

August 2024

Message from the President

Dear members,

As you will read in this newsletter, there is a lot happening within our club of StepBridge.

In August we had our StepBridge Congress and our StepBridge Teams play in the first night of the 2024 ABF Club Teams Knockout event on RealBridge.

In September we have our Willem Willemse Club Championships with 5 different categories of Open Pairs, Restricted Pairs, Novice Pairs, Open Individual and Open Teams. Then we are participating in the South Australia State-Wide Pairs on Monday 23 September. Also we have our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22 September.

There is also information regarding a Tournament Rating system being introduced as well as a Frequency Asked Question sheet from the Australia Bridge Federation in regards to ABF 2025 Fee Increases. These fee increases that the ABF are introducing include the ABF levy as part of your Home Club membership and the costs for masterpoints.

On the Committee side, we are still looking into further development opportunities for our players in particular our Novices. Further information will be provided in due course. We are also looking at the updating of Manuals and Position Description documentation to assist those in key club roles now and into the future. All a work in progress.

Happy Bridging
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)



Committee

President

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)
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Secretary

Greg McCarron (GregMc)
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Treasurer

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)
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Committee Members

Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)
Sebastian Wright (SebW)

StepBridge International Representative:

Epko Steinmetz (Epko)

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Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Newsletter Editors

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Greg McCarron (GregMc)

Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

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support@stepbridge.com.au

Sunday 22 September 2024
1.30pm Australia Eastern Standard Time
on Zoom

AGM
Annual General Meeting

CLUB PLAYING NUMBERS

Aug-24		Jul-24	9,812	Jun-24	9,206	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 July and the first half of August. 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

AntheaG NickCa Sherrell

RESTRICTED

JoanPh NadaA EdwardB PatsyW HelenPr RobM LoriT

NOVICE

AmosC AnneC BelindaC CaroDu Catherin CathMorr DavidHos DebC
 DeniseRe GenevieY Gilbert IreneW JanetMo JeffSt JenniMo JenniVN
 Lorrain NellieC RebeccaT RobinM RobynHo RoseBa SebRe ShanJ
 TaekoB TraceySi WalterS



Annual General Meeting

The 2024 StepBridge Australia Bridge Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday 22 September at 1.30pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time) on Zoom.

As this is the main meeting of the club, all members are welcome to attend and participate.

We also welcome anyone who would like to nominate for a position on the Committee or submit any agenda items. If you wish to nominate for a position on the Committee, please email Chris Larter at chris@stepbridge.com.au for a nomination form ASAP. You can also talk to Chris about any position and what it entails.

To nominate for a position on the Committee and/or for any motions / matters of business for the meeting, please have these emailed to me by Friday 30 August at the very latest.

StepBridge members will be emailed information regarding the AGM, including the minutes from the last AGM, agenda, reports from the various positions, and a list of candidates by Sunday 8 September. If you have not received your AGM email by this date, please email support@stepbridge.com.au as this will mean your email may have gotten lost in cyberspace.

Finally, if you have any questions about the AGM, please email support@stepbridge.com.au

Congress Results

StepBridge August Congress

Open Pairs

- 1st Ian Michelson & Deborah McLay
- 2nd David Johnson & Florence Gibbons
- 3rd Christopher Raisin & Margaret Morgan

Restricted Pairs

- 1st Steven Kemp & Glen Chick
- 2nd Tammy Hubbard & Libby Heyward
- 3rd Ina Buhse & Heather Whitely

Novice Pairs

- 1st Robert Ford & Dianne Holst
- 2nd Kevin Hughes & Mary Rose
- 3rd Judith Spanner & Bill Turner

Open Teams

- 1st Jan Davis, Perelle Scales, Tim Davis & Mardi Grosvenor
- 2nd Pat Beattie, Edward Hahn, Frank Hymus & Krystyna Homik
- 3rd Kevin Willcocks, Barbara O'Shea, Denise Strain & Frank Hardiman
- Best Restricted Tammy Hubbard, Libby Heyward, Celia McKew & Beryl Morris

The first week of the 2024 ABF Club Teams Knock was played on RealBridge on Tuesday evening 6 August

The following players are representing StepBridge and will continue to play once a month on 10 September, 8 October, 12 November, and 10 December.

Below are our Teams and the Results following the first eveing

Category	Players	
Open	Florence Maltby (Florence) Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin) Denise Strain (DeniseSt) Frank Hardiman (FrankH) Barbara O'Shea (BarbO) Kevin Willcocks (KevinWic)	Our Open team is currently placed 18th Results
Under 750	Eamonn McCabe (EamonMcC) Gary Frampton (GaryFr) Joann Theriault (JoannT) Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF)	Our U750 team is currently placed 9th Results
Under 300	Chris Farr (ChrisF) Don Saunders (DonS) Mike Morrissey (MikeMorr) Libby Heyward (LibHeywa)	Our U300, U100 and U50 teams are playing in the same division Our U300 team is currently placed 1st
Under 100	Sue Stevenson (SStevens) GP Macolino (GPMaco) Joan Lenehan (JoanLe) Frances Pope (FrancisP)	Our U100 team is currently placed 18th Our U50 team is currently placed 9th
Under 50	John Hewitt (JohnHew) Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu) Ann Rinder (AnnRin) Ruth Harvey (RuthHar)	Results

Congratulations on your performance to date!

We wish our teams well for the coming rounds



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!

2024 STATE-WIDE PAIRS



The SA Bridge Federation is holding the State-Wide Pairs during the week starting Monday 23rd September 2024.

The State-Wide Pairs is a 'normal' club session, but all clubs use the same hands. When all clubs have played their sessions, the boards are scored across the State, generating State-Wide winners.

You earn masterpoints for your club session, plus you acquire red masterpoints for your overall placing across the State.

There is no additional charge, so your club charges their normal table fees.

At the end of the session, you can collect a State-Wide Pairs booklet with an analysis of each hand provided by Barbara Travis.

StepBridge will be participating in the SABF State-Wide Pairs

Monday 23 September - 4.00pm Open & 4.10pm Novice

Green Masterpoints awarded at the StepBridge Session

Red Masterpoints awarded for the Overall Placings Across the State

All StepBridge members can participate

Note: If you live in South Australia, you can only play once either at your Face 2 Face club or on StepBridge

This session will be using Audio and Video

ATTENTION

QUEENSLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY & WESTERN AUSTRALIA PLAYERS

Daylight Savings starts on Sunday morning 6 October.

This means play will start one hour earlier for players from Queensland, the Northern Territory & Western Australia.

Below is the spelled out timetable for these players.

Weekly Timetable

	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>
Open Individual:	9.00am	8.30am	7.00am
Open:	12 noon	11.30am	10.00am
Restricted: (Mon-Sat)	12.15pm	11.45am	10.15am
Open/Restricted/ Novice (Sun)	1.30pm	1.00pm	11.30am
Open:	3.00pm	2.30pm	1.00pm
Novice: (Mon-Sat)	3.10pm	2.40pm	1.10pm
Restricted/Novice: (Novice: Tue & Thu / Restricted: Wed & Fri)	6.45pm	6.15pm	4.45pm
Open: (Tue-Sun)	7.00pm	6.30pm	5.00pm
Open Teams: (Mon)	7.00pm	6.30pm	5.00pm

Note: There is no change of time for players from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia & the Australian Capital Territory.

Information

Introduction of a Tournament Rating

Starting 1 September 2024, we are introducing a tournament rating. This new rating provides a better way to determine the level of individual players and pairs. This allows us to make much more accurate matches of players based on their level.

Key points:

- The tournament rating is visible during all StepBridge tournaments.
- You have a personal rating, as well as a partnership rating with all partners you play with more frequently (minimum 100 boards)
- The pairs tournament rating shown is the rating you have with the partner you are currently registered with.
- Your tournament rating is based solely on your performance in tournaments.
- Both the division into sections and the pairing with a casual partner are now based on this tournament rating.
- In the near future, you will also be able to view your rating in the StepBridge portal. You can then also see how your rating has changed after playing a tournament.

Details about the tournament rating:

- The tournament rating is comparable to the ELO rating widely used in chess.
- We look at individual boards and the players at your table, not at the tournament result as a whole.
- For each board, we calculate an expected value, based on the rating difference between you (and your partner) and your opponents.
- The greater the difference between your actual result and the expected value, the greater the impact on your rating.
- Example: If NS has an expected value of 55% against a specific pair, they need to score more than 55% to increase in rating. In this case, EW would increase with a score above 45%.
- Your initial tournament rating is based on the boards you have played in the past two years.
- If you have played at least 100 boards with a specific partner, we use your joint rating. Otherwise, we use the average of your individual ratings.
- Each board played counts towards both your individual rating and your rating with your current partner.

We hope this new feature gives you extra insight into your tournament performance and further enhances your tournament experience.

Enjoy your bridge!

The StepBridge Team

ABF 2025 Fee Increases - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Due to economic challenges and rising costs as well as required investment in technology like MyABF, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) is implementing modest fee increases in 2025 to support our bridge community and technological advancements into the future. Here the ABF answer some of your Frequently Asked Questions....

1. Why are fees increasing for bridge clubs and players?

Rising operational costs, inflation, and the necessary investments in the MyABF technology project have led to these adjustments, ensuring we can maintain enhanced services for all members.

2. What impact will the fee increase have on players and the community?

These modest increases are levied on bridge clubs as they are required to pay the ABF a (capitation) fee for each registered home club member and for the masterpoints they issue. The fee increases are likely to be passed on by clubs to players in the form of membership fee or table fee increases.

3. What are the sources of the upcoming fee increases?

Increases will be applied to capitation fees, based on club memberships, and masterpoint fees, adjusted according to event type and competition level, to sustain operations and support MyABF without extra administrative overhead.

4. Why is it that you refer to 25% and 50% fee increases as “modest”?

While the 25% increase in masterpoint fees might seem large, it results in only minor per-player costs. For example, a typical session will see just a \$1.20 increase, about 5 cents per player. The annual \$3.30 capitation fee hike is less than the cost of a cup of coffee. By 2027 the capitation fee will be \$29.90 per year which is the equivalent of \$2.50 per month. Compared to the current \$20 capitation fee, the increase is less than a “modest” \$1 per month.

5. Doesn't the ABF's 2% fee charged to clubs for event payment processing cover some of these support costs?

No, the 2% charge is strictly to offset Stripe's transaction charges, and it hasn't been sufficient to cover even those expenses, let alone the additional support costs.

6. Are there financial relief measures for those impacted by the fee increases?

The establishment of the ABF Technology Fund aims to mitigate impacts on members facing financial challenges, potentially refunding fees or reducing future increases based on fundraising outcomes.

7. How will the increased fees be used?

The fees will address rising inflation and operating expenses, supporting community growth and funding the ongoing development and operation of MyABF, which is crucial for maintaining a robust technological infrastructure.

ABF 2025 Fee Increases - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) cont.

8. What is the MyABF development project, and why is it necessary?

MyABF is revolutionising bridge club management, significantly reducing administrative burdens and enhancing user experiences. It is essential for updating outdated technologies, relieving single person dependencies and supporting scalable infrastructure.

9. How is the investment in the MyABF technology project being managed?

The \$900,000 already spent on MyABF will not be recovered from clubs or players. An additional estimated \$900,000 by 2027 will support further development and ongoing operations, ensuring that the technology remains state-of-the-art supported by robust, redundant infrastructure. The ongoing investment in MyABF is overseen by the ABF's Executive Director and a Steering Committee and Architecture Board comprised of volunteers from the bridge community with experience in both business and technology.

10. What ensures that fee increases are fair and justified?

Fee increases are rigorously evaluated by our management, the Finance, Audit & Risk committee, the Board of Directors and the ABF Council. They are tasked with ensuring increases are proportional to the benefits provided.

11. Will all bridge players benefit from the MyABF enhancements?

Definitely. Future MyABF enhancements, funded by the fee increases, will support new functionalities like club administration automation, Masterpoint centre management and new scoring systems, benefiting everyone. These foundational improvements are critical for both current and future needs of all Australian bridge players.

12. What are the long-term benefits of the MyABF project for the bridge community?

MyABF will continue to improve operational efficiency, enhance data management, and provide an integrated platform for all administrators and players. MyABF will reduce many hours used by staff and volunteers, as well as supporting the ongoing vitality and growth of the bridge community in Australia.

These FAQs are designed to clarify and provide transparency regarding the upcoming changes, ensuring all members understand the value these adjustments bring to the bridge community.

Any further questions please address them to David Fryda, ABF Executive Director – his details can be found on www.abf.com.au

Director's Corner

We are reprinting the following Director's Corner from October 2021 & April 2023, as a reminder to players of this important topic.

Claims from a Player's Perspective

You may have noticed our TDs asking you to make (and accept) claims recently. Why? The main objective is to save time on "boring boards" so that everyone has more time for "challenging boards" (and to relax between Rounds).

So what is the best practice for saving time? It is usually to play on until:

1. Opposition Trumps are drawn; and
2. The Claim is "obvious".

That way your opponents don't have to think too long before accepting.

Occasionally on Slams etc you should claim earlier, possibly conceding a trick or two at the end, but it should still be easy for your opponents to accept.

If you must claim when there are outstanding Trumps you had best explain that you are drawing Trumps. Otherwise the TD is obliged to find a reasonable line of play that gives a trick to your opponents. If you have an outstanding Trump which opponents forgot about, it is usually best to get the TD's adjudication on the board.

It is never a good idea to show how clever you are by claiming whilst giving an exotic explanation of how you are drawing Trumps, finessing Diamonds, and squeezing Spades to make the contract. It is usually quicker, and leads to less disputes, if you simply play it out.

Normally you should accept your opponent's Claim. They are usually correct, but...

If a Claim is faulty you can deny the Claim. If ALL four players at the table (including Dummy) agree, you can play on (with the non-claiming side seeing all the cards) but you must accept the subsequent result (even if it is better than the Claim or could not have been made without the Claim). Playing a card is an implicit agreement to play on after a Claim.

It is often best for non-claimants to stop play and get the TD's adjudication. In such circumstances you **MUST**:

- not only deny the Claim;
- but also Call the TD.

After establishing the circumstances and your objection the TD may ask you to complete the hand, but subsequent play will not affect the TD's adjudication. You do not want a reputation for denying Claims and asking for adjudications when the assessed result is the same as the Claim! But you should use the TD to get a fair adjudicated result when someone makes a faulty Claim. If you accidentally deny a Claim, you can ask your opponents to Claim again or ask them to continue playing. The Claimant can refuse to play on and Call the TD to get a ruling, but this usually just wastes time defeating the whole purpose of claiming in the first place. Finally as an inexperienced player it may not be obvious to you that you could claim the rest of the tricks. There is no requirement to claim, so don't feel pressure to do so. Nevertheless when it is obvious to you that you win the rest of the tricks it is a good idea to get into the habit of claiming, even if you stuff it up occasionally! Your partners, opponents, directors, and you yourself will all appreciate it.

Alan Bustany [TDAIan]

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.

Instructions

Using your Mobile Phone as a Webcam

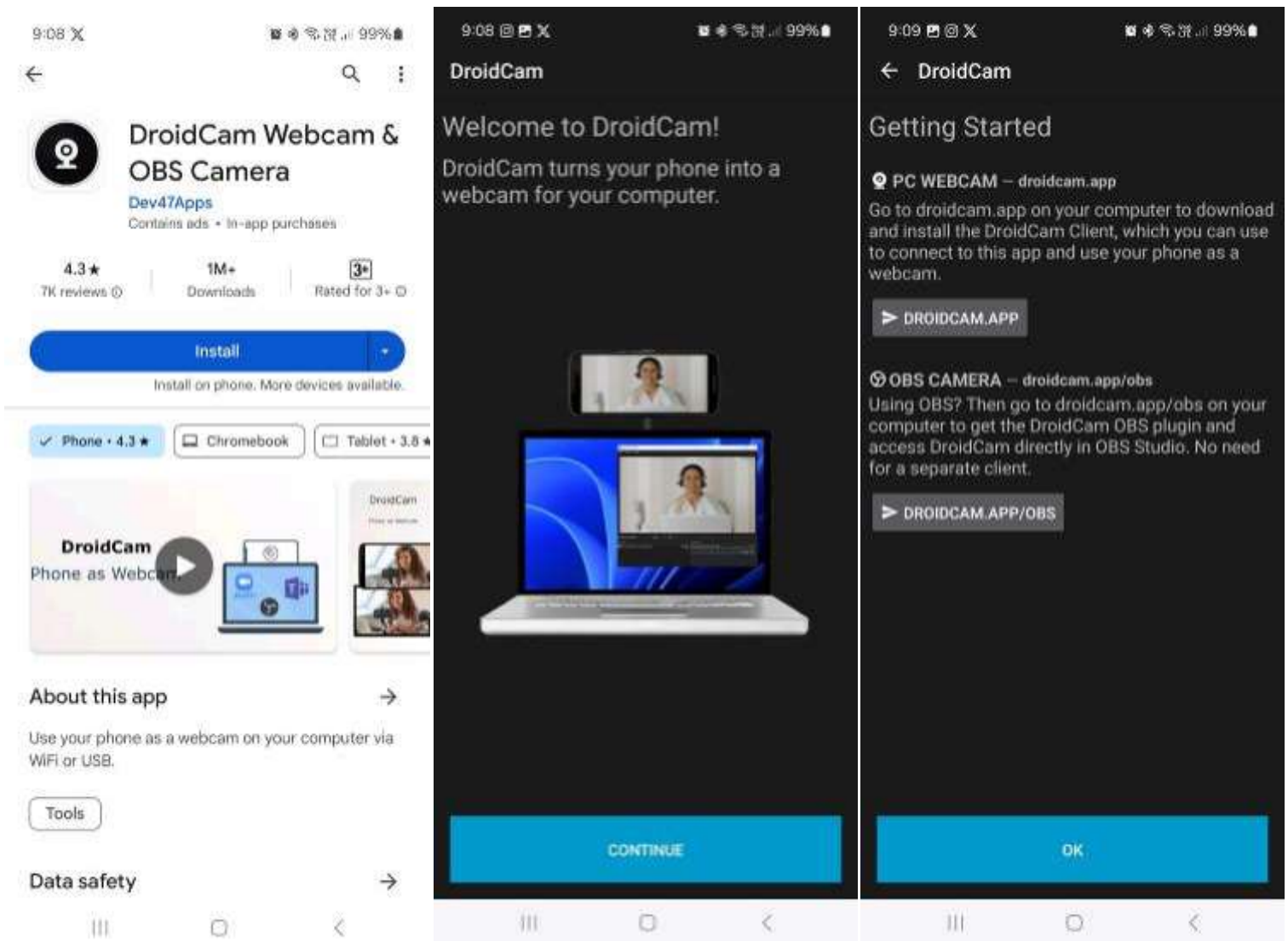
Did you know you can use your camera on your mobile phone as a webcam?

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!



Monthly Awards: July 2024

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in July 2024</i>	Overall	1	61.62	9	Sue Neill (SueN)
		2	59.75	8	Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		2	59.75	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc)
	Open	1	61.62	9	Sue Neill (SueN)
		2	59.05	18	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV)
		3	58.96	16	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
	Restricted	1	59.75	8	Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		1	59.75	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc)
		3	58.04	18	Glen Chick (GlenC)
	Novice	1	58.55	7	Gian Paolo Macolino (GPMaco)
		2	57.99	7	Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
		3	57.96	11	John Adams (John)
	Open IMPs	1	37	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		2	33	6	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		3	28	9	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
Open	1	57.14	7	Sandy Spencer (SandySp)	
Individual	2	55.8	15	Chris Van Wyck (Wicky)	
	3	55.3	14	Glen Chick (GlenC)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in July 2024</i>	Overall	1	61.62	9	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)
		2	59.75	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		3	59.54	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Open	1	61.62	9	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)
		2	59.54	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	58.91	16	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
	Restricted	1	59.75	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		2	58.95	10	Steven Kemp (StevenK), Glen Chick (GlenC)
		3	53.81	14	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMck)
	Novice	1	59.11	6	Mary Rose (MaryRose), Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
		2	57.96	11	John Adams (John), Merran Adams (MerranA)
		3	56.54	6	Carmel Murphy (CarmelM), Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
	Open IMPs	1	33	6	Ian Napier (IanNap), Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		2	19	8	Eva Samuel (EvaSam), Shirley Collins (ShirleyC)
		3	-1	7	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc), Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)

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 July2024</i>	Overall	1		102	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		2		82	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		3		76	Joann Theriault (JoannT)
	Open	1		69	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		1		69	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		3		46	Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
	Restricted	1		28	Micaela Vincent (MicaelaV)
		2		24	Steven Kemp (StevenK)
		2		24	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP)
	Novice	1		28	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
		1		28	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3		27	Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
	Open IMPs	1		9	Brenda McClean (Brenda)
		1		9	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
		1		9	Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)
	Open	1		28	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual	2		24	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
		3		23	Dot Slattery (DotS)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in July 2024</i>	Overall	1		26	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		2		24	Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
		3		23	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Open	1		24	Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
		2		22	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
		3		21	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
	Restricted	1		18	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
		2		15	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		3		14	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
	Novice	1		16	John Hewitt (JohnHew), Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
		2		11	John Adams (John), Merran Adams (MerranA)
		3		10	Jennifer Kroon (JenKroon), Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
	Open IMPs	1		8	Eva Samuel (EvaSam), Shirley Collins (ShirleyC)
		2		7	Diva Hatfield (DivaH), Richard Gilbert (RichardG)
		2		7	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc), Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in July 2024</i>	Overall	1	6.87	8	Cherryl Kolbe (Cherryl)
		2	6.82	6	Kay Goodwin (KayGoodw)
		3	6.16	19	Subhrendu Rath (Subhrend)
	Open	1	6.82	6	Kay Goodwin (KayGoodw)
		2	6.16	19	Subhrendu Rath (Subhrend)
		3	6.1	7	Kiyomi Avunduk (Kiyomi)
	Restricted	1	6.29	6	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
		2	4.88	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc)
		2	4.88	8	Margaret Lyne (MargL)
	Novice	1	7.9	13	Lyn Forby (LynForby)
		2	6.62	12	Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
		3	5.55	24	Mary Hives (MaryH)
	Open IMPs	1	0.25	6	Maria Christensen (MariaCh)
		2	0.2	7	Annie Williams (AnnieW)
		3	0.17	6	Joann Theriault (JoannT)
	Open	1	4.36	6	Lesley Meyer (LesleyMe)
Individual	2	3.09	8	John Kelly (JohnKell)	
	2	3.09	9	Sue Shadbolt (SueSh)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in July 2024</i>	Overall	1	5.24	6	Margaret Phippen (MargarPh), Kiyomi Avunduk (Kiyomi)
		2	4.88	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		3	4.67	6	Claire Goodwill (ClaireG), Richard Alderman (Richard3)
	Open	1	5.24	6	Margaret Phippen (MargarPh), Kiyomi Avunduk
		2	4.55	9	Gwen White (Gwen), Bob Morris (BobMorr)
		3	4.45	11	Vivian Waddell (VivianW), Kerry Barns (KerryBa)
	Restricted	1	4.88	8	Marta Schneebeli (MartaSc), Margaret Lyne (MargL)
		2	4.44	6	Heather McCallum (HeathrMc), Peter Westmoreland (PeterWes)
		3	2.55	13	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Novice	1	3.15	8	Cherryl Kolbe (Cherryl), Judith Richardson (JudithR)
		2	1.93	10	Frede Katz (FredKatz), Margaret Lovell (MargLov)
		3	1.9	6	Mary Rose (MaryRose), Kevin Hughes (KevinH)
	Open IMPs	1	0.14	8	Eva Samuel (EvaSam), Shirley Collins (ShirleyC)
	2	0.13	6	Ian Napier (IanNap), Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)	

Masterpoint Promotions

July 2024

Grosvenor, Mardi	Gold Life	Buttner, Cheryl	Silver Local
Zulfiqar, Freddie	Gold Life	Day, Joie	Silver Local
Billingham, Sylvia	Silver Life	Ford, Robert	Silver Local
Grant, Megan	Silver Life	Green, Debra	Silver Local
Rossiter-Nuttall, Jac	Silver Life	Hinves, Mary	Silver Local
Ruttiman, Maria	Silver Life	Langdon Macmillan, Tom	Silver Local
Bishop, Sam	Bronze Life	Lockwood, Patricia	Silver Local
Ruttiman, Maria	Bronze Life	Massey, Christine	Silver Local
Cummings, John	Life	Murphy, Carmel	Silver Local
Kembrey, Gary	Silver National	Sterck, Annie	Silver Local
McRae, Elaine	Silver National	Stevenson, Anne-marie	Silver Local
Perris, Ruth	Silver National	Veenendaal, Bert	Silver Local
Fitzherbert, Richard	Bronze National	Wilson, Mandy	Silver Local
Stevens, Robyn	Bronze National	Dwyer, Kent	Bronze Local
Theriault, Joann	Bronze National	Gillett, Robyn	Bronze Local
Campbell, Brenda	National	Hein, John	Bronze Local
du Temple, Don	National	Saurine, Kathy	Bronze Local
Knight, Peter	National	Sheridan, Greg	Bronze Local
Pitts, Ian	National	Verschuer, Anne	Bronze Local
Smith, Paul	National	Daw, Alex	Local
Sydes, David	National	Finberg, Natasha	Local
Dyball, Sharon	Bronze State	Hill, Michelle Lee	Local
Fraser, Sandy	Bronze State	Mitchell, Jane	Local
Thomas, Penny	Bronze State	Ross, Kim	Local
Driscoll, Jim	State	Rowan, Janet	Local
Frankland, Kaye	State	Suttie, David	Local
Jefferson, Rhonda	State	Bull, Lesley	Club
Smith, Kathie	State	Carver, Helen	Club
Wu, Alex	State	Churton, Margaret	Club
Belcher, Sandra	Bronze Regional	Michel, Joanne	Club
Adams, John	Regional	Proust, Simone	Club
Dodd, Wendy	Regional	Reid, Jo	Club
Huxley, Ian	Regional	Spencer, Heather	Club
Meek, Colin	Regional	Furmage, Greer	Graduate
Parker, Kay	Regional	Springer, Joy	Graduate



Partnership Platform



So **Partners4Bridge** was caught off guard in July when the CrowdStrike IT outage disabled about 8.5 million computers worldwide. Yep – we were one of them. Apparently, this was one of the worst cyber events in history and knocked our site out of action for more time than is seemly. If you have been trying to log on or join – you will have found that we were closed for business. However, all has been resolved and it's all systems go. Please come back – we have missed you!

Remember, it's free to register and use the platform.

Head to www.partners4bridge.com or use the QR code on this 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

The logo is identical to the one in the top image, featuring two white squares with a red heart and a black dot, followed by the text 'Partners' and '4 Bridge' in white. The background is green with a yellow diagonal stripe running from the bottom left to the top right.

Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new opportunities

On partners4bridge.com



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

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Let me share a feel-good story of the benefits of joining the **Partners4Bridge** community with the bonus of online games to enrich the mix. I'd like to introduce you to **Melissa Iverach** who signed up for both platforms in Orange. She will tell you how a 5 minute chat at the **StepBridge** table has opened doors and quite literally, changed her Bridge Life.

I met **Melissa Iverach (Melissal)** at the **Orange Congress**, her very first. Mel's home club is **Bathurst and District Bridge Club** which she joined in May this year after finishing her learner lessons. The club plays on **StepBridge** one evening a week. Despite having just ditched her trainer wheels, Mel's passion knows no bounds. We've all met them – it's there in the body language, the gleam in the eye. Welcome Mel, and take it away.



When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

I'd always wanted to learn to play Bridge, strange I know. I grew up playing cards and loved seeing the Bridge column in the paper but could never make any sense of it. We've recently made our tree change to Bathurst from Sydney and a big banner saying "Free Bridge Lessons" was impossible to resist! The club offers 10 free lessons and I started in March this year. I love the logic of it, I'm well and truly hooked.

Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?

*Bathurst and District Bridge Club is right in the heart of Bathurst in the Central West region of NSW. It's a beautiful town, lovely to visit any time of year. Our club is super friendly and supportive and offers sessions 5 days a week. We've even got a wonderful 'Bridge Library' which would appeal to any bridge enthusiast. Hot tip - **Read old bridge books!** They are FULL of bridge gold!*

Tell us about how signing up with Partners4Bridge led you to playing opposite a World Champion at your very first Congress.

*My best Bridge day so far! When I saw that the Nationals were on in Orange (only 45 mins away), I just had to go and kibitz. I turned up one afternoon, wide-eyed with no idea who to speak to, and was delighted to be rescued by **Jay** of **Partners4Bridge** who promptly introduced me to the Tournament Director, then to **Kate McCallum**, an 8 times world champion who just happened to be walking past (you can't make this stuff up).*

I ended up kibitzing Kate and Michael Courtney on the final day. At one point, as Michael laid down his hand as dummy he got up and said 'you're in' – I was sure he was joking – nope! There I found myself, heart pounding in my ears, playing dummy for Joan Butts in the finals of the Australian Pairs. As Michael said when he got back holding his coffee, one day I can tell my grandkids that I played with a world champion!

Jay and I have kept in touch, we've played on StepBridge a few times and it's been such fun and I've learned so much that we're going to have a face-to-face session at SBC when I'm next in Sydney.

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Your best Bridge tip or advice from an Expert

Write down the hand patterns and try to memorise them (like 5332, 4432, 4333, 5530, 5521). It's really helped me 'think' faster at the table and made it easier to count the hand, how the suits are splitting. It's a little thing but an enormous help – thanks Joan!

And finally, surprise us. Tell us something about yourself that we would never guess.

I played competitive Roller Derby, including with Team Australia at the first Roller Derby World Cup in Toronto, and in sell-out bouts at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion! It was a fantastic chapter of my life that left me with lifelong friends.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT

Riverland Bridge Club's October Congress

12/13 October 2024

Mezzanine Floor, LOXTON PRECINCT
Bookpurnong Road, Loxton

**Your Entry each day includes:
Morning Tea & Lunch**
Payment can be made on the day
EFTPOS available or by direct deposit in
advance to: Riverland Bridge Club
BSB: 105059 A/C: 044063640

**Registrations Close
Friday 27 September**

Director David Anderson
e: revoke1@live.com

In the Riverland:
e: john.angove@angove.com.au
John: 0438 391 232

** Special dietary requirements
required with registration.

PAIRS	TEAMS
Saturday October 12	Sunday October 13
10am-1.15pm 2pm-5pm	9.30am-12.45pm 1.30pm-4.30pm
Entry: \$70 per pair	Entry: \$140 per team

Visit the Loxton Visitor Information Centre
website to view accommodation options.
www.visitloxton.com.au



District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

ANGOVE
SINCE 1888
FAMILY WINEMAKERS



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



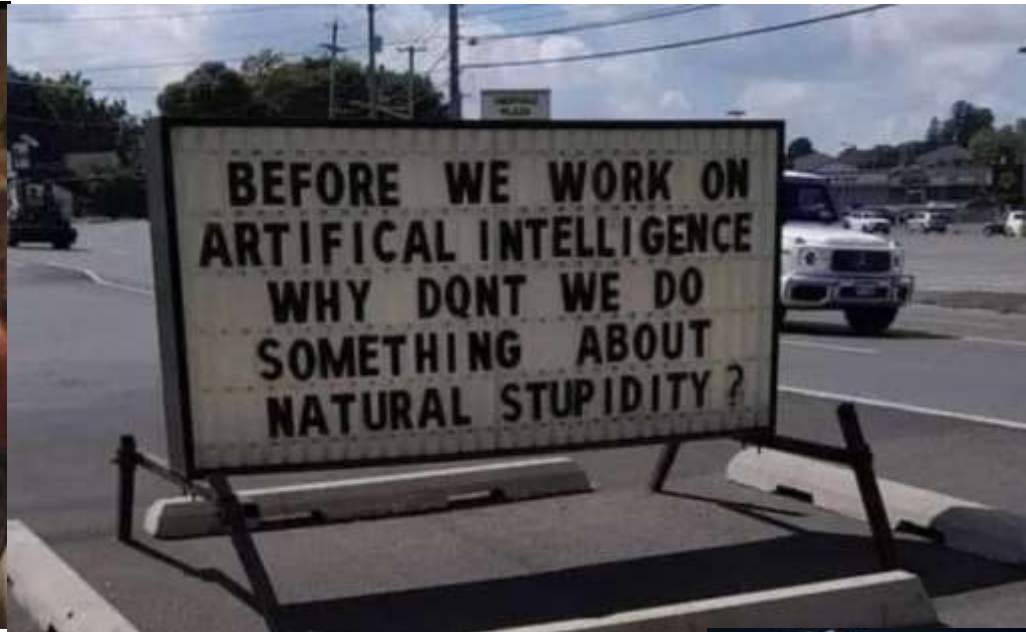
Theme: Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots



Funnies Column

Thank you to Sarah Zorah (TDSarah) for sending through Funnies for the newsletter this month.

It blows my mind that NASA is able to receive data from 4.67 billion miles away, but I lose wifi signal in my kitchen.



An AI generated statue of Sandy



Sarah and her dog Sandy on holiday in Turkiye

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

September

Sunday 1 September

- 2.30pm Open

(NO Restricted or Novice this week)

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

Club Championship - Week 3

Monday 16 September

- 8.00pm Open Teams

Sunday 22 September

- 10.00am Open Individual

- 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice

Club Championship - Week 4

Monday 23 September

- 8.00pm Open Teams

Sunday 29 September

- 10.00am Open Individual

- 2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice