

**REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT**  
**OF THE SABF**  
**TO THE AGM – DECEMBER 2009**

While bridge numbers in South Australia generally remain the same, we have seen some slight swings of membership from club to club with some club numbers falling while others have risen. I suspect that this reflects the preferences of the players and where they want to spend their bridge dollar. Club numbers currently sit at:-

SABA:	709
Adelaide Bridge Centre:	236
Blue Lake:	40
Bridge in the Hills:	9
Broken Hill:	31
Bridge in the Barossa:	32
Bridge in the City:	89
Gawler:	58
Glenelg:	165
Reynella:	24
Riverland:	33
St Vincents:	58
Stepbridge:	19
Wyalla:	<u>15</u>
 TOTAL:	 1,518

It is very pleasing to see our numbers rise above the 1500 mark again. As new clubs become members, I am hopeful that this number will continue to rise.

It is disappointing to report that our income this year has been greatly affected by the move to the SABF administering state bridge themselves. Our Treasurer will give you more detailed information, but with the cancellation of events on a Monday night and the lower than expected numbers on Thursdays, we were not able to meet our budget for this year. We will all need to take an active hand in coming up with ideas of how we can alleviate this issue for 2010. Thinking caps people ☺

On a more positive note however, it is very pleasing for me to be able to report on the successes of two of our teams at the ANC. The Team of George Smolanko, David Anderson, Judy Hocking, Kevin Lange, David Lusk and Attilio de Luca played extremely well as a cohesive unit and were rewarded with 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Interstate Open Teams competition. This was a huge achievement and a long time in coming as the last time SA won was back in 2002 (in Tasmania), when we narrowly beat NSW (1 VP in it only). Congratulations should also go to the SA Senior Team of John Zollo, Roger Januszke, Matiek Zurawel, Pentti Rasilainen, David Cherry and John Horowitz who played in the final but were defeated by the ACT Team – a total turnaround from 2008 when the result was first to SA and second to ACT. The Youth and Womens teams should also be mentioned with their achievements being applauded.

Much of the income that we generate each year goes to ensuring that SA does well at the ANC – I can only say that the money expended in 2009 was well spent.

Once again this year the SABF have sent two teams to the GNOT final and will be sending four pairs to the GNP Final in Canberra in January. Unfortunately the numbers in the final of the GNP drastically reduced the total income necessitating a reduction in the number of pairs sponsored into the final by the SABF. On close examination of the final results however, I approached the Tournament Organisers of the GNP National Final to see if Del Renshaw and Tony Shaw could be offered a Wild Card to participate in the final. It was agreed and so SA have 4 pairs playing in Canberra. Three of the pairs are back to fight again – Marise Allen/Mary Hiscox, Tim O’Loughlin/Mark Fairlamb and Neil Welch/Peter Teubner. We will be very well represented indeed. The two teams that represented the SABF at the GNOT Final enjoyed the experience and while the results did not reflect it, they tell me that they had a great time and would welcome the opportunity to be part of the final again.

The SABF calendar continues to expand. It is very pleasing to see players enjoying congresses at places such as Reynella, Tanunda and Victor Harbor. While Victor Harbour may not now be affiliated, there continues to be a strong contingent who want to become part of our bridge family and have applied to us for approval to host a Teams Congress under the auspices of Barbara Travis’s Bridge in the Hills Club next year. It would be remiss of us to deny their request. The large number of players who get together on two or three occasions per week down on the Fleurieu Peninsula would be welcome members indeed of the SABF and the newly constituted Victor Harbor Bridge Club. The SABF Calendar has now been struck with all clubs being given an opportunity to identify the dates for their congresses and special Sundays. Copies are available today for each of you to take back to your Clubs and the date has been posted to our web site.

Our web site continues to be managed by Ann Brennan. She is not a bridge player and so relies on the input from all of us when making changes to what is currently posted. Thanks to Deb Wellman and Alison Fallon for making an effort to bring the site up to date. I would ask that each of you take a look from time to time and send any anomalies that you notice through to Alison for correction.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the SABF, of me as your President and of the other members of the Executive (Alison Fallon, secretary and Deb Wellman, Treasurer) who carry out the largest part of the workload to ensure that the Federation continues to grow and thrive.

As President, of the SABF, I have called on other players to provide advice, information and expertise. A couple who should receive mention are Phil Markey and David Smyth. Both of these gentlemen have been extremely supportive during this past year. It has been a pleasure to deal with them both.

2010 will be another year of hard work, wonderful achievements and great bridge – I hope!

***Dianne Marler***  
President SABF  
December 2009