

April 2024

Message from the President

Dear members,

We held our first Congress for 2024 on Saturday 13 April and Sunday 14 April. The Sunday was our first all day Teams Congress. There were a couple of hiccups with the Masterpoints displayed during and following the congress. However, these were rectified within a couple of days. Many thanks, as usual, for all that were involved in the running of the Congress. This includes our TDs, Alan Bustany and Chris Snook, as well as Cassandra Mitchell for processing the entries. Thank you also to everyone who played in the congress and congratulations to the winners which appear later in the newsletter.

Also congratulations goes to those who featured in the results at the Gold Coast Congress in February. Photos of some of the placegetters feature in this newsletter. While talking the GCC, thank you to those who attended the hospitality event on the Thursday evening. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. The plan for the Gold Coast hospitality event in 2025 is to make it a subsidised paid ticketed event with a dedicated room/space. This will allow more of our members to attend compared to the limit of 50 people in the current format. If you would like to be involved in the organising of this evening, please send an email to support@stepbridge.com.au

The Autumn Nationals are next week in Adelaide. To those playing, good luck and I hope to catch up with many of you during the congress. StepBridge is sponsoring the Under Grand and Under Life Pairs and Teams. We will also have a sponsors table where players can come up and ask any questions regarding StepBridge. There will be flyers for interested players to take and we will have a screen which will display either our club website or a current StepBridge session running, so as to demonstrate how the platform looks and operates. If any members would be willing to assist at the sponsors table, please let me know.



Committee

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Message from the President cont.

Similar, it is not too late if StepBridge members would like to get-together after play one day for drinks and a meal during the Autumn Nationals. If interested in the idea, email support@stepbridge.com.au Any Adelaide locals with location ideas, please let me know.

Similar to the Autumn Nationals, we are planning a sponsors table for the Central West Festival of Bridge during the Australian National Championships in Orange. If anyone attending Orange would be willing to assist at the sponsors table, please let me know.

The StepBridge IT department have done some good work in the background to improve our Audio Video software. Next Monday Night, 29 April, the 8pm Teams session will be free with Red Masterpoints using the Audio Video interface. The IT department will be on hand to check the fruits of their labour so let's make it a big night, support our club's endeavours and enjoy a free Red Masterpoint Session as a bonus.

At the last Committee meeting Greg McCarron (GregMc) was appointed by the Committee to fill the vacancy we had. Thank you, Greg, for agreeing to coming onto the Committee. Greg has been contacting some of our new players to ensure that are comfortable with the platform and if they have any questions. Also, Greg is going to assist me with preparing the club newsletter. At the same time, thank you to all Committee Members, Tournament Directors and Club Members for your contribution to our club.

Finally, a reminder that at StepBridge Australia we have zero tolerance for bad behaviour and take this very seriously. Law 74 states " A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game". We have had a few situations lately which have involved either speaking with players or writing to them. Even though you might be behind a screen, it is no excuse for remarks that cause annoyance or embarrassment to other players. Therefore, please be careful what you say at the table.

Happy Bridging
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)



CLUB PLAYING NUMBERS

Apr 2023		Mar 2023	9,092	Feb 2024	8,982	Jan 2024	10,610
Dec 2023	10,065	Nov 2023	9,345	Oct 2023	9,318	Sep 2023	8,952
Aug 2023	9,382	Jul 2023	9,924	Jun 2023	8,698	May 2023	8,858
Apr 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	Sep 2022	8,594
Aug 2022	9,631	Jul 2022	10,344	Jun 2022	9,322	May 2022	9,980
Apr 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	Sep 2021	13,660

New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play in February, March and first half of April, 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

AnneH	AntonP	Johanna	JohnCh	JudyPhil	LizMcM
LynettCr	RickR	RobGr	StephenH	Tamara	WendyHop

RESTRICTED

BevL	ChrisRa	IanMo	Jasmine	JulieMcW	LindaW
StephenS	WolfG				

NOVICE

AlexiaY	AnnaM	AnneSom	AnnetteV	AnnieL	Bernard1
Cherryl	Christi3	ColeenE	DavidSim	DebraS	DennisM
DianeH	ErisBr	EvaRo	GlennF	GreerF	Janelle2
JoyM	JoySt	JudeBur	Julia	JulieBra	JulieNo
KateMcC	KimM	LauraBes	LeonieW	LidyS	LouiseL
LukeS	MargarG	Marilyn2	MaryAll	MaryB	MarylynD
Michael3	MichellM	NigelS	PeterDe	Rebecca2	Richard3
SamanthR	SarahF	SherrilH	Shirley3	SueEm	SureshK
SusanHer	SylviaVR	TerinaLB	TimMcW	ZhanW	

Message from the Treasurer

Just a few reminders to everyone ...

- Please don't add extra \$ amounts even if you are late! Just pay the exact amount due.
- Don't use old reference numbers which might pop up on your banking page, every payment (either for pps 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.
- We are aware that many banks are now encouraging customers to use an ATM to make deposits rather than over the counter. In many cases, we don't receive any identifying reference or name at our end for these ATM deposits, so please insist on this being included or let us know in advance.
- We will only send you a reminder if we haven't received a payment, so if you do get a reminder when you think you have paid, please email us instead of ignoring it. This is the only time we need a copy of your payment receipt – don't just automatically check the box to send one when you make a payment.



Happy Bridging everyone
Suzi Ledger (Suzi)

Email from the Gold Coast Congress Convenor

Hi Chris,

I hope this email finds you keeping well.

I would like to thank you and StepBridge for your on-going generous Sponsorship of the Gold Coast Open Teams.

I have included the photo of four (out of 6) Open Teams winners after their win on Saturday.

Thank you again, and StepBridge for making this Sponsorship possible, it is very much appreciated by all connected with the Gold Coast Congress.

Cheers,

Tim



Congress Results

Gold Coast Congress

2nd - Under 500 Monday Butler Swiss Pairs



Steve Colling & Mary Colling

1st - Restricted Pairs Final A



Tony Georgeson & Tina Hesketh

2nd - Restricted Teams



Brenda Campbell - Eve Clarkson - Sandra Velling - Joann Theriault

2nd - Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs Intermediate

Ken Hubbell & Lalita Kanetkar



Congress Results

StepBridge April Congress

Open Pairs

- 1st Florence Maltby & Philip Bapty
- 2nd Judy Havas & Ken Smith
- 3rd Simon Tissera & Arjuna De Livera

Restricted Pairs

- 1st David Cumming & Mike Morrissey
- 2nd Sa Smith & Paul Smith
- 3rd Erik Moller & Toni Arnott
- Best Novice Sue Mittermair & Astrid Korfgen

Open Teams

- 1st Barbara Williams, Megan Grant, Sue Martin & Jinny Fuss
- 2nd Dianna Middleton, Michael McTiernan, Florence Maltby & Robyn Pearce
- 3rd Herb Neumeister, Richard Arnold, Judy Wilkinson & Frank Campbell
- Best Restricted John Simmonds & Sachiko Cathcart & Trish Berry & Sue Evershed

Gold Coast Congress Hospitality Evening



Some photos from the StepBridge Hospitality Evening during the Gold Coast Congress

Novice Corner

For all Novice players

How about a quiz?

What can you work out from the following bidding patterns? The Opps open the bidding for both hands. You bid and your partner passes in both hands.

Get a pen and paper and jot your thoughts down to see how we fare.



Bidding

Your hand, in both boards is, 4S, 4H, 3D and 2C with 10 hcp and you are the second player in both hands.

The first hand is ...

Opps opens bidding	You	Opp's partner	Your partner
1C	P	2C	P
P	???		

The second hand is ...

Opps opens bidding	You	Opp's partner	Your partner
1C	P	1NT	P
P	???		

What are you going to do? What is your job? Roll over and give up? Never. You are there to make it difficult for the Opps. There is little fun in defending a 1NT or 2C contract.

Let's us consider what the bidding tells us about the hands. I will ask you some questions. Please jot your responses down and then you can review my thoughts on page 27 of this newsletter.

1. How many hcp does the Opener have and what can you tell me about the shape of that hand?
2. How many hcp does the Opener's partner have and what do you know about the shape of that hand?
3. Your partner has passed. How many hcp points does P have?
4. What does the bidding tell you about the distribution of hcp in the four hands?
5. Check the vulnerability. When your side is not vulnerable.

You are the last bidder, what are you going to do? No, the answer is not, 'go for a cuppa'.

How can you make it difficult for the Opps? What could you bid?

You could Double, even without an opening hand? Your partner knows that. You passed earlier. You are asking Partner to bid his or her best suit. Once partner bids 2 of something, you pass as that is the suit. Suddenly the Opps are defending.

6. What if you are vulnerability? Should you double? What is your response?

Have you jotted down your answers? Now go to page 27.

There is a video at the end of my answers. What did you think of the video?

Article

Do You Know Where Our Bridge 'Sweet Spot' Is?

You know we play on StepBridge in a blissful state of mind. Well, we do so when no absolute disasters have happened because of those darn mistakes that we seem to make!!

So, most of us do not even think about something mysterious happening each time we play Bridge. It happens tournament after tournament, day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year.

Did you know that there are 'fairies' disguised as computer programs, who work in the background, eventually toiling away in the 'vaults' of the ABF after each tournament? They bring 'love' to us Bridge players not just in springtime but through all four seasons. Love in the form of masterpoints.



Masterpoints are paid when awarded by each club for two types of sessions, Green point sessions and Red point sessions. Different charges are made by the ABF, the Green points cost less. Why give us masterpoints? What good are they? What masterpoints do is firstly provide a revenue source to the ABF so that it can continue to promote and manage Bridge in a professional efficient manner.

But secondly, they create a way of ranking all Bridge players because Bridge whilst perfectly enjoyable, is completely, utterly without question, competitive in nature.

Our Bridge journey is like a pleasant stroll through a Bavarian mountain forest interspaced with lovely Green glades. Each glade is when we arrive at a new 'promotion' point in our Bridge journey. When we begin our Bridge journey, we start to receive little certificates that tell us we have passed milestones in accumulating these points at this new glade. More glades are visited at the early stages. Below at 100 masterpoints, is where you find the 'Restricted' glade.....



Welcome to 'Restricted'

The points themselves, frankly, do not appear to mean very much but they are essential because moving through the different stages enables the various Bridge players to play in groups with similar levels of experience. Three large glades exist where the groups meet.

Article

Do You Know Where Our Bridge 'Sweet Spot' Is? (continued)

As you know the three levels or groups, are Novices, Restricted and Open. At StepBridge we are very fortunate indeed, because we have such a large body of members that we can have spirited competitions at the three levels just about every day.

Is there danger in the forest? When you start playing you are aware of a mysterious group of shadowy creatures who play Bridge who are known as 'Grand Masters.' *Did you know that apparently, they lie in wait, deep in the forest, ready to pounce on less experienced players as you stroll peacefully along a relaxing pathway amongst leafy trees?* Well, that is the folklore anyway. The truth is different.

In reality Grand Master players are just like you and I but have been playing for much longer. They are people who, by the time they get to the higher levels, just simply make less mistakes when playing. They do better at Bridge and that is what is expected of them.

Over time you receive more and more Green points and then, 'lo and behold' some Red points and these come less often. You hear about a third type of point known as 'Gold' points which you earn when playing at specified national events which are scattered around Australia.

You start to think through the entire process. You wonder where each forest pathway could be leading you?

Advancement requires a combination of Green, Red and 'Gold' points to get you up the ABF ladder. Well, I can tell you that there is a 'Sweet Spot' available to all Bridge players on this journey through the forest. It is the place where the grass is greenest, where the trees are less challenging and where those fairies in the ABF system leave you feeling good about yourself. This 'Sweet Spot' arises because the challenge to accumulate more points gets even more difficult after you go past this level and it is nice at that stage for all who find the 'Sweet Spot' just to sit back and relax and play more Bridge.

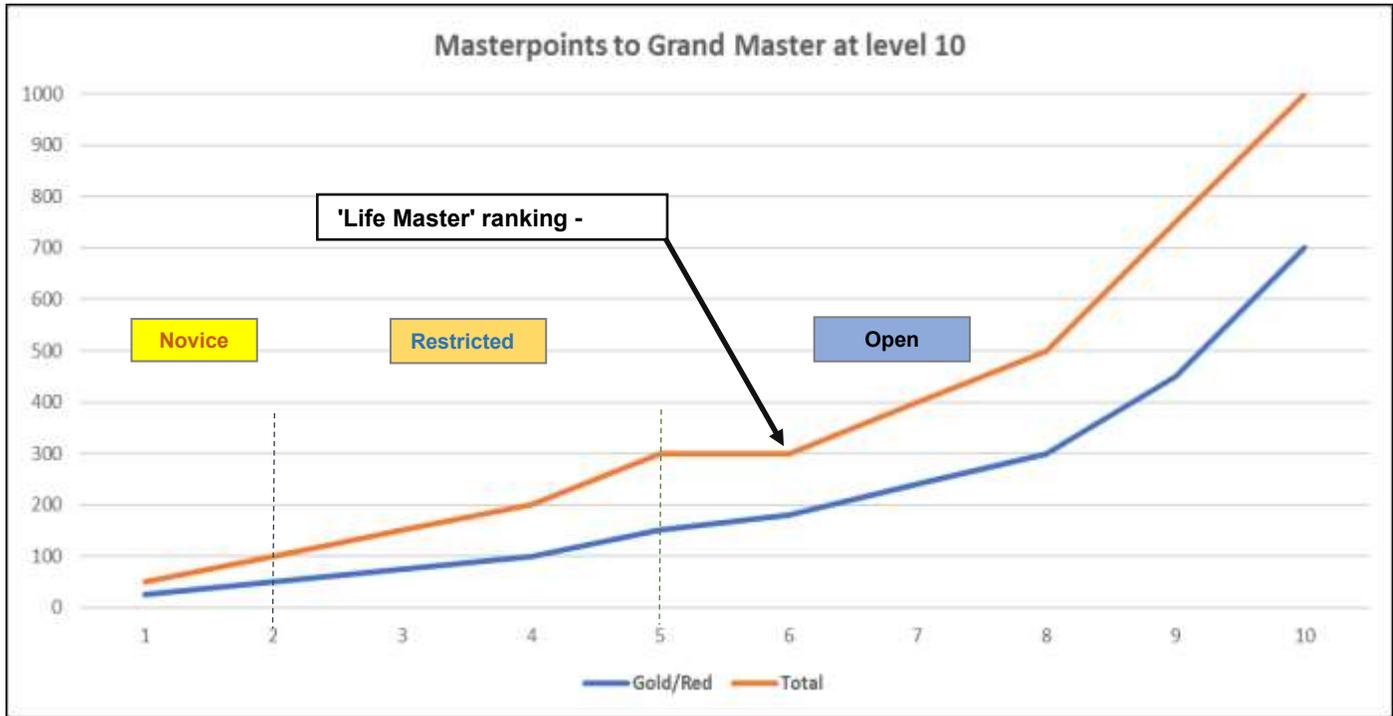
The 'Sweet Spot' for all Bridge players is when they reach 'Life Master' status.

Why is that so? Well, to rise up the ranks from stage **#6 in the chart below** means that the multiple of Gold and Red points doubles. From #5 to #6 thirty Gold and Red points are needed but from #6 to #7 sixty Gold and Red points are needed. The mountain side in the forest becomes very steep. Achieving Grand Master status requires a whopping seven hundred Gold and Red points. The fairies will have been just so busy getting you there.

Enjoy the 'Sweet Spot' when you reach it.

Article

Do You Know Where Our Bridge 'Sweet Spot' Is? (continued)



	GM										Above GM
Rankings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Gold/Red	25	50	75	100	150	180	240	300	450	700	1900
Total	50	100	150	200	300	300	400	500	750	1000	2500
	Novice		Restricted			Open					

Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor)

Article

Do You Really Have the Heart To Do This?

(You will have if you live in the only real and proper Bridge World, not that nasty one).

What a lovely hand I had sitting South.

S – Nervous Me (who cannot believe what he sees)

♠ -

♥ A K Q 9 7 4 2

♦ A K J 9 2

♣ J

East opened 1C. What do I bid?

I looked at my opponents and noticed that my kind and generous nemesis my Resourceful (LHO) opponent was again sitting on my left and that made me feel incredibly happy.

What do I want my partner to have in her hand, and is there a bid I want her to make?

In our ideal World my partner will have the Ace of Clubs, three hearts and the Queen of Diamonds.

Wow, if that were the case we could have 7H or 7NT!

But East has opened 1C, so chances are East – my Likeable RHO, will have the Ace of Clubs.

A Grand Slam with 13 tricks is out of the question unless my partner has a void in Clubs and some Hearts to trump any opening Club lead, and that combination is not likely!

What is the point of doubling to force my Marvellous Partner to bid?

None at all because partner is most likely to bid spades.

What is the point of bidding 4H? You will get 10 tricks easily and my Resourceful LHO will have bidding space to bid 5C and they may even have a 12 trick small slam just waiting to be recorded. But then they may bid 6C and with my hand go light and I may double. They would then feel 'saddened.' I do not want them to feel saddened.

Please believe me 'I did have the necessary Heart' and was sincere, and earnest and wanted to save my Likeable RHO and my Resourceful LHO from not getting their contract and feeling embarrassment at going light. Bridge is a caring supportive, generous, non-competitive social pastime, where the prime objective is making opponents feel good about their game. Hence it is important 'to have a Heart.'

So, solely in the interests of Bridge harmony the only bid to make is 6H.

West passed, my partner passed and so did East. West led the 10 Clubs.

¹ There is a parallel universe, I understand, where people do not have a heart when playing Bridge, all they want to do is out-play their opponents. Difficult to believe but true. What a tough World that must be.

Article

Do You Really Have the Heart To Do This? (continued)

Here are my two hands.

N – Marvellous Partner

♠ A K 4 3
♥ 6 5
♦ 7 5
♣ 8 7 6 5 3

So here I am in 6H and I have good tricks in dummy but cannot immediately get them.

S – Nervous Me

-
♥ A K Q 9 7 4 2
♦ A K J 9 2
♣ J

I have two choices 1. allow myself to go light and make my opponents happy, which is what the good people of this Bridge World would do, or 2. 'forget about my Heart' and get my 12 tricks.

I confess, I went out of character and broke the golden rule of kindness in our Bridge World. I did not 'make my opponents happy' and I got my 12 tricks for a good score to us.

I lose the first trick to the ace of Clubs held by my Likeable RHO.
There are three Hearts and six Diamonds in my opponent's hands.
I trump the return of a Club and now have to make a big decision.
It would be nice if I had a Spade but I do not.

Shall I draw trumps and go for the Queen of Diamond drop? For that to work the Diamonds would have to be split XX and XXXX, which would be nice but less likely.
I decide to improve the odds in my favour.
It may be more likely that the Diamonds are split XXX and XXX?
I hope so.

Bridge is a risk no matter what you do.
So, I played the Ace and King of Diamonds and then played a small Diamond and trumped it in dummy. It held! So, Diamonds were split XXX and XXX. Brilliant.
I had trumped the Queen and so my contract was secure.
I did not need the Ace and King of Spades!
I played the remaining Heart drawing the Trumps and played my winning Diamonds.

Article

Do You Really Have the Heart To Do This? (continued)

I did feel guilty that I had secured my contract and was mortified that I enjoyed the feeling. Oh dear, my Bridge World is becoming like that other place which is supposed to exist. Hungry and competitive.

Apologies, I did not 'have a Heart' to let them beat us.

Here were the four hands.

	N – Marvellous Partner	
	♠ A K 4 3	
	♥ 6 5	
	♦ 7 5	
	♣ 8 7 6 5 3	
W - Resourceful LHO		E - Likeable RHO
♠ Q J 10 9 6 5 2		♠ 8 7
♥ 8		♥ J 10 3
♦ 10 6 3		♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 9		♣ A K Q 4 2
	S – Nervous me	
	♠ -	
	♥ A K Q 9 7 4 2	
	♦ A K J 9 2	
	♣ J	

Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor)

Monthly Awards: February 2024

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in February 2024</i>	Overall	1	60.51	6	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		2	59.2	6	Rod Binsted (RodBin)
		3	58.2	6	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa)
	Open	1	60.51	6	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		2	59.2	6	Rod Binsted (RodBin)
		3	58.2	6	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa)
	Restricted	1	55.94	9	Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		2	55.23	6	Frank Broos (FrankBro)
		3	55.13	14	Ann Sauer (AnnSauer)
	Novice	1	57.86	8	Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
		2	56.21	6	Gek Low (GekL)
		3	56	14	Donna Coleman (DonnaC)
	Open IMPs	1	26	8	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		2	24	6	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
			24	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
Open	1	56.58	9	Christopher Johnston (ChrisJoh)	
Individual	2	56.38	7	Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)	
	3	55.19	8	Julie Sheehan (JulieSh)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in February 2024</i>	Overall	1	58.2	6	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		2	57.85	6	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van der hoek (RobertV)
		3	57.72	6	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
	Open	1	58.2	6	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		2	57.85	6	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van der hoek (RobertV)
		3	57.72	6	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
	Restricted	1	55.94	9	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		2	55.06	6	Dianne Henry (DianneH), Isabel Cowled (IsabelC)
		3	54.29	6	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Sue Evershed (SueEv)
	Novice	1	57.86	8	Graeme Fraser (GraemeF), Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
		2	55.76	7	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
		3	55	10	Donna Coleman (DonnaC), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
	Open IMPs	1	36	6	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		2	24	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		3	22	6	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 February 2024</i>	Overall	1		77	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		75	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		3		59	George Arif (GeorgeA)
	Open	1		61	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		56	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		3		45	Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
	Restricted	1		28	Micaela Vincent (MicaelaV)
		2		24	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda)
		3		23	Colin Morrison (ColMor)
	Novice	1		25	Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
		2		23	Helen Thomas (HelenT)
		3		22	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
	Open IMPs	1		9	Maria Ruttiman (MariaRu)
				9	Brenda McClean (Brenda)
		3		8	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
	Open	1		27	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual	2		26	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
		3		18	Sue Thomas (SueT)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in February 2024</i>	Overall	1		28	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		27	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
				24	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Open	1		22	Mike McGlone (MikeMcG), Ron Wilkinson (RonWilk)
				21	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
		3		20	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Restricted	1		17	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		2		15	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		3		15	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Novice	1		15	Michelle Hill (MichellH), Keith Hill (KeithH)
		2		11	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree), John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3		10	Donna Coleman (DonnaC), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		7	Alan Puckey (AlanPuck), Joscelyn Charters (Joscelyn)
		3		7	Diva Hatfield (DivaH), Richard Gilbert (RichardG)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in February 2024</i>	Overall	1	6.88	15	Jude Brown (JudeB)
		2	5.56	6	Judith Crafti (JudithCr)
		3	5.52	6	Dianne Henry (DianneH)
	Open	1	5.56	6	Judith Crafti (JudithCr)
		2	5.31	6	Rod Binsted (RodBin)
		3	4.89	7	Barbara Bell (BarbaraR)
	Restricted	1	8.43	10	Mal Hughes (MalH)
		2	3.94	6	Isabel Cowled (IsabelC)
		3	3.76	6	Dianne Henry (DianneH)
	Novice	1	7.92	6	Gek Low (GekL)
		2	5.71	8	Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
		3	5.04	9	Patricia Fulton (PatFul)
	Open IMPs	1	0.32	7	Sarah Gaunt (SarahGa)
			0.32	6	Megan Cornelius (MeganCor)
		3	0.21	7	Mal Clark (MalCl)
Open	1	6.04	8	Greg McCarron (GregMc)	
Individual	2	5.35	7	Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)	
	3	3.98	9	Christopher Johnston (ChrisJoh)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in February 2024</i>	Overall	1	5.27	6	Denise Strain (DeniseSt), Sue Martin (SueMarti)
		2	4.97	11	Donna Coleman (DonnaC), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
		3	4.88	9	Graeme Fraser (GraemeF), Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
	Open	1	5.27	6	Denise Strain (DeniseSt), Sue Martin (SueMarti)
		2	4.41	6	David Johnson (DavidJ), Florence Gibbons (FloGibbo)
		3	3.65	6	Tim Davis (TimD), David Randles (DavidRan)
	Restricted	1	3.94	6	Dianne Henry (DianneH), Isabel Cowled (IsabelC)
		2	3.52	17	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		3	3.29	6	David Petterson (DavidPe), Bev Petterson (BevPett)
	Novice	1	6.06	8	Graeme Fraser (GraemeF), Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
		2	4.78	9	Patricia Fulton (PatFul), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
		3	4.32	10	Donna Coleman (DonnaC), Frances Pope (FrancesP)
	Open IMPs	1	0.32	6	Megan Cornelius (MeganCor), Sarah Gaunt (SarahGa)
		2	0.13	6	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3	0.11	6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)

Monthly Awards: March 2024

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in March 2024</i>	Overall	1	58.96	9	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV)
		2	58.26	8	John Friesen (JohnFri)
		3	57.47	19	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira)
	Open	1	58.96	9	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV)
		2	57.47	19	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira)
		3	57.2	7	Deborah McLay (DeborahM)
	Restricted	1	56.66	17	David Cumming (DavidCum)
		2	56.62	7	Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		3	56.14	12	Margaret Lyne (MargL)
	Novice	1	57.61	13	Toni Arnott (ToniAr)
		2	56.83	15	Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	56.58	6	Peter Sate (PeterSe)
	Open IMPs	1	33	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		2	23	6	Alan Puckey (AlanPuck)
		3	21	6	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
Open	1	58.75	7	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
Individual	2	56.64	6	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)	
	3	55.94	6	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in February 2024</i>	Overall	1	61.11	6	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	57.57	15	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira), Dave Munro
		3	57.33	6	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)
	Open	1	61.11	6	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	57.57	15	Gwyneira Brahma (Gwyneira), Dave Munro
		3	57.2	7	Ian Michelson (IanMich), Deborah McLay
	Restricted	1	57.33	6	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)
		2	56.73	12	Steven Kemp (StevenK), David Cumming (DavidCum)
		3	56.62	7	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
	Novice	1	58.67	6	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Erik Moller (ErikM)
		2	54.88	6	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Robert Ford (RobertFo)
		3	54.09	13	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	10	6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		2	9	6	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
		3	6	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 prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in March 2024</i>	Overall	1		84	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		77	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		3		60	Dot Slattery (DotS)
	Open	1		66	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		61	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		3		47	Marcey Spilsbury (MarceySp)
	Restricted	1		27	Beryl Morris (BeryIM)
		2		24	Tien Chey (TienC)
		3		23	Savitri Newman (Savitri)
	Novice	1		32	Helen Thomas (HelenT)
		2		25	Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
		3		23	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				8	Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)
				8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
				8	Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				8	Robert Stammel (RobS)
	Open	1		31	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual	2		29	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
		3		27	Dot Slattery (DotS)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in March 2024</i>	Overall	1		29	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				29	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3		23	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Open	1		29	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
		2		21	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				21	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Restricted	1		22	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
		2		14	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		3		14	Margaret Barker (MargBa), Judith Ann Francis (JudithF)
	Novice	1		16	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree), John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		2		13	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3		8	Patricia Fulton (PatFul), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2		7	Eva Samuel (EvaSam), Shirley Collins (ShirleyC)
		3		6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in March 2024</i>	Overall	1	7.21	9	Lorraine Vanyai (LorrainV)
		2	6.51	6	Patricia McNamara (PatM>Nama)
			6.51	6	Joanne Sklarz (JoanneS)
	Open	1	6.51	6	Patricia McNamara (PatM>Nama)
			6.51	6	Joanne Sklarz (JoanneS)
		3	6.25	7	Deborah McLay (DeborahM)
	Restricted	1	5.48	7	Robyn Wells (RobynW)
		2	4.9	9	Lorraine Vanyai (LorrainV)
		3	4.51	11	Helen Thomas (HelenT)
	Novice	1	5.18	10	Danny Rhodes (DannyRh)
		2	4.98	10	Greg McCarron (GregMc)
		3	4.39	20	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
	Open IMPs	1	0.3	6	Alan Puckey (AlanPuck)
		2	0.29	6	Alex Glikin (AlexGlik)
		3	0.19	6	Sarah Gaunt (SarahGa)
Open	1	5.36	11	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)	
Individual	2	4.38	8	John Kelly (JohnKell)	
	3	3.86	13	Barb Power (BarbP)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in March 2024</i>	Overall	1	6.51	6	Joanne Sklarz (JoanneS), Patricia McNamara (PatM>Nama)
		2	6.25	7	Ian Michelson (IanMich), Deborah McLay (DeborahM)
		3	5.47	10	Midge Spice (MidgeS), Lynda Bennion (LynLynda)
	Open	1	6.51	6	Joanne Sklarz (JoanneS), Patricia McNamara (PatM>Nama)
		2	6.25	7	Ian Michelson (IanMich), Deborah McLay (DeborahM)
		3	4.74	11	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
	Restricted	1	5.47	10	Midge Spice (MidgeS), Lynda Bennion (LynLynda)
		2	3.94	6	Christine Neale (ChrisNe), Lynette Sawtell (LynetteS)
		3	3.89	12	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)
	Novice	1	5.11	16	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree), John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		2	3.79	6	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	2.36	13	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
Open IMPs	1	0.01	6	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)	

Masterpoint Promotions

February 2024

Amber Noonan	Grand	Katrina Will	National
Ian Michelson	Gold Life	Kevin Riordan	National
Alan Cransberg	Gold Life	Colin Morrison	Bronze State
Leo Saoud	Gold Life	Marina Green	Bronze State
Shayne Palfreyman	Silver Life	Ludo Onstein	Bronze State
Barbara O'Shea	Silver Life	Katherine Marsden	Bronze State
Jeanette Weaver	Bronze Life	Sylvia Skeels	Bronze State
Jennette Rosetta	Bronze Life	Ros Pyrke	Bronze State
Debbie Gibbards	Bronze Life	Debbie Carroll	Bronze State
Raymond Jones	Bronze Life	Derry Houston	State
Sue Eishauer	Bronze Life	Prue Hart	State
Mary Colling	Bronze Life	Elizabeth Milne	State
Steve Colling	Bronze Life	Lou Russell	State
Andrew Swanson	Life	Linda Faulls	State
Tony Georgeson	Life	Tracy Kudelka	State
Pauline Caust	Life	Colin McGregor	State
Ken Hubbell	Silver National	Roger Brake	State
Jo Neary	Silver National	James Grapsas	Bronze Regional
Vincia Martin	Silver National	Nettie Bennett	Regional
Denise Hourigan	Bronze National	Jenny L Williams	Regional
David Johnson	Bronze National	Susan Gehrig	Regional
Caroline Marshall	Bronze National	Louise Lewis	Regional
Frank Broos	Bronze National	Peter Mackey	Regional
Bev Daniel	Bronze National	Tiny Betts	Regional
Graham Stucley	Bronze National	Astrid Korfggen	Regional
Eve Clarkson	Bronze National	Margaret Cusack	Silver Local
Peta Drake	Bronze National	Beverly Jarvis	Silver Local
Eamonn McCabe	Bronze National	Pamela Finger	Silver Local
Sylvia Bray	Bronze National	Stewart Matheson	Silver Local
Matthew Geeve	National	Nada Clastres	Silver Local
Libby Heyward	National	Neryl Grehan	Silver Local
Tammy Hubbard	National	Lucy D'Ambrosio	Silver Local
Tina Hesketh	National	Jenny Munro	Bronze Local
Dorothy Bennett	National	Dawn Rapley	Bronze Local
Rhonda Henry	National	Anne-marie Stevenson	Bronze Local
Isabel Cowled	National	Di Taylor	Local
Midge Spice	National	Kent Dwyer	Local
Kay Pearson	National	Hanna Lewandowska	Local
Jane Tagney	National	Cherie Woolven	Local
Phil Douglas	National	Marjorie Webb	Club
Alex Goss	National	Barbara Yee	Graduate
Joyanne Gissing	National	Jenny Buckley	Graduate

Masterpoint Promotions

March 2024

David Farmer	Grand	Jian Williams	Bronze Regional
Sheila Wills	Gold Life	Ronnie Malthouse	Regional
Moira Smith	Gold Life	Liz Farr	Regional
Anne Nothling	Silver Life	Graeme Lean	Regional
Maureen Wright	Life	Pat Starkie	Regional
Mardi Hogarth	Life	Jim Cullen	Regional
Peter Burt	Silver National	Brenda Wilson	Silver Local
John Ewing	Silver National	Neville Hind	Silver Local
Elizabeth Van Vugt	Silver National	Glynis Hendricks	Silver Local
Shayne Wurf	Silver National	Dianne Holst	Silver Local
Adele Brown	Bronze National	Sue Cornwell	Silver Local
Lyn McLain	Bronze National	Gwen Clarke	Bronze Local
Magdeline Wong	Bronze National	Judith Carfrae	Bronze Local
Lyn Ebert	Bronze National	Laura Bauermeister	Bronze Local
Cheryl Ogilvy	National	Julie Kirby	Bronze Local
Tricia Merefield	National	Kerryn Peary	Bronze Local
Sylvia Enklaar	National	Anthony Gam	Bronze Local
Jane Stephens	National	Marilyn Reid	Bronze Local
Marge Henry	National	John Hewitt	Local
Joann Theriault	National	John Buganey	Local
Penny Cory	Bronze State	Andrew Baker	Club
Althea Crowley	Bronze State	Adele Mitchell	Club
Margaret Cusack	State	Janneen Wishart	Club
Vic Pietraszkiewicz	State	Karl Hradsky	Club
Takayo Yanagisawa	State	Sue Koschade	Club



Know Any Potential Young Bridge Players?

Opportunity for 14 - 24 year olds to learn Bridge - FREE!!

Learn Bridge Online Young Player Course

Age Range: 14 - 24 years

Level: Beginner Course

Location: Online

Date: Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th,
22nd May 2024

Time: 7pm -Approx. 8pm AEST

Practice Sessions: Sunday 5th,
12th, 19th, 26th from 11am-12pm
AEST

Course Teachers: Paul Marston &
Nevena Djurovic

Why Should Teens and Young Adults Learn Bridge?

- ✓ Academic Enrichment
- ✓ Socialise & Make Friends
- ✓ Enjoy Competition & Travel
- ✓ Connect with Family & Community
- ✓ Have FUN

About Our Course

Led by experienced Bridge teachers, Paul Marston and Nevena Djurovic, this course helps the next generation of bridge players master the important basics of the game.

Players enjoy using their new skills playing with and against the other emerging young bridge talent before advancing to level 2.

Spaces will be limited. Don't Miss Out!

Registration Opens - Monday 1 April.

<https://bridgelounge.online/youth-bridge-registration/abf/>





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

Novice Corner Quiz Answers

The Hands again

The first hand is ...

Opps opens bidding	You	Opp's partner	Your partner
1C	P	2C	P
P	???		

The second hand is ...

Opps opens bidding	You	Opp's partner	Your partner
1C	P	1NT	P
P	???		

What are you going to do? What is your job? Roll over and give up?

Never. You are there to make it difficult for the Opps.

There is little fun in defending a 1NT or 2C contract.

Quiz

1. How many hcp does the Opener have and what can you tell me about the shape of that hand?

Answer. The Opener has 12-19 hcp and does not have a 5-card major nor 4 D. The shape of that hand is probably 4S 4H 3D and 2C.

2. How many hcp does the Opener's partner have and what do you know about the shape of that hand?

Answer. The Opps Partner's hand has 6-9 hcp and does not have either 4S or 4H

3. Your partner has passed. How many hcp points does P have?

Answer. Less than an opening hand. We play SA so that is less than 12hcp.

4. What does the bidding tell you about the distribution of hcp in the four hands?

Answer. You have 10 hcp, your partner has 0-11hcp, Opener has 12+ but not many more and the Openers P has 6-9. The points are relatively evenly spread over the 4 hands.

5. Check the vulnerability. When your side is not vulnerable.

Answer. You can pass and defend 1NT or 2C. Why not double, asking you partner to bid and then you pass. You may wind up in a Major with only 7 trumps between you, but you have as good a chance of getting home as the Opps have in their bids. All you want is a positive score rather than a negative score by passing.

Novice Corner Quiz Answers

6. What if you are vulnerability? Should you double? What is your response?

Answer. Pass. Should you double and go down you will probably give the Opps a higher positive score that they would have got if you had left in with 1NT or 2C.

How did you get on with the answers?

Now watch this video and try the quiz questions again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flxjtm490Us>

Who is Graeme Tuffnell?

Graeme is an international bridge player and is a bridge teacher and founder of Sky Bridge Club.

<https://skybridgeclub.com/>



The poster features a background image of a beach with waves and a city skyline in the distance. The text is centered and reads:

**63RD INTERNATIONAL
Gold Coast Bridge Congress
Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025**

**VENUE: Gold Coast Convention Centre,
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia**

QBA MANAGER: Kim Ellaway
manager@qldbriidge.com.au
+61 412 064 903 qldbriidge.com.au/gcc

At the bottom, there are four logos: QBA, Gold Coast, ABE, and a colorful logo for 'Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots' which depicts a high-heeled shoe with a yellow flower and a red heart. Below the logos, the text reads: *Theme: Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots*

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

May

Wednesday 1 May

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Friday 3 May

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 5 May

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Wednesday 8 May

– 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Friday 10 May

– 10.00am Open Individual

Sunday 12 May

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Tuesday 14 May

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Saturday 18 May

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 19 May

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Thursday 23 May

– 7.45pm Novice & 8.00pm Open

Sunday 26 May

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 27 May

– 10.00am Open Individual

Thursday 30 May

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

June

Sunday 2 June

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 3 June

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Friday 7 June

– 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Sunday 9 June

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Tuesday 11 June

– 10.00am Open Individual

Friday 14 June

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Sunday 16 June

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice