

February 2022

Message from the President

As the year progresses StepBridge continues to grow and attract new players.

Over the past 6 months more than 500 new players have joined up to play. Our playing numbers have been quite steady. There are some new players who sometimes struggle with mastering the playing platform. If you need some “hands-on” assistance, please email support@stepbridge.com.au and we will organise some casual sessions to get you up to speed and competent to play in the tournaments.

I want to remind you of the “how to” videos on our website. These are helpful to watch and to get a clearer idea of what to do, www.stepbridge.com.au/how-to-videos/. We are always here to assist you.

We will be announcing some congress dates in the next newsletter and on the Welcome Page when you login to the club. Watch out for these.

TDAlan’s Director’s Corner is a wonderful recent addition to our newsletter, please make sure to take time to read carefully, he is addressing issues each month that I am sure you will learn from.

For those of you going to Gold Coast Congress, good luck, have fun and be safe.



Committee

President & Head TD
Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)

Secretary
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Treasurer
Suzi Ledger (Suzi)

Chief Technical Officer
Mark Hetherington
(Markhet)

Masterpoint Secretary
Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Public Officer
Eric Taylor (EricTay)

Committee Members
Howard Brownscombe
(HowardB)
Brenda McClean (Brenda)
Rita Pringle (RitaPr)
Chris Raisin (ChrisRai)
Eric Taylor (EricTay)

**Netherlands
Representative:**
Epko Steinmetz (Epko)

Email Address

support@stepbridge.com.au

MONTHLY PLAYER NUMBERS

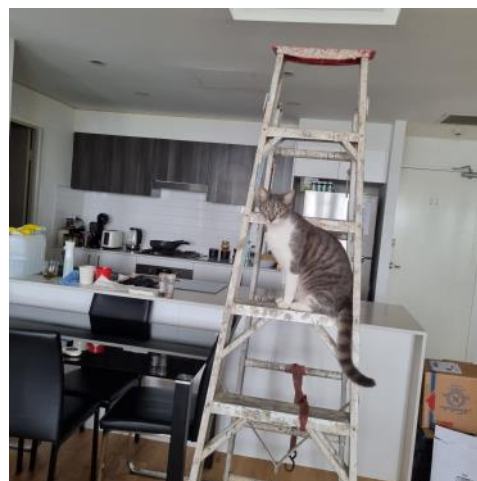
						Jan 2022	12428
Dec 2021	9264	Nov 2021	9516	Oct 2021	11200	Sept 2021	13660
Aug 2021	15488	July 2021	14356	June 2021	10453	May 2021	9463
Apl 2021	10002	Mar 2021	10422	Feb 2021	10601	Jan 2021	11933
Dec 2020	10682	Nov 2020	11875	Oct 2020	13265	Sept 2020	14221
Aug 2021	14848	July 2020	16662	June 2020	18582	May 2020	19644

Continue to next page ...

My thanks again to our hardworking team. Our TDs who direct your sessions every day, our Admin staff who carry out all the behind-the-scenes tasks that contribute to the smooth running of our club. Special thanks to my Executive team. Their valuable contributions allow us to run this operation as smoothly as possible.

Be safe, Happy bridging.

Sarah Anwar (SarahAn)



Jasper hard at work.

Message from the Treasurer

- When you want to order more PPs, please use the trolley function in the Registration page. This way, your points are added immediately. Please use the unique reference number you are sent by email to make the payment and everything should happen automatically
- If you are paying for 2 separate orders or for PPs AND Membership, for instance, please make 2 separate payments using the unique reference numbers for each
- Don't use old reference numbers, each order has a different one
- If you want to pay for someone else, please make the order on THEIR account and pay using the specific reference number for that order
- Manual payments over a bank counter are often missing any reference numbers, please use internet banking where possible.



We do receive payments from time to time which we are unable to match despite our best efforts. One such payment is listed below. If you are still getting reminders and think this payment belongs to you, please send a copy of the bank receipt to suzi@stepbridge.com.au.

Date	Amount	Reference
17/1/22	20.00	TRANSFER FROM FAY HOLDG PL FUNDS TRNS

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)

Director's Corner

What conventions are not allowed?

We allow most conventional Bids in our games on StepBridge but there are a few that are disallowed because competing against them requires a specialised defence that would put most players at a disadvantage. Our games, outside of Congresses, are intended to be friendly rather than cut-throat competition, so your opponents are not allowed to use these methods.

When you log in to StepBridge at the bottom of the notice is the following statement:



The only approved systems are Green, Blue, & Red for Open sessions, and Green & Blue for Novice & Restricted sessions. Brown sticker conventions and Yellow (HUM) systems are banned. This includes Myxomatosis Twos and Optimal Two bids.

So what does that mean?

Green systems are ones in which opening 1-level bids promise the suit bid: at least four cards in a Major; three in Diamonds; and two in Clubs.

Blue systems have a strong one Club (or occasionally Diamond) any distribution, and natural Majors.

Red systems may open one Club with one or no Clubs – these cannot be used in our Novice or Restricted games.

Brown sticker conventions are what typically cause confusion. These include:

1. Opening bids between 2C and 3S inclusive that have weak options that do not promise at least four cards in a known suit (often called the anchor suit).
2. Overcalls of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that do not have an anchor suit.

An example of (1) is a Myxomatosis 2D opening bid which means: strong Diamonds, weak Hearts, or weak 5-5 in Spades and Clubs.

An example of (2) is a TWERB 1D overcall of a natural 1C meaning long Hearts or 5-5 in Spades and Clubs.

Many people play a Multi-2D meaning a weak six-card unspecified Major. There is an exception that allows this bid **not** to have an anchor suit. Note that opening bids of 3NT and above are not restricted so, for example, a Gambling 3NT showing a solid unspecified minor is also OK.

Since a strong 1C opening is **not** a natural opening bid, there are no restrictions on overcalls so a TWERB 1D would be OK. Similarly there are no restrictions on overcalls of 1NT: as you are probably aware there are endless conventions on how to defend against an opening 1NT.

Finally, what do you do if you suspect an opponent has used a disallowed convention? As always, if there is an infraction, call the TD. If their convention is not allowed you will get a major advantage: the offending opponent must substitute a comparable bid (which probably doesn't exist), or their partner must pass whenever it is their turn to bid. In addition the information from the disallowed bid is authorised to you, but it is unauthorised to their partner. If you don't recognise the disallowed convention until the end of the hand, you should still call the TD – they have the power to award an adjusted score if your side is damaged by opponents using a disallowed convention.

Alan Bustany (TDAIan)

StepBridge Sponsoring the Gold Coast Congress Open Teams

As our President, Sarah, announced in last month's newsletter, StepBridge Australia will be sponsoring the Open Teams Event at the Gold Coast Congress this year and continue for many years to come. We have a couple of photos to share with you all. The first is the shield for the StepBridge Australia Open Teams. The second is Suzi Ledger (Suzi) and her dogs showing off our new banners that will be displayed at the congress, as well as other events that StepBridge holds.



UPDATE Gold Coast Congress: StepBridge Hospitality Event

It is with a heavy heart that we have had to cancel the proposed StepBridge Hospitality Event during the Gold Coast Congress.

This is due to uncertainty due to Covid restrictions as well as those that were going to set up and cater this event in-house are now not attending the congress.

We are sorry to provide this news. We hope that we will be able to provide a hospitality event in 2023.

However, some members would still like to catch up socially even though it won't be an official StepBridge Hospitality Event. We have received the following below. The idea would be that people would buy their own drink and food, we believe. If interested, please contact Phil (PhillipP) via his email address or phone number below.

Pam (PamWard) and Phil (PhillipP) will be at the GC Congress and would like to meet up with StepBridge people at the end of the afternoon session on Saturday and/or Sunday. Can you please reply ASAP to either LUKYFIL@GMAIL.COM or 0427 205 759 if you are interested, so they can make arrangements.



Attention Youth Players!!!



StepBridge is wanting to give back to the bridge community. One way is supporting our youth players (under 25 years old). Therefore, we are now offering the following Youth Player bonuses.

- Additional free games for new youth players joining StepBridge.
- No membership fee, when an ABF Youth Home Club Member.
- Match Participation Point purchases, thus giving half price table fees.

For Youth Players to take advantage of these offers, please email us so we can set up your account accordingly. Also, you need to advise us each time you make an order for Participation Points, so we can match the amount ordered.

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 Shopping Cart.

300 Participation Points	\$20.00	500 Participation Points	\$35.00
1000 Participation Points	\$65.00	2500 Participation Points	\$150.00
5000 Participation Points	\$250.00	10000 Participation Points	\$475.00

Finesse Holidays

Finesse Bridge Club is one of our virtual clubs on StepBridge. Their next holiday is in Terrigal. Please refer to the details below for booking.

TERRIGAL – 5 STAR – STAR OF THE SEA APARTMENTS

With Greg Eustace and Gaye Allen of the Finesse Bridge Club

FEBRUARY 14 - 18 2022

5 Star Luxury at Terrigal (4 NIGHTS) From \$ 970 TS Singles Enquire



The apartments are absolutely amazing in size and presentation and are all impeccably furnished maintaining the five star accommodation that is Star of the Sea. When you consider that each apartment is valued between \$1.5m & \$3.5m and it should not come as a surprise that they are very special. (Lifts to all floors). Winner HMAA'S 2005 Winner, Best 5 Star Luxury Apartments (Central Coast). The property has an oasis of waterfalls running through lush gardens.

Included in this price is 4 nights accommodation in exquisite luxury apartments, 4 dinners and all lunches. Bridge includes a 6 session B4Red & B5Red pairs event, 2 walk-in pairs, 3 workshops (Director Greg Eustace) & champagne reception

Apartment Features Resort Features:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| * Flat Screen TV's | * Indoor heated 12.5 pool |
| * DVD & Foxtel | * 2 Outdoor 12.5m pools |
| * Air-Conditioning | * Tennis Courts |
| * Italian Marble | * Gymnasium |
| * Spa in all Apts | * Outside Spa |
| * Huge Balconies | * Squash Court |
| * Ocean views | * Library |



Where are we?

We are situated on Haven Headland Terrigal Beach, just up from the Crown Plaza. 70 mins North of Sydney and 100 hrs from care.

E: director@finessebridge.com.au Ph: (02) 9596 1423 (M) 0415 816 919

www.finessebridge.com.au

Finesse Holidays

TERRIGAL February 14 - 18 2020 – STAR of the SEAS – PROGRAM

All sessions have pre-dealt boards and hand records. Bridge Sessions are held in Apartment number 50. Resort is not Licensed and therefore bring your own liquor. BYO at restaurants is \$ 3 pp. Pairs are Masterpointed at B4Red. Swiss Pairs B5Red.

PROGRAM:

Monday:	2:00 pm	Check-In
	3:00 pm	Terrigal Pairs 1 of 5
	6:30 pm	Champagne Welcome with Horderves in hosts penthouse apartment.
	7:45 pm	Dinner in Apt 50 by Gaye.
Tuesday:	09:30 am	Workshop 1 Apt 18
	10:00 am	Terrigal Pairs 2 of 5
	1:30 pm	Lunch Supplied
	7:00 pm	Light Dinner of Pizza & Pasta in Hosts Apt
	7:30 pm	WalkIn Butler Pairs 1 of 3
Wednesday:	9:15 am	Workshop Apt 18
	9:45 am	Terrigal Pairs 3 of 5
	1:00 pm	Seafood Lunch in Hosts Apartment.
	2:45 pm	Terrigal Pairs 4 of 5
	7:30 pm	Dinner at Chinese Terrigal Restaurant. BYO \$ 3 pp
Thursday:	9:15 am	Workshop 3 Apt 50
	9:45 am	WalkIn Butler Pairs (2 of 3)
	1:00 pm	Gaye's Lunch in Bridge Rooms
	2:00 pm	Terrigal Pairs 5 of 5
	7:30 pm	Dinner at 4 Hands. No BYO but reasonable prices.
Friday:	9:00 am	Walk In Butler Pairs (Green Points) 3 of 3
	11:45 pm	Lunch and Presentation

Driving directions to 8 Terrigal Esplanade, Terrigal

From the M1 Pacific Motorway take the Central Coast Highway Exit (ie for Gosford Woy,Woy) Follow the signs to Terrigal. Turn right on to Terrigle Drive. Follow this road all the way to Terrigal Shopping centre and about 500 metres after the shopping centre (going past The Crowne Plaza) on the right you will come to Star of the Sea. Make sure you go around the corner past the skillion and up the hill. The entrance gate is here and you will have to press 99 Bell or 19 Bell so that you can gain access.

StepBridge Shirts

Order a StepBridge Shirt, so you can wear it with pride at a congress!

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.



Monthly Awards: December 2021

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in January 2022</i>	Overall	1	58.77	6	Geoffrey Yeo (GeoffY)
		2	57.96	7	David Randles (DavidRan)
		3	57.81	9	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
	Open	1	58.77	6	Geoffrey Yeo (GeoffY)
		2	57.96	7	David Randles (DavidRan)
		3	57.81	9	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
	Restricted	1	57.15	6	Giles Martin (GilesM)
			57.15	6	Vincia Martin (VinciaM)
		3	56.75	13	Chris Farr (ChrisF)
	Novice	1	61.19	9	Martin Wu (MartinW)
		2	57.06	6	Felicity Jensen (Felicity)
		3	56.99	19	Pam Ward (PamWard)
	Open	1	8	6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)
	IMPs		8	6	Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		3	4	6	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)
Open	1	59.8	7	Nimal Weerasinghe (NimalW)	
Individual	2	54.36	8	Beryl Manuel (BerylMan)	
	3	53.92	6	Pauline Erby (PaulineE)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in January 2022</i>	Overall	1	59.03	10	Martin Wu (MartinW), Lilly Jia (LillyJ)
		2	57.96	7	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		3	57.15	6	Vincia Martin (VinciaM), Giles Martin (GilesM)
	Open	1	57.96	7	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
		2	57.09	6	Sue Shadbolt (SueSh), Eamonn McCabe (EamonMcC)
		3	57.03	11	Hugh Gilberg (HughGil), Ian Dickison (IanD)
	Restricted	1	57.42	9	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa), Ann Sauer
		2	57.15	6	Vincia Martin (VinciaM), Giles Martin (GilesM)
		3	56.81	6	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG), Tammy Hubbard (TammyHu)
	Novice	1	56.99	19	Phillip Douglas (PhillipP), Pam Ward (PamWard)
		2	56.93	21	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		3	56.31	8	Wendy Venning (WendyVen), Dot Slattery (DotS)
Open IMPs	1	8	6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)	

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 October prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2022</i>	Overall			73	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				71	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa)
				59	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
	Open			73	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				56	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				45	Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Restricted			35	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
				34	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
				34	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
	Novice			37	Kay Bennetts (KayBenn)
			28	Helen Thomas (HelenT)	
			28	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)	
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2022</i>	Overall			37	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				27	Susie Fraser (SusieF), Sandy Fraser (SandyFra)
				26	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
	Open			26	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
				23	Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
				23	Helen Fleet (HelenF), Robert Fleet (RobFleet)
	Restricted			24	Colin Speller (ColinSp), David Cumming (DavidCum)
				22	Pam Leahy (PamL), Ann Rice (AnnR)
				21	Alma Van der Walt (MariaAlm), Kathy Ivits (KathyI)
	Novice			21	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
			20	Yvonne Arnold (YvonneA), Suzie Long (SuzieL)	
			19	Phillip Douglas (PhillipP), Pam Ward (PamWard)	

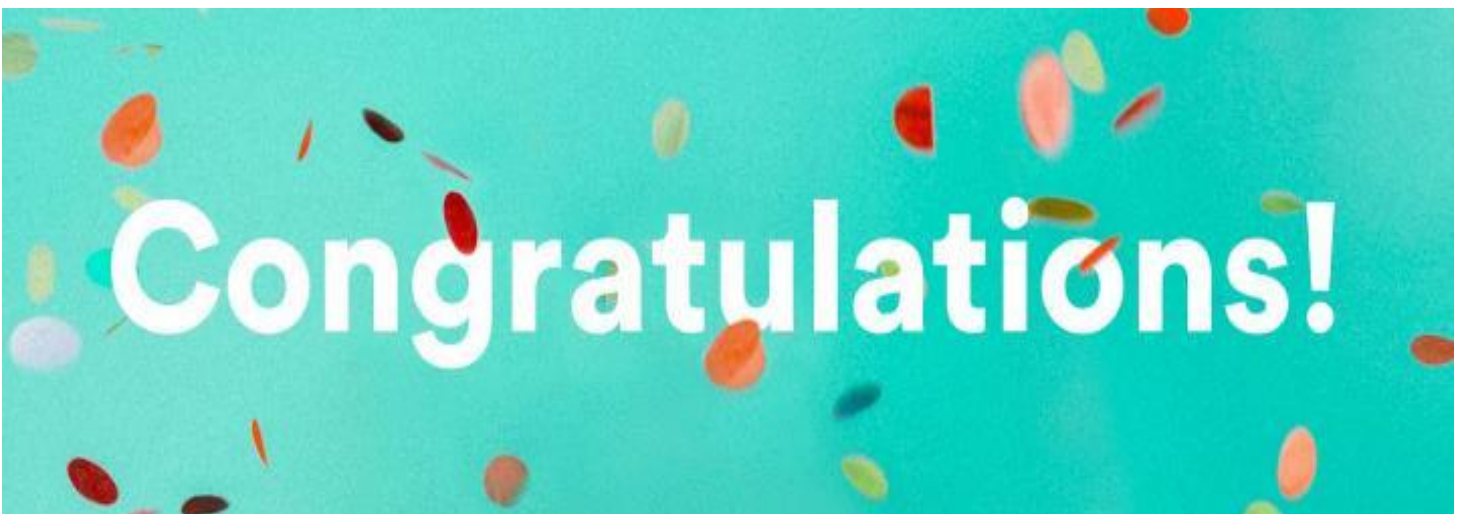
Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in January 2022</i>	Overall	1	5.65	11	Ian Dickison (IanD)
			5.65	11	Hugh Gilberg (HughGil)
		3	5.22	6	Geoffrey Yeo (GeoffY)
	Open	1	6.01	20	Antonina Hayles (Antonina)
		2	5.65	11	Ian Dickison (IanD)
			5.65	11	Hugh Gilberg (HughGil)
	Restricted	1	3.89	9	Diana Whiteley (DianaWh)
		2	3.81	9	Trevor Moore (TrevorMo)
		3	3.77	14	Daniele Escreet (DanieleE)
	Novice	1	4.6	9	Cherie Woolven (CherieW)
		2	4.59	6	Joy Millen (JoyMill)
		3	3.74	8	Wendy Venning (WendyVen)
	Open IMPs	1	0.11	7	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
		2	0.06	6	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)
		3	0.02	6	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
Open	1	5.51	7	Nimal Weerasinghe (NimalW)	
Individual	2	3.97	13	Gail Cowen (GailCo)	
	3	3.27	8	Beryl Manuel (BerylMan)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in January 2022</i>	Overall	1	5.65	11	Hugh Gilberg (HughGil), Ian Dickison (IanD)
		2	4.68	22	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		3	3.92	13	Daniele Escreet (DanieleE), Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
	Open	1	5.65	11	Hugh Gilberg (HughGil), Ian Dickison (IanD)
		2	3.49	7	Marleen Medhat (MarleenM), Wence Vahala (WenceV)
		3	3.35	19	Janet Treloar (JanetTr), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)
	Restricted	1	4.53	9	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa), Ann Sauer (AnnSauer)
		2	3.92	6	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG), Tammy Hubbard (TammyHu)
		3	3.83	12	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)
	Novice	1	3.7	8	Wendy Venning (WendyVen), Dot Slattery (DotS)
		2	3.31	15	Susie Fraser (SusieF), Sandy Fraser (SandyFra)
		3	3.25	21	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)

Masterpoint Promotions

January 2022

Dave Munro	Silver Grand	Alan Gregory	Bronze Regional
Se-Moi Loh	Gold Life	GP Macolino	Regional
John Stuart	Silver Life	Kate Gould	Regional
Alan Bustany	Bronze Life	Carmel Brown	Regional
Belinda Taranto	Bronze Life	Joan Eccleshare	Regional
Cheryl Henke	Life	Paul Anderson	Regional
Eugene Pereira	Life	Bruce Brown	Regional
Bill Forbes	Life	Lou Stanley	Regional
Mardi Grosvenor	Silver National	Geoffrey Sharpe	Silver Local
Jurate Laisve	Silver National	Susan Gehrig	Silver Local
Roy Cotton	Silver National	Murray Pearce	Silver Local
Felicity Fane, Felicity	Bronze National	Lesley Rosenthal	Silver Local
Mary Poynten	Bronze National	John Adams	Silver Local
David Marshall	Bronze National	Annie Williams	Bronze Local
Donna Fitch	Bronze National	Sue Hood	Local
Debbie Chappell	Bronze National	Carmel Fox	Local
Giles Martin	Bronze National	Alex Wu	Club
Cheryl Waters	National	Rosie Legoe	Club
Gale Spalvins	National	Kerri Grant	Club
Dianne Cass	Bronze State	Ronald Kroon	Graduate
Eliza Hemphill	State		
Keith Brinck	State		
Reg Burton	State		

Plus anyone we may have missed due to the influx of players to StepBridge during Covid.



Funnies Page



Apparently there's a third option between burial and cremation.



This picture was taken few seconds before the disaster 😂😂



Taking a dog named Shark to the beach is not a good idea



StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 50 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 75 Participation Points

Daily Sessions

Open Individual: 9:50am

Open: 1pm, 4pm & 8pm

Restricted: 1.15pm

7.45pm (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)

Novice: 10am

7.45pm (Tuesday & Thursday)

4.10pm (Saturday & Sunday)

IMPs Sessions

Thursday: 8pm Open

Sunday: 4pm Open

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

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!



Upcoming Red Point Sessions

Saturday 12 February

- 8.00pm Open

Monday 14 February

- 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Thursday 17 February

- 7.45pm Novice & 8.00pm Open

Wednesday 23 February

- 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Tuesday 1 March

- 4.00pm Open

Thursday 3 March

- 7.45pm Novice & 8.00pm Open

Friday 4 March

- 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 6 March

- 9.50am Open Individual & 10.00am Novice

Monday 7 March

- 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Thursday 10 March

- 4.00pm Open

Sunday 13 March

- 8.00pm Open

Monday 14 March

- 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Friday 18 March

- 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Monday 21 March

- 9.50am Open Individual & 10.00am Novice

Wednesday 23 March

- 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Saturday 26 March

- 8.00pm Open

Wednesday 30 March

- 9.50am Open Individual & 10.00am Novice