

Newsletter

June 2020

Message from the President

Sarah Anwar (SarahAn / TDSarah)

Dear Members,

Another month has passed and our club continues to grow from strength to strength. All our sessions are being very well supported and we are delighted with the interest. We have some very interesting statistics to report this month that I am sure you will appreciate.



Our Home Club Members have increased to 78 and Associate Members 1347 with a daily average of 20 new applications to process. Last month we hosted 4911 tables.

As a consequence of the number of Green masterpoints awarded I am happy to report that we have been allocated some Red Point Sessions from the vast number we are accruing for next year. From next week there will be Red Point Sessions for Under 50 Masterpoints, Novice and Restricted events as well as our regular Open sessions. Look for the announcement of dates as listed in the Newsletter, on our Website and on your StepNews Welcome Page when you login to the club.

Last month I announced that we were hopeful to be able to offer club rooms very soon. We are advised there will be further information available next week. As soon as we hear we will let you know.



Do me a favor. Take a few minutes off from playing online bridge . Your eyes Will appreciate it.

To our hardworking Admin Team and Tournament Directors I again offer my sincere thanks. You are all amazing and work incredibly hard to bring our brand of bridge to the players.

On behalf of the Committee, Admin Team and Tournament Directors we wish you Happy Bridging, stay safe and continue to enjoy your Online Bridge Club.

Committee

President Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)

Secretary Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

TreasurerRichard Lawrie (Ricky)

Head TD & Chief Technical Officer Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)

Masterpoint Secretary
Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Public Officer
Eric Taylor (EricTay)

Committee Members Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo) Brenda McClean (Brenda) Rita Pringle (RitaPr)

Email Address

admin@stepbridge.com.au

Please put a SUBJECT in the message line using one of the following categories

Admin

Committee

Help & Support

Membership

Newsletter

Password Lost

Payments

A Short History of StepBridge Australia

StepBridge Australia was started in 2005 with its founder and owner Willem Willemse. The club, though small in numbers, supported Willem and its purpose of providing an online bridge club for Australian bridge players. Willem was also the official Bridgemate representative in Australia at the time.

Sadly, Willem passed away in 2016 and the club he loved sadly closed down. However the members of StepBridge rallied together to resurrect the club as an Incorporated Association. This involved members loaning money to a start up fund to get the club up and running again.

The club, in these last few years, has had a core membership of approximately 100 players. Sessions were held each night at 8pm and also on weekends at 4pm. Most sessions would have at least 5 tables in play.

We were wanting to grow StepBridge further, so advertised in the Gold Coast Congress Bulletin this year. However, we would never have envisioned that it would take an pandemic to grow the club and we never thought it would of grown to the numbers we have at the moment.

Anecdotes from the Admin & TD Team



The Admin and TD team have some great stories and anecdotes from the last couple of months on StepBridge with all the new members joining and playing on the platform. Here are just a few funny one liners and short stories (well they made the Admin and TD team laugh).

Player: Cards moving on their own!

TD: You are dummy, dear.

Player: There was a lead out of turn, as partner is declarer!

TD: No, you are the declarer. Your partner is dummy.

Player: My bidding box has disappeared

TD: That is because the bidding has finished and you are on lead

Admin A: I have been asked by a member to forward an email to another player, as they may be a long lost relative.

Admin B: That is a first.

Admin A: Yes, we might become Ancestry.com for long lost bridge players.

Player: My name appears in the Lobby.

Admin: Yes, your name appears in the Lobby when you login to the platform.

Player: But I do not want my name to appear in the Lobby.

Grafton Bridge Club in lockdown ... but play continues

Bob Northam (BobNorth)



Bridge, a card game where four people sit around a small table well within one and a half metres of each other was one of the first activities curtailed by the Coronavirus lockdown. A solution to the problem of no more bridge for who knows how long was found "online".

Over seventy percent of Grafton Bridge Club members have joined Stepbridge Australia (the only on-line bridge club in Australia) which has allowed them to continue

playing the game they love in the comfort of their own homes. A GBC Whatsapp group has allowed members to organise games and remain socially connected whilst in isolation which is great for everyone's mental health.

Club members have continued to play on Tuesday nights and Thursday afternoons socially on Stepbridge. For those members of a more competitive nature Stepbridge has tournaments for all skill levels of players from Novices to Open and members can play in about four different time slots everyday of the week.

These online tournaments can have up to one hundred pairs playing with players from all over Australia. As you wait for the tournament to begin it is not uncommon to find the temperature is 29 in Airlie Beach, 3 degrees in Yass and sunny in Clontarf West Australia. Some of our members have taken to tournament play like ducks to water and are playing two a day almost every day.

We have had varied successes in these tournaments but a highlight for the club was Carolyn Seymour and Dennis Ford winning an Open tournament last week.

If you have lots of time on your hands (self isolating) and would like to learn the game of bridge, check out our website and contact a committee member for details on how we can help.

Editor: Thank you to the Grafton Bridge Club for the above article which appeared in their local newspaper recently. Other bridge clubs might like to try and have something similar published in their local newspaper to promote bridge during this time.



Membership Update

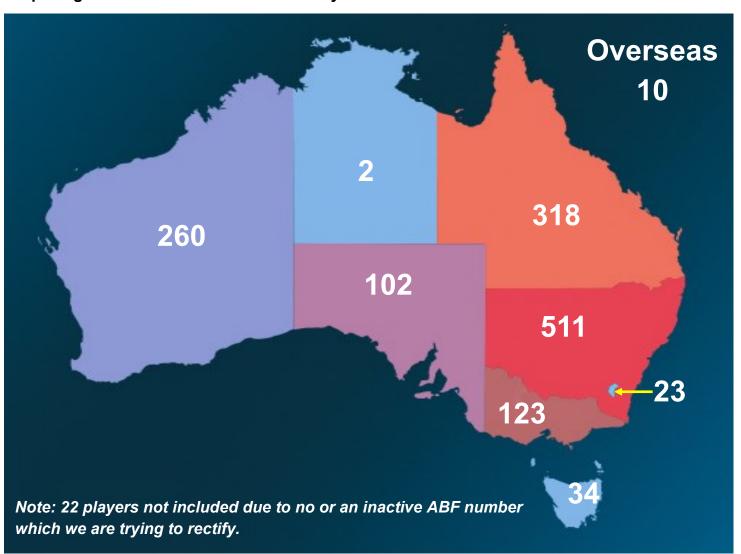
Chris Larter (ChrisLar / TDChris) & Sarah Anwar (SarahAn / TDSarah)

In the last week or so, we have had an opportunity to do some back-end work in our platform to work out some stats which we would like to share with you.

StepBridge Members as of Saturday 30 May.

Home Club Members = 73 Associate Members = 1332

StepBridge Members in each State/Territory



StepBridge Associate Members based on their Home Club

On the next two pages you will see the Associate Members of StepBridge, broken down into their various Home Clubs.

Note that we have some Associate Members who we are trying to obtain ABF Numbers, so we cannot link them to their Home Club yet.

This list also does not take into factor players who have joined StepBridge and are still their 5 Free Game Trial period.

West Australian Bridge Club (6795)	98	Nedlands Bridge Club Inc (6785)
Toowong Bridge Club Inc (4572)	71	North Shore Bridge Club Inc (2120)
South Perth Bridge Club (6788)	51	Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Assoc. (2227)
Newcastle Bridge Club (2160)	31	Armidale Bridge Club Inc (2010)
Brisbane Water Bridge Club Inc (2022)	29	Great Lakes Bridge Club (2081)
Bathurst & District Bridge Club Inc (2015)	28	Gympie Contract Bridge Club Inc (4625)
South Australian Bridge Association (5701)	27	Tamar Bridge Club (7844)
Grafton Bridge Club (2078)	26	Coolum Bridge Club (4523)
Sydney Bridge Centre (2006)	26	Fassifern Bridge Club (4610)
Bunbury Bridge Club Inc (6757)	25	Goondiwindi Contract Bridge Club (4622)
Ballina Bridge Club (2016)	24	Melbourne Bridge Club (3408)
Queensland Contract Bridge Club (4555)	23	Moruya Bridge Club (2241)
Canberra Bridge Club Inc (1851)	20	Pennant Hills Bridge Club (2213)
Central Coast Leagues Limited Bridge Club (2036)	20	Tilligerry Bridge Club (2258)
Noosa Bridge Club Inc (4657)	20	Waverley Bridge Club Inc (3480)
Orange Bridge Club Inc (2152)	19	West Coast Bridge Club (6794)
Gawler & District Bridge Club Inc (5711)	18	Alexandrina Contract Bridge Club (5709)
Geelong Bridge Club (3360)	18	Dromana Bridge Centre (3335)
Northern Suburbs Bridge Club Inc (4545)	17	Hunters Hill Bridge Club Inc (2098)
Sanctuary Cove Bridge Club (4677)	17	Port Macquarie Bridge Club (2225)
Cairns Bridge Club (4590)	15	Redland Bridge Club Inc (4510)
Central Coast Bridge Club (2025)	15	Springwood Contract Bridge Club (2240)
Mackay Contract Bridge Club Inc (4640)	15	Sunnybank Bridge Club (4566)
City of Melville Bridge Club Inc (6758)	14	Surfers Paradise Bridge Club Inc. (4682)
Hervey Bay City Bridge Club Inc (4505)	14	Wagga Wagga Bridge Club Inc (2267)
Mandurah Bridge Club Inc (6778)	14	Warrnambool Bridge Club (3478)
Mollymook Bridge Club Inc (2146)	14	ABF Youth Club (9995)
Finesse Bridge Club (2067)	13	ARV Bridge Club Inc (2264)
Tomaree Bridge Club Inc (2254)	13	Bridge In The Barossa (5708)
Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc (4688)	13	Eastern Shore Bridge Club (7814)
Maitland Bridge Club (2133)	12	Fremantle Bridge Club (6764)
Peninsula Bridge Club - NSW (2210)	12	Kenmore Bridge Club (4632)
Tasmanian Bridge Association (7801)	12	Launceston Bridge Club Inc (7824)
Undercroft Bridge Club Inc (6792)	12	Mudgee Bridge Club (2153)
Trumps Bridge Centre (2259)	11	Northern Bridge Club (3425)
Bendigo Bridge Club Inc (3315)	10	Quirindi District Card Club (2224)
Blue Mountains Bridge Club Inc (2020)	10	Turramurra Bridge Club (2266)
Commercial Club Bridge Club Albury (2005)	10	Windsor Bridge Club (2277)
Gold Coast Bridge Club (4620)	10	Yarra Valley Bridge Club (3496)
Illawarra Bridge Association Incorporated (2105)	10	Adelaide Bridge Centre (5704)
Moonee Valley Bridge Club (3348)	10	Bayswater Bridge Club Inc (6765)
Tweed Bridge Club (2260)	10	Bridge at Beaumont (5720)
Whittlesea Bridge Club Inc (3482)	10	Bridge In The City (5710)
		Burnie Bridge Club (7804)
Brisbane Bridge Centre (4528)	9	
Brisbane Bridge Centre (4528) Bundaberg Bridge Club Inc (4587)	9	Busselton Bridge Club (6755)
Bundaberg Bridge Club Inc (4587)	9	Busselton Bridge Club (6755)

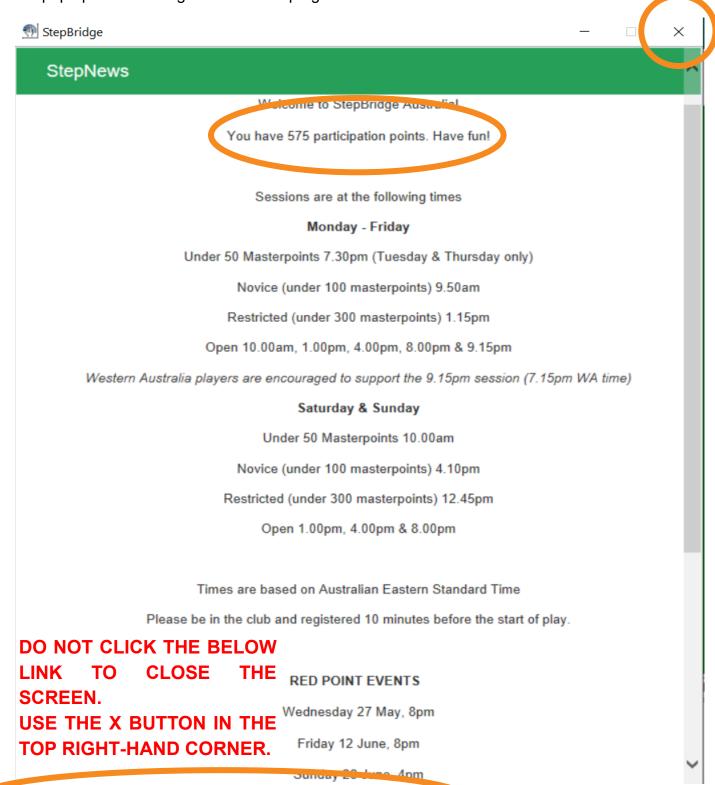
Glenelg Contract Bridge Club Inc (5715)	3	Berry Bridge Club (2004)
Griffith Ex-Servicemens Club Bridge Club (2085)	3	Berwick Bridge Club Inc (3317)
joanbuttsbridge centre (4518)	3	Bridge Around Adelaide (5718)
Maccabi Contract Bridge Club (6776)	3	Bridgetown Bridge Club (6761)
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club (3405)	3	Broadwater Bridge Club Inc (4508)
Rye Beach Bridge Club (3451)	3	Caboolture Bridge Club (4515)
Taree Bridge Club Inc (2256)	3	Camden Haven LUSC Bridge Club (2024)
The St George Bridge Club (2238)	3	Carlingford Bridge Club (2077)
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd (3301)	3	Charlestown Bridge Club (2026)
Airlie Beach Bridge Club (4578)	2	Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Inc (2028)
Albany Bridge Club Inc (6754)	2	Dalby Bridge Club Inc (4598)
Bega Valley Bridge Club (2009)	2	Darling Downs Bridge Club (4530)
Benalla Bridge Club (3313)	2	Dendy Park Bridge Club (3326)
Brunswick Valley Bridge Club (2021)	2	Denmark Bridge Cub Inc (6769)
Caloundra Contract Bridge Club Inc (4592)	2	Eastern Suburbs Bridge Club Inc (4535)
Cessnock Bridge Club (2029)	2	Harbourview Bridge Club (2091)
Double Bay Bridge Centre (2061)	2	Hawkesbury Bridge Club (2093)
Eastern Contract Bridge Centre (3338)	2	Hobart City Bridge Club Inc (7865)
Harbord Diggers Bridge Club (2094)	2	Joondalup Bridge Club (6783)
Hawks Nest Bridge Club (2092)	2	Kalamunda District Bridge Club (6772)
Kiama & District Bridge Club Inc (2086)	-	Kalgoorlie Bridge Club (6774)
Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club (2116)	2	Maylands Bridge Club (6777)
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Maryborough Contract Bridge Club (4645)	2	Melton Bridge Club (3412) Mudgaeraha Bridge Club (4653)
MCC Bridge Club (3406)	2	Mudgeeraba Bridge Club (4652) 1 Nambugga Vallay Bridge Club Inc (2170)
Moree Bridge Club (2149)	2	Nambucca Valley Bridge Club Inc (2170)
Mornington Bridge Group (3415)	2	Ocean Grove Bridge Club (3430) 1
Muswellbrook Bridge Club (2155)	2	Palmerston Bridge Club Inc (8940) 1
Northern Districts Bridge Club Inc (6793)	2	Port Macquarie Panthers Bridge Club (2226)
Nowra Bridge Club (2235)	2	Royal Sydney Golf Bridge Club (2253) 1
NZ Players Club (9952)	2	Shepparton Bridge Club (3460) 1
Penrith Bridge Club (2216)	2	Strathfield Bridge Club Inc (2250) 1
Phillip Island Bridge Club Inc (3440)	2	Swan Districts Bridge Club (6789)
RACV Bridge Club (3442)	2	Tamworth Bridge Club (2255)
Randwick Bridge Club (2230)	2	Tenterfield Bridge Club (2252)
Redcliffe Bridge Club Inc (4560)	2	Toronto Bridge Club Inc (2257)
Rockhampton Contract Bridge Club Inc (4675)	2	Tumut Bridge Club (2262) 1
Rockingham Bridge Club Inc (6784)	2	Willetton Bridge Club (6797) 1
Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Bridge Club (3448)	2	Wodonga Bridge Club (3486) 1 Wollston a graft Bridge Club (3280)
Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club Inc (4680)	2	Wollstonecraft Bridge Club (2280) 1
Tamborine Mountain Bridge Club (4685)	2	
Yamba Bridge Club (2295)	2	
Arafura Bridge Club Inc (8915)	1	
Arana Contract Bridge Club Inc (4503)	1	
Avon Valley Bridge Club (6763)	1	
Ballarat Bridge Club (3309)	1	
Bayside Bridge Club (3311)	1	
Beaumaris Bridge Association Inc (3312)	1	

Looking Up Your Participation Points

A frequent question that last month has been, "How many participation points do I have left?"

There are two ways you can do look up how many participation points you have left

1. StepNews: This should appear when you login to the StepBridge platform. Refer to the top of the page that says "You have ... participation points. Have fun!. Do not click the link at the bottom of the page that says "Click here to stop showing StepNews until there is a new message." Close the pop up screen using the X in the top right have corner.



Click here to stop showing StepNews until there is a new message.

2. Go to the StepBridge website, www.stepbridge.com.au and click on the Orange button half way down the home page screen called "Check Participation Points". You will go to a new screen and will need to enter your username and password. Then you click on "Detailed Overview". This will show your transactions with your Participation Points.



You need **participation points** to join some of the tournaments.

Below you will see your balance.

Participation points: **250** (5 standard sessions).

Please note: Participation points will be deducted from your balance when you sign up (only for tournaments where Participation points are charged).



Recipe Corner Delicious Baked Gingerbread Miniature Donuts

Peter van Casteren (PeterCas)

Editor: Peter is one from a small group of overseas players here on StepBridge. He lives in the Netherlands and has been a long time friend and supporter and supersub of the club.

During the holiday season there are no better donut recipes to enjoy then this one. Packed full of a tasty gingerbread taste and small in size, these are the perfect donuts to give as a tasty treat to your friends and family.

Makes: 12 Servings

Total Prep Time: 15 Minutes

Ingredients for Donuts

1 Cup of Flour, Whole Wheat

3/4 tsp. of Baker's Style Baking Powder

1/4 tsp. of Baker's Style Baking Soda

1 tsp. of Cinnamon, Ground

½ tsp. of Ginger

Dash of Allspice

Pinch of Cloves, Ground Variety

1/4 tsp. of Salt, For Taste

1/4 Cup of Brown Sugar, Light and Packed

1 large Beaten Egg,

1/4 Cup of Applesauce

1 Tbsp. of Milk, Whole

2 Tbsp. of Butter, Fully Melted

Ingredients for Glaze

2 Tbsp. of Butter, Soft

1/4 Cup of Brown Sugar, Light and Packed

2 Tbsp. of Maple Syrup

2 Tbsp. of Milk, Whole

½ icing Sugar

Method

- 1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
- 2. While your oven is heating up use a large sized bowl and add in your whole wheat flour, baker's style baking powder and soda, ground cinnamon, ground ginger, dash of salt, ground cloves, dash of allspice and light brown sugar. Stir thoroughly to combine.
- 3. Add in your beaten egg, your applesauce, whole milk, and your butter. Stir thoroughly to combine.
- 4. Once your batter is formed add into a greased donut pan, making sure to fill it at least ½ full.
- 5. Place into your oven to bake for the next 7 to 8 minutes. After this time remove from your oven and allow to cool.
- 6. Then make your glaze. To do this use a small sized saucepan and place over medium heat. Add in your butter and once it is melted add in your brown sugar. Bring this mixture to a boil and allow to boil for the next two minutes.
- 7. Add in your maple syrup and one spoonful of your milk. Bring this mixture back to a boil. Once boiling add in your powdered sugar. Stir until smooth in consistency. Remove from heat.
- 8. Dunk each of your miniature donuts into this frosting. Set aside for the frosting to harden and serve whenever you are ready



Masterpoint Promotions

May 2020

IVIAY 2020	
Judy Forsyth (JudyF)	Grand
Kay Baguley (KayB)	Silver Life
Nicholas Chilov (NichCh)	Bronze Life
Christine Algie (ChrAlgie)	*State
Edward Czarnocki (EdwardCz)	State
Richard Arnold (RichArn)	*Regional
Bill Gilmore (BillG)	*Regional
Heather Brown (HeatheBr)	*Regional
Margy Roskam (MargyR)	Regional
Patrick Rasmussen (PatRasmu)	Regional
Linda Priday (LindaPr)	Regional
Frank Hardiman (FrankH)	**Local
Mukesh Parekh (Mukesh)	**Local
Pam Ward (PamWard)	**Local
Paul McCosker (PaulMc)	**Local
Hamish McCracken (Hamish)	**Local
Stanley Law (StanL)	**Local
Carol Daniel (CarDanie)	**Local
Theresa Cluning (TCluning)	**Local
Teresa Dean (Teresa)	**Local
Pip Thomson (PipT)	**Local
Cilla Butler (PriscilB)	**Local
David Johnson (DavidJ)	*Local
Sebastian Langdon Macmillan (Se	bLM) *Local
Joan Eccleshare (JoanEccl)	*Local
Paul Pilowsky (PaulP)	*Local
Jim Willetts (JamesWi)	*Local
Alexander Jones (AlexJ)	Local
Kyle Giggacher (KyleG)	Local
Susie Fraser (SusieF)	Local
Keith Roskam (KeithR)	Local
Keith Brinck (KeithBr)	Local
Paul Stebbing (PaulSteb)	Local
Donna Coleman (DonnaC)	Local
Bryan Meagher (BryanM)	Local
Persephone Lobb (Persepho)	Local
Simon Fleming (SimonF)	Local
Colin Morrison (ColMor)	Local
John Rivers (JohnRiv)	Local
lan Fraser (lanFras)	Local
John Jeffrey (JohnJe)	Club
Dot Slattery (DotS)	Club
Xinyu Ru (Xinyu)	Club

Tom Langdon Macmillan (TomLM) Club Graham Porter (GrahamP) Club Clive Riseam (CliveR) Club Kay Bennetts (KayBenn) Club Wendy Venning (WendyVen) Graduate Jing Geng (JingG) Graduate Molly Langdon Macmillan (MollyLM) Graduate Mark Boan (MarkB) Graduate Lyn Bolton (LynB) Graduate Plus anyone else we have missed, due to the influx of new players on StepBridge

Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 50 Participation Points Red Point Session: 75 Participation Points

Weekly Sessions

Monday-Friday

Open: 10am, 1pm, 4pm, 8pm & 9.15pm

Restricted: 1.15pm Novice: 9.50am

Under 50 MPs (Tues & Thurs only): 7.30pm

Saturday-Sunday

Open: 1pm, 4pm & 8pm Restricted: 12.45pm Novice: 4.10pm Under 50 MPs: 10am

IMPs Sessions

Monday: 1.15pm Restricted

Tuesday: 4pm Open Wednesday: 10am Open Thursday: 8pm Open Friday: 9.15pm Open

Saturday: 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday: 4pm Open

Please note that the IMPs scoring at the 1pm Open Monday & Saturday has been removed for the time being.

Red Point Sessions

Tuesday 9 June - Novice 9.50am

Wednesday 10 June - Restricted 1.15pm
Friday 12 June - Open 8pm
Monday 15 June - Open 1pm

Thursday 18 June - Under 50MPs 7.30pm
Sunday 21 June - Novice 4.10pm
Tuesday 23 June - Restricted 1.15pm
Thursday 25 June - Open 8pm
Saturday 27 June - Under 50MPs 10am
Sunday 28 June - Open 4pm

A reminder that Red Point Sessions cost 75 Participation Points

Website Traffic

Here we have the number of people visiting our website, which is interesting to see.

5 Busiest Days People Visit

Day	Count
Friday	3525
Saturday	3430
Thursday	3102
Wednesday	3059
Monday	3002

Website Visits Per Week

Date	Count
Apr 26 - May 02	5745
May 03 - May 09	5410
May 10 - May 16	5050
May 17 - May 23	4898
May 24 - May 30	4566

Facebook

Visit our StepBridge Australia Facebook page www.facebook.com/Stepbridge.com.au/

We try to add humorous bridge related photos up on the page every few days.



Check it out and LIKE the page!

Payment Update

To make the process more streamlined, please do the following when making a payment to StepBridge Australia.

- 1. Pay in the amounts of \$30, \$125 or \$225, as listed on the last page of this newsletter.
- Include your username in the payment reference. If you are paying your money at an ANZ Bank, you may need to include your ABF number instead, as they may not take characters in the reference field.
- Send a copy of your transfer receipt via email to the StepBridge email. Failing that, please send an email to advise you have made a payment. This will speed up the process of your payment being processed.
- 4. Please organise a payment once you have 100 participation point left in your account. This will allow time for you to make payment and for participation points to be added to your account. It will also reduce the panic emails we receive prior to sessions.

Adjusted Scores

There are different types of Adjusted Scores produced on StepBridge. Here are a list of them, so you are aware of why you received that adjusted score.

- If you do not start a board by the 5-minute mark, the faster pair will be awarded 60% and the slower pair 40%. The platform does not take into account players asking questions regarding the bidding. It is part of working out who is the faster and slower pair.
- 2. If you do not finish your current board when the time for the round is up, it will award an 100% to one pair and 0% to the other pair. This will be adjusted by the TD to either the result you should received or to 50% each if a score cannot be determined.

Contributions to the Newsletter

All contributions, big or small, would be welcome to this newsletter.

- Do you have an interesting hand for a recent bridge session or congress?
- Can we interview you, so we can all get to know you better?
- Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share?
- Do you have any other information you wish to share?

Please email your contributions to admin@stepbridge.com.au with the subject title of the email being **Newsletter**.

WORK IS FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PLAY BRIDGE



Hoodie Club

As we come into the season of Winter, your Admin Team has decided to bring out their hoodies. Have a good giggle. Even in this cool weather, they are slaving away for you all.



Chris Larter (ChrisLar / TDChris)

Sarah Anwar (SarahAn / TDSarah)



Session Fees

Account name: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club

BSB: 012 013 Account number: 3025 38455

Reference: Your StepBridge Username

Email admin@stepbridge.com.au that you have made a payment.

10 Standard Tournaments \$30.00 100 Standard Tournaments \$225.00

50 Standard Tournaments \$125.00

Each player is required to become a member of StepBridge once their trial membership of 5 free games has lapsed.