss Pairs.

This has been a big week for John as he also became a grandfather as well as reaching a major birthday milestone. Happy birthday Grandpa!!!

Well done to all who went to the SWPT and I hope to hear some interesting stories that I can put in the next Newsletter.

For all the latest results don't forget to visit our Website at <http://www.saba.asn.au/>