

**February 2026**

## Message from the President

Dear members,

Since our December newsletter, there has been a lot happening and there are some important updates that I wish to share.



### **GNOT Heat**

StepBridge Australia received an email at the beginning of January from Fraser Rew, GNOT National Co-ordinator, advising that, going forward, only South Australian players (as the SABF is our state affiliation) will be eligible to participate in our GNOT Club Qualifying Heat. Players from outside South Australia will not be permitted to play, even if they are not seeking qualification.

This advice differs from the information provided to StepBridge last year by SABF Tournament Administration and appears to be inconsistent with what the ABF had communicated to the SABF regarding StepBridge Australia's eligibility requirements.

Since receiving Fraser Rew's letter, there have been multiple exchanges of correspondence in which we have proposed alternative arrangements and advocated our position. Unfortunately, there has been resistance to making any adjustments to the GNOT conditions to accommodate online clubs such as StepBridge. We have also written twice to the ABF President and have not received a response.

Regrettably, unless there is a significant change in position, StepBridge Australia will not be conducting a GNOT Club Qualifying Heat in 2026.

Members who wish to express their disappointment are encouraged to contact the GNOT National Co-ordinator at [gnot@abf.com.au](mailto:gnot@abf.com.au)

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## 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 Wongphasukchot (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)

### **3.50pm Novice Sessions**

As many members will be aware, several of our 3:50pm Novice sessions have recently been cancelled due to insufficient player numbers for the session to proceed.

The Committee recognises how important dedicated Novice sessions are for developing players and supporting their transition into the wider StepBridge community. To better understand current participation trends, a Novice Liaison Working Group has been established to conduct a detailed review of our Novice membership — including how many Novice players are participating and which sessions they are choosing to play.

We would very much like to see the 3:50pm Novice session continue. However, this will only be possible if player numbers improve. We strongly encourage eligible members to support this session where possible so that we can maintain a dedicated timeslot for our Novice players.

If numbers do not increase, we may need to consider converting the session to a Restricted format or exploring other alternatives.

### **Our Club Needs YOU: Leadership and Volunteers Required**

Earlier this week, I sent an email to the StepBridge membership. For those who may have missed it, a copy is included in this newsletter.

In summary, we are seeking members who are willing to assist and help share the workload. This could involve mentoring a new player, acting as a regular standby player for our Individual session, or serving on the Committee — including in an Office-Bearer role. The list goes on.

Under the current Constitution, my three-year term as President concludes later this year. The Committee is proposing to convene a Special General Meeting to consider an amendment to remove the three-year term limit for the President.

Subject to such an amendment being passed, and with the support of both the Committee and the membership, I would be willing to nominate for a further term.

To those members who have already responded to the recent email — thank you. Further information will be provided to you shortly. Details regarding the proposed Special General Meeting will also be communicated to the broader StepBridge membership once confirmed.

### **Australia Day Session**

On Australia Day we held a special 2.30pm Audio Video session. This was a fun session with some prizes for best dressed. Photos of the best dressed winners appear later in the newsletter.

### **Lessons for Improving Players**

As I write this column, the Lessons for Improving Players have one more lesson this Saturday. Numbers have been great and those who have participated have enjoyed the lessons and learnt something new.

It planned that there will be further lesson opportunities during 2026. A survey will be sent to those who participated in the lessons for their feedback and suggestions for further lesson topics.

## **Easter Weekend**

Looking ahead to Easter, we will have all the usual sessions each day over the Easter weekend. There will be also one Red Masterpoint session a day.

## **Daylight Saving Time Ends on Easter Sunday**

A reminder to players from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia that daylight saving time ends on Sunday morning 5 April, which is Easter Sunday. Therefore play will start one hour later for Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia players from this date.

Looking ahead to Easter, at this stage we will have all the usual sessions each day over the Easter weekend.

## **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).*

Happy Bridging,  
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

## **Vale - Christine Williams (Saffiblu)**

Christine Williams passed away on 25 January 2026

Chris (Saffiblu) was a member with StepBridge since March 2020 and she played 448 tournaments.

Chris' last game on StepBridge was Sunday 7 December, 2.30pm session.

## **Vale - Anton Pol (AntonP)**

Anton Pol passed away on 9 January 2026.

Anton (AntonP) was a member with StepBridge since February 2024 and he played 42 tournaments.

We received the following message from his bridge partner, Wence Vahala (WenceV).

*Sadly, Anton died the day after our last game. He was dying with MND and is in a better place. After the game he said the next game will be in heaven.*

## **50 Conventions in 50 Days Series**

There is a Facebook Page called "Bridge Unleashed by Tracey." At the moment, they are doing a series called "50 Conventions in 50 Days."

Below is the links for the first few videos in the series

Day 1 - Stayman: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1575239917142854>

Day 2 - Jacoby Transfers: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/918545790661066>

Day 3 - Strong 2 Club Opening: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/873552842342339>

## Our Club Needs YOU: Leadership and Volunteers Required

Dear Members,

StepBridge is at an important point. To continue operating effectively and serving our members well, we must secure committed individuals to fill the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, Committee members and general volunteers.

As stated in my 2025 AGM report:

*"It is important that StepBridge secures a talented capable team to undertake the administration of the club, with an emphasis on administration and technical abilities, and to also provide support to our membership.*

*Without members who are willing to serve on the committee or take on volunteer roles, there is no club. The strength and success of our club depend entirely on the time, energy, and commitment of those who step forward to help. Every role, whether large or small, contributes to the smooth running of activities, the welcoming atmosphere we enjoy, and the continued existence of the club itself. Therefore if you are able to offer any time to assist, please contact us."*

This is not simply a routine call for volunteers. It is a genuine appeal to ensure the club's sustainability.

I am prepared to stand for another term as President if required. This would require a change to our Constitution, as the President's term is currently limited to three years. The Committee, at its February meeting, has agreed that the Constitution should be amended to remove the current three-year term of President, which would involve a Special General Meeting to make this amendment.

While I am willing to commit for an additional term, if that is what is needed, it is imperative that we establish a clear succession plan. Future planning is essential, and we must begin bringing new volunteers into the team to ensure continuity, stability and shared responsibility.

If leadership and support roles remain unfilled, the burden on existing volunteers becomes too great and the club's future is placed at risk. That is something none of us want to see.

Please consider whether you can contribute — either in a formal committee role or in a supporting volunteer capacity. Even a modest commitment can significantly ease the load when shared across several members.

If you are willing to help, or would like further information about what is involved, please get in touch.

StepBridge exists because members step forward. I hope you will consider being one of them.

Sincerely,  
Chris Larter

President, StepBridge Australia Bridge Club

# Australia Day Sessions

On Australia Day, Monday 26 January, we held a special 2.30pm All Around Australia Open and Restricted sessions.

The following prizes were awards for best Australian gear / hats, who each received 110 Participation Points each.

## **Open Grade**



*ChrisJoh*



*PennyCoy*

## **Restricted Grade**



*ThaisMP*



*SeanQ*



*TDSarah*

## New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from 15 December 2025 to 18 February 2026. 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

JennyGr SueKe

### RESTRICTED

BruceMin LarrainM MichG YingL

### NOVICE

AlanTr AngelaL AnnetteS AnnieShe ArshadO BernadeN CarolID CarolIG CathyWa  
ChrisHen Chrissie DavidIn DavidPay DebF DianneS DinaC GeoffB GigiH  
GraemeR Heather5 IanMI JeanP JoanBr JoyH Judith2 JudithD KatieM  
KwaiSee LesleyMc LillianC LindyIn LindyR LyndaL MargRo MariettD MaryD  
MereW MichellF MichellS MikeB MikeS MinuS NarelleC NeetaD Patrick2  
PeterSw ReneA RhettH RhondaQ RhysD RichardI RoseN RudyH SamS  
ShanthaD ThereseN

## 2026 Congresses

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

Apr-26		Mar-26		Feb-26		Jan-26	10,114
Dec-25	9,286	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

## 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)*

## 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 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/meeting/register/hQdFayilQV6Q4-L4Nte-ig#/registration>

## Monthly Awards: December 2025

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in December 2025</i>	Overall	1	58.93	10	<b>Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)</b>
		2	58.64	7	Rachel Langdon (RachelR)
		3	58.14	6	Paul Letts (PaulLet)
	Open	1	58.93	10	<b>Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)</b>
		2	58.64	7	Rachel Langdon (RachelR)
		3	57.16	7	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Restricted	1	56.63	7	<b>Sylvia Skeels (SylviaSk)</b>
		2	56.56	7	Kim Robson (KimRob)
		3	56.49	11	Ian Robson (IanRob)
	Novice	1	53.01	10	<b>Kay Rundle (KayR)</b>
		2	52.59	9	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
		3	52.37	7	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc)
	Open IMPs	1	39	6	<b>Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)</b>
		2	24	7	Ian Napier (IanNap)
		3	23	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
Open	1	55.4	22	<b>Frank Hymus (FrankHy)</b>	
Individual	2	54.52	6	Christopher Johnston (ChrisJoh)	
	3	54.49	6	John Simmonds (JohnSim)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in December 2025</i>	Overall	1	58.64	7	<b>Rachel Langdon (RachelR), Nikolas Moore (NikMoore)</b>
		2	58.29	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	58.14	7	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Open	1	58.64	7	<b>Rachel Langdon (RachelR), Nikolas Moore (NikMoore)</b>
		2	58.29	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	58.14	7	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Restricted	1	57.69	6	<b>Kim Robson (KimRob), Ian Robson (IanRob)</b>
		2	57.3	6	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)
		3	55.7	11	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)
	Novice	1	53.2	6	<b>Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)</b>
		2	50.62	6	Penny Mullumby (PennyM), Jane Boland (JaneBo)
		3	48.83	6	Claire Goodwill (ClaireG), Richard Alderman (Richard3)
	Open IMPs	1	17	6	<b>Simon Tissera (SimonT), Raman Jegatheesan (RamanJ)</b>
		2	11	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
		3	7	7	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)

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

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in December 2025</i>	Overall			<b>80</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				64	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR)
				56	Glen Chick (GlenC)
	Open			<b>54</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				45	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)
				44	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
	Restricted			<b>23</b>	<b>Savitri Newman (Savitri)</b>
				22	Mary Hives (MaryH)
				22	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda)
	Novice			<b>12</b>	<b>Richard Alderman (Richard3)</b>
				10	Karen Moss (KarenMos)
				10	Kay Rundle (KayR)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Simon Tissera (SimonT)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Brenda McClean (Brenda)</b>
	Open			<b>26</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
	Individual			25	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
				24	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in December 2025</i>	Overall			<b>41</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				26	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				26	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
	Open			<b>34</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				24	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				24	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne
	Restricted			<b>11</b>	<b>Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)</b>
				10	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
				9	Frances Pope (FrancesP), Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
	Novice			<b>7</b>	<b>Kay Dengate (KayD), Beverley Oliver (Beverley)</b>
				6	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				6	Claire Goodwill (ClaireG), Richard Alderman (Richard3)
	Open IMPs			<b>7</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
			6	Simon Tissera (SimonT), Raman Jegatheesan (RamanJ)	

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in December 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>7.09</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Paul Letts (PaulLet)</b>
		2	6.77	6	Laura Hedberg (LauraHed)
		3	6.76	14	Margaret Portess (MargPo)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.93</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Margaret Portess (MargPo)</b>
		2	5.37	7	Trish Berry (TrishBer)
		3	5.03	7	David Hossack (DavidHos)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Laura Hedberg (LauraHed)</b>
		2	5.33	9	John Sunderland (JohnSu)
		3	4.33	7	Bob Johnston (BobJ)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>9.25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Jane Propsting (JaneProp)</b>
		2	6.08	7	John O'Shea (JohnOS)
		3	5.08	6	Jane Boland (JaneBo)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)</b>
		2	0.21	6	Glen Chick (GlenC)
			0.21	6	Bev Daniel (BevD)
Open	<b>1</b>	<b>5.17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Ann Rinder (AnnRin)</b>	
Individual	2	4.83	6	Kay Pearson (KayPe)	
	3	3.23	11	Lou Stanley (LouStanl)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in December 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)</b>
		2	6.76	14	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Margaret Portess (MargPo)
		3	5.09	6	Penny Mullumby (PennyM), Jane Boland (JaneBo)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.93</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Kerri Grant (KerriG), Margaret Portess (MargPo)</b>
		2	4.73	6	Mary Hossack (MaryHo), David Hossack (DavidHos)
		3	4.55	6	Brian Wawn (BriaWawn), Sue Kinnear (SueKinne)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)</b>
		2	5.11	6	Kim Robson (KimRob), Ian Robson (IanRob)
		3	2.86	6	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Penny Mullumby (PennyM), Jane Boland (JaneBo)</b>
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
		2	0.04	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)

## Monthly Awards: January 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in January 2026</i>	Overall	1	60.62	8	<b>Christopher Jones (ChrisJ)</b>
		2	59.69	6	Martin Wu (MartinW)
		3	58.75	15	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Open	1	59.69	6	<b>Martin Wu (MartinW)</b>
		2	58.75	15	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		3	58.42	8	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Restricted	1	58.88	9	<b>Phil Kay (PhilK)</b>
		2	57.37	6	Graeme King (GraemeK)
		3	56.48	16	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
	Novice	1	54.72	6	<b>Ian Paltridge (IanPa)</b>
		2	54.29	7	John Sunderland (JohnSu)
		3	54.18	7	Alex McTaggart (AlexMcT)
	Open IMPs	1	26	7	<b>Rex Livingston (RexLiv)</b>
		2	23	8	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
			23	8	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
Open Indi-	1	57.49	8	<b>John Friesen (JohnFri)</b>	
	2	57.06	6	Glen Chick (GlenC)	
	3	56.42	6	Jill Haworth (JillHol)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in January 2026</i>	Overall	1	59.96	7	<b>Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)</b>
		2	58.42	8	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	58.38	7	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
	Open	1	59.96	7	<b>Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)</b>
		2	58.42	8	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	58.38	7	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
	Restricted	1	55.81	7	<b>Graeme Fraser (GraemeF), Marita Scroope (MaritaS)</b>
		2	55.35	7	Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN), Lynne Talmont
		3	55.25	7	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Feike Boschma (FeikeBo)
	Novice	1	54.72	6	<b>Debbie Paltridge (DebbieP), Ian Paltridge (IanPa)</b>
		2	52.4	9	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	50.73	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	1	15	7	<b>Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)</b>
		2	11	7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		3	5	9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)

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

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2026</i>	Overall			<b>85</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				66	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
				65	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
	Open			<b>56</b>	<b>Rez Karim (MeemKar)</b>
				54	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				52	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)
	Restricted			<b>32</b>	<b>Ann Rinder (AnnRin)</b>
				26	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda)
				26	Savitri Newman (Savitri)
	Novice			<b>12</b>	<b>Sue Koschade (SueKo)</b>
				11	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc)
				11	Beverley Oliver (Beverley)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)</b>
	Open			<b>31</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
	Individual			30	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
				29	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2026</i>	Overall			<b>42</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				28	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)
				27	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Open			<b>33</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				23	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				23	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Restricted			<b>15</b>	<b>Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)</b>
				13	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
				12	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Novice			<b>9</b>	<b>Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)</b>
				8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				6	Kay Dengate (KayD), Beverley Oliver (Beverley)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>
				8	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
				7	Rex Meadowcroft (RexM), Rosemary Porter (RoseP)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in January 2026</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>6.83</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Martin Wu (MartinW)</b>
		2	6.4	8	Gordon Conroy (GordonC)
		3	5.65	6	Nita Cooper (NitaC)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>6.95</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Joan Mladen (JoanM)</b>
		2	6.83	6	Martin Wu (MartinW)
		3	6.02	6	Antonina Hayles (Antonina)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>8.81</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Gordon Conroy (GordonC)</b>
		2	7.1	9	Martin Haines (MartinH)
		3	5.54	7	Lynne Talmont (LynneTa)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Maree Williams (MareeW)</b>
		2	3.5	7	Patricia Fulton (PatFul)
		3	2.79	9	Kay Bennetts (KayBenn)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>William Hendershaw (Pwears)</b>
		2	0.26	7	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF)
		3	0.11	6	Dot Slattery (DotS)
Open	<b>1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Gail Cowen (GailCo)</b>	
Individual	2	5.25	10	Jennifer Vickers (JenVic)	
	3	4.79	6	Jill Haworth (JillHol)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in January 2026</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>6.84</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)</b>
		2	5.73	6	Dot Slattery (DotS), Martin Haines (MartinH)
		3	4.91	7	Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN), Lynne Talmont (LynneTa)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>6.84</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)</b>
		2	4.65	6	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa), Whalley Robin (WhalleyR)
		3	4.16	9	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Sue Evershed (SueEv)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN), Lynne Talmont (LynneTa)</b>
		2	4.51	6	Dee Sinton (DorothyS), Gloria Carlson (GloriaC)
		3	3.79	7	Graeme Fraser (GraemeF), Marita Scroope (MaritaS)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)</b>
		2	1.45	6	Debbie Paltridge (DebbieP), Ian Paltridge (IanPa)
		3	0.64	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)</b>	

## Masterpoint Promotions

December 2025

Conroy, Janelle	Grand	Grey, Maureen	State
Bonnick, Les	Grand	Mayall, Tessa	State
Jacobson, Brian	Grand	Jones, Annmaree	State
Hecker, Moira	Gold Life	Bradwyn, Julie-Ann	State
Hardiman, Frank	Gold Life	Hinves, Mary	Bronze Regional
Jegatheesan, Raman	Silver Life	Koschade, Sue	Silver Local
Poynten, Mary	Silver Life	Power, Catherine	Silver Local
Wright, Seb	Silver Life	Daines, Penny	Silver Local
Hubbell, Ken	Bronze Life	Verschuer, Anne	Silver Local
Penklis, Alex	Bronze Life	Lambkin, Judith	Silver Local
Cummings, John	Bronze Life	Cheng, Joseph	Bronze Local
Salamon, Ayako	Bronze Life	Cumming, Robert	Bronze Local
Johnson, David	Life	Devalia, Smita	Bronze Local
Morrissey, Mike	Life	Sunderland, John	Bronze Local
Hendershaw, William	Life	Baker, Andrew	Bronze Local
Porter, Rosemary	Silver National	Fehring, Sherry	Bronze Local
Henry, Marge	Bronze National	Lazarou, Lef	Bronze Local
Cory, Penny	National	White, Janette	Bronze Local
Cregan, Noleen	National	Somerville, Anne	Local
Martin, Margaret	National	Wade, Wendy	Local
McTaggart, Denise	National	Gregg, Michael	Local
Millington, Peter	National	Jens, Damian	Club
Aldersley, John	National	McDonald, Carol	Club
Neilson, Pat	National	Morris, Caprice	Club
Limmagine, Frances	National	Geutjes, Jane	Club
Carroll, Debbie	National	Dorman, Jacob	Graduate
Kudva, Meera	Bronze State	Delac, Alan	Graduate
Napier, Keith	Bronze State		
McLean, Karen	Bronze State		
Zhu, Michael	Bronze State		
Capper, Levi	Bronze State		



## Masterpoint Promotions

January 2026

Hill, Janet	Grand	Cornwell, Sue	Regional
Blakey, Ross	Silver Life	Hancock, Catherine	Regional
Colling, Mary	Silver Life	Jensen, Izzy	Regional
Colling, Steve	Silver Life	Jones, Christopher	Regional
Wongphasukchot, Jay	Silver Life	Mitchell, Adele	Regional
Kolding, Annegrete	Bronze Life	O'Ferrall, Diana	Regional
Lyons, Peter	Bronze Life	Studholme, Barbara	Regional
Doyle, Maeve	Life	Thomas, Merle	Regional
Githens, Carolyn	Life	Cooney, Annie	Silver Local
Moss, Liz	Life	Groves, Mark	Silver Local
Riordan, Gwen	Life	Lin, Jeremy	Silver Local
Skeate, Jasmine	Life	Rooney, Jane	Silver Local
D'Ambrosio, Lucy	Silver National	Rundle, Kay	Silver Local
Kemp, Steven	Silver National	Boshier, Lyn	Bronze Local
Berry, Ann	Bronze National	Drakeley, Maree	Bronze Local
Byrne, Margaret	Bronze National	Jensen, Felicity	Bronze Local
Cusack, Margaret	Bronze National	Katekar, Leonie	Bronze Local
Green, Marina	National	McKenzie, Jennifer	Bronze Local
Whitely, Heather	National	Sawtell, Lynette	Bronze Local
Hind, Neville	Bronze State	Hancock, Dale	Local
Illingworth, Richard	Bronze State	Kolbe, Cheryl	Local
Munro, Lois	Bronze State	McDiarmid, Michelle	Local
Samarcq, Suzanne	Bronze State	Paltridge, Debbie	Local
Wu, Alex	Bronze State	Beattie, Fiona	Club
Clark, Don	State	Gaunt, Gervaise	Club
Kirby, Julie	State	Haines, Martin	Club
McGain, Robyn	State	Wotton, Bruce	Club
Pearce, Murray	State	Discher, Sarah	Graduate
Sun, Ada	State	Gleeson, Pat	Graduate
Williams, Maree	State	Smal, Naidene	Graduate



## 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)*

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.



**Partners  
4 Bridge**



**Partners  
4 Bridge**

Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new  
opportunities

On [partners4bridge.com](http://partners4bridge.com)



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

## Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

This year we are going to profile the StepBridge Committee and Tournament Director, to know more about them.

First up is **Chris Larter** our President and also a Tournament Director

**All StepBridge members are assigned a Login. May we know yours?** ChrisLar

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

I have been playing bridge since I was 13 years old. My grandma use to play and she introduced my parents to the game. That was 3 players and they needed a fourth. So that is how I started to play.

Once I started at university, I started to represent the state in the Queensland Youth team. I did this for 6 years with our best year being in 2015 where the team were runners up.

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

My main club is here at StepBridge. I do not think I need to tell you more of why you should visit.

I occasionally also play F2F bridge at the Brisbane Bridge Centre in Annerley (inner south suburb of Brisbane). This is a small but friendly club.

**Any Book you'd recommend?**

If you are wanting to give Precision a try, consider "Standard Modern Precision – Getting from Here to There" by Daniel Neill.

If you wanting a Novel about Bridge, "Mango Bridge Club" by Annette Corkhill is a good read.

**How have you lifted your bridge game over the years?**

Where I can, I played strong competitive bridge. Also, accept advice from Advance and Expert players.

**Do you have any favourite Bridge memories?**

I represent the state in the Queensland Youth team. I did this for 6 years with our best year being in 2015 where the team were runners up.

**And advice for newcomers to Bridge?**

Play against stronger players. Even though your results won't be good, slowly you will leave You do not expect to know everything straight away. Just learn one new component of the game at a time and slowly you will improve.

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

I play the organ and piano for Church services.





# 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

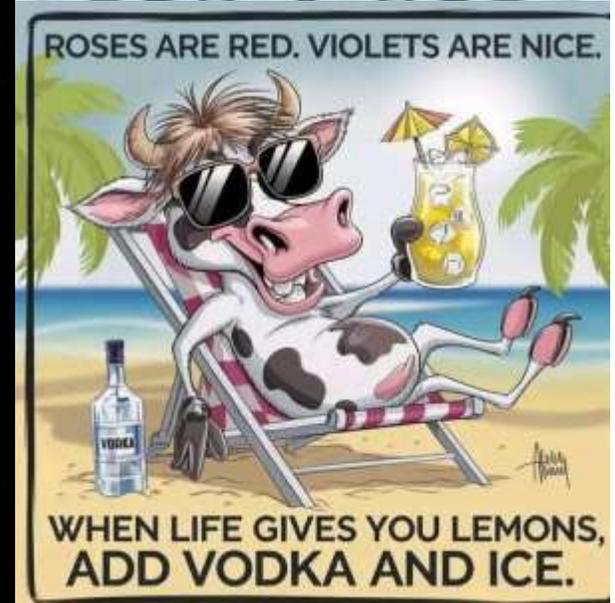
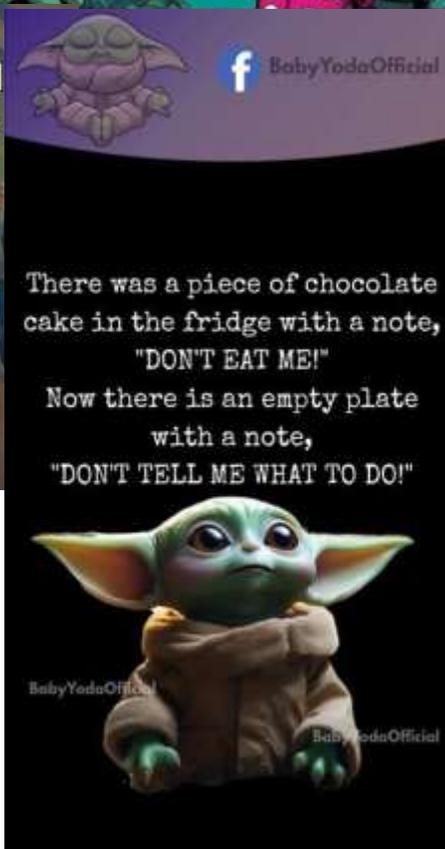
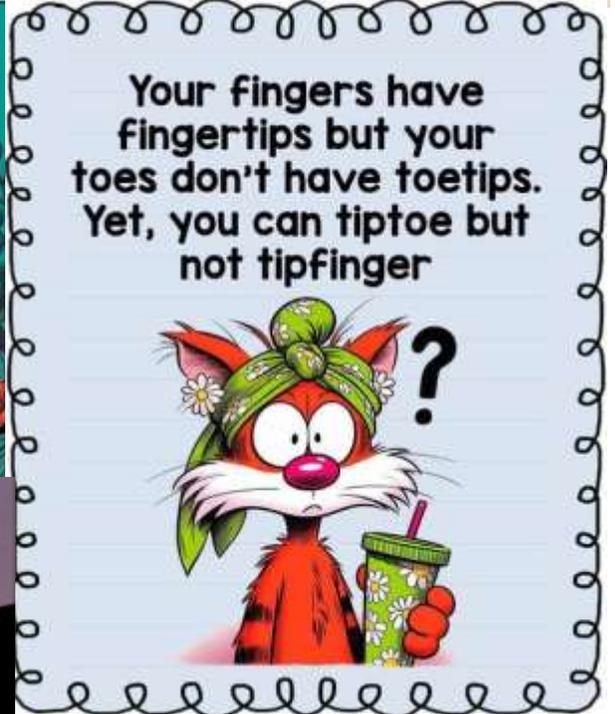
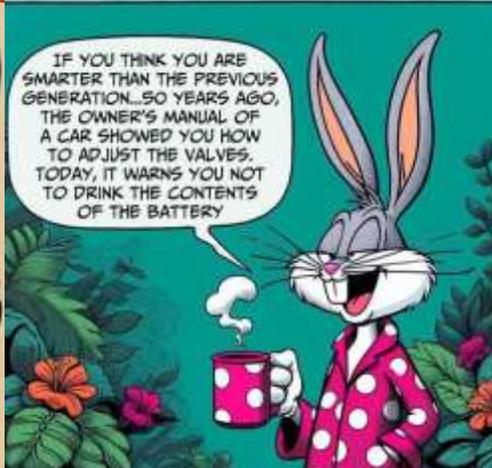
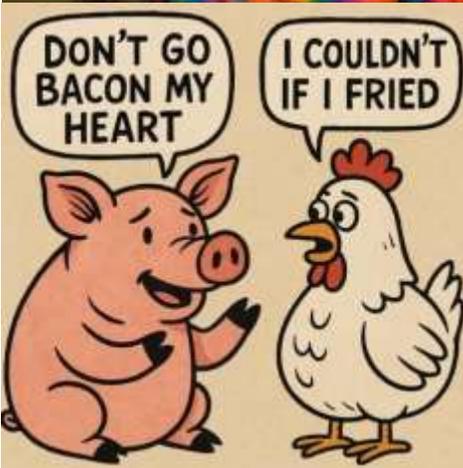
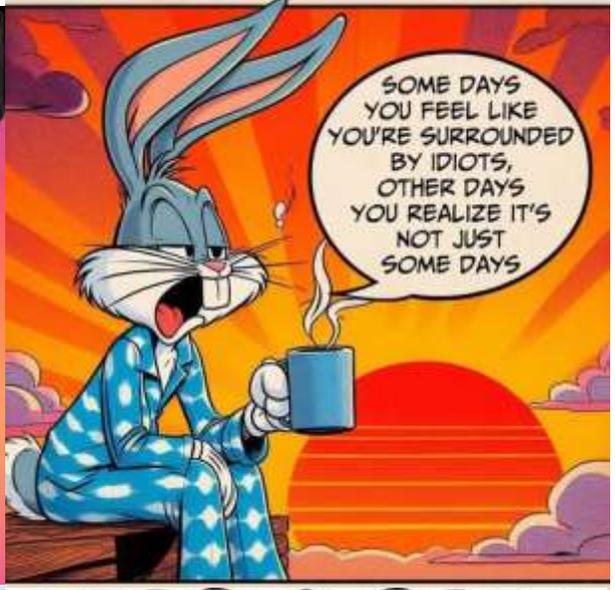
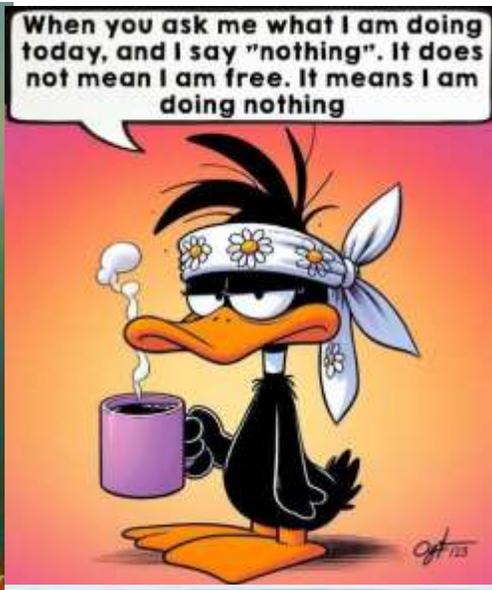
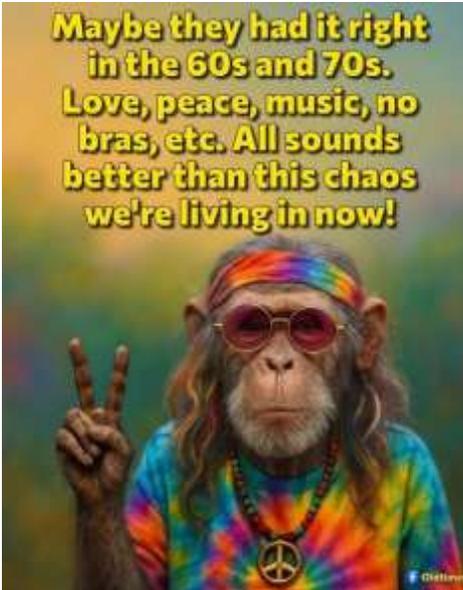
Tournament Organiser

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



Please send your funnies through by emailing [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au)

## 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

*Sunday, 1 March*

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

*Monday, 2 March*

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

*Wednesday, 4 March*

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

*Sunday, 8 March*

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

*Tuesday, 9 March*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Thursday, 12 March*

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

*Sunday, 15 March*

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

*Wednesday, 16 March*

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

*Sunday, 22 March*

- 10:00am Open Individual

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

*Monday, 23 March*

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

*Tuesday, 24 March*

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

*Sunday, 29 March*

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

*Friday, 3 April (Good Friday)*

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

*Saturday, 4 April*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Sunday, 5 April (Easter Sunday)*

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

*Monday, 6 April (Easter Monday)*

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