

July 2024

Message from the President

Dear members,

Since our last newsletter, Larry Bryant (Larry) has decided to step-down from the position of Secretary on the Committee. Thank you to Larry for undertaking the role of Secretary since late last year. Until the AGM, in a couple of months time, Greg McCarron (GregMc) has accepted the position of Secretary. Thank you Greg for taking on this additional role.



Di Barrow, one of our members, passed away since our last newsletter. A tribute to Di is included in this newsletter.

Congratulations to those who will represent StepBridge in the 2024 ABF Club Teams Knockout, which will be held on Real Bridge beginning on Tuesday Night 6 August. At the moment, we do not have a Under 100 Team (Novice) and Under 300 Team (Restricted). If you would like to represent StepBridge in either of these teams, please contact support@stepbridge.com.au in the next couple of days. We need entries in by Sunday 4 August at the very latest.

A reminder that our next StepBridge Congress is coming up on 3 & 4 August. Entries close this Thursday, 1 August. For those who do not wish to play in the Congress, there will be a 1pm & 8pm Open sessions on each day. No other sessions, including the Sunday 2.30pm All Around Australia Red Masterpoint session, will be held on 3 & 4 August.

Coming up in September is our annual Club Championships. These have been named after **Willem Willemse**, who introduced StepBridge to Australia 20 years ago. Please support the Club Championships.

Another 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".

Happy Bridging
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Committee

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CLUB PLAYING NUMBERS

Aug-24		Jul-24		Jun-24	9206	May-24	9,604
Apr-24	9,602	Mar-24	9,092	Feb-24	8,982	Jan-24	10,610
Dec-23	10,065	Nov-23	9,345	Oct-23	9,318	Sep-23	8,952
Aug-23	9,382	Jul-23	9,924	Jun-23	8,698	May-23	8,858
Apr-23	9,354	Mar-23	9,372	Feb-23	8,346	Jan-23	9,804
Dec-22	9,142	Nov-22	9,090	Oct-22	9,036	Sep-22	8,594
Aug-22	9,631	Jul-22	10,344	Jun-22	9,322	May-22	9,980
Apr-22	9,788	Mar-22	10,386	Feb-22	9,854	Jan-22	12,428
Dec-21	9,264	Nov-21	9,516	Oct-21	11,200	Sep-21	13,660

New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play in the second half of June and the first half of July. 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

HelenMil KerryDe LisaPh MargC RyanT TrevorH VilmaL

RESTRICTED

JanetVdB TerryCa

NOVICE

AmyH BarbaraW BarbM CeciliaS CraigRT EmT IngridS
 JanetMul JerryR LindaFr LisaE LornaD MaryBr Maryl



Vale Di Barrow



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of Di Barrow's passing.

She departed this world, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, 2nd July, following a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Di was more than a member; she was a vibrant soul who wove connections, shared laughter, and played her part in countless bridge games. As President of the Wodonga Bridge Club, she led with grace and dedication until her diagnosis in April.

Her memory will linger in the shuffle of cards, the echo of bids, and the warmth of camaraderie. Di Barrow - forever etched into the fabric of our bridge community.

May she rest in peace, and may her spirit continue to inspire us at the table.

Di has entrusted us with a message for all her dear friends at StepBridge.



Thankyou StepBridge for providing hours of fun and challenges.

I've met some terrific people and always had great partners.

I have a beautiful loving family ... husband, Colin, daughters Riley and Emily, (Memmy) and loved friends who have shared this journey.

I'm lucky, just remember seize the day's opportunities.

Play on, grand slams all..

Di Barrow

Remembering Di Barrow: A Heartfelt Memorial Session

On the poignant day of July 22, 2024, we gathered to honor the memory of Di Barrow - a cherished bridge enthusiast whose spirit continues to resonate within our community. The occasion was none other than the Di Barrow Memorial Tournaments, a fitting tribute to a player whose passion for the game touched us all.

Guiding us through this bittersweet event was TDSarah, whose dedication knows no bounds. From a cozy café in Marmaris, Turkiye, Sarah orchestrated the proceedings with grace and compassion. Life's demands had pulled her from her base in Dacta to take her husband, Orhan, to a cardiologist appointment. Accompanied by their faithful dog Sandy, Sarah embarked on a journey - one that bridged love for the game with the responsibilities of life.

When asked about the significance of these memorial sessions, Sarah's words resonated deeply: *"Great response to Di's sessions,"* she affirmed. But it wasn't merely about the cards played or the strategies discussed. No, it was the intangible - the shared camaraderie, the whispered anecdotes, the laughter - that truly mattered. Our players, like family, found solace in this gathering, knowing that Di's legacy would forever be etched into the fabric of our bridge community. *"They are delighted we acknowledge our players and treat them like the family we have."*

A remarkable 120 players participated in the tournaments, their cards shuffled with both reverence and anticipation. Beyond the tables, even more souls kibitzed, their presence a silent nod to the bonds we forge through this timeless game.

So, as we reflect on the memories woven into each hand played, we extend our gratitude. Thank you, Di, for the laughter, the camaraderie, and the indelible moments. And to Sarah, our bridge shepherd, thank you for ensuring that Di's light continues to shine brightly across the green baize.

In the quiet moments between deals, we raise our metaphorical glasses - to Di, to friendship, and to the enduring magic of bridge.

With heartfelt appreciation, The StepBridge Community



Instructions

Using your Mobile Phone as a Webcam

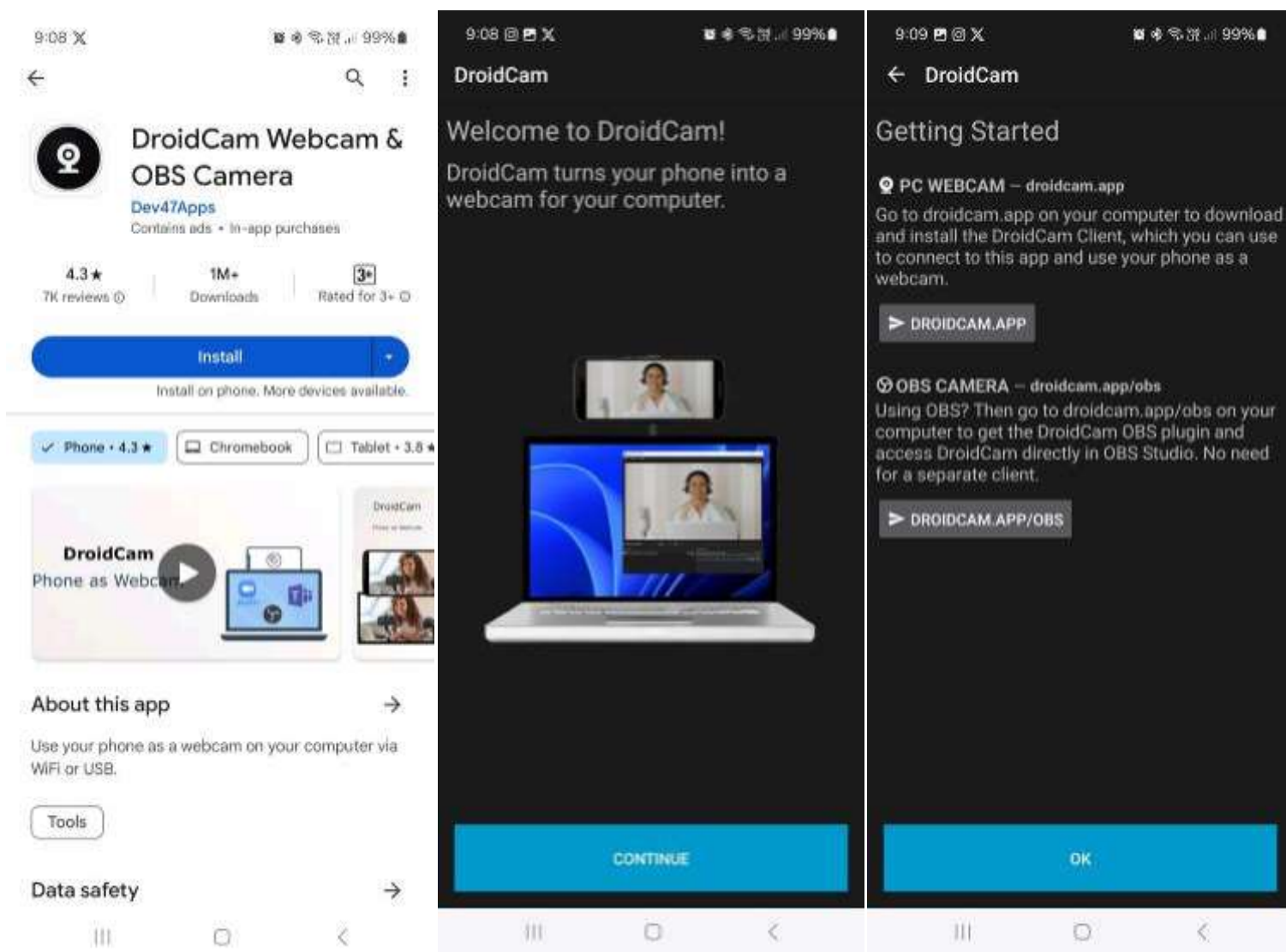
Did you know you can use your camera on your mobile phone as a webcam?

You can use the camera on your mobile phone and connect it to your PC by USB cable. You are still able to use the StepBridge web-browser version for playing bridge, and the phone just provides the video camera.

To do this, you just need to download an app called DroidCam from the Google Play store. The setup is quite simple. There is a similar free app for iPhones.

You will also need to have a stand for your phone or place it against or near your computer facing you.

One of our members have tested DroidCam and it does work well with StepBridge.



Instructions

Testing your Audio Video



Audio-video tournaments operate in the web version of StepBridge.

Enter the following address into your preferred browser
app.stepbridge.com.au to open the web version

1. Press the Options button to open the Options window (1 above)
2. Press the Video Setup button (2 above)

This will open a new window showing your camera view. You should see yourself and a moving green bar. If so, you are good to go!



Information

Below are the messages that TDs put to the lobby before the start of our All Around Australia 2:30pm Sunday audio-video tournaments.

We are sharing these in the newsletter, so you are well informed of the expectations when playing in an AV tournament. These are to be followed to ensure correct play along with the comfort and enjoyment of other players.

THIS IS AN AUDIO VIDEO TOURNAMENT: Please ensure you have switched to the web version and click setup video to ensure your Audio and Video are working. The switch button is on the registration page for the tournament. When you have clicked setup video you should see yourself and see the audio line flickering. You can then close that box and wait for the magic to happen.

ALERTING AND ANNOUNCING BIDS: In an Audio Video session, alerting and announcing is done verbally, the same as in Face-2-Face bridge. The partner says "ALERT" or announces the bid (i.e. 1C & 1NT openings). Any further explanations are given by the partner of the person who made the bid when asked.

SOUND ALERTS: If you have sound alerts enabled to ping you when it is your turn to bid or play, please go to OPTIONS in the top right hand corner of your screen and turn the sound OFF.

AUDIO AND VIDEO: To play in an Audio Video session, you must have camera and microphone. Your camera must be ON. You can mute your microphone when not alerting or chatting. The Audio and Video is not an optional extra.

A FURTHER REMINDER!!! Mute your microphone when you are not alerting or chatting. Your background noise is amplified to others it is annoying and distracting.

GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER: While waiting for the round to change, get to know your fellow Step-Bridge members. Ask them where they are from.

LANGUAGE: A reminder that NO colourful language is permitted by you, nor by others who may be in the room with you.

IPAD Users: Please ensure you have restarted your IPAD prior to this session. You need a fresh start before enabling the Audio Video Session.

A reminder that TDs cannot provide technical support prior to the tournament starting. If you need assistance please email support@stepbridge.com.au in the days prior to the tournament to ensure your AV works.

Event

2024 ABF Club Teams Knockout

On Monday nights 1, 8, 15 & 22 July we held a Team Qualifying event for the 2024 ABF Club Teams Knockout Event.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the qualifying event.

The following players will be representing StepBridge.

Category	Players
Open	Florence Maltby (Florence) Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin) Denise Strain (DeniseSt) Frank Hardiman (FrankH) Barbara O'Shea (BarbO) Kevin Willcocks (KevinWic)
Under 750	Eamonn McCabe (EamonMcC) Gary Frampton (GaryFr) Joann Theriault (JoannT) Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF)
Under 300	<i>We currently do not have a Team Anyone interested, please contact support@stepbridge.com.au</i>
Under 100	<i>We currently do not have a Team Anyone interested, please contact support@stepbridge.com.au</i>
Under 50	John Hewitt (JohnHew) Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu) Ann Rinder (AnnRin) Ruth Harvey (RuthHar)



StepBridge Australia AUGUST CONGRESS

Open, Restricted & Novice
(An approved SABF red point congress)



Online on the StepBridge Platform

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST 2024 – SWISS BUTLER IMP PAIRS
SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 2024 – SWISS TEAMS

Directors	Chris Snook (Swiss Butler IMP Pairs) & Chris Larter & Sarah Zoral (Swiss Teams)
Movement	Swiss Butler IMP Pairs - Three separate fields of Open, Restricted & Novice Swiss Teams - Two separate fields of Open & Restricted The number of boards and rounds will be at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Conditions of Entry	SABF Approved Red Masterpoint Congress conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Masterpoints not guaranteed unless ABF number is provided. Green, blue & red systems, and Brown Sticker conventions and treatments, permitted in the Open Grade. Blue & green systems permitted in the Novice & Restricted fields. No Yellow (HUM) systems in this Congress. Novice players must have fewer than 100 Masterpoints as at 31 May 2024. Restricted players must have fewer than 300 Masterpoints as at 31 May 2024. Each pair must have 2 systemically identical current system cards. Players are responsible for ensuring their system classification is correct.
Start Time	10.00am (ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC & TAS) / 9.30am (NT & SA) / 8.00am (WA)
Closing Date	Thursday 1st August 2024, 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time. Late entries accepted at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Entries & Entry List	https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1529 If you have not used MyABF before, register for MyABF via the following link: https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register
Entry Fee	400 Participation Points per Player per Day. Select "Club PP System" in MyABF for payment The Participation Points will be deducted from your account on the day of the congress. Please ensure you have enough Participation Points in your account.
Prizes	Cash Prizes will be awarded in the separate fields. Pairs - 1st \$300, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$150, subject to 20 tables in the particular field. Teams - 1st \$600, 2nd \$400 & 3rd \$300, subject to 20 tables in the particular field. Should there be less than 20 tables in the particular field, the above prizes will be reassessed & reduced.
StepBridge Username Registration	All players must be registered with StepBridge Australia. Details on registration at www.stepbridge.com.au If registering solely for this Congress, you can have temporary membership with no membership fee payable and in addition 150 free Participation Points to familiarise yourself with the StepBridge Australia platform. You will need order and pay \$20 for purchase of your Participation Points for this event. Account Name: StepBridge Australia BSB: 012013 Account Number: 302538455 StepBridge enquiries to support@stepbridge.com.au

Willem Willemse Club Championships

StepBridge will be holding its third annual Club Championships during the month of September. It has been decided to name our Club Championships after **Willem Willemse**, who introduced StepBridge to Australia 20 years ago.

Red masterpoints will be awarded to the top half of each session as well as the top third for those who qualify for the championship. There will be the five categories of Open Pairs, Open Individual, Open Teams, Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) and Novice Pairs (100 masterpoints) played at the following times:

Mondays 2, 9, 16 & 23 September

Open Teams - 8:00pm session

Sundays 8, 15, 22 & 29 September

Open Individual - 10:00am session

Open - 2:30pm session

Restricted (under 300 masterpoints) - 2:30pm session

Novice (under 100 masterpoints) - 2:30pm session

For the Restricted and Novice categories, the cut-off for eligibility is as of 31 August 2024. The cost will be 100 PPs per person, per session.

To qualify for a category, you need to play at least 3 out of the 4 sessions. Your best 3 results will be combined and averaged.

For the pairs session, you need to play with the same partner to qualify.

For the teams session, you need to play with the same team to qualify.

The championship in each category will be awarded to the team/pair/individual with the highest average.

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

1st = 2,500 PPs

2nd = 1,000 PPs

3rd = 500 PPs

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

Good luck everyone!

Monthly Awards: June 2024

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in June 2024</i>	Overall	1	58.17	7	Noriko Sakashita (Noriko)
		2	58.09	15	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	57.78	10	Bob Dunk (BobD)
	Open	1	58.17	7	Noriko Sakashita (Noriko)
		2	58.09	15	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	56.77	8	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Restricted	1	58.07	8	Bob Dunk (BobD)
		2	57.78	6	Neil Melvin (NeilMel)
		3	57.07	6	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc)
	Novice	1	58.84	6	Phil Kay (PhilK)
		2	57.21	7	Mary Rose (MaryRose)
		3	56.26	10	Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
	Open IMPs	1	29	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		2	28	6	Ian Napier (IanNap)
		3	27	7	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
Open	1	58.95	7	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)	
Individual	2	55.41	10	Peter Karol (PeterK)	
	3	55.32	6	Lawrie Hall (LawrieHa)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in June 2024</i>	Overall	1	58.05	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Marcey Spilsbury
		2	57.21	7	Mary Rose (MaryRose), Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
		3	57.07	6	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
	Open	1	58.05	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Marcey Spilsbury
		2	56.77	8	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	56.73	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Restricted	1	57.07	6	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne
		2	54.75	12	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
		3	54.11	9	Colin Morrison (ColMor), Matthew Lynch (MatthewL)
	Novice	1	57.21	7	Mary Rose (MaryRose), Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
		2	56.21	6	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3	55.86	6	Mary Cotterill (MaryCot), Kate Smith (KateSm)
	Open IMPs	1	28	6	Ian Napier (IanNap), Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		2	26	6	Alexander Cook (AlexCook), Aleksandar Milovanovic
		2	26	6	Darryl Smith (DarrylS), David Brooks (DaveBro)

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 June 2024</i>	Overall	1		80	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		59	Joann Theriault (JoannT)
		3		54	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
	Open	1		66	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		2		46	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
		3		44	Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Restricted	1		26	Micaela Vincent (MicaelaV)
		2		25	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		3		24	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP)
	Novice	1		26	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
		2		24	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)
		3		24	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
		2		8	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		3		8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy)
	Open	1		27	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual	2		27	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
		3		21	Pam Leahy (PamL)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in June 2024</i>	Overall	1		23	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
		2		21	Rose Szabo-Bencze (RoseSz), Raman Jegatheesan (RamanJ)
		2		21	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Open	1		21	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
		2		18	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Jian Williams (JianW)
		3		17	Debbie Jerkovic (DebbieJ), Vicki Lee (VickiL)
	Restricted	1		16	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
		1		16	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		3		13	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
	Novice	1		10	Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu), Lesley Seto (LesleySe)
		1		10	Patricia Fulton (PatFul), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
		1		10	Frede Katz (FredKatz), Margaret Lovell (MargLov)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren
		2		7	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3		6	Alexander Cook (AlexCook), Aleksandar Milovanovic (Aleksand)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in June 2024</i>	Overall	1	8.29	7	Noriko Sakashita (Noriko)
		2	6.78	10	Bob Dunk (BobD)
		3	6.51	7	Phil Jacobsen (PhilJaco)
	Open	1	8.29	7	Noriko Sakashita (Noriko)
		2	5.9	9	Ross Sydney (RossSy)
		3	5.34	6	John Sarena (JohnSar)
	Restricted	1	7.07	8	Bob Dunk (BobD)
		2	6.17	6	Neil Melvin (NeilMel)
		3	5.47	12	David Milburn (DavidMil)
	Novice	1	6.94	7	Mary Rose (MaryRose)
		2	5.42	9	Carole Basserabie (CaroleB)
		3	5.24	6	Phil Kay (PhilK)
	Open IMPs	1	0.2	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		2	0.17	8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy)
		3	0.12	6	Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)
Open	1	4.17	9	Tim McCullough (TimMc)	
Individual	2	4.09	11	Joan Mladen (JoanM)	
	3	4.07	7	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in June 2024</i>	Overall	1	5.87	6	Peter Ashworth (PeterAs), Greer Furmage (GreerF)
		2	5.39	7	Gek Low (GekL), Kerri Grant (KerriG)
		3	5.34	6	Linda Picone (LindaPi), John Sarena (JohnSar)
	Open	1	5.34	6	Linda Picone (LindaPi), John Sarena (JohnSar)
		2	4.57	8	Patricia Thomson (TrishTho), Chris Duggin (ChrisDug)
		3	4	8	Sue Jackson (SueJack), Ross Sydney (RossSy)
	Restricted	1	4.51	9	Daniele Escreet (DanieleE), Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
		2	3.89	7	Gek Low (GekL), Kerri Grant (KerriG)
		3	2.98	11	Patrick Rasmussen (PatRasmu), Peter Morris (PeterMor)
	Novice	1	5.87	6	Peter Ashworth (PeterAs), Greer Furmage (GreerF)
		2	1.94	6	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3	1.18	10	Patricia Fulton (PatFul), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
	Open IMPs	1	0.17	8	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
		2	0.14	6	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc), Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)
		3	0.12	6	Ian Napier (IanNap), Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)

Masterpoint Promotions

June 2024

Davis, Jan	Gold Life	Wagner, Rachel	Bronze State
Piddington, Dot	Gold Life	Westmoreland, Peter	Bronze State
Blakey, Ross	Bronze Life	Heidenreich, Heather	State
Frampton, Gary	Bronze Life	McDonell, Trish	State
Halliday, Judy	Bronze Life	Methven, David	State
Hydleman, Jean	Bronze Life	Meyer, Rudy	State
Clark, Ian	Life	Scanlan, Julie	State
Edwards, Ralph	Life	Jefferson, Rhonda	Bronze Regional
Wu, Martin	Life	Bloomer, Tess	Regional
Wurf, Shayne	Life	Borde, Jeanne	Regional
Christensen, Maria	Silver National	Gordon, Jennifer	Regional
Parekh, Mukesh	Silver National	Holst, Dianne	Regional
Arnold, Dick	Bronze National	Illingworth, Richard	Regional
Furner, Bev	Bronze National	Jones, Annmaree	Regional
Jerkovic, Debbie	Bronze National	Portess, Anne	Regional
Reid, Jeremy	Bronze National	Blair,Carolynn	Silver Local
Shaw, Robin	Bronze National	Hilder, Kathy	Silver Local
Stebbing, Paul	Bronze National	Onus, Mary	Silver Local
Dwan, Carmel	National	Hewitt, John	Bronze Local
McKew, Celia	National	Kitulagodage, Piyal	Bronze Local
Morris, Beryl	National	Mallen, Margie	Bronze Local
Setiyawan, Maria	National	Sydney, Ross	Bronze Local
Smith, Sa	National	Cameron, Lynette	Local
Allen, Pat	Bronze State	Fogarty, Judy	Local
Coates, Julie	Bronze State	Koch, Jennie	Local
Fraser, Ian	Bronze State	Marais, Eugene	Local
Fraser, Susie	Bronze State	Panther, Carmel	Local
Gelston, Phyl	Bronze State	Udall, Annette	Local
Hughes, Mal	Bronze State	Miller, Robert	Club
Hunter, Simon	Bronze State	Carroll, Susan	Graduate
Lavarack, Shirley	Bronze State	Greenbaum, Daniel	Graduate
Sims, Martin	Bronze State	Johnston, Bryan	Graduate
Talmont, Lynne	Bronze State		



Members Corner

We love celebrating our members' achievements and special moments! Whether it's a personal milestone, your grandchild taking their first steps, winning first place in your club's congress, or your sister being selected for the Olympics, we want to share your joy with the community

If you have something to share, please email it to support@stepbridge.com.au with "Newsletter" in the subject line, and we'll do our best to feature your triumph in our next edition.



A member has recently celebrated a special milestone *Gek Low's (GekL) 80th birthday!*

Gek, the matriarch of her family, was surrounded by love and joy as her three sisters from London, Gold Coast, and Kuala Lumpur organized a beautiful party in her honor.



The highlight of the celebration was a stunning cake adorned with edible cards and roses, perfectly reflecting Gek's passions for the card game bridge and her love for roses. It was a delightful and heartwarming event, filled with laughter, memories, and the warmth of family.

We wish Gek many more years of happiness, health, and cherished moments with her loved ones and Bridge partners!!

Happy 80th Birthday, Gek!

Partnership Platform



I was in Orange for the first week of their inaugural Festival of Bridge. What a rip-roaring success it proved to be. I managed to snap some happy StepBridge members and we will feature these players in the coming months.

But first, a story from the front line.

I'd been booked into the event for several months and was really looking forward to attending. Unfortunately, my partner had to pull out - 24 hours or so before we should be heading down the highway.

Guess this is an illustration of why Partners4Bridge came into being. Partners are people. They are not devices and they meet life challenges, as we all do. Pity these life challenges pop up just when you want to settle in for a few days of Bridge.

But, I got rescued! Thank you to **Frank Hardiman** who came in via the P4B site looking for a partner to fill some of the gaps on his Orange dance card. I put my hand up. And we both agreed we had nothing to lose. I was without a partner, and he wanted to play cards. We had enough time to get in a couple of games on StepBridge, and we were on our way. Yes, our first face-to-face meeting was 10 minutes or so before finding our places in the Coral Room at the Orange RSL; but Fortune Favors the Brave and we were soon underway. Thank you Frank.

In the interests of full transparency, I am going to post a health warning. After losing one partner for Orange I sought the help of the Membership desk. They promptly found me a stand-in, **Perelle Scales** from Canberra. This was sounding good. When I rang to discuss system I found that Perelle had sustained a fall and was in hospital! That's two down and the Congress had yet to start. I am now sending out good wishes to Perelle and hope that she's made a speedy recovery.

And for those of you seeking new partners or hoping to add another game to your calendar please do consider signing on with Partners4Bridge. Why wait till 5 minutes before your StepBridge game starts. If Partners4Bridge can't find you a partner right now, rest assured your chances will improve with every week. As we sign on new members, your odds increase day by day.

Remember, It's free to Register and use the platform. Head to www.partners4bridge.com or use the QR code on the next page. Tell us a bit about yourself and sit back and see if we can find you a match. Use the platform to message each other and discuss system, availability, etc. **As an incentive, StepBridge is offering a bonus of 100 Participation Points (credits) for any StepBridge player who supports this exciting initiative.** P4B will share names only of all sign-ups and your credits will be allocated.

Jay Novak (JayN)
Partners4Bridge

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Frank Hardiman (FrankH) has been an active **StepBridge** member since 2020 and one of the first to sign on with **Partners4Bridge**. Frank is also active with two clubs Finesse and Georges River and would possibly describe himself as a Bridge Tragic.

Let's hear more.....

When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

Only started 6 years ago. After watching the State of Origin at the local Bonnet Bay Soccer club, a few patrons got out the cards and started playing bridge. They suggested I come along to the Bonnet Bay Bridge Club, a social Bridge club who taught me the basics. Many of these guys had or subsequently joined ABF accredited clubs but many simply enjoy a social outing at the soccer club along with percolated coffee. Bridge was easier for me to learn as I had played 500 during my university days many years ago.

You play at two Clubs - tell us why we should visit?

Finesse, which play at Mortdale RSL is my home club and I also play at Georges River Bridge Club (formerly St. George Budapest), which plays out of the Anglican church hall at Penshurst. Many players attend both clubs and enjoy bridge in a very friendly atmosphere. Georges River Bridge Club has a very active training program and as a result have a large percentage of novice players.

And what are the qualities that make for an ideal partner?

I enjoy partners who can share a joke and are sociable at the bridge table. I do find it important to have a partner who plays the cards well and whose bids can be trusted. Good to have partners who are prepared to learn from advice and the mistakes that we all make.

Your best Bridge tip or advice from an Expert

Don't lie to your partner with your bids.

And finally, Surprise us.

Tell us something about yourself that we would never guess.

*My full name is Francis, Joseph, Gerard Hardiman.
My mother was in her mid 40s when I was born and needed additional names after having previously had 3 girls. My progress in bridge has been swift averaging over 100 mp per year. I learnt a lot playing online during covid watching and learning other player's card play.*

The logo for Partners4Bridge, featuring the text "Partners4Bridge" in white on a green background with a yellow diagonal stripe.

Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new opportunities

On partners4bridge.com



For feedback, enquiries and support,
email us at
admin@partners4bridge.com



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

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

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



Theme: Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots



Funnies Column

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



IF ANYONE IS LOOKING FOR ME



Impress her with something expensive



I KNOW ITS CHEESY BUT I FEEL GRATE



HOW TO WRITE GOOD

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. They're old hat.
4. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
5. Be more or less specific.
6. Writes should never generalize.
- Seven: Be consistent!
8. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

Don't make old people MAD:

We don't like being old in the first place so it doesn't take much to piss us off.



Please send your funnies through by emailing support@stepbridge.com.au with newsletter in the subject line

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 (Everyday)

2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

4pm (Everyday)

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 from 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

August

Thursday 1 August

– 10.00am Open Individual

Tuesday 6 August

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Friday 9 August

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Sunday 11 August

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 12 August

– 8.00pm Open Teams

Wednesday 14 August

– 10.00am Open Individual

Friday 16 August

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

Sunday 18 August

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Tuesday 20 August

– 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Friday 23 August

– 7.45pm Restricted & 8.00pm Open

Sunday 25 August

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Monday 26 August

– 10.00am Open Individual

Thursday 29 August

– 1.00pm Open & 1.15pm Restricted

September

Club Championship - Week 1

Monday 2 September

– 8.00pm Open Teams

Sunday 8 September

– 10.00am Open Individual

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Club Championship - Week 2

Monday 9 September

– 8.00pm Open Teams

Sunday 15 September

– 10.00am Open Individual

– 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice