

January 2024

Message from the President

Dear members,

On behalf of the Committee, I thank all of our members for the support of the club during 2023 by playing on StepBridge. Thank you also to everyone who contributes to the life of the club in a role or two or multiple roles.

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news that Sarah Zoral has tendered her resignation as Vice President of the Committee. Sarah has been a member of the Committee for many years undertaking nearly every role possible over that time with President being the most recent, since the time of COVID. Sarah will continue as our Head TD, a TD and in supporting players who have IT issues.

We held our last Congress for 2023 on Saturday 16 December. Many thanks, as usual, for all that were involved in the running of the Congress. Thank you to everyone who played in the congress and congratulations to the winners which appear later in the newsletter.

The majority of the Committee recently agreed to support a new bridge congress called the "Central West Festival of Bridge". This will be a Red Point Congress held 6-12 July 2024 during the Interstate Teams of the Australian National Championships (ANC) being held in Orange NSW. For those not aware, the Orange and Bathurst Bridge Clubs have supported StepBridge through Virtual Clubs and a number of their members play with us.

In relation to our Teams software, the majority of members are happy to see a regular Teams session in our weekly timetable. I know there are a few members who are unhappy with this decision of a weekly Teams session as Monday evening was their regular session. However out of the number of Pairs sessions each week, providing one Teams session a week is appropriate for those who wish to play Teams.

On the financial side, no decision at this stage has been made to increase Participation Points (PPs) per session. Therefore, current rates for PPs per session will remain for the time being.

I wish you all a Prosperous 2024.

Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)



Committee

President

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)
chris@stepbridge.com.au

Vice President

VACANT

Secretary

Larry Bryant (Larry)
larry@stepbridge.com.au

Treasurer

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)
suzi@stepbridge.com.au

Committee Members

Bob Laing (BobLa)
Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)
Alan Puckey (AlanPuck)
Sebastian Wright (SebW)

StepBridge International Representative:

Epko Steinmetz (Epko)

Non-Committee Roles

Head TD

Sarah Zoral (SarahAn)
sarah@stepbridge.com.au

Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Newsletter Editor

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

Email Address

support@stepbridge.com.au

CLUB PLAYING NUMBERS

Dec 2023	10,065	Nov 2023	9,345	Oct 2023	9,318	Sept 2023	8,952
Aug 2023	9,382	Jul 2023	9,924	Jun 2023	8,698	May 2023	8,858
April 2023	9,354	Mar 2023	9,372	Feb 2023	8,346	Jan 2023	9,804
Dec 2022	9,142	Nov 2022	9,090	Oct 2022	9,036	Sept 2022	8,594
Aug 2022	9,631	Jul 2022	10,344	Jun 2022	9,322	May 2022	9,980
April 2022	9,788	Mar 2022	10,386	Feb 2022	9,854	Jan 2022	12,428
Dec 2021	9,264	Nov 2021	9,516	Oct 2021	11,200	Sept 2021	13,660

Obituary

VALE Patsy Hall (PatsyH)

1942 - 2023

We are sad to advise members and friends that Patsy Hall passed away with her funeral being on Monday 11 September.

Patsy was a long time member of StepBridge, since 2012, as well as a member of the Bendigo Bridge Club. Patsy regular partner on StepBridge was Kevin Kendall (KevinKen).

In addition to her Bridge, Patsy was into gaming such as PlayStation and the Pokies.



Rest In Peace, Patsy.

VALE Rosemary Goodwin (RosemarG)

21 August 1954 - 17 November 2023

We are sad to advise members and friends that Rosemary Goodwin passed away on 17 November 2023. Our thoughts are with Ken, Rosemary's husband, at this time.

Rosemary became a member of StepBridge in May 2020 and regularly played with Ken.



Rest In Peace, Rosemary.

From the Treasurer

Just a few reminders to everyone.

If you want to purchase participation points, please do this via the shopping trolley function on the Information and Registration page. The advantage to you is that your points are credited straight away - no reason to panic that you can't play. You will immediately receive an email with payment instructions and a unique reference number. If you pay this way, everything should happen automatically, no need for manual processing at our end. Please don't add extra \$ amounts even if you are late! We don't hold any bank account details for direct debits for our players (extra security for you), so you do have to make these payments yourself each time.

Please don't use old reference numbers which might pop up on your banking page, every payment (either for Participation Points or Membership) has its own reference. Also, please put your reference number FIRST in the description line. Sometimes the banks limit the number of characters allowed and the reference doesn't appear at our end.

If you are paying over the counter at a bank or credit union, please insist that they include your reference number or at least your name or we have no way of identifying the payment as being for you.

There's no need to send us copies of payment receipts unless you receive a reminder for a payment you think you have already made.

Did you know you can make StepBridge your Home Club? This is a good time to do it as we are processing all our Home Club memberships now. Just send an email to support@stepbridge.com.au and we will arrange it for you.

Happy Bridging everyone

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)

StepBridge Name Tags

We are currently taking expressions of interest for a StepBridge name tag. If you would be interested in ordering one, please email suzi@stepbridge.com.au by Thursday 25 January. The expected cost to members would be \$15-\$20.



Gold Coast Congress: StepBridge Hospitality Evening

As has been the practice the last couple of years, StepBridge will hold a Hospitality Evening during the Gold Coast Congress. This is a chance for you to meet and catch up with your StepBridge friends face2face.

This will be held on Thursday Evening 22 February, 6.00pm onwards, at the Kurrawa Surf Club (Old Burleigh Road, Broadbeach).

StepBridge will offer a welcome drink to each member attending. Members are then welcome to buy their own meal and any further drinks they would like during the evening.

Numbers are limited to 50 people. Therefore, we ask you RSVP to secure your spot.

To register, please go to the following link www.stepbridge.com.au/stepbridge-hospitality-event-the-gold-coast-congress/.



New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play in November, please be supportive and friendly to these players. If these people are single players looking for a game, we encourage you to volunteer your time and team up with these new members.

OPEN

AudreyB	BarryC	BertieM	EllaB	JillCr	MoiraMcG
NevilleF	PatriciP	RobbieF	NevilleF	TerryS	

RESTRICTED

AlanF	Christi	ChristiF	EmmaL	FayeS	GeoffD
GreigB	JanetMe	JulietR	LynneH	RoyM	

NOVICE

AngelaF	AnnieC	BernB	BrettW	CherryT	ChrissyH
ColleenC	DonC	FionaE	HelenHu	IanHar	InezP
JaneB	JanetUn	JillianD	JohnDuc	LaurieC	LucyZ
MagdeK	Marlena	MarneyT	MichelM	NaomiR	PeteG
Prakash	RobertPr	RuthHar	SathaA	SavvyF	SueMcN
Therese	ToniZ	VeraC			

Congress Results

STEPBRIDGE CONGRESS (Saturday 16 December)

Open

1st Lori Smith & Arjuna De Livera
2nd Rez Karim & Dave Munro
3rd Adrian Beaumont & Dell Macneil

Restricted

1st Sachiko Cathcart & Trish Berry
2nd Sa Smith & Paul Smith
3rd Elizabeth Milne & Derry Houston

Novice

1st Margaret Portess & Kerri Grant
2nd Keith Hill & Michelle Hill
3rd Ruth Harvey & Ann Green

Novice Corner

For all Bridge players. Please be kind to your partner. Marty Bergen, an experienced Bridge player, has a few hints for being a good partner. Please review them.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh/21%20Rules.pdf>

Thank you for the supportive comments I received for taking on this position.



What is the most important thing you need to do as the Opposition?

My view is, to make it difficult for the Opps. That will be the focus of some of my future comments. No, I am not a bridge teacher, but I have a few hints that might be helpful for new players.

What agreements do you have with your partner? I am sure that my wife and bridge partner, at times, wishes I would follow our agreements and not overbid.

One agreement we have is that when one of us opens 1C and the next player passes. We bid, even with, very few high card (hcp) points, to ensure that partner is not stranded in 1C and gets to bid again. Remember a 1C hand is telling you about the shape of the hand and for Std A players it may have 11-19 hcp. How many times have you seen a 1C hand demolished?

No doubt you will have other agreements others might be interested in. Please feel free to share any useful suggestions with me.

For New Players

Let's assume you are happy with evaluating a bridge hand and the bidding is over. You are Declarer. What know?

After the Opps first card is played and partners hand is down. Take some time to plan what you are going to do, how you intend playing the hand. You have plenty of time. You are allowed 5 minutes a board to bid and play the hand, so do not be rushed. You will get better at deciding the best way to play the hand. For example, are you going to play and draw trumps, or because of shortages in the hands, play suit and cross trump. Part of your plan should be to try to lose your losers, early in the hand.

Please try to keep to time-5 minutes a board.

For the More Experienced Novices

Bridge consists of bidding; declarer card-play and defence. Most bridge teachers teach about hand evaluation, bidding systems and in my opinion little about defence. How many times are you on defence rather than being the Declarer? We will be on defence more than 50 % of the time.

Can I suggest you review, web bridge articles that give advice on defensive strategies. Should you read an interesting article please forward it to. More about defence in future articles.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bob Laing (BobLa)
bob@stepbridge.com.au

Cookery Corner

Paella

Judy Wilkinson (JudyWilk)

Ingredients

- 300 grms chicken thigh diced (Could use all prawns)
- 150 grms of chorizo sausage
- 1 cup uncooked prawn meat
- 1 red onion finely diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary
- 1 garlic clove diced
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup abori rice Must be Abori (it said 2 cups)
- 250 grms diced tomato
- 500 mls chicken stock (I used 750 mls)
- pinch turmeric (saffron)
- 1 Tab of Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Directions

- Fry onion and garlic in oil until softened
- then set aside.
- Add chorizo and brown
- Add chicken and brown, put onion and garlic back in
- Add rice and stock and stir to combine
- also turmeric to yellow
- Add diced tomatoes and stir. Add stock evenly when you do it.
- Simmer until rice is cooked and liquid has evaporated on very low heat. DO NOT STIR and make sure you don't burn. So low heat is barely bubbles. 20 minutes. A judgement call. Take off heat, cover with lid or tea towel.
- Garnish with parsley at the end.



Cookery Corner

Thank you to Brenda McClean (Brenda) for our monthly Cookery Corner. This is Brenda's last submission to our Cookery Corner. We thank Brenda for her contributions.

Lemon ricotta cookies/lemon glaze

Ingredients - Cookies

- 2 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 (15-ounce) container whole milk ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 lemon, zested



Ingredients - Glaze

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 lemon, zested

Preheat the oven to 190.56°Celsius .

Directions - Cookies

- In a medium bowl combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
- In the large bowl combine the butter and the sugar. Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes.
- Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating until incorporated.
- Add the ricotta cheese, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Beat to combine.
- Stir in the dry ingredients.
- Line 2 baking sheets with baking paper. Spoon the dough (about 2 tablespoons for each cookie) onto the baking sheets. Bake for 15 minutes, until slightly golden at the edges. Remove from the oven and let the cookies rest on the baking sheet for 20 minutes.

Directions - Glaze

- Combine the powdered sugar, lemon juice, and lemon zest in a small bowl and stir until smooth.
- Spoon about 1/2-teaspoon onto each cookie and use the back of the spoon to gently spread.
- Let the glaze harden for about 2 hours.
- Pack the cookies into a decorative container.

Bridge Christmas Song

Greg McCarron (GregMc) likes to use AI to write poetry and to produce new lyrics for songs.

*Greg generated this song about bridge for the Christmas season,
which should be sung to the tune of Jingle Bells.*

(Verse 1)

Shuffling through the deck,
In a game of skill and fun,
Oh, what joy it is to play,
With a partner and get things done!

(Chorus)

Bridge, bridge, tricks all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to play,
Bidding high and bidding low,
In the world of cards, we go!

(Verse 2)

Finessing through the suits,
In a slam, we find our way,
Oh, what joy it is to win,
In the game of bridge today!

(Chorus)

Bridge, bridge, tricks all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to play,
Bidding high and bidding low,
In the world of cards, we go!

(Bridge)

Signals and conventions,
A language of our own,
With every bid and play,
Our victory is shown!

(Verse 3)

Aces, kings, and queens,
Dancing in a merry spree,
Oh, what joy it is to see,
A bridge hand full of glee!

(Chorus)

Bridge, bridge, tricks all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to play,
Bidding high and bidding low,
In the world of cards, we go!



Life Lessons from the Bridge Table

I've played bridge my whole adult life. Sometimes I wonder who I would have been had I lived a parallel existence without bridge to shape my character all these years. Most of my friends are bridge players, most of my travels are for tournaments, most of my free time I spend in activities associated with bridge in one way or another, and even my professional interests are related to the psychology of games. Basically, my cat is the only important part of my life that is bridgeless, but even she was named after a bridge player. So, obviously I am influenced by bridge more than a regular player.



However, I think that playing bridge affects us all, and that there are many valuable lessons we learn by playing bridge, that we can apply to our regular lives. In this article, I will discuss some of the beliefs that bridge can reinforce or enhance in people. I hope it will encourage you to share your thoughts on this topic.

Don't discriminate

Bridge tournaments have that special power to remove all the differences that exist among players except for the skill itself. If Mr. Doe is known to be the best player in the room, once the tournament starts we don't care less if he is 18 or 80, married or not, a lawyer or a scavenger, a Buddhist or a Christian. Age may be the most obvious, but it also applies to differences in social background, education, culture and so on. Therefore, we can find some very amusing partnerships or teams consisting of seemingly mismatched people who join together in the game. Bridge has taught me that people engaged in an all consuming activity will disregard the differences, and concentrate on what is important. Therefore, in work, or my private life, I am less concerned about how people who have nothing in common will function. I just try to make the task engaging and challenging, and so far I can confirm that once they really get involved, the differences become irrelevant.

Intelligence is multidimensional

It's amazing how regularly people who have been successful in business, academia or life in general, just can't get passed intermediate level in bridge. On the other hand, you probably know players who struggle with the simplest of life challenges, but shine at the table. Bridge shows very clearly what cognitive scientists try to explain: intelligence consists of various domains, and one may excel in some, while being almost hopeless in others. I doubt there is a better example than bridge.

Perfection is overrated

There are not many areas of human existence where one can experience one's own incompetence, in such a blatant way as is possible at the bridge table. Bridge shows us how incredibly incapable we can be. If we take a lesson from this, we may become a bit less smug and understand and accept our own limitations. Moreover, we become aware that everyone can produce a blunder. In some areas of human existence it's easy to find excuses and convince ourselves that we haven't made that big a lapse, whereas in bridge our mistakes often stare at us unforgivingly without any camouflage whatsoever. Therefore by playing bridge we learn to acknowledge, admit and cope with being imperfect. Forgive yourself and apologize to the other(s).

Article

Life Lessons from the Bridge Table cont.

Being risk averse can be risky

A beginner will sometimes refuse to bid (e.g. overcall, preempt) because they “don’t want to risk”. Very soon, when opponents land at the best contract and/or partner fails to lead their suit they will realize that passing is at least as risky as bidding. In the same manner, people may be reluctant to invest, to change jobs, to leave a relationship, because taking this action may be risky. It is in human nature to believe that being passive and maintaining the status quo is safer than taking action. But, simple, every-day examples from the bridge table teach us that there is no safety in being passive.

(Although they teach you otherwise), luck matters

When bridge teachers explain how bridge is more fair compared to other (card) games, they will stress that by duplication we manage to control the factor of luck. Aspiring students are often amazed by this newly discovered method and do not question it further. However, while for a beginner it may be a hook, any experienced player will know that luck plays an important, although sometimes disguised role in bridge. Getting a flat board against the weakest pair, getting away with a ridiculous bid or play, or discovering an unfortunate lie of cards when the contract seemed cold. Bridge teaches us that if we do our best we will profit in the long run, but there is no guarantee that it will work in any specific case. Understanding this will help in dealing with real life situations where we felt a sense of injustice and that we deserved better. Bridge teaches us to be skeptical about complete fairness in any life domain, and to appreciate an occasional stroke of luck.

Take one for the team (partner)

We were all in situations when partner or team-mates compensated for our mistakes, and when we did the same for them. Bridge teaches us to trust, to rely on others, to be responsible and to put the common goal in front of personal wishes. If you keep your partner happy you will be happy too. Playing competitive team bridge develops a team player mindset that is so needed and appreciated in both private and professional domains.

Live in the present

Bridge is a fast game and every ten minutes or so we have to completely switch our thoughts and adjust to a new situation or challenge. Those who dwell on the past will not be able to focus on a current task. Whatever happens, you have to leave it behind, clear your mind and move onto the next board in order to survive. This mantra of many a life coach is brought into sharp focus in bridge, and is a valuable lesson to learn: you can’t change the past, so focus on the here and now.

Don’t give up, 20% is better than 0%

On some boards we just don’t have a chance to make a decent result. We have to accept the fact that our opponents reached the best spot and the most we can hope for are a few matchpoints. But every board counts, and a handful of matchpoints might be all we need to win the tournament. So, when things don’t look bright, in both bridge and life, we have to accept that obstacles are part of life, and that on bad days (hands), even little increments count.

Life Lessons from the Bridge Table cont.

Analyse carefully

In my opinion, there are three main techniques that need to be developed to play bridge reasonably well: visualization, judging possibility, and stepping into someone else's shoes. Visualization involves imagining the various layouts possible during bidding and play, judging possibility is necessary to take the correct view of the hand and choose the best line, while stepping into partner's and opponents' shoes may answer the question of why they made a particular bid, or chose this card instead of another one. Carefully analysing moves and thinking about motives gives us deeper insight into circumstances, and it is equally useful in real life as it is in bridge.

Don't let negativity consume you

There will be many occasions in bridge when you will have an urge to run away, fight or cry. I admit, bridge is quite good in provoking a spectrum of negative emotions. However, it helps you to learn to deal with such feelings, to recognize, shape and control them. Don't let negativity overwhelm you, even if it seems everything is against you. Players who manage to stay calm after a bad board have an enormous advantage, in bridge and life, as you probably guessed.

There are so many things we can learn in bridge that apply to life, I think I could continue to write on this topic forever. In so many ways bridge reflects fairly the challenges, struggles, and relationships we encounter in ordinary life. Even if we do not put a particular effort into this knowledge transfer we may well spontaneously notice how bridge improved the way we think and behave. It is almost as if we have gained clear evidence of a general wisdom that most people are not entitled to.

About the Author

Tihana Brkljačić is a psychologist and a bridge player. She teaches psychology and bridge at Zagreb university. She represented Croatia at multiple European championships and at The World Championship (Wuhan cup) in 2022. As a psychologist, her main areas of interest are in quality of life, well-being and communication. Additionally, she studies the psychology of games (focusing on bridge in particular) and consults players on various topics.

Copyright: <https://news.bridgebase.com/2023/12/19/life-lessons-from-the-bridge-table/>

Article

Travel Insurance for Bridge Club Members

Many of my bridge playing friends have resumed international travel again as the risk and fear of Covid seems to be receding.

The ABF and TBIB Insurance provide Travel Insurance to Bridge Club Members. I heard about the insurance from bridge club friends who thought it was more cost effective and provided, for them, better insurance than other quotes they had received. Like all insurance, you need be aware of the small print, the exclusions clauses.

The travel insurance is designed for older, up to 90-year-old, international travellers. The cover can include existing health conditions. Depending on your pre-existing conditions you may have to pay an extra premium.

TBIB are excellent to deal with. Ensure that you get Doctors certificates etc. if you are overseas and keep all health or travel related receipts. You need be aware of the increased cost of travel insurance should you travel to the USA and Canada.

I have claimed twice on the policies bought via the ABF.

My suggestion is to compare what different insurance companies offer before buying travel insurance if you are an older traveller.

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/membership-benefits/insurance-products/>

Happy travelling.
Bob Laing (BobLa)

ABF TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY IS AVAILABLE AGAIN

ABF members, family and friends are again free to leave home and explore Australia and the rest of the world. Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB) have reinstated their travel insurance policy offer for bridge players (and their family and friends).

They offer annual multi-trip cover from 1st March to 28th February each year.
They also offer single trip insurance deals.

The insurance policies are available to travellers up to (and including) the age of 90, with the option to include cover for pre-existing medical conditions via a simple online application (brief online screening).

- Choose multi-trip or single trip cover, cover worldwide – and you can opt in or out of travel to the US and Canada for a premium saving
- Cover for travel in Australia and New Zealand
- Cruising included
- Unlimited medical expenses and emergency assistance
- 24-hour emergency assist
- Personal claims assistance, 24/7 based right here in Australia
- And if you contract Covid 19 while you're overseas, you have unlimited medical and emergency cover.

There is also enhanced Cruise Cover. The policy includes cruise cabin confinement cover, missed port cover, pre-paid shore excursion cover.



PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

To apply online: <https://abfinsurance.com.au/>
To phone TBIB: 07 3252 5254 (ask for Steve Weil)

Of course, you can also contact them about any other insurance need/enquiry (building and contents insurance, car insurance, business insurance etc.)

Monthly Awards: November 2023

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in November 2023</i>	Overall	1	60.98	13	Larry Bryant (Larry)
		2	60.87	6	Mark Hetherington (MarkHet)
		3	59.38	6	Ian Fraser (IanFras)
	Open	1	59.38	6	Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		2	58.27	18	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	58.2	23	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Restricted	1	57.28	9	Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor)
		2	56.45	13	Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	56.04	6	Steven Kemp (StevenK)
	Novice	1	59.36	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW)
		2	58.18	10	Joann Theriault (JoannT)
		3	56.94	9	Glen Chick (GlenC)
	Open IMPs	1	28	7	Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		2	22	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		3	20	6	John Bailey (JohnBail)
	Open	1	62.04	8	Larry Bryant (Larry)
Individual	2	59.71	7	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
	3	55.18	7	Julie Sheehan (JulieSh)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in November 2023</i>	Overall	1	60.16	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2	59.38	6	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	59.36	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW), Kerstin Gale (Kerstin)
	Open	1	60.16	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2	59.38	6	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	59.01	10	Florence Maltby (Florence), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
	Restricted	1	57.57	6	Rosemary Porter (RoseP), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		2	55.97	7	Frank Broos (FrankBro), Carlton Parker (Carlton)
		3	55.66	9	Colin Morrison (ColMor), Tien Chey (TienC)
	Novice	1	59.36	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW), Kerstin Gale (Kerstin)
		2	56.1	8	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Robert Ford (RobertFo)
		3	55.84	7	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Erik Moller (ErikM)
	Open IMPs	1	20	6	John Bailey (JohnBail), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		2	17	9	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander
	3	14	8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)	

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 prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in November 2023</i>	Overall	1		82	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		2		77	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		3		54	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
	Open	1		63	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		62	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		3		45	Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Restricted	1		28	Gek Low (GekL)
				28	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
		3		27	Peter Westmoreland (PeterWes)
	Novice	1		25	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
		2		23	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3		20	Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
	Open IMPs	1		9	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
				9	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				9	Bev Daniel (BevD)
				9	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)
				9	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
	Open	1		24	Chris Van Wyck (Wicky)
	Individual	2		22	Kay Anderson (KayA)
				22	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)

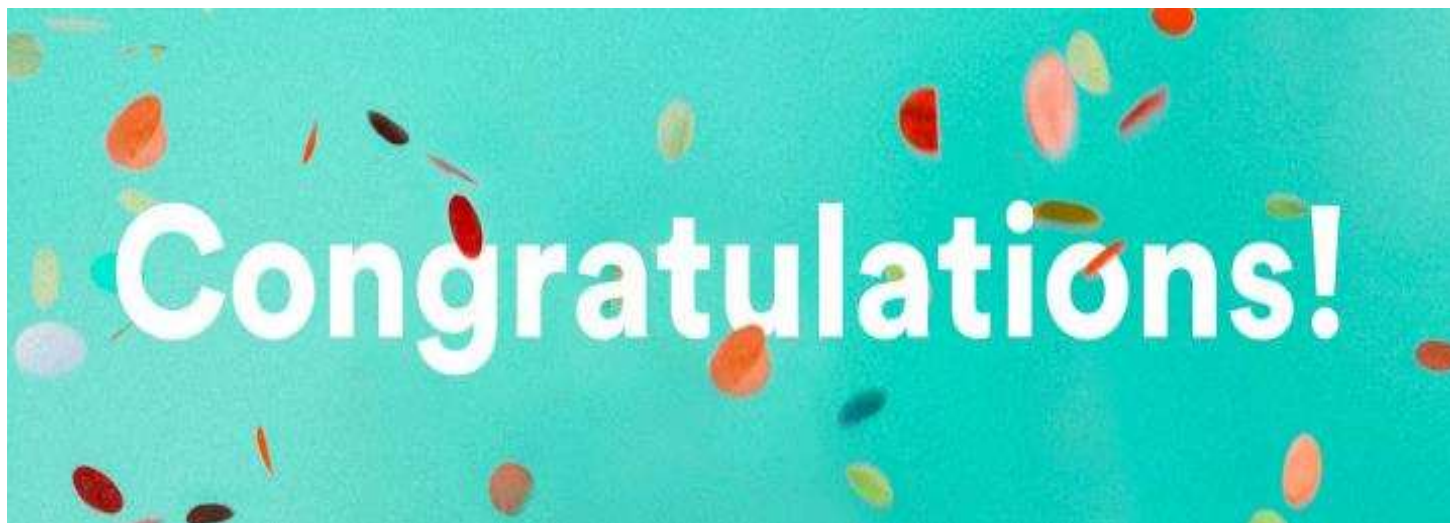
Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in November 2023</i>	Overall	1		25	Michelle Hill (MichellH), Keith Hill (KeithH)
		2		23	Mike McGlone (MikeMcG), Ron Wilkinson (RonWilk)
				23	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Open	1		23	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				23	Mike McGlone (MikeMcG), Ron Wilkinson (RonWilk)
		3		19	Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
	Restricted	1		19	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		2		13	Peter Westmoreland (PeterWes), Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)
		3		12	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
	Novice	1		17	Michelle Hill (MichellH), Keith Hill (KeithH)
		2		15	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		3		12	Cath Morrison (CathMor), Vera Boston (VeraB)
	Open IMPs	1		9	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		2		8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		3		7	Diva Hatfield (DivaH), Richard Gilbert (RichardG)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in November 2023</i>	Overall	1	8.64	7	Marie Clatworthy (MarieCla)
		2	6.99	6	Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	6.43	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW)
	Open	1	7.08	7	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)
		2	6.99	6	Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	5.42	9	Vinod Nasta (Vinod)
	Restricted	1	8.64	7	Marie Clatworthy (MarieCla)
		2	5.61	11	Barbara Bell (BarbaraR)
		3	5.35	6	David Alexander (DavidAl)
	Novice	1	7.28	10	Joann Theriault (JoannT)
		2	6.43	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW)
		3	4.74	9	Dianne Holst (DianneHo)
	Open IMPs	1	0.21	7	Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		2	0.17	6	Alan Puckey (AlanPuck)
		3	0.12	7	Maria Christensen (MariaCh)
Open	1	6.18	8	Larry Bryant (Larry)	
Individual	2	5.17	7	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
	3	4.3	11	Barb Power (BarbP)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in November 2023</i>	Overall	1	8.64	7	Barbara Bell (BarbaraR), Marie Clatworthy (MarieCla)
		2	6.99	6	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	6.43	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW), Kerstin Gale (Kerstin)
	Open	1	6.99	6	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		2	5.73	11	Denise Strain (DeniseSt), David Johnson (DavidJ)
		3	4.98	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Restricted	1	8.64	7	Barbara Bell (BarbaraR), Marie Clatworthy (MarieCla)
		2	5.35	6	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), David Alexander
		3	5.28	6	Len Pascoe (LenV), Agnes Marsh (AgnesMa)
	Novice	1	6.43	6	Kaye Waddell (KayeW), Kerstin Gale (Kerstin)
		2	3.03	11	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	2.75	8	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Robert Ford (RobertFo)
	Open IMPs	1	0.11	9	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		2	0.04	8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		3	0.02	6	John Bailey (JohnBail), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)

Masterpoint Promotions

November 2023

Abby Wanigaratne	Grand	Nick Armitage	State
Barb Evans	Bronze Life	Lyn Arnold	State
Mike Rival	Bronze Life	Joanne Saunders	State
John Grosvenor	Bronze Life	Dagmar D'arcy	State
Peter Lardy	Bronze Life	Terry Herfort	Bronze Regional
Herb Neumeister	Life	Bryan Meagher	Bronze Regional
Gail McKenzie	Life	Spencer Lam	Bronze Regional
Raman Jegatheesan	Life	Anne Francis	Bronze Regional
Warren Males	Life	Marie O'Sullivan	Regional
Wence Vahala	Silver National	Ann Kelley	Regional
Warren Cousins	Silver National	Vic Pietraszkiewicz	Silver Local
Tony Georgeson	Silver National	Allan Adams	Silver Local
Sue Shadbolt	Silver National	James Walcott	Silver Local
Stephen Calcroft	Bronze National	Mary Rose Ramsden	Silver Local
Sachiko Cathcart	Bronze National	Vicki Williamson	Silver Local
Lawrie Hall	Bronze National	Graeme Lean	Silver Local
David Num	Bronze National	Peter Ferguson	Silver Local
Wendy Harris	National	Bob Laing	Silver Local
Don Saunders	National	Robin Evans	Bronze Local
Sue Bateman	National	Kathy Hilder	Bronze Local
Julie Bryant	National	Christine Hollingsworth	Local
Moira Heath	National	Dennis Hilder	Local
Betty Anderson	Bronze State	David Alexander	Local
Micaela Vincent	Bronze State	Mike Dayman	Local
Bruce Kleem	Bronze State	Sue Bennett	Club
John Sarena	Bronze State	Helyn Davison	Club
Christine Egan	Bronze State	Jason Cooke	Club
Gary Wood	Bronze State	Fiona Johnston	Club
Robin Bishop	Bronze State	Lyn Gorham	Graduate
Sean Quinn	Bronze State	Cheryl Lloyd	Graduate



Monthly Awards: December 2023

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in December 2023</i>	Overall	1	58.06	34	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira)
		2	57.85	17	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		3	57.42	23	Dave Munro (DaveMunr)
	Open	1	57.85	17	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	57.83	29	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira)
		3	57.42	23	Dave Munro (DaveMunr)
	Restricted	1	57.33	7	Magdalena Kowalczyk (MagdeK)
		2	56.88	7	Sue Evershed (SueEv)
		3	56.36	8	Paul Smith (PaulSm)
	Novice	1	57	9	Ian Robson (IanRob)
			57	9	Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		3	54.85	15	Erik Moller (ErikM)
	Open IMPs	1	20	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		2	18	7	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		3	17	8	Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
Open	1	56.99	9	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
Individual	2	56.98	7	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)	
	3	55.15	20	Glen Chick (GlenC)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in December 2023</i>	Overall	1	59.02	8	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	58.11	20	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira), Dave Munro (DaveMunr)
		3	56.92	10	Sebastian Wright (SebW), Jeremy Reid (JeremyRe)
	Open	1	59.02	8	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	58.11	20	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira), Dave Munro (DaveMunr)
		3	56.92	10	Sebastian Wright (SebW), Jeremy Reid (JeremyRe)
	Restricted	1	57.33	7	Ann Sauer (AnnSauer), Magdalena Kowalczyk (MagdeK)
		2	56.88	7	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Sue Evershed (SueEv)
		3	56.36	8	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
	Novice	1	57	9	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		2	55.17	6	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	54.86	8	Sue Cornwell (SueCorn), Carmel Murphy (CarmelM)
	Open IMPs	1	12	6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		2	5	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		3	-5	7	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)

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 prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in December 2023</i>	Overall	1		84	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		2		82	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		3		62	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Open	1		65	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		57	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		3		47	Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
	Restricted	1		29	Peter Westmoreland (PeterWes)
		2		28	Micaela Vincent (MicaelaV)
		3		21	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)
	Novice	1		24	Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
		2		23	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3		22	Toni Arnott (ToniAr)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
				8	Noel Daniel (NoeIDa)
				8	Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)
	Open	1		27	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual	2		24	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
		3		20	Glen Chick (GlenC)

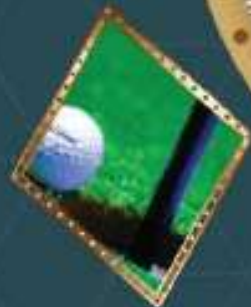
Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in December 2023</i>	Overall	1		30	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
		2		28	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		3		25	Gillian Bugeaney (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
	Open	1		27	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
		2		25	Gillian Bugeaney (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
		3		21	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick
	Restricted	1		17	Peter Westmoreland (PeterWes), Denise McTaggart (DeniseM)
		2		14	Margaret Barker (MargBa), Judith Ann Francis (JudithF)
		3		11	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Novice	1		15	Wendy Dodd (WendyDod), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
		2		14	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3		12	Cath Morrison (CathMor), Vera Boston (VeraB)
	Open IMPs	1		7	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
				6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourns	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in December 2023</i>	Overall	1	8.16	6	Debbie Jerkovic (DebbieJ)
		2	8.02	6	Vicki Lee (VickiL)
		3	6.28	6	Kaylee Lemon (Kaylee)
	Open	1	5.59	9	Bev Cleary (BevClea)
		2	5.48	8	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		3	5	7	Jay Novak (JayN)
	Restricted	1	5.26	8	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS)
			5.26	8	Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
		3	4.92	6	John Kelly (JohnKell)
	Novice	1	6.69	11	Frances Pope (FrancesP)
		2	4.71	9	Keith Hill (KeithH)
		3	3.75	15	Erik Moller (ErikM)
	Open IMPs	1	0.18	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		2	0.17	6	Alex Glikin (AlexGlik)
		3	0.12	7	Maria Ruttiman (MariaRu)
Open	1	6.64	7	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)	
Individual	2	3.75	6	Jurate Laisve (JurateL)	
	3	3.48	20	Glen Chick (GlenC)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in December 2023</i>	Overall	1	8.62	7	Julie Barker (JulieBar), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
		2	8.02	6	Debbie Jerkovic (DebbieJ), Vicki Lee (VickiL)
		3	5.26	8	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
	Open	1	4.08	6	Mukesh Parekh (Mukesh), Ken Hubbell (KenHu)
		2	3.95	20	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira), Dave Munro (DaveMunr)
		3	3.75	6	Sue Thomas (SueT), Mal Clark (MalCl)
	Restricted	1	5.26	8	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
		2	3.72	11	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
		3	3.7	7	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Robert Ford (RobertFo)
	Novice	1	7.84	6	Julie Barker (JulieBar), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
		2	3.16	9	Michelle Hill (MichellH), Keith Hill (KeithH)
		3	2.52	9	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
	Open IMPs	1	0.08	6	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)

Masterpoint Promotions

December 2023

Hope Tomlinson	Grand	Ray Carbuhn	Bronze Regional
Diana Ellis	Gold Life	Graham Woof	Regional
Sue Beckman	Silver Life	Brian Pridham	Regional
Val Dawson	Silver Life	Robyn Esdale	Regional
Laurie Money	Silver Life	Colin McGregor	Regional
Michael McTiernan	Silver Life	Angela Carroll	Silver Local
Jake Andrew	Silver Life	Wendy Dodd	Silver Local
John McMullan	Silver Life	Phil Kay	Silver Local
Murray Paterson	Bronze Life	Colin Meek	Silver Local
Pauline Moore	Silver National	Jan Madden	Silver Local
Claire Stammel	Silver National	Tim Christie	Silver Local
John Delaney	Silver National	Richard Jones	Silver Local
Rosemary Porter	Bronze National	John Mitchell	Silver Local
Eugene McClorey	Bronze National	Margaret Cusack	Bronze Local
David Badger	Bronze National	Neville Hind	Bronze Local
Simon Tissera	Bronze National	Joan Lenehan	Bronze Local
Vicki Lee	National	Lucy D'Ambrosio	Bronze Local
Alex Glikin	National	Christina Buell	Bronze Local
Anne Heyes	National	Maureen Reddy	Bronze Local
Brian Wawn	National	Margaret Manning	Bronze Local
Peter Munro	National	John Watson	Bronze Local
Janice Carter	National	Dianne Holst	Bronze Local
Ron Wilkinson	Bronze State	Hafizur Khan	Local
Steven Kemp	Bronze State	Cheryl Field	Local
Pam Ward	Bronze State	Robert Ford	Local
Mike Morrissey	Bronze State	Sandy Tawa	Local
Keith Brinck	Bronze State	Felicity Jensen	Local
Jenny Muscio	Bronze State	Glenys Rousell	Local
Joann Theriault	Bronze State	Julie Fowler	Club
Jeremy Reid	Bronze State	Michelle Hill	Club
Conny Szency	Bronze State	Maree Williams	Club
Kathryn Beggs	State	Jay Bonnington	Club
Peter Millington	State	Keith Hill	Graduate
Margaret Wayland	State	Bobby Cooley	Graduate
Ange Bettess	State	Heather Spencer	Graduate
Marg Ferguson	State	Sonya Baker	Graduate
Toni Arnott	State		
Erik Moller	State		
Toni Paramore	State		
Miriam O'Brien	State		
Ann Kelley	State		
Becky Clough	State		



62nd International
GOLD COAST
BRIDGE CONGRESS

— 2024 —

February
Sunday 18th to
Saturday 24th

GOLD COAST CONVENTION
CENTRE, BROADBEACH

Kim Ellaway · manager@qldbridge.com.au
+61 412 064 903 · +61 7 3351 8602
qldbridge.com.au/gcc





Visit Adelaide for the
2024 Autumn Nationals

Thursday 2nd May - Monday 6th May 2024

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

Gold Masterpoints awarded

PQPs in Open and Mixed events

David Lusk Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)

Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)

Final only on Monday - no Consolation

Tournament Organiser: Barbara Travis

Phone: 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@sabf.asn.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF





Play like Legends Live like Locals

2024 Australian National Bridge
Championships and Butler

Including the inaugural
Central West Festival of Bridge

6th – 18th July 2024
Orange NSW

Funnies Column

Thank you to Phillip Douglas (PhillipP) for sending through Funnies for the newsletter this month.



"You know, Ernie, I can't help this feeling that I'm just another day older and deeper in debt."



**YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU BUY A BAG
OF SALAD & IT
GETS ALL BROWN
& SOGGY?
COOKIES DON'T
DO THAT**



StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 50 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 75 Participation Points

Session Times

All sessions are Pairs unless otherwise stated.

Open: 1pm (Monday - Saturday)

2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

4pm (Monday - Saturday)

8pm (Tuesday-Sunday)

Open Individual: 10am (Everyday)

Open Teams: 8pm (Monday)

Restricted: 1.15pm (Monday - Saturday)

2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

7.45pm (Wednesday & Friday)

Novice: 2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

4.10pm (Monday - Saturday)

7.45pm (Tuesday & Thursday)

IMPs Sessions

Tuesday: 8pm Open

Thursday: 8pm 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/

Upcoming Red Point Sessions

January

Sunday 14 January

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 15 January

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Friday 19 January

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 21 January

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Wednesday 24 January

– 10.00am Open Individual

Friday 26 January

– 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Sunday 28 January

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

February

Thursday 1 February

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Sunday 4 February

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 5 February

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Saturday 10 February

– 10.00am Open Individual

Sunday 11 February

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Wednesday 14 February

– 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Thursday 16 February

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Sunday 18 February

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Thursday 22 February

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 25 February

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 26 February

– 10.00am Open Individual

Thursday 29 February

– 7.45pm Novice & 8.00pm Open