

**December 2025**

## Message from the President

Dear members,

### Committee

Welcome to Jay Wongphasukhot and Sue Shadbolt who have joined as Committee Members. Thank you to Sarah Zoral who has agreed to fill the Secretary position which became vacant post the Annual General Meeting.

Once we are through the Christmas period, the Committee will look at the succession plan of the Committee from the 2026 Annual General Meeting onwards as well as the Vice President position currently vacant.

### December Congress

We held our December StepBridge Congress on Saturday 6 December. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to those involved including Chris Snook as director on the day, Cassandra Mitchell for looking after the entries, and Suzi Ledger for assisting on the day.

### Christmas Day Sessions and New Year's Eve Late Session

A reminder that on Christmas Day we will have our usual 4.00pm AEDT and 8.00pm ADET Open Red Masterpoint sessions. As has been the practice over the last few years, these sessions will be free, as a Christmas Gift from StepBridge. We will also have our late night New Year's Eve session at 10.30pm AEDT on 31 December to bring in 2026.

### Australia Day Session

Looking ahead to Australia Day, we are going to combined the 12.50pm/1.00pm sessions and the 3.50pm/4.00pm sessions on Monday 26 January to have a special 2.30pm Australia Day session. The 2.30pm session on this day will be Audio Video and there will be 3 grades of Open, Restricted & Novice. This will be a fun session with prizes, including for best dressed for Australia Day. So start thinking about your Australia gear or at least hat!

There will still be the 10.00am Individual and 8.00pm Teams on Monday 26 January. The 8.00pm session will also have some prizes on offer.

*Continue to next page*



### Committee

#### President

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)  
[chris@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:chris@stepbridge.com.au)

#### Vice President

*Vacant*

#### Treasurer

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)  
[suzi@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:suzi@stepbridge.com.au)

#### Secretary

Sarah Zoral (SarahAn)  
[sarah@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:sarah@stepbridge.com.au)

#### Committee Members

Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)  
Sue Shadbolt (SueSh)  
Jay Wongphasukhot (JayW)

#### StepBridge International Representative:

Epko Steinmetz (Epko)

### Non-Committee Roles

#### Head TD

Sarah Zoral (SarahAn)  
[sarah@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:sarah@stepbridge.com.au)

#### Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

#### Newsletter Editor

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

#### Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

### Email Address

[support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au)

## Lessons for Improving Players

We are pleased to advise that we will be having some lessons entailed "Lessons for Improving Players" in 2026. The initial lessons will be a five week set on Saturday mornings beginning on 31 January. Details and registration link are in the advertisement later in this newsletter.

## Alerting

We have had some members who are unsure or unaware of the regulations for Alerting on StepBridge. Alan Bustany has written an article on Alerting, with a particular focus on our Non Audio Video Session (i.e. all our regular sessions except our Monday 8.00pm Teams & Sunday 2.30pm Pairs). ***Please read the article prepared by Alan.***

## Player Code of Conduct

A reminder that the Committee has developed a Player Code of Conduct, which complements the Constitution, in addressing issues regarding players when they occur. A copy is available on the StepBridge website [www.stepbridge.com.au](http://www.stepbridge.com.au) under the About tab.

## Strategic Plan Snapshot

In this newsletter is a snapshot of our Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 which the Committee have worked on during 2025.

## New Partnership Finder Option

A reminder that we have a WhatsApp group where you are able to advertise for a partner, respond to a partner request, or respond to a TD request for help in a tournament. You are welcome to join the group. The Partner Finder group link is available from [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au) *(By joining this group, your mobile number will be shared amongst other members of the group).*

## Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I thank all of our members for the support of the club during 2025 by playing on StepBridge. Thank you also to everyone who has contributed to the life of the club in a role or two or multiple roles.

Happy Bridging,  
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

## From the Treasurer

All of our Home Club Members as well as long term members of StepBridge, you should have received your renewal notice at the start of December for membership for the next 12 months. Please remember to include your specific reference number with your payment.

A reminder to Associate members who have joined in 2020 or later that your memberships will be throughout the year around the time when you joined StepBridge Australia.

For anyone who is not playing at their F2F (Face-to-Face) Club anymore, you are welcome to make StepBridge your Home Club. Let us know before renewing and we'll advise amended payment details. We charge \$50 for Home Club membership which includes ABF & SABF Levies.

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)

# StepBridge Australia: 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Snapshot

StepBridge Australia (SBAU) is a fully online bridge club registered with the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF). The Strategic Plan will guide the organisation through the next five years of consolidation and improvement, within the structured guidelines of our constitution.

## Our Core Values

1. Providing an enjoyable game of competitive Bridge.
2. Tolerance and respect for all.
3. Fairness and professionalism.
4. Assisting players in developing their bridge skills.
5. Honesty and integrity.
6. Consistency in decision-making and problem-solving.
7. Openness and accountability.

## Strategic Priorities

### 1. Player Welfare and Well-Being

Support players' cognitive, social, and overall well-being by ensuring sessions are fair, structured, inclusive, and enjoyable for everyone.

- Sessions every day of the week, at a player's level or above
- Onboarding sessions and online learning materials
- Partner-finding services and opportunities, including WhatsApp and Partners4Bridge
- Players made aware of their responsibilities
- Access to structured bridge lessons to support learning and development
- A new Player Welfare Group in each state to support members in need
- Continued professional development for our Tournament Directors

### 2. Technology Improvements and Enhancements

To maintain and improve the range of technological features of the SBI/SBAU platform in regards to advancements in technology, cyber security and enjoyable game experiences.

- Ongoing collaboration with StepBridge International to improve the platform
- Regular updates on new technology and cybersecurity
- Tools and guides to help players make the most of the system
- Continuous technical training for Tournament Directors

### 3. Effective Leadership and Management

Demonstrate and support the highest standards in consultative and collaborative management, effective communication and enhanced technological systems. Enhance the profile of StepBridge and Bridge in general, in Australia and beyond.

- Regular updates from the Committee via newsletters
- Encouraging volunteers and new contributors
- Expanding newsletter content with player stories and expert tips
- Clear position descriptions and succession planning for all key roles

## Looking Ahead

From its humble beginnings in 2005, founded by Willem Willemsse, StepBridge Australia has grown into a thriving bridge club of over 2,000 members hosting 47 weekly sessions.

The club aims to provide a safe and engaging environment where players can enjoy duplicate bridge, including congresses, virtual club events, special competitions, and StepBridge Artificial Bridge Intelligence (SABI), and therefore support bridge players into the future through fairness, friendship, and fun.

## New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from 1 October to 15 December. 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**

Andrew5 CarolC Pwears UrsulaS

**RESTRICTED**

Helen1 KristinK ValeriSm

## NOVICE

AdamCh	AlanDel	AlecV	AnitaTr	Annette	AnthonyF	BasilF	BrianLy	Callum
Carmelo	CathBe	Catriona	ChrisMo	DaisyB	Davender	DavidBa	DavidBav	DavidMer
DebbieKe	DebbieP	DiannerR	EdithMcN	FionaOw	HelenSp	IanPa	JaneK	JeanMcI
JohnSu	JudyD	JulieTa	KimD	Louise3	MargK	MarkS	MartinV	MaryM
MarySm	MichaelV	MickW	Natalea	PamCh	PatriciG	RitooCh	RobinGok	RobynPi
RodKr	RonMcN	RoseSy	SharonV	SueC	TomHen	ToniH	VickiLee	VictoriN
VladkaS								

## Christmas Day Sessions

On Christmas Day, StepBridge will hold the following two bridge sessions only.

**4.00pm OPEN (Red Points)**

**8.00pm OPEN (Red Points)**

As a Christmas Gift from StepBridge, these sessions will be FREE.



## New Year's Eve Session

To celebrate the end of 2025 and bring in 2026, we will be holding a special New Year's Eve session at 10.30pm AEDT on 31 December.

This special session will be a Red Point session.

Come and join in the fun with your StepBridge friends!



## Australia Day Sessions

On Australia Day, Monday 26 January, we will be having the following sessions

**10.00am Open Individual**

**2.30pm Open, Restricted & Novice (Audio Video)**

**8.00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)**

All sessions on Australia Day will have Red Masterpoints.

At the 2.30pm & 8.00pm Audio Video sessions there will be prizes for best dressed for Australia Day.

So start thinking about your Australia gear or at least hat!

***Note: there will be NO 12.50pm/1.00pm and 3.50pm/4.00pm sessions on this day.***





# StepBridge Australia



## Improve Your Bridge in 5 Weeks!

Online Lessons for  
Improvers, Advanced Beginners & Intermediate Players

**Starting Saturday 31 January 2026 • 10:30am AEDT**

*These sessions are delivered via Audio-Video in our Virtual Classroom*

**Access the playing platform at: [play.stepbridge.com.au](https://play.stepbridge.com.au)**

### About the Course

A structured five-week program improving bidding, declarer play, and defence.  
Hands are played on StepBridge with supportive guidance.

Lesson 1 — 1NT openings, Stayman, transfers, opener rebids, unusual shapes, interference.

Lesson 2 — Declarer play: planning, entries, hold-up, creating winners, danger hand.

Lesson 3 — Pre-emptive bidding: when/why, vulnerability, seat, partner responses.

Lesson 4 — Defence: leads, discards, attitude, count, suit preference, wisdom.

Lesson 5 — Revision and guided hands reinforcing Lessons 1–4.

**Cost:** \$65 for the full 5-week program (paid via Participation Points).

**Schedule:** Saturdays 10:30am–12:00pm AEDT — 31 Jan • 7 Feb • 14 Feb • 21 Feb • 28 Feb 2026



### Your Teacher — Sue Falkingham

Sue Falkingham has been teaching bridge in Sydney and Hobart for more than 10 years. She brings warmth, clarity, and a passion for helping players enjoy better bridge.

### Registration:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/3674>

**New to MyABF?** Create an account:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register>

**Enquiries:** [lessons@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:lessons@stepbridge.com.au)



## Director's Corner

*Alan Bustany (TDA) has written the following article about Alerting in our regular non-AV sessions.*

### **Alert! Alert! Alert!**

We have been having a few problems of late with players failing to alert bids and/or asserting what should and should not be alerted in our regular non-AV sessions. Partly this has been exacerbated by the ABF's [Modifications to Laws and Regulations for online Bridge](#) first promulgated at the beginning of 2023. In particular those Modifications include:

In modes where players alert and explain their own calls and plays, ABF Screen Regulations shall apply, subject to the following qualifications:

- i) Explanations of calls are delivered to both members of the opposing side;
  - ii) Requests for clarification should be addressed to the player who gave the original explanation;
  - iii) The Self-alerting provisions of the Alerting Regulations do not apply. Players are required to alert any call the meaning of which may not be readily understood by the opponents.
- Point (i) is automatically handled by StepBridge software when you click on Alert for your bid (or when you send a message to Opps and Spectators, if you need to do that).
  - Point (ii) means you should privately ask the opponent who made the bid for clarification. You could ask publicly to the Table (but this might inform the other opponent that an alert was made). That opponent should reply privately or to Opps and Spectators and NOT to the Table as the latter creates Unauthorised Information for their Partner. Note it is a good idea to respond immediately with "..." so that your opponent knows you saw their request and to wait for a response.
  - Point (iii) is the doozy! What are these Self-alerting provisions that no longer apply? Is it not the case that online bidding requires you to alert your own bids — is that not self-alerting?!? Well, let's look at this in more detail...

Those Self-alerting provisions refer specifically to five types of call:

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- All calls at the four-level or higher, except conventional opening bids
- Any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction

These must *not* be alerted face-to-face but online they *must* be alerted if "*the meaning ... may not be readily understood by the opponents*".

Sadly that phrase is open to interpretation. Stayman (point 5) probably is readily understood, but Michaels Cue-bids, Cue-raises, and Gerber 4♣ are not readily understood (especially since there are many variations of these conventions — your variation should be spelt out in the alert).

All conventional bids above 3NT (point 4) need to be alerted including whatever version of Blackwood you are playing together with all the responses.

Doubles and Redoubles (points 1 and 2) cause their own "*readily understood*" problems (including between partners!) — a simple take-out double might seem obvious but, later in the auction, is it for support, take-out, penalty, or something else?

My recommendation is to alert and explain every double or redouble that you make!

In fact best-practice online is simply to alert and explain *every* bid you make! But isn't that a lot of (unnecessary) typing? Well, yes, but there are lots of text-expander tools that convert simple expressions to canned text that you can use. Personally I use something called "espanso" which, for me, converts **1c1h** to "Transfer showing four+ Spades 5+ points" since that is what a 1H response to a 1C opening means in our system.

Incidentally the StepBridge software itself automatically includes some text from your system card for opening bids. You need to make sure that text is relevant to the actual bid you made — having "2+ clubs 4+ diamonds" as an explanation for both 1C and 1D openings is not correct!

What if your opponent does not alert or fails to respond to a request for clarification? You are welcome to call the TD, of course, but, rather than delay the game, it is often best to either:

- assume the bid is natural; or
- rely on what their system card says.

*If* your side is damaged by that assumption, just call the TD at the end of the hand: explain the situation and ask for a review.

Bottom line: if in doubt, *Alert!* Even if you are certain that an alert is *not* required, it will do no harm to *Alert!* You might be surprised by how much your understanding of your own system improves if you always *Alert!*

*Alan Bustany (TDAIan)*



## Vale - Gary Goldsmith (GarGolds)

Gary Goldsmith passed away on 7 November 2025

Gary (GarGolds) was a member with StepBridge since April 2020 and he played 1127 tournaments.

Gary mainly played in the 1.00pm Open session with Chris Raisin (ChrisRai) being his regular partner.

Gary's wife, Bronwyn, wrote the following to Sarah Zoral

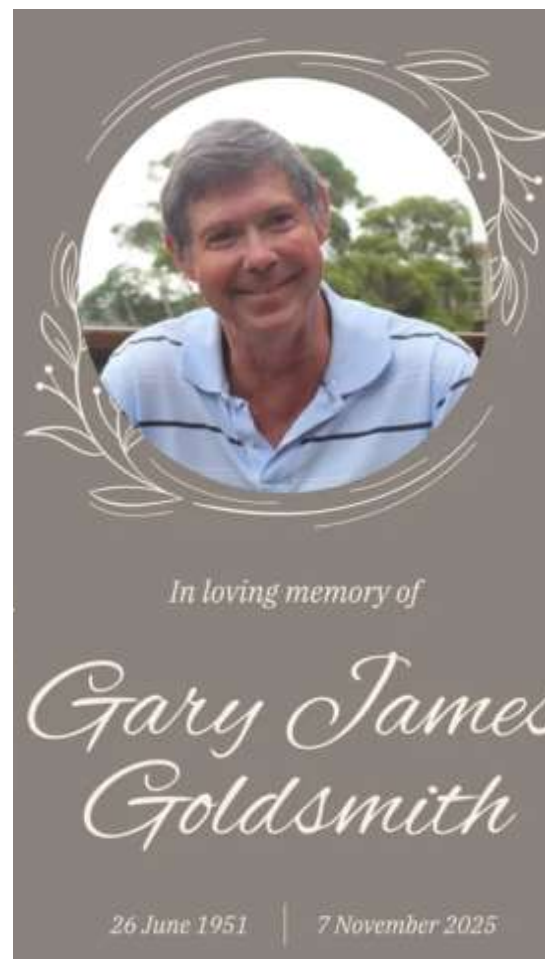
*Bridge was such an important part of his (Gary's) life and you (Sarah) and Chris (Raisin) too, made it possible for him to keep playing longer than I thought possible.*

*Gary had such a hard road with his muscular atrophy. Then the dementia. The last year, took his mind as well, I think your step bridge helped him and me, more than you will ever know. I will always be grateful to you. I hope you receive the kindness you gave Gary also.*

*I'm sad to lose Gary but relieved he is no longer in pain.*

*Take care and thankyou so much*

*Bronwyn*



## Vale - John Dogterom (JohnDo)



Long time member Johan Henri (John Dogterom passed away on 23 July 2025

John (JohnDo) was a member with StepBridge since June 2006 and he played 3,282 tournaments.

We received the following message from John's daughter, Ingrid.

*John celebrated his 90th birthday in April this year, was diagnosed with brain cancer in June and died 9 weeks later .John's family is grateful he did not suffer .*

*John loved his bridge with a passion and always enjoyed playing with Yvonne (YvonneA) and Theo (TheoM).*

*Thank you for your condolences*

*Ingrid*

# Melbourne Cup Day Session

On Tuesday 4th November we held our traditional Melbourne Cup Session.

Thanks go to TDChrisS for directing, TDBrenda for managing the social aspect and judging the hats that were on display, and Mark Hetherington for running the backend processes.

We had a total of 28 tables, and everyone received a free entry into our Melbourne Cup sweep.

The prizes for the sweep consisted of the table fees paid by members  
for a total prize pool of 8,960 Participation Points.

1st place winners shared 55% of the pool, 2nd place shared 25% of the pool,

3rd place shared 15% of the pool, and last place shared 5% of the pool.

Congratulation to the winners!!

## Sweeps winners:

1st	2nd	3rd	Last
<i>Half Yours</i>	<i>Goodie Two Shoes</i>	<i>Middle Earth</i>	<i>Buckaroo</i>
986 PPs	560 PPs	269 PPs	90 PPs
DeniseM	JamesWi	AdrianB	Alfie
FrankJo	MarceySp	Kaiping	JoanM
IanKilp	SueJack	LouiseR	MalCI
InaBuhse	WenceV	StevenK	Mukesh
RobertF		ToniAr	PeterWeb

## Fashions at the table:



1st: PamelaLi 110 PPs



2nd: KayR 55 PPs



Best Man: ChrisJoh 55 PPs

## Event

### 2025 ABF Club Teams Knockout

The fifth and final month of the 2025 ABF Club Teams Knockout was played on RealBridge on Tuesday evening 25 November. Below are our Teams, and the Results following the fifth evening.

We had the four teams who received free entry from our qualifying event plus we had three additional Under 750 Teams (StepBridge Purple, Orange & White) who played.

Category	Players	Results
Open	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK) Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi) Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR) Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC) Belinda Taranto (BelindaT) Mark Doust (MarkDou)	Our Open team finish 12th in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 750 <i>StepBridge Black</i>	Mark Goddard (Mark) Joscelyn Charters (Joscelyn) Joann Theriault (JoannT) Helen Rogoysky (Helen3)	Our U750 team finished 6th in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 300	Laura Hedberg (LauraHed) Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM) Tien Chey (TienC) Meera Kudva (MeeraK)	Our U300 team finished 21st in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 100	John Hewitt (JohnHew) Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu), Ann Rinder (AnnRin) Ruth Harvey (RuthHar)	Our U300 team finished 9th in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 750 <i>StepBridge Purple</i>	Elsie Chua (ElsieC) Steven Kemp (StevenK) Mike Morrissey (MikeMorr) David Cumming (DavidCum) David Hancock (DavidHan)	The StepBridge Purple Team were runners up against the Central Coast Leagues Team <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 750 <i>StepBridge Orange</i>	Rodney Bell (RodBell) Stephen Miller (SteveMil) Philip Hocking (PhilipH) Cathy Hocking (CathrynH)	The StepBridge Orange Team finished 20th in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>
Under 750 <i>StepBridge White</i>	Chris Farr (ChrisF) Don Saunders (DonS) Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir) Rosemary Porter (RoseP)	The StepBridge White Team finished 35th in the Consolation Swiss Teams <a href="#">Results</a>

# South Australian Bridge Federation Inc

## STATE-WIDE PAIRS 2025

StepBridge participated in the SABF State-Wide Pairs on Monday 24 November.

For those who received overall red masterpoints in the StepBridge session,  
your results and masterpoints awarded appears below

[Overall Results](#)   [StepBridge Results](#)   [Booklet with hands and commentary by Barbara Travis](#)

7	63.46%	MICHELE TREDINNICK - ROBYN PEARCE	0.92
9	61.96%	FLORENCE MALTBY - PHILIP BAPTY	0.85
31	58.25%	COLIN SPELLER - JAY WONGPHASUKCHOT	0.66
35	57.51%	HERB NEUMEISTER - RICHARD ARNOLD	0.62
52	56.09%	MARTIN WU - EUGENE PEREIRA	0.55
54	55.99%	MARCEY SPILSBURY - DIANNE DWYER	0.55
62	55.09%	YVONNE BURNS - IAN KILPATRICK	0.50
64	55.02%	TONY GEORGESON - SUSAN LIPTON	0.50
65	54.86%	JUNE BREGUET - KEVIN CROUGH	0.49
71	54.64%	SUE SHADBOLT - ERIK MOLLER	0.48
72	54.63%	SA SMITH - PAUL SMITH	0.48
104	52.91%	BILL FOTHERINGHAM - MARTIN BUNDER	0.40
116	52.04%	TAMMY HUBBARD - PENNY CORY	0.35
118	52.01%	MUKESH PAREKH - PAUL STEBBING	0.35
126	51.53%	MATTHEW GEEVE - LIBBY HEYWARD	0.32
131	51.09%	JAMES WILLETTS - JEANNE HEY	0.31
137	50.66%	MARINA GREEN - BARBARA BELL	0.28
139	50.56%	HANS VAN WEEREN - MARDI GROSVENOR	0.28
153	49.97%	SANDY SPENCER - AMBER NOONAN	0.25
156	49.85%	GEK LOW - SUE FALKINGHAM	0.24
163	49.42%	MARIETA BORTHWICK - HEIDI COLENBRANDER	0.22
165	49.36%	WAL BRAKE - ROGER BRAKE	0.22
196	47.85%	RITA JONES - RAY JONES	0.14
202	47.47%	DOT SLATTERY - KARL HRADSKY	0.13
211	46.68%	MIRIAM O'BRIEN - ELSIE CHUA	0.09

## Congress Results

### StepBridge Australia December Congress IMPs Pairs Saturday 6th December 2025

**Open Grade Pairs:** <https://portal.stepbridge.com.au/reports/congress/22248>

1st Patricia Anagnostou & Margaret (Meg) Pisko  
2nd Paul Nelson & John Donovan  
3rd Rakesh Kumar & Jake Andrew

**Restricted Grade Pairs:** <https://portal.stepbridge.com.au/reports/congress/22249>

1st Erik Moller & Gabrielle Bastow  
2nd Heather Whitely & Ina Buhse  
3rd David Hancock & Meera Kudva

**Best Novice Pair in Restricted Grade**

Annette Udall & Mary Hinves

## 2026 Congresses & GNOT Heat

Saturday 21 March (Grafton) - Pairs

Saturday 30 May (StepBridge Australia) - Pairs (Audio Video)

Saturday 1 August (StepBridge Australia) - Teams (Audio Video)

Saturday 5 December (StepBridge Australia) - Pairs (Audio Video)

## Club Playing Numbers

Dec-25		Nov-25	9,140	Oct-25	8,720	Sep-25	8,588
Aug-25	8,872	Jul-25	9,384	Jun-25	8,914	May-25	9,364
Apr-25	9,064	Mar-25	9,790	Feb-25	7,912	Jan-25	9,810
Dec-24	9,094	Nov-24	8,854	Oct-24	8,720	Sep-24	8,310
Aug-24	9,136	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

## New StepBridge Version

The completely redesigned version of StepBridge is now available to everyone. For now, this new version will run alongside the familiar version, giving you ample time to transition at your own pace.

### What's New?

#### Improved User Experience

- Modern and fresh interface.
- Enhanced scalability for improved display.
- Uniform controls and appearance across web, iPad, and desktop versions.
- No need to switch to the web version for video play.



#### Playing with Sabi (AI)

- Meet Sabi, our AI bridge player, available whenever you want to play.  
You can invite Sabi to be your partner, opponent, or both. More details are provided below.

#### Prepared for the Future

New StepBridge features (like playing with Sabi) will only be available in the new version.

### How to Play?

#### Via your web browser (including iPad):

Play directly at <https://play.stepbridge.com.au>

#### By installing on your computer:

The new version installs alongside your current one, allowing you to use both.

For Windows: [Download the Windows installer](#)

For Mac: [Download the Apple macOS installer](#)

To log in to the new version, you'll need your username and password.

Click [here](#) if you've forgotten your password.



## New StepBridge Version

### Playing with Sabi

- Note: This feature is still being developed. Currently, you cannot select a system card or receive explanations of bidding systems.
- Open a recreational table and leave one or more seats empty.
- Use the “Play with Sabi” button to fill all empty seats with Sabi.
- Choose your arrangement freely: play with three Sabis, with your partner against Sabi, or against each other with Sabi as your partner.
- If you're playing with Sabi as your partner and become dummy, you will play as dummy.



**The name Sabi could stand for Step Artificial Bridge Intelligence, but mostly it's simply a pleasant name for a friendly bridge robot.**

### Problems or Suggestions

We continue to enhance this new version and greatly appreciate your feedback.

Send your feedback to: [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au)

Thank you very much for your interest and happy playing!

## StepBridge Onboarding Education Lecture

Tuesday and Saturday Afternoons at 4.30pm AEDT

Join in a relaxed Zoom session to understand how to navigate the New Version and how to play with SABI our friendly robot.

Question Time for all your needs.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/W2FJXBCSQjapeXPtxbAMzA#/registration>

## Monthly Awards: October 2025

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Highest Player Average in October 2025	Overall	1	58.18	21	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		2	58.09	6	Sue Neill (SueN)
		3	57.28	13	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Open	1	58.09	6	Sue Neill (SueN)
		2	57.73	20	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	57.28	13	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Restricted	1	59.76	14	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		2	58.16	6	Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	56.07	7	Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
	Novice	1	58.95	6	Robert Ford (RobertFo)
		2	55.97	6	Phil Kay (PhilK)
		3	55.65	6	Michael Parr (MichaelP)
	Open IMPs	1	37	6	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		2	29	6	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		3	25	6	Susie Hall (SusieH)
	Open	1	57.64	11	Frank Hymus (FrankHy)
Highest Pairs Average in October 2025	Individual	2	55.87	6	Kay Baguley (KayB)
		3	55.6	15	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
	Overall	1	60.81	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	58.48	7	David Hancock (DavidHan), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		3	58.09	6	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)
	Open	1	60.81	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	58.09	6	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)
		3	56.6	9	Tim Davis (TimD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Restricted	1	58.48	7	David Hancock (DavidHan), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		2	56.07	7	Daniele Escreet (DanieleE), Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
		3	55.46	9	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
	Novice	1	54.83	8	Ann Rinder (AnnRin), Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
		2	53.53	8	Frances Pope (FrancesP), Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
		3	52.9	7	Debbie Paltridge (DebbieP), Ian Paltridge (IanPa)
	Open IMPs	1	25	6	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)
		2	12	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	-3	6	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

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 October 2025</i>	Overall			<b>90</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				82	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				59	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Open			<b>59</b>	<b>Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)</b>
				58	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				48	Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Restricted			<b>28</b>	<b>Savitri Newman (Savitri)</b>
				26	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
				21	Mary Hinves (MaryH)
	Novice			<b>16</b>	<b>Martin Haines (MartinH)</b>
				15	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)
				14	Richard Alderman (Richard3)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
	Open			<b>31</b>	<b>Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)</b>
	Individual			29	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				27	Smita Devalia (SmitaD)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in October 2025	Overall			48	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				31	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				23	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Robyn Pearce (RobynP)
	Open			39	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				31	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				23	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Robyn Pearce (RobynP)
	Restricted			13	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
				13	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
				10	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice			8	Stephen Tjianoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				8	Frances Pope (FrancesP), Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
				8	Ann Rinder (AnnRin), Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
	Open IMPs			9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				6	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)
				6	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in October 2025	Overall	1	8.13	8	Alex McTaggart (AlexMcT)
		2	5.93	16	Lizzii Bowman (LizziiB)
		3	5.9	6	Colin Speller (ColinSp)
	Open	1	5.9	6	Colin Speller (ColinSp)
		2	4.73	6	Tien Chey (TienC)
		3	4.71	7	Bob Morris (BobMorr)
	Restricted	1	5.22	9	Toni Arnott (ToniAr)
		2	4.4	6	Sandra Belcher (SandraBe)
		3	4.26	7	Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
	Novice	1	6.32	6	Alex McTaggart (AlexMcT)
		2	4.3	15	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)
		3	4.02	9	Beverley Oliver (Beverley)
	Open IMPs	1	0.22	7	Patrick Smith (PatSmith)
		2	0.15	7	Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
			0.15	6	Colin Meek (ColMeek)
	Open	1	10.88	7	Bob Johnston (BobJ)
Most Improved Pair in October 2025	Individual	2	4.2	10	Pauline Moore (PaulineM)
		3	4.1	11	Frank Hymus (FrankHy)
	Overall	1	6.58	16	Robert Ford (RobertFo), Lizzii Bowman (LizziiB)
		2	5.62	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	5.59	10	Julie Barker (JulieBar), Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
	Open	1	5.62	6	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	4.98	7	David Cumming (DavidCum), Mike Morrissey
		3	4.71	7	Gwen White (Gwen), Bob Morris (BobMorr)
	Restricted	1	4.77	9	Robert Ford (RobertFo), Lizzii Bowman (LizziiB)
		2	4.23	7	Daniele Escreet (DanieleE), Sandra Cool (SandraCo)
		3	3.97	7	Jo Quinlivan (JoQ), Sylvia Skeels (SylviaSk)
	Novice	1	8.72	8	Ann Rinder (AnnRin), Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
		2	4.23	6	Kay Dengate (KayD), Beverley Oliver (Beverley)
		3	1.52	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	1	0.15	6	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse
		2	0.1	6	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)
		3	0.05	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart

## Monthly Awards: November 2025

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in November 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>62.99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Christopher Jones (ChrisJ)</b>
		2	58.62	6	Larry Bryant (Larry)
		3	58.22	6	Edward Czarnocki (EdwardCz)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>57.46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Penny Corrigan (PennyCor)</b>
		2	57.41	12	Barry Dalsto (BarryD)
		3	57.15	11	Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>59.44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)</b>
		2	55.79	10	Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	55.3	8	Patricia Byrnes (TrishB)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>56.63</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>John Hewitt (JohnHew)</b>
		2	55.81	6	Lyn Forby (LynForby)
		3	54.88	9	Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)</b>
		2	23	6	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		3	18	6	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>58.62</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Larry Bryant (Larry)</b>
	Individual	2	56.33	10	Pauline Erby (PaulineE)
		3	54.94	7	Jian Williams (JianW)



Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Pairs Average in November 2025</i>	Overall	1	57.46	6	<b>Penny Corrigan (PennyCor), Judith Crafti (JudithCr)</b>
		2	57.44	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Meera Kudva (MeeraK)
		3	56.86	9	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
	Open	1	57.46	6	<b>Penny Corrigan (PennyCor), Judith Crafti (JudithCr)</b>
		2	56.86	9	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
		3	56.54	7	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulficar (Firdous)
	Restricted	1	57.44	6	<b>David Hancock (DavidHan), Meera Kudva (MeeraK)</b>
		2	55.41	6	Toni Arnott (ToniAr), Erik Moller (ErikM)
		3	55.3	8	Patricia Byrnes (TrishB), Kathy Ivits (Kathyl)
	Novice	1	53.79	6	<b>Debbie Paltridge (DebbieP), Ian Paltridge (IanPa)</b>
		2	52.23	8	Stephen Tjianoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
		3	49.87	8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	18	6	<b>Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)</b>
		2	-10	7	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3	-3	6	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

As an incentive for the player / pair who has most sessions in the month and the most improved player / pair in the month, a prize will be awarded to the person / pair that comes first in each category. The prize is 100 participation points per player. The players who have received the prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in November 2025</i>	Overall			<b>86</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				85	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				58	Mary Hinves (MaryH)
	Open			<b>60</b>	<b>Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)</b>
				56	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				45	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)
	Restricted			<b>29</b>	<b>Mary Hinves (MaryH)</b>
				25	Mike McGlone (MikeMcG)
				25	Savitri Newman (Savitri)
	Novice			<b>13</b>	<b>Martin Haines (MartinH)</b>
				11	Kay Dengate (KayD)
				10	Helen Thomas (HelenT)
	Open IMPs			<b>8</b>	<b>Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)</b>
				<b>8</b>	<b>Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)</b>
				7	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
	Open			<b>29</b>	<b>Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)</b>
	Individual			<b>29</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				<b>29</b>	<b>Jurate Laisve (JurateL)</b>

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in November 2025</i>	Overall			<b>38</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				26	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				19	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
	Open			<b>31</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				26	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				19	Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)
	Restricted			<b>13</b>	<b>Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)</b>
				11	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)
				10	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
	Novice			<b>8</b>	<b>Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)</b>
				<b>8</b>	<b>Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)</b>
				<b>8</b>	<b>Solomon Gokavi (SolomonG), Robin Gokavi (RobinGok)</b>
	Open IMPs			<b>7</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
				6	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in November 2025	Overall	1	6.83	9	Patrick Rasmussen (PatRasmu)
		2	5.92	10	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		3	5.9	6	Kenneth Macdougall (KenMacD)
	Open	1	7.11	7	Linda Wynwood (LindaWyn)
		2	6.51	6	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse)
		3	5.23	8	Annette Hyland (AnnetteH)
	Restricted	1	6.74	9	Patrick Rasmussen (PatRasmu)
		2	6.48	10	David McLeod (DavidM)
		3	5.67	7	Gerry Davies (GerryDav)
	Novice	1	7.1	8	John Hewitt (JohnHew)
		2	4.52	7	Richard Alderman (Richard3)
		3	3.38	8	Beverley Oliver (Beverley)
	Open IMPs	1	0.25	6	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		2	0.14	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
			0.14	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)
	Open	1	5.67	6	Larry Bryant (Larry)
	Individual	2	4.62	7	Barbara Bell (BarbaraR)
		3	3.69	7	Camille Farrell (CamilleF)
Most Improved Pair in November 2025	Overall	1	4.82	6	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS), Geoffrey Sharpe (GeoffS)
		2	4.8	9	Jay Wongphasukhot (JayW), Robert Fulcher
		3	4.39	18	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Open	1	4.82	6	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS), Geoffrey Sharpe (GeoffS)
		2	4.8	9	Jay Wongphasukhot (JayW), Robert Fulcher
		3	4.39	18	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Restricted	1	4.98	7	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
		2	2.8	9	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
		3	2.5	7	Christine Neale (ChrisNe), Lynette Sawtell (LynetteS)
	Novice	1	1.63	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole
		2	0.89	6	Debbie Paltridge (DebbieP), Ian Paltridge (IanPa)
	Open IMPs	1	0.14	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander

## Masterpoint Promotions

October 2025

Tant, Kevin	Silver Grand	Aroney, Orsolina	Bronze State
McNamara, Patricia	Silver Grand	Korfgen, Astrid	Bronze State
Elich, Gabrielle	Grand	Mucharsky, Carolynne	State
Cransberg, Alan	Grand	Adams, Allan	State
Williams, Daria	Gold Life	Rollinson, Julie	State
Clarke, Peter	Gold Life	McMaster, Neil	State
Cooper, Therese	Silver Life	Brabon, Jill	State
Cathcart, Sachiko	Silver Life	Kirby, Julie	Regional
Dalsto, Barry	Silver Life	Nicol, Helen	Regional
Neil, Elizabeth	Silver Life	Bowman, Liz	Silver Local
Borthwick, Marieta	Bronze Life	Langford, Emma	Silver Local
Parekh, Mukesh	Bronze Life	Clark, Don	Silver Local
Irvine, Karen	Bronze Life	Reid, Merilyn	Silver Local
Males, Warren	Bronze Life	Smits, Eileen	Silver Local
Chick, Glen	Life	Iverach, Melissa	Bronze Local
Rogers, Robyn	Life	Owens, David	Bronze Local
George, Kitty	Life	Rundle, Kay	Bronze Local
Martin, Vincia	Life	Fogarty, Judy	Bronze Local
Morgan, Lauren	Life	Magick, Jahli	Bronze Local
Kristanda, Denis	Life	Horsley, Louise	Bronze Local
Heyward, Libby	Silver National	Greenbaum, Marc	Bronze Local
Brake, Wal	Silver National	Horsley, Patrick	Bronze Local
Morrissey, Mike	Silver National	Katekar, Leonie	Local
Carter, Mary	Silver National	Bennett, Sue	Local
Githens, Carolyn	Silver National	Dowding, Yvonne	Local
Moller, Erik	Bronze National	Phillips, David	Local
Hiatt, Frances	National	Bowman, Susan	Local
Hancock, David	National	Lewis, Sarah	Local
Neal, Bronwyn	National	Pearce, Joe	Graduate
Friesen, Sandra	National	Fisher, Sarah	Graduate
McCoull, Erica	National	Bassetti, Bobbie	Graduate
Wan, Zhan	National		
Szenczy, Conny	National		
Marsden, Katherine	National		
Hughes, Kevin	National		



## Masterpoint Promotions

### November 2025

Corr, Julia	Grand	Glaser, Mark	Bronze Regional
Hasemore, Chris	Gold Life	Wright, Trish	Regional
Milne, Lynne	Gold Life	Appelby, Paul	Regional
Hoschke, Ian	Silver Life	Grehan, Neryl	Regional
Goodlet, Meredith	Silver Life	Gough, Sue	Regional
Neumeister, Herb	Bronze Life	Corbett, Paula	Silver Local
McRae, Elaine	Life	Sydney, Ross	Silver Local
Wright, Ian	Life	Mason, Sylvia	Bronze Local
Stebbing, Paul	Life	McNaughton, Eva	Bronze Local
Daniel, Graham	Life	Oliver, Bev	Bronze Local
Hubbard, Tammy	Silver National	Andrews, Anne	Bronze Local
Lee, Vicki	Bronze National	Sisson, Tracey	Bronze Local
Henry, Rhonda	Bronze National	Mellet, Steve	Bronze Local
Webb, Colleen	Bronze National	Dengate, Kay	Bronze Local
Dunk, Bob	Bronze National	Anderson, Thistle	Bronze Local
McCoull, Erica	Bronze National	Macgregor, Leonie	Bronze Local
Knight, Peter	Bronze National	Whitehead, Diana	Bronze Local
Barker, Julie	National	Coaldrake, Lee	Bronze Local
Magick, Beth	National	Smigowski, Pam	Local
Scambler, Marion	National	Buckstein, Ruth	Local
Fleming, Simon	National	Kukielka, Krzysztof	Local
Bastow, Gabrielle	National	Ross, Lindin	Local
Pavy, Jo	Bronze State	Blue, John	Local
Dayman, Andrea	Bronze State	Hearnshaw, Helen	Local
Ingle, Suzie	Bronze State	Walker, Claire	Local
Mackiggan, Rebecca	Bronze State	Williams, Bronwyn	Club
Pecenicic, Jeanette	Bronze State	Byrnes, Helen	Club
Bissett, Jennifer	Bronze State	Pearce, Joe	Club
Anderson, Lesley	Bronze State	Wilmott, Robyn	Club
Rasmussen, Patrick	State	Alderman, Richard	Club
Fulton, Pat	State	Haines, Martin	Graduate
Evans, Lisa	State	Meyer, Nick	Graduate
Walcott, James	State	Moss, Karen	Graduate
Harvey, Ruth	State		
Sisson, Andrew	State		
Murphy, Carmel	State		
Hodgson, Anne	State		



# Congratulations!



## Partnership Platform

How good is the new **WhatsApp** page recently introduced by **StepBridge**.

Not only is it an opportunity for players to seek partners for upcoming games it also allows Directors the chance to fill that vacant seat or half table. So much easier than lurking around in the lobby before the starting bell rings.

Which leads me to the subject of finding partners – this topic is central to my reason for being. Now you have your **StepBridge** games sorted, how about considering a partner from outside the StepBridge fold for face to face games or Congresses you have your heart set on. You might find an exciting match. Then you can invite them into the **StepBridge** club room to use those participation points they have been awarded.

**StepBridge** players are also rewarded with 100 participation points just for signing on. And all for **free**! We want to continue to grow the membership – because the more people playing Bridge the better for the game and its future.

*Jay Novak (JayN)*



 **Partners**  
 **4 Bridge**

 **Partners**  
 **4 Bridge**

Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new  
opportunities

On **partners4bridge.com**



For feedback, enquiries and support,  
email us at  
[admin@partners4bridge.com](mailto:admin@partners4bridge.com)

## Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Now let's meet **Margaret Regan** – Central Coast luminary and a girl who just radiates sunshine.

**All StepBridge members are assigned a Login.**

**May we know yours?** MargRe

**When did you start playing Bridge, and why?**

I started playing 14 years ago. A friend's partner had died, and I offered to learn bridge to fill a little of the void as they had been learning with Lorraine Lindsay from CCLCBC (Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club). I fell in love with the game. My friend, Clare, found other interests!

**Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?**

I currently play face to face at CCLCBC at Gosford. Every session has something to offer every standard of player. It is blessed with some experienced, brilliant players and the club is, on the whole, helpful to the rookies, while intermediate players, like me, enjoy the ups and downs. Socialising after most sessions with wine and chips is a positive feature.



**Your best Bridge tip or advice from an Expert**

I do get upset with some players' behaviours and attitudes at the table from time to time. Shirley Crockett shared with me early in my career that "really good players never need to behave badly, because they can just play bridge." Sally Clarke said to develop your bridge you benefit by having a mentor.... She was mine for a while, now she is someone I revere, and a friend. I now have a number of mentors. (I'm not sure if they know who they are!)

Bridge partnerships are like marriages – they take time and effort and then commitment to talk through the issues. (not sure who told me that one, but it's definitely true!)

**Tell us something about yourself that we would never guess.**

I am marshmallow on the inside. To my surprise, in my retirement, I have started to enjoy gardening and singing in a great choir "Hummingbird".

Remember, It's free to Register and use the platform. Head to [www.partners4bridge.com](http://www.partners4bridge.com) or use the QR code on the previous 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.



# AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

## WHAT'S NEW:

- **New format: Teams (Wed, Thurs) then Pairs (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
- **New event: Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs (matchpoints)**  
**Masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%**
- **New daily starting time: 10am**
- **PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs**

Chief Director: Laurie Kelso

Organiser: Barbara Travis

Email: [anot@sabf.asn.au](mailto:anot@sabf.asn.au)

**Early Bird Discount ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**



# **2026 AUTUMN NATIONALS PROGRAM**

## **TEAMS EVENTS**

### **TBIB OPEN TEAMS**

### **STEPBRIDGE UNDER LIFE MASTER TEAMS**

### **STEPBRIDGE UNDER GRAND MASTER TEAMS**

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30 April

(attendance at both days compulsory)

8 x 14 board matches

### **TBIB OPEN TEAMS Final**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

## **PAIRS EVENTS**

### **DAVID LUSK ROOKIE PAIRS (Under 35 MPs)**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May (only)

6 x 8 board matches

### **ONE DAY RESTRICTED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS**

Novice (Under 100 MPs), Under Life Master, Under Grand Master

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May (only)

6 x 8 board matches

### **AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> (Qualifying), Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> (Semi Final) and

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Final)

### **BLUE RIBBON UNDER LIFE MASTER PAIRS**

### **BLUE RIBBON UNDER GRAND MASTER PAIRS**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> (Qualifying) and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Final)

**To enter or for more information, see MyABF (from Nov 2025)**

**Organiser:** Barbara Travis

**Email:** [anot@sabf.asn.au](mailto:anot@sabf.asn.au)

**Phone:** 0437 919 928



## NEW LOOK FOR THE AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026: COME TO ADELAIDE

The 2026 Autumn National Championship will now include a two or three-day Matchpoint Pairs event, will qualifying, semi-final and final.

The Teams events will be held first, on Wednesday and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, with the Open Teams final being held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. The Open Teams finalist will each receive prize money; subject to sufficient entries, the first-placed team will win \$3,000 and second will earn \$1,500.

The other categories for the Teams events are:

Under Grand Master Teams (all non-Grand Masters, up to a maximum of 1,100 MPs per player),

Under Life Master Teams (all non-Life Masters, up to a maximum of 400 MPs per player).

*The masterpoint limits apply at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.* Those two events have \$1,000 first-place prize money on offer.

Whilst the final of the Open Teams is being held, we will be offering two new events:

the Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs – a matchpoint pairs event, with masterpoints being awarded for all scores of 46+% per session, with separate categories (only the Open starts on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May),

and

a one-day Butler Swiss Pairs event for restricted players – Under Grand Master, Under Life Master (with the same limits as above), Novice (under 100 MPs per player) and Rookie (under 35 MPs per player).

The Australian Blue Ribbon (ABR) Pairs will have three categories:

Open – which is a three-day matchpoint pairs event – qualifying, semi-finals, final

Under Grand Master – a two-day event – qualifying and final

Under Life Master – a two-day event – qualifying and final

In the Open event, the Teams finalists will have automatic entry to the ABR Pairs, including carryforward. The semi-finals will be divided into two fields, A and B. Two pairs from the B semi-final will qualify for the final.

In all events, those who do not qualify for the final will have a Consolation field offered, with the format and prizes to be determined by the number of entries.

Subject to sufficient entries, there will be very attractive prize money available. The Open place-getters will earn themselves \$5,000 for first, \$2,000 for second, \$1,000 for third, with **additional awards for the best Women's, Senior and SA pairs (not place-getters)**. The restricted events offer \$1,000 and \$500 for first and second place.

Come along and support this innovative event! You may find yourself in the money.

Barbara Travis

Tournament Organiser

email: [anot@sabf.asn.au](mailto:anot@sabf.asn.au)

phone: 0437 919 928

## Funnies Column

Thank you to Bev Cleary (BevClea) for this months funnies

**I COULD NOT BELIEVE IT TODAY, WHEN I CAME HOME AND WAS TOLD BY MY WIFE THAT MY 5-YEAR-OLD SON WASN'T ACTUALLY MINE...**

**SHE SAYS THAT I NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION WHEN PICKING HIM UP FROM SCHOOL**



A recent study has found that woman who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

During my job interview yesterday, the interviewer asked, 'Why do you think I should give you this job?'

I replied, 'Because my best friend Dave works in your IT department, and he told me you're having an affair with your secretary.'

My wife caught me standing on the bathroom scales, sucking in my stomach. "Ha! That's not going to help!" she laughed.

"Sure, it does." I said.

"It's the only way I can see the numbers."

### VACATION

My Wife just put up a World Map, gave me a Dart and said "Throw this and wherever it lands, that is where we are going on Vacation..."

Turns out we are spending a week behind the refrigerator!



A woman visits her husband in prison. Before leaving, she tells a correction officer: "You shouldn't make my husband work like that. He's exhausted!" The officer laughs and says, "Are you kidding? He just eats and sleeps and stays in his cell!" The wife replies: "He just told me he's been digging a tunnel for months!"

I hate that feeling after surgery when you're not sure if you're awake or asleep...  
...or if you operated on the right patient.



"When I married Miss Right, I had no idea her first name was **Always**."



Please send your funnies through by emailing [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au) with "newsletter" in the subject line



## StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 55 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 80 Participation Points

## Session Times

*All sessions are Pairs unless otherwise stated.*

Open: 1.00pm (Everyday)

2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

4.00pm (Everyday)

8.00pm (Tuesday-Sunday)

Open Individual: 10.00am (Everyday)

Open Teams: 8.00pm (Monday)

Restricted: 12.50pm (Monday - Saturday)

2.30pm (Sunday - *All Around Australia*)

7.50pm (Wednesday & Friday)

Novice: 3.50pm (Everyday)

7.50pm (Tuesday & Thursday)

## IMPs Sessions

Tuesday: 8.00pm Open

Thursday: 8.00pm 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/Stepbridge.com.au/)

## Upcoming Red Point Sessions

*Tuesday, 23 December*

- 12:50pm Restricted & 1:00pm Open

*Thursday, 25 December*

- 4:00pm Open (Christmas)

- 8:00pm Open (Christmas)

*Friday, 26 December*

- 10:00am Open Individual

- 12:50pm Restricted & 1:00pm Open

- 3:50pm Novice & 4:00pm Open

- 7:50pm Restricted & 8:00pm Open

*Sunday, 28 December*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted (Audio Video)

*Monday, 29 December*

- 3:50pm Novice & 4:00pm Open

*Wednesday, 31 December*

- 10:30pm Open (New Year's Eve)

*Thursday, 1 January*

- 12:50pm Restricted & 1:00pm Open

*Saturday, 3 January*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Sunday, 4 January*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted (Audio Video)

*Monday, 5 January*

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)

*Friday, 9 January*

- 3:50pm Novice & 4:00pm Open

*Sunday, 11 January*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted (Audio Video)

*Monday, 12 January*

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)