

QUESTIONS re AFFILIATION which you may have.

1 What is the South Australian Bridge Federation and what does it have to offer us?

Established in 2000, the SABF is the peak administrative body for Contract Bridge in South Australia. The SABF supports affiliated clubs through advertising, teaching, training of directors and management support including dispute resolution. Members receive the SABF newsletters.

Players seeking a club to join or to play at can visit the new SABF website and view all affiliated clubs with their location, session times and table fees – searching by approximate location.

SABF Affiliation automatically confers Affiliation with the Australian Bridge Federation – this is the only path to ABF affiliation.

SABF also runs the state qualifying events, state championships and Autumn Nationals as well as supporting South Australian representatives at national events.

Their website - <https://sabridgefederation.com.au>

2 What are the requirements of Clubs to attain SABF Affiliation?

Clubs must apply in writing and provide relevant information including a copy of their Constitution.

- affiliated clubs must comply with the current Laws of Contract Bridge
- they must have an acceptable legal structure (being an Incorporated Association is an ideal structure)
- they must have an acceptable Constitution (our Constitution was reviewed and accepted by Consumer and Business Services, meeting the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, and we hope that would be acceptable to SABF).

3 What is the Australian Bridge Federation, and what does it offer?

The ABF is the peak body for Contract Bridge in Australia – affiliation is only available via the state bodies.

The ABF provides additional services to individual affiliated clubs and their members including :

- providing bridge clubs with free insurance policies for Directors and Officers, Voluntary Workers and Public Liability. (this alone would save TTGBC around \$1050 pa on current rates.)
- access to offers from national sponsors, including travel (and other) insurance through TBIB – policies designed for bridge players and their families to the age of 90.
- free ABF newsletter
- access to the Masterpoint Scheme

Their website – <https://www.abf.com.au>

4 What is the Masterpoint Scheme (MP) ?

Masterpoints are awarded to bridge players as a recognition of their bridge achievements – they are internationally recognized.

Certificates of Achievement are awarded to individuals as they achieve the various milestones – initial levels being reached with very modest MP totals.

In each club event all players in the top half of the result field receive a portion of the MPs available for that event. MPs are awarded on outright results – not handicap results. The number of MPs allotted to each event depends on the size of the field.

Players with an ABF number can also receive masterpoints when they play online.

5 How much would this all cost?

TTGBC will have to pay annual capitation fees to both SABF and ABF for active club members nominating our club as their 'home' club. As of 1/4/24 these fees are ABF \$20, SABF \$9.90 (both inclusive of GST). Active member numbers are as of March 31st each year.

In the first year both SABF and ABF will waive the first year capitation fees for new members nominating TTGBC as their home club.

Using our current active players, expecting that some who are members of other clubs such as SABA will maintain those clubs as their home clubs, from year 2 on, total capitation fees would be around \$1800 pa. However this cost is offset by our insurance savings of approximately \$1050 pa – a nett cost in the order of \$750 pa. (In the first year there would be no nett cost because capitation fees are waived)

6 But what about the cost of Masterpoints – aren't they expensive?

Most of our MPs would be green (we should also be allocated 6 to 12 red annually) – green points cost \$2.02 each (including GST). It is likely that we will have no more than 5 per week to allocate – an annual cost of around \$525.

Hence the annual nett cost of capitation + masterpoints would be around \$1270 pa - \$1500 at a maximum.

7 How will this affect table fees?

From year 2, on current member numbers, the cost to each player at each session would be less than 35 cents.

The club has significant financial reserves (approximately \$43,000 in bank accounts and term deposits at the end of last financial year). These are funds contributed by members and should be used for the benefit of those members.

The Committee considers that \$1500 pa is an amount which we can afford to invest in our members for several years without having to raise table fees at all. Even then, say increasing table fees to \$5 would more than offset affiliation and MP costs of 35 cents.

Note: individual members will not have to pay anything for TTGBC to become affiliated – the club will be paying all costs from current reserves.

8 Will TTGBC be required to host congresses?

No. However should we choose to do so, SABF would provide support in organizing and running one.

9 There must be some negatives?

Yes.

TTGBC will have to appoint a Masterpoint Secretary whose role is to establish and maintain our active member database at the Master Point Centre in the ACT, allocate MPs to each club session, post Masterpoint results to the national database, and ensure Masterpoint accounts are paid.

The initial setup will require additional work and the ongoing role requires regular commitment – mostly computer based.

Milton Hart has volunteered to be the initial Masterpoint Secretary as it will fit in with calendar and setup functions he currently performs and he has regular access to SABF officers who can help with teething problems and any other advice that is needed.

10 What if TTGBC becomes affiliated and doesn't like it?

Clubs are able to become dis-affiliated by written notice.

11 What if I am not interested in Master Points?

Many of our players probably have no interest in MPs – they just want a game of bridge in a fun environment – that is fine.

However, a number of players and potential players ARE interested in MPs – some very interested. We have had many people play at, or visit, TTGBC who have been quite disappointed that we do not offer MPs. Indeed, there have been people who have chosen not to play at TTGBC because we do not offer MPs.

In seeking new members, offering MPs can only be an added incentive to choose TTGBC.

The lowest table fees of which we are aware + Master Points + our goal to make playing bridge at TTGBC a fun experience can only be seen as a very attractive package!

Being awarded some Achievement Certificates may see some players who have ‘no interest in MPs’ look forward to reaching the next level!

11 Why then are table fees at other bridge clubs so expensive?

TTGBC is run completely by volunteers – we have no employment costs and do not pay Directors. We also have affordable rent at both venues. Some clubs own their premises, employ management staff and pay Directors significant amounts for each session – these costs can only be recovered through membership and table fees.

12 Will we notice changes in how our bridge sessions are run?

No – players will notice no changes at all - except being able to see masterpoints they have won if they look up their results. Directors will have to tick 2 boxes when they set up each session in Scorebridge – that is all.

13 Is SABF the same as SABA (South Australian Bridge Association) at Unley?

No.

SABA and its satellite clubs, including Walkerville, is the largest bridge club in South Australia – it is affiliated with the SABF, just as this proposal seeks to achieve for TTGBC.

Some other affiliated clubs include Adelaide Bridge Centre, Bridge at Beaumont, Gawler, Whyalla, Bridge in the City – at Clarence Gardens, Glenelg and Mt Gambier.

In summary, your Committee strongly endorses our decision to seek Affiliation with the South Australian Bridge Federation, and it seeks your valued support and approval to proceed.

The very viability of our club depends, at a minimum, on maintaining our current active player numbers – and hopefully expanding them.

We see this initiative as a vital step in trying to achieve that goal.

