



StepBridge

the Australian
Internet bridge club

Newsletter

August 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello friends,

Every day I receive emails calls and messages from players expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to play with us on StepBridge. Despite the adversities our nation faces with the continued challenges of Covid19, our players are able to play on SteBbridge with the new friends they have made from all around Australia. The return of players who joined last year and did not continue playing once the restrictions were eased, has been considerable. We welcome you back and look forward to meeting you at the table. Our Club Championships are underway and have had good numbers participating.

On 21st August we are hosting the first Club Congress for Grafton Bridge Club. We encourage you to support Grafton and register to play.

Next month our AGM will be held, have you considered joining our management committee? If you are considering being part of the team please contact the Secretary, Chris Larter, or myself about Nominating.

Our platform continues to undergo improvements enhancements and changes thanks to Epko and his team in the Netherlands and here in Australia our CTO Mark Hetherington who has become my personal tech guru.

Our anti cheating processes are proving to be amazing, we have cancelled membership of one pair and continue in our quest to weed out other offenders. Thanks to our Player's Jury and once again CTO Mark for their hard work in this matter.

Be safe, keep well, be happy, see you at the table!

Happy Bridging

Sarah



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

The financial year for StepBridge AU concluded on 30 July 2021. 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.

StepBridge members will be emailed information regarding the AGM in late August. This will include the 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 submit any agenda items. Nominations for all Committee positions and for any motions or matters of business for the club need to be emailed to the Secretary by Sunday 5 September.

The agenda, a list of all matters to be voted on, and a list of candidates will be emailed on Sunday 12 September.

If you have anything to contribute or wish to attend the AGM, please advise via email to chris@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 ordered the participation points through the StepBridge Club (playing platform)

500 Participation Points \$33.00

1000 Participation Points \$65.00

2500 Participation Point \$137.50

5000 Participation Points \$247.50



StepBridge will be holding its inaugural Club Pairs Championship during the month of August. Red masterpoints will be awarded to the top half of each session as well as the top third for those who qualify for the championship. There will be the three categories of Open, Restricted (under 300 masterpoints) and Novice (100 masterpoints) players at the following times:

- Open - Thursday 8:00pm session
- Restricted (under 300 masterpoints) - Thursday 1:15pm session
- Novice (under 100 masterpoints) - Thursday 7:45 pm session
- Individual Open - Sunday 9:50am session

For the Restricted and Novice categories, the cut-off for eligibility is as of 31 July 2021. The cost will be 100 PPs per person, per session.

To qualify for a category, you need to play at least 3 out of the 4 sessions. For the pairs session, you need to play with the same partner to qualify. Your best 3 results will be combined and averaged. The championship in each category will be awarded to the pair / individual with the highest average.

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category:

- 1st = 2,500 PPs
- 2nd = 1,000 PPs
- 3rd = 500 PPs

If you have any questions, please email support@stepbridge.com.au.

Good luck everyone!

WAL BRAKE'S MICROWAVED CARROT FRUIT NUT CAKE

MOULDS: I use two Décor moulds 20x12x4cm, microwave safe. The finished product will be about 25-30mm thick (if too thick it will not cook thoroughly). Coat moulds lightly with vegetable oil. (To aid in stripping you might like to line it with baking paper but I don't and risk an occasionally torn base as the paper tends to stick to the cake)

INGREDIENTS AND METHOD:

550 gm dry mixed fruit (preferably include 30% Australian raisins

(you can use or try any dry fruit) - soak the fruit for 20 minutes in either red wine or fruit juice (grape preferred) 130ml

Then add 120gm butter or margarine, 50 ml of vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon of ginger, 1/2 teaspoon of allspice

In a food processor mix till fine 150gm carrots and 40gm nuts (low or not salted cashew/pine/walnut)

Add this carrot mix to the fruit mix along with 220gm white flour. Mix until just uniform—Do not over mix.

Spoon into the moulds in equal portions. Smooth out and tap to settle the mix.

Optionally decorate the cakes with nuts—I use cashews and pecans.

Bake both cakes together in the microwave on medium for 15-16 minutes or until just firm. There will be a little moistness apparent - this will disappear when cooling. Check with a skewer if in doubt. Allow the cakes to stand in the microwave for at least 10 minutes before moving. Cover and allow to cool slowly . Put on the lids and leave in the fridge overnight. Then you may remove the moulds or store within. (For a lighter cake substitute carrot for some of the fruit or for a heavier cake replace some of the carrot with fruit.)



If you have a favourite recipe, please email it to

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

GRAFTON CONGRESS

Grafton Bridge Club will be holding their Swiss Pairs congress on StepBridge on Saturday 21 August, 9.30am – approx. 6pm with break for lunch. For further details and to enter, please go to www.nswba.com.au/tourn/eventDetails.asp?tid=3465&T=C

StepBridge and Grafton Bridge Club – a Winning Partnership

Grafton Bridge Club members began using StepBridge during Covid lockdown in 2020. Initially players competed in the StepBridge tournaments and played against each other socially on the StepBridge website.

To facilitate play during lockdown, Grafton Bridge Club president, Bob Northam, set up a WhatsApp account for the club so members could organise bridge games, talk to partners and discuss results.



Following the popularity of the online tournaments amongst our club members, Sarah and her team, from StepBridge, organised for Grafton Club to play as a club in a tournament on StepBridge on Tuesday nights. This proved to be very popular and continued online when distancing rules allowed normal club play to resume.

Bob commented, 'StepBridge allowed our club to play as a club and provided opportunities for players, who might otherwise have not played during Covid lockdown, to continue their involvement in bridge events.'

'StepBridge was a lifesaver for me', said club secretary Fran Hiatt, 'it has allowed our club members to play bridge regularly and it has been thrilling for me to make so many friends all over Australia. It has done our club the world of good – opening the horizons for novice players and extending the skills of more experienced players. I enjoy it immensely.'

Grafton Bridge Club will be holding its annual Congress, thanks to the support of StepBridge, on Saturday 21st August using the StepBridge online site. Applications to play in the Grafton Congress can be made on the NSW Bridge Association web site.

'StepBridge has been wonderful in their support of our club,' Bob remarked, 'Grafton Club would not have been able to continue playing during Covid lockdown without their enthusiastic involvement.'

*Ian Huxley,
Grafton Bridge Club Publicity Officer*

AUGUST 2021

What is happening in August 2021?

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

As advised earlier, the inaugural StepBridge Club Championships are on in August running on Sundays (Individual) and Thursdays (Open, Restricted & Novice).



GRAFTON CONGRESS

The Grafton Bridge Club will be running its Swiss Pairs Congress on StepBridge on 21 August 2021. For details and entry go to:

<https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/eventDetails.asp?tid=3465>

IN AUGUST

Many events have occurred during the month of August. On 6 August 1762 the first ever sandwich was created, named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between bread – he was in the middle of a gambling game and did not want to interrupt it.

On 28 August 1963 Martin Luther King made his famous “I have a dream” speech to 250,000 people from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.

Some of the famous people born in August include Barack Obama, Usain Bolt, Lucille Ball, Neil Armstrong, Alfred Hitchcock and Sean Connery

RED POINTS

Every month StepBridge has RED POINT sessions.

During August the red point sessions coincide with the Club Championships sessions.



MONTHLY AWARDS FOR JULY 2021



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



Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in July 2021</i>	Overall	1	61.14	6	Ian McKinnon (IanMcKin)
			61.14	6	Virginia Dressler (VirginiD)
		3	59.15	7	Art Robbins (ArtRobb)
	Open	1	61.14	6	Virginia Dressler (VirginiD)
			61.14	6	Ian McKinnon (IanMcKin)
		3	59.15	7	Art Robbins (ArtRobb)
	Restricted	1	57.23	8	Jay Novak (JayN)
			57.23	8	Gale Spalvins (GaleSp)
		3	56.71	17	John Grosvenor (JohnG)
	Novice	1	61.23	9	Jake Andrew (Jake)
		2	56.54	6	Jane Venter (JaneV)
		3	56.4	6	Mark Hetherington (Markhet)
	Open	1	19	7	John Aquino (JohnAQ)
	IMPs	2	17	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		3	9	6	Marianna Xerri (Marianna)
Open	1	56.31	14	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)	
Individual	2	55.99	6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)	
	3	55.47	9	Jody Swaine (JodySwa)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in July 2021</i>	Overall	1	61.38	8	Jake Andrew (Jake), Peta Drake (PetaD)
		2	61.14	6	Ian McKinnon (IanMcKin), Virginia Dressler (VirginiD)
		3	58.27	6	Ming Yang (MingYang), Larry Moses (LarMoses)
	Open	1	61.14	6	Ian McKinnon (IanMcKin), Virginia Dressler (VirginiD)
		2	58.27	6	Ming Yang (MingYang), Larry Moses (LarMoses)
		3	57.94	8	Tim Davis (TimD), Stephen Carter (StephnC)
	Restricted	1	57.23	8	Jay Novak (JayN), Gale Spalvins (GaleSp)
		2	56.8	7	Paul Letts (PaulLet), Chris Farr (ChrisF)
		3	56.71	17	John Grosvenor (JohnG), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Novice	1	62.92	7	Jake Andrew (Jake), Peta Drake (PetaD)
		2	56.54	6	Diane Beasley (DianeB), Jane Venter (JaneV)
		3	56.4	6	Mark Hetherington (Markhet), Bryan Meagher (BryanM)

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 July prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in July 2021</i>	Overall	1		68	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
		2		66	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
		3		62	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Open	1		62	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		61	Denise Strain (DeniseSt)
		3		46	Manda Labuschagne (Manda)
	Restricted	1		31	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
		2		30	Rosemary Porter (RoseP)
		3		29	Carole O'Connor (CaroleO)
	Novice	1		39	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
		1		34	Tammy Hubbard (TammyHu)
		3		34	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in July 2021</i>	Overall	1		48	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		29	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		3		28	Gillian Bugeaney (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
	Open	1		29	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		2		28	Gillian Bugeaney (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
		3		24	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Restricted	1		28	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		22	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
		3		22	Ian Maclean (IanMac), Jan Maclean (JanetMac)
	Novice	1		18	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa), Ann Sauer (AnnSauer)
		2		15	Tammy Hubbard (TammyHu), Lou Russell (LouiseR)
		3		14	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in July 2021</i>	Overall	1	6.94	7	Judith Bennett (JudithBe)
		2	6.43	11	John Kelly (JohnKell)
		3	6.21	7	Lynette Sawtell (LynetteS)
	Open	1	8.77	6	Jane Nason (JaneN)
		2	8	15	Kay Baguley (KayB)
		3	7.8	8	Louise Beckingsale (LouiseBe)
	Restricted	1	7.34	6	Judith Bennett (JudithBe)
		2	6.82	6	Trevor Moore (TrevorMo)
		3	6.2	8	Mal Hughes (MalH)
	Novice	1	5.64	7	Lynette Sawtell (LynetteS)
		2	4.75	15	Nick Armitage (NickA)
		3	4.7	6	Bryan Meagher (BryanM)
	Open	1	8.77	6	Jane Nason (JaneN)
	Individual	2	8	15	Kay Baguley (KayB)
		3	7.8	8	Louise Beckingsale (LouiseBe)
OpenIMPS	1	0.08	6	Mal Clark (MalCI)	
	2	0.07	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)	
	3	0.06	8	Diana Zanon (DianaZa)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in July 2021</i>	Overall	1	8.77	6	Janet Treloar (JanetTr), Jane Nason (JaneN)
		2	5.57	10	Jay Novak (JayN), Gale Spalvins (GaleSp)
		3	5.04	6	Christine Neale (ChrisNe), Lynette Sawtell (LynetteS)
	Open	1	8.77	6	Janet Treloar (JanetTr), Jane Nason (JaneN)
		2	5.04	11	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		3	4.61	8	Valerie Isle (ValerieL), Tony Stevens (TonySt)
	Restricted	1	4.62	7	Beryl Morris (BeryIM), Kathie Smith (KathieS)
		2	4.51	7	Paul Letts (PaulLet), Chris Farr (ChrisF)
		3	3.67	7	Maria Mactaggart (MariaMac), Patricia Starkie (PatrSt)
	Novice	1	4.7	6	Mark Hetherington (Markhet), Bryan Meagher (BryanM)
		2	4.35	8	Claire Goodwill (ClaireG), Bev Peart-Kuter (BevPK)
		3	4.25	9	Carole O'Connor (CaroleO), Jill Smith (JilSmith)



Every month members of StepBridge earn Masterpoint Promotion.

Congratulations to our members who were promoted in July 2021

Cassie Morin	Grand	Bev Hopley	Regional
Peter Randall	Grand	Kerstin Gale	Regional
Jocelyn Steele	Grand	GP Macolino	Silver Local
Hans van Weeren	Gold Life	Lou Russell	Silver Local
Jo Sklarz	Gold Life	Vera Boston	Silver Local
Vicki Taylor	Silver Life	Roger Dennison	Silver Local
Alan Cransberg	Bronze Life	Sandra Schoffer	Silver Local
Meredith Goodlet	Life	Stephen Tjiantoro	Silver Local
Deborah Greenway	Life	Jane Neill	Silver Local
Charlie Georgees	Silver National	Donna Coleman	Bronze Local
Barbara Callan	Bronze National	Izzy Jensen	Bronze Local
Colin Kleinig	National	David Hancock	Bronze Local
Mardi Grosvenor	National	Richard Samuels	Local
Raylene Clark	National	Annie Williams	Local
Chris Farr	National	Tim McCullough	Local
Pauline Caust	National	Bill Wellington	Local
Chris Brady	National	Mandy Wilson	Local
Frank Hardiman	Bronze State	Christopher Jones	Local
Jennifer Sharpe	Bronze State	Mary Hirsch	Local
Bev Daniel	Bronze State	Elizabeth Ogilvie	Club
Jane Glass	State	Peter Schettler	Club
Margaret Barker	State	Jacqui Wardhaugh	Club
Melissa Ardern	State	Ian Park	Club
Alexander Jones	State	John Blue	Club
Bruce Kleem	Bronze Regional	Edward Ellice-Flint	Graduate
Lynn Frankenburg	Bronze Regional	Jennie Koch	Graduate
John Henderson	Bronze Regional	Tina Slattery	Graduate
Bob Hawkins	Bronze Regional	David Tasker	Graduate
Paul Stebbing	Regional		

YOUTUBE EXPLAINS STEPBRIDGE

Have you ever had questions about the usage of StepBridge and not found the answer. Try looking at these videos—they may well help you!



How to Use StepBridge :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5ocl7JtOS4>

Joining a Tournament Lobby:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p34htJmbH8Y>

StepBridge Registering for a Tournament and Inviting partner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uqj2EzwfVlU>

StepBridge Accept Invitation to Play:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKcWZH-Ld4Y>

StepBridge Table Description and Operation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CS8Wn2wV8Y>

StepBridge Play:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGaHO8tWXJ>

StepBridge Self Alerting Requirements:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCtGca3s5YE>

StepBridge IPAD Self Alerting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UzzylGboYM>

StepBridge System Cards:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmlk8rgeEFE>



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



"Nothing thanks, but you can bring us a napkin to keep score on."



"I THOUGHT YOU WERE KICKING ME UNDER THE TABLE BECAUSE YOU WERE READY TO GO."



"This reminds me of the pink slip you brought home from work the other day dad!"

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