

**StepBridge**the Australian
Internet bridge club

Newsletter

June 2021

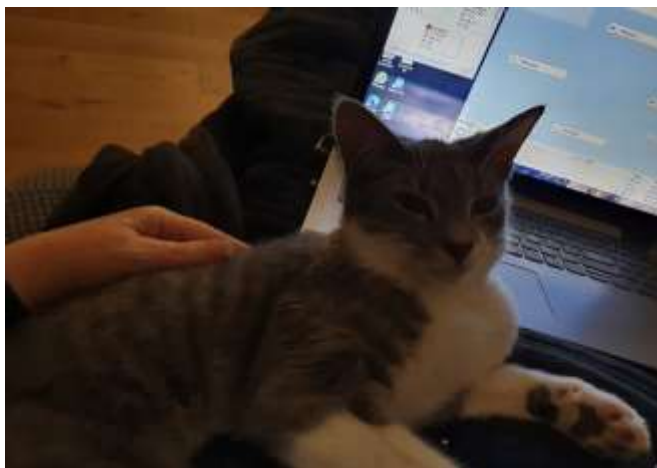
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)**Hello friends,*

As the 30th June approaches, we look towards our AGM and consider the past year on StepBridge. What a year it has been. We look forward to nominations from members to fill the Office Bearer's positions for the upcoming year.

To date, over the past 11 1/2 months we have hosted more than 2850 tournaments for more than 135,000 players. The dedication of our team in tackling this task has been, and continues to be, outstanding.

As previously discussed, StepBridge is not immune from players who have raised suspicion about using unauthorised information and indeed perceived cheating. We are investigating suspicious play and utilising statistical data programing to identify suspect partnerships to assist our player's jury in determining an outcome. Be assured convicted partnerships will be punished, have any earned masterpoints cancelled, and face expulsion from our club.

*Happy Bridging**Sarah**This is Jasper - not a lot of help when trying to play***President & Head TD**
Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)**Secretary**
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)**Treasurer**
Stephen Pringle (Steve)**Chief Technical Officer**
Mark Hetherington
(Markhet)**Masterpoint Secretary**
Antonina Hayles
(Antonina)**Public Officer**
Eric Taylor (EricTay)**Committee Members**
Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo)
Brenda McClean (Brenda)
Rita Pringle (RitaPr)**Netherlands
Representative:**
Epko Steinmetz (Epko)**Email Address**

support@stepbridge.com.au

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

We are heading towards the end of the financial year, of 30 June, for StepBridge AU. This means that we will start to plan for our AGM (Annual General Meeting).

The 2021 StepBridge Australia AGM will be held on *Sunday 26 September at 10am* (Australian Eastern Standard Time) via Skype.

As this is the main meeting of the club, all members are welcome to attend and participate.

Further information regarding the AGM will be available in the July edition of the StepBridge Newsletter. Available in due course will be the agenda, minutes from the last AGM and reports from the various positions.

We also welcome anyone who would like to nominate for a position on our Committee or for submitting any agenda items. If you have anything to contribute, please advise via email to support@stepbridge.com.au.

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)



Session Fees

Account name: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club
BSB: 012 013 Account number: 3025 38455

Reference

The Unique Reference Number you will receive via email once you have purchased the participation points through the StepBridge Club (playing platform)

500 Participation Points \$33.00
2500 Participation Point \$137.50

1000 Participation Points \$65.00
5000 Participation Points \$247.50

DATE AND GINGER CAKE

Thank you Brenda for this recipe

INGREDIENTS

125gm butter
1 cup chopped pitted dates
3/4 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon bi carb soda
1 egg—lightly beaten
1 & 1/2 cups of self raising flour
125gm chopped ginger (either glace or crystallised)



METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°. Grease and line base and sides of a deep square cake pan
2. Place butter, dates, gingers, sugar, 1 cup of water and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a saucepan on medium heat and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 2 minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and stir in bicarb soda. Transfer to a bowl and set aside to cool for 15 minutes.
4. Add egg to the mixture and sift the flour over and stir gently. Spoon into the prepared pan and bake for 40-45 minutes. Test with a skewer and stand in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack to cool

If you have a favourite recipe, please email it to

support@stepbridge.com.au for inclusion in next month's newsletter

INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS: CONVENTION CARD & MORE

For our Individual Tournaments on StepBridge, we ask that everyone plays the same Convention Card so everyone is on the same page.

On the PC & Mac version of the StepBridge program, go to the top left-hand corner and select CLUB, followed by IDENTITY. Then a new box will appear with your current system card. You can then click CHOOSE and select the Individual Tournament System Card.

On the Tablet, iPad & Web version of the StepBridge program, click on your username in the top right-hand corner. Then a new box will appear with your current system card. You can then click CHOOSE and select the Individual Tournament System Card.

The Convention card currently looks like the image below.

Convention card Identity

Standard American (Green System)

Opening	Answer
1♣	3+♣, 11+
1♦	3+♦, 11+
1♥/♠	5+♥♠, 11+
1NT	15-17hcp, balanced
2♣	21+ or 8.5 playing tricks
2♦	6-10hcp, 6♦
2♥/♠	6-10hcp, 6♥♠
2NT	20-21 hcp balanced
3♣/♦	pre-emptive, 7♥♦
3♥/♠	pre-emptive, 7♥♠
3NT	Gambling
4♣	pre-emptive, 8♣
4♦/♥/♠	pre-emptive, 8♥♦♠

Overcalls
Weak jump overcalls
1NT = 15-17hcp with stopper in openers suit

Slam conventions
Gerber 4♣ after NT opening
Blackwood (not Roman Key Card)

Leads
Standard leads

After interference
Negative double to 2♣

Other conventions
Simple Stayman
Transfers (♦->♥, ♥->♠, ♠->♣, NT->♦)

Signals
Low Encourage

Choose... Edit... OK

For our Individual Tournaments we ask that you still alert your bids etc. Just because everyone is playing the same system does not mean alert rules go out the door.

At this point of time, we would encourage more players to come and play in an Individual Tournament, which is held every morning at 9.50am.

STEPBRIDGE SHIRTS

We now are ready to accept StepBridge Shirt orders.

We ask you to go to www.stepbridge.com.au/stepbridge-shirt-order-form/ and follow the instructions to order your shirt in the colour, size, and design that you want.

In the images below, we have Chris (ChrisLar / TDChris) modelling a StepBridge Polo Shirt.

Each product comes with the embroidered StepBridge Logo.

T-Shirts are \$25 and Polo Shirts are \$40. The price includes delivery. We will be in contact with you, once you have placed your order, regarding payment.

Please email support@stepbridge.com.au to inquire about the price of other items or if you have any questions.



RESULTS & MASTERPOINTS

In the last couple of weeks, our masterpoints for StepBridge has moved across to our new system at StepBridge. This means that the masterpoints & results are displayed on the one page when you view your results.

Also for our Novice & Restricted Red Point session, what is displayed on the screen for Masterpoints is what you will now receive going forward. We no longer need to do manual factoring and readjustments for Red Point sessions in these two categories.

Below we have an example of what the new display now looks like.

Tournament	
Date:	Wed 05/05/2021 at 20:00
Tournament:	OPEN Wed 8pm
Club:	StepBridge
Boards:	24 (12 x 2)
Scoring:	Match Points
Masterpoints:	Green
Category:	Open

Results

place	pair	result	mp	place	pair	result	mp
1.	DeanaWil - DaveMunr	64.80%	1.12	23.	CeliaMcK - JaneSil	49.39%	0.00
2.	GayleK - RobynP	62.05%	0.78	24.	JohnSar - Michele	49.38%	0.00
3.	ChrisJoh - Ricky	61.22%	0.56	25.	JingG - PatSh	48.89%	0.00
4.	GaleSp - NimalW	58.63%	0.37	26.	RobS - ClaireS	48.56%	0.00
5.	SarahAn - MavisK	58.02%	0.28	27.	AliColla - KevinWic	48.47%	0.00
6.	GaryLynn - AnneRil	57.02%	0.22	28.	AlisonMc - WendyBu	48.05%	0.00
7.	KenHu - FrankH	55.78%	0.19	29.	LaraineD - DelmaCa	47.92%	0.00
8.	BelindaT - MarkDou	54.90%	0.16	30.	MardiHo - LynnieB	47.81%	0.00
9.	Mardi - JohnBail	54.63%	0.14	31.	RichardG - CarolHo	47.42%	0.00
10.	Gwyneira - Stella	54.40%	0.12	32.	SueHap - RayDo	46.89%	0.00
11.	JudithCr - JanetBro	54.06%	0.11	33.	EugeneM - JayW	46.12%	0.00
12.	HerbNeu - RichArn	52.91%	0.10	34.	MatthewG - SandiPir	45.74%	0.00
13.	MargDy - HansVanW	52.76%	0.09	35.	DerekP - DeborahM	43.48%	0.00
14.	RexLiv - QuentinV	52.42%	0.08	36.	MariaRu - NickA	43.16%	0.00
14.	ClareFR - CassMi	52.42%	0.08	37.	Jay - Manda	42.61%	0.00
16.	DianneD - LynRed	52.19%	0.07	38.	EveT - HowardB	42.52%	0.00
17.	KittyG - AngelaR	51.87%	0.07	39.	Penelope - ElizC	41.61%	0.00
18.	RitaPr - HelenF	50.77%	0.07	40.	TerrenDa - JanelleC	40.36%	0.00
19.	PeterWes - WendyH	50.73%	0.06	41.	ChrisRai - MikeMcG	40.11%	0.00
20.	DavidMa - JohnC	50.62%	0.06	42.	TerryBuc - KevinKen	37.22%	0.00
21.	JoannT - KerryBar	50.25%	0.06	43.	DeniseM - AnnieW	36.50%	0.00
22.	Brenda - JenKroon	50.21%	0.00				

JUNE 2021

What is happening in June 2021?

QUEENS BIRTHDAY (Monday 14 June 2021)

The Queen's Birthday public holiday is the chosen date to celebrate the birthday of the monarch of the Commonwealth countries, currently Queen Elizabeth II. The date does not coincide with the actual birthday of the Queen (being April 21). This year the holiday for most of Australia was on Monday 14 June.



The month of June also brings the beginning of winter, particularly good for indoor sports including bridge – yet this year we have already experienced some very chilly weather, and the bureau is predicting that a polar blast is coming!

RED POINTS

Every month StepBridge has **RED POINT** sessions. Upcoming sessions:

Monday 21 June, 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Thursday 24 June, 8.00pm Open

Sunday 27 June, 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Thursday 1 July, 7.45pm Novice & 8.00pm Open

Tuesday 6 July, 9.50am Open Individual & 10.00am Novice

Saturday 10 July, 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Wednesday 14 July, 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 18 July, 8.00pm Open

Friday 23 July, 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Monday 26 July, 4.00pm Open

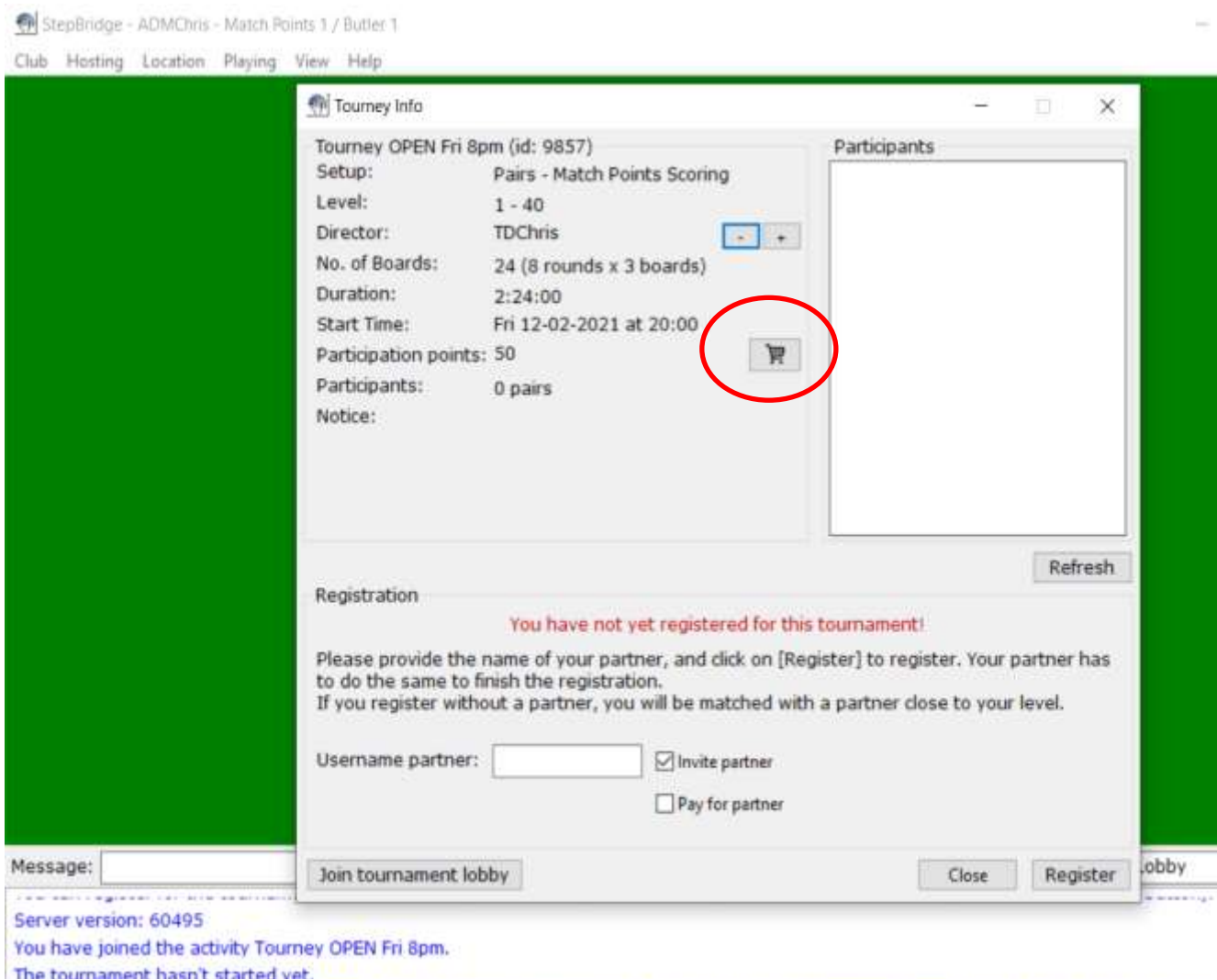
Saturday 31 July, 9.50am Open Individual & 10.00am Novice

NEW PROCESS FOR PURCHASING PARTICIPATION POINTS

StepBridge has introduced a new process for purchasing participation points. This new process will mean that you will never be short of enough Participation Points to play in a StepBridge tournament.

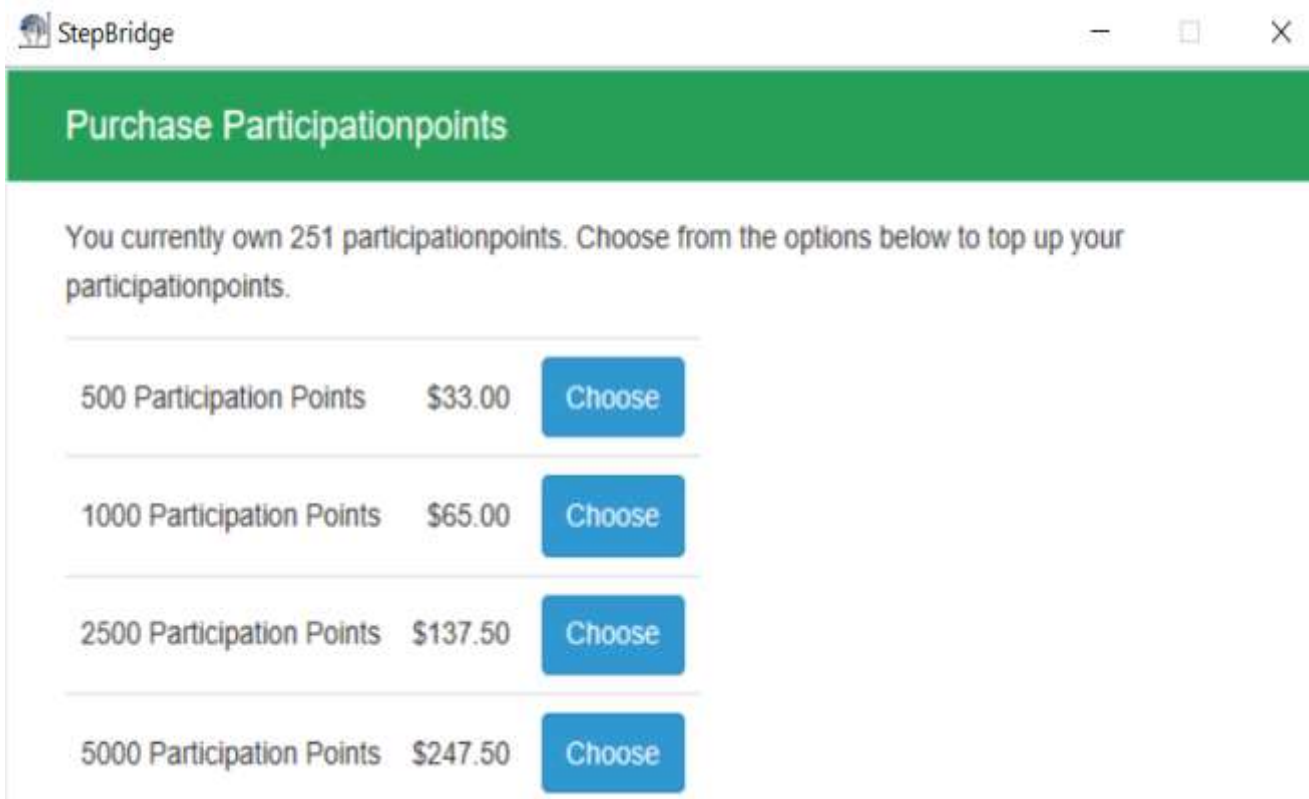
Below are step by step instructions of how to purchase your Participation Points with this new process. You have two options of where you purchase your Participation Points

1. Login to the StepBridge Club (playing platform) as if you were going to play in a tournament. Select a session and then click on the Shopping Cart image.

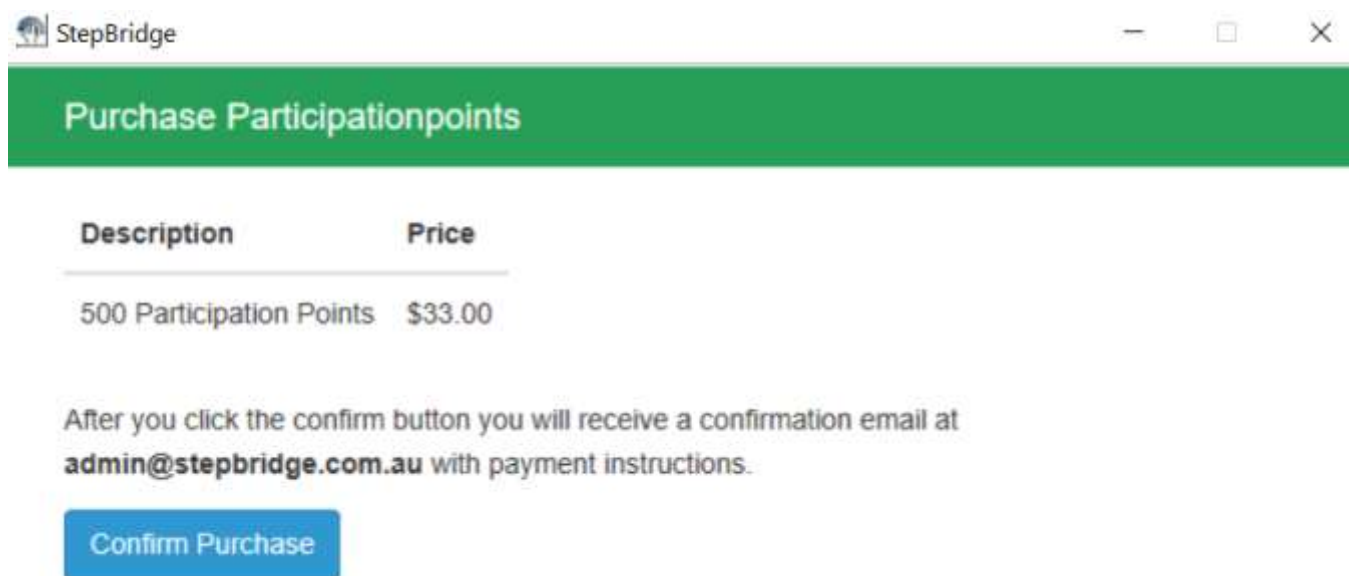


NEW PROCESS FOR PURCHASING PARTICIPATION POINTS (cont)

2. The following screen will then pop up. You have the option of choosing the amount of Participation Points you wish to purchase and the amount it will cost.



3. The pop up screen will then change the following, in which you are asked to confirm you purchase of Participation Points. Once you please confirm on this screen, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address we have on our database. This confirmation email will have payment instructions, including a unique reference number.



Hi All

I'm taking the opportunity to compliment the StepBridge community, office bearers and directors for the efforts over the past almost 18 months.

I was oblivious to StepBridge's existence prior to COVID. I understand that the number of sessions per day and extension over the weekends has seen enormous growth.

In the last newsletter Sarah refers to 3,500 new membership applications in 12 months and 2,500 tables played in April. I picture that Directors have run 2 sessions at a time (an on occasions also played to avoid a sit out)

I am aware that playing on-line has brought some frustrations with it (especially when the results sheet covers the bidding box!). However the Directors' demeanour has always shone through as patient and helpful. You have been excellent. This must have taken tremendous effort from both Directors and the support people helping in the background.

I can image that with COVID's containment you may find face to face calls some players away from StepBridge. This could just be life and moving on.

BUT you must never underestimate the amount of good you have done—for your club, for bridge and the mental well-being of each of us who has joined you.

Planning to continue to play on line

I remain

ElaineH

This email was received from one of our members. If you wish to voice a comment, a concern or a valid criticism please email :

support@stepbridge.com.au

MONTHLY AWARDS FOR MAY 2021



**Congratulations to all those wonderful players who have earned
a mention here!**



Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in May 2021</i>	Overall	1	62.63	9	David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	60.48	8	Murray Booth (MurrayB)
		3	59.95	11	Irina Taran (IrinaT)
	Open	1	62.63	9	David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	60.48	8	Murray Booth (MurrayB)
		3	59.34	28	Tim Davis (TimD)
	Restricted	1	56.44	12	Eugene Pereira (EugeneP)
		2	55.87	9	Roger Dennison (RogerDen)
		3	55.87	9	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu)
	Novice	=1	61	6	Irina Taran (IrinaT)
		=1	61	6	Victor Taran (VictorT)
		3	55.95	7	Beth Magick (BethM)
	Open	1	8	6	Judith Crafti (JudithCr)
	IMPs	2	1	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		3	0	6	Manda Labuschagne (Manda)
	Open	1	56.3	7	Nimal Weerasinghe (NimalW)
	Individual	2	56.14	8	Jody Swaine (JodySwa)
		3	55.05	8	Maria Ruttiman (MariaRu)
<i>Highest Pairs Average in May2021</i>	Overall	1	62.63	9	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	60	6	Eugene Pereira (EugeneP), Helen Agnew (HelenAg)
		3	59.95	11	Irina Taran (IrinaT), Victor Taran (VictorT)
	Open	1	62.63	9	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	59.45	8	Dave Munro (DaveMunr), Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)
		3	58.9	8	Tim Davis (TimD), Stephen Carter (StephnC)
	Restricted	1	60	6	Eugene Pereira (EugeneP), Helen Agnew (HelenAg)
		2	55.87	9	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu), Roger Dennison (RogerDen)
		3	55.54	18	John Grosvenor (JohnG), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Novice	1	61	6	Irina Taran (IrinaT), Victor Taran (VictorT)
		2	55.95	7	Elaine Jones (ElaineJ), Beth Magick (BethM)
		3	55.29	13	Gian Paolo Macolino (GPMaco), Wendy Harris (WendyH)

As an incentive for the player / pair who has most sessions in the month and the most improved player / pair in the month, a prize will be awarded to the person / pair that comes first in each category. The prize is 100 participation points per player. The players who have received the May prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in May 2021</i>	Overall	1		63	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		2		61	Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)
		3		57	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)
	Open	1		54	Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)
		2		50	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)
		3		49	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Restricted	1		25	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
		2		24	Don Saunders (DonS)
		3		22	Rosemary Porter (RoseP)
	Novice	1		29	Denise Mctaggart (DeniseM)
		1		27	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
		3		27	Dot Slattery (DotS)
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in May 2021</i>	Overall	=1		29	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG), Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
		2		27	John Grosvenor (JohnG), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3		25	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay
	Open	1		25	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay
		2		24	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG), Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
		3		23	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Restricted	1		18	John Grosvenor (JohnG), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		2		17	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
		3		13	Alma Van der Walt (MariaAlm), Kathy Ivits (KathyI)
	Novice	1		17	Cath Morrison (CathMor), Vera Boston (VeraB)
		2		16	Susie Fraser (SusieF), Sandy Fraser (SandyFra)
		3		14	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)

Well done everyone! Congratulations !

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in May 2021</i>	Overall	1	7.3	8	Christine Paine (ChristPa)
		=2	6.47	10	Jennifer Kroon (JenKroon)
		=3	6.47	7	Neil Melvin (NeilMel)
	Open	1	7.3	8	Christine Paine (ChristPa)
		2	6.29	9	David Randles (DavidRan)
		3	4.97	9	Kay Baguley (KayB)
	Restricted	1	4.61	15	Helen Agnew (HelenAg)
		2	4.38	12	Eugene Pereira (EugeneP)
		3	4.03	9	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu)
	Novice	1	5.76	7	Elaine Jones (ElaineJ)
		2	5.69	7	Beth Magick (BethM)
		3	5.18	7	Denyse Stephens (DenyseS)
	Open	1	7.3	8	Christine Paine (ChristPa)
	Individual	2	6.29	9	David Randles (DavidRan)
		3	4.97	9	Kay Baguley (KayB)
	Open IMP	1	0.14	9	Lina Zampichelli (LinaZ)
<i>Most Improved Pair in May 2021</i>	Overall	1	6.29	9	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	5.69	7	Elaine Jones (ElaineJ), Beth Magick (BethM)
		3	4.8	6	Patricia Byrnes (TrishB), Jurate Laisve (JurateL)
	Open	1	6.29	9	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	4.47	8	Perelle Scales (PerelleS), Jan Davis (JanDavis)
		3	3.97	7	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS), Geoffrey Sharpe (GeoffS)
	Restricted	1	4.75	6	Patricia Byrnes (TrishB), Jurate Laisve (JurateL)
		2	4.03	9	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu), Roger Dennison (RogerDen)
	Novice	1	5.69	7	Elaine Jones (ElaineJ), Beth Magick (BethM)
		2	4.74	7	Jennifer Kroon (JenKroon), Ronald Kroon (RonaldKr)
		3	4.68	7	Suzanne Harrison (SuzanH), Denyse Stephens (DenyseS)

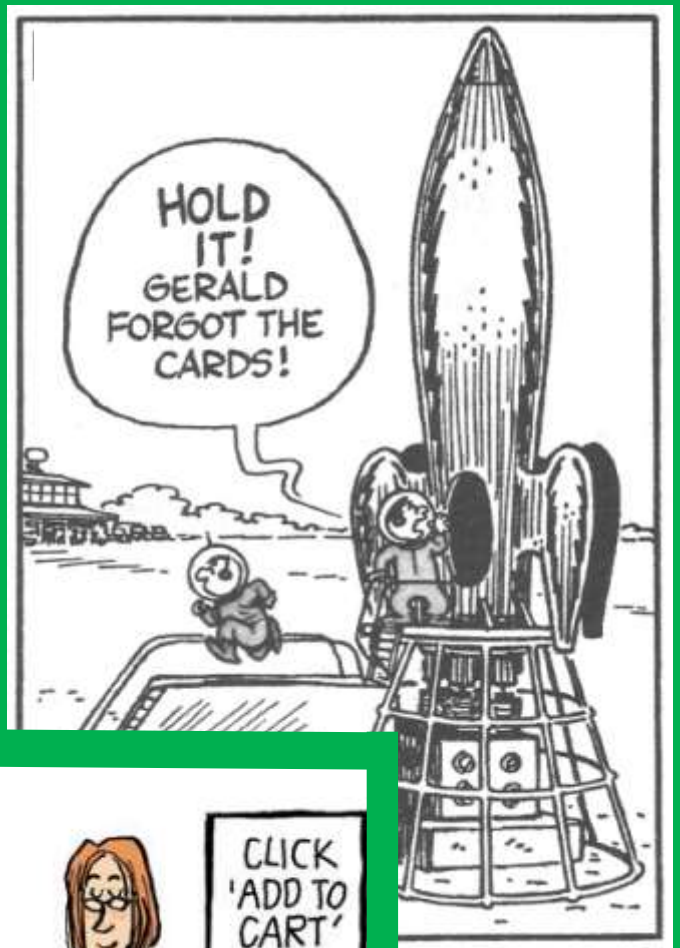


Every month members of StepBridge earn Masterpoint Promotion.

Congratulations to our members who were promoted in May 2021

Sue Hapek	Silver Life	Mary McCornish	Regional
Kimberley Zhao	Silver Life	Mary Cotterill	Regional
Gayle Keenan	Bronze Life	Don Saunders	Silver Local
Elaine Kenny	Life	Reg Burton	Silver Local
Sue Martin	Life	Carmel Brown	Silver Local
Catherine Ellice-Flint	Bronze National	Jennifer Dempsey	Silver Local
Linda Picone	National	Deborah Nilsson	Silver Local
Mary Poynten	National	Roger Dennison	Bronze Local
Rex Meadowcroft	National	Kay Bennetts	Bronze Local
Robin Shaw`	National	Wendy Venning	Bronze Local
Joan Mladen	Bronze State	Simon Cameron	Bronze Local
Margot Nelson	State	Susan Gehrig	Bronze Local
Mary Buckley	State	Mark Glaser	Local
Mal Hughes	Bronze Regional	Peter Burrows	Club
Ron Meaney	Bronze Regional	Helen Niland	Club
Jean Hill	Bronze Regional	Ian Webb	Graduate
Penny Cory	Regional	Toni Pender	Graduate
Bryan Meagher	Regional	Helen Cox	Graduate
Ann Axelby	Regional	Chris McDonald	Graduate
Jane Venter	Regional		

Plus anyone we may have missed due to the influx of new players to StepBridge



STEPBRIDGE TOURNAMENT FEES

Green Point Session: 50 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 75 Participation Points

WEEKLY SESSIONS

Monday-Friday

Open *Individual*: 9:50am

Open: 1pm, 4pm & 8pm

Restricted: 1.15pm

Novice: 10am (Monday-Friday)

& 7.45pm (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)

Saturday-Sunday

Open *Individual*: 9.50am

Open: 1pm, 4pm & 8pm

Restricted: 1.15pm

Novice: 10am & 4.10pm

IMPs Sessions

Thursday: 8pm Open

Sunday: 4pm Open

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!



NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTIONS

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 support@stepbridge.com.au with the subject title of the email being Newsletter.

BRIDGE PLAYERS

♥ ♣ ♦ ♠

DO IT WITH FINESSE