

March 2026

Message from the President

Dear members,

Since our February newsletter, I wish to provide you the following updates.

New StepBridge Version

We strongly encourage all players who have not transitioned to the New Version of StepBridge to please do so as soon as possible. The older versions are set to be discontinued very soon. Already, more than 75% of our members have made the move - THANK YOU!

The best way to get started is by attending a StepBridge Onboarding Session, held every Tuesday at 4:30pm AEST. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/4kpm1G9>

The New Version of StepBridge has a login page similar to the below screenshot. For further information regarding the New Version, refer to the article later in this newsletter.



Committee

President

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)
chris@stepbridge.com.au

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)
suzi@stepbridge.com.au

Secretary

Sarah Zoral (SarahAn)
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

Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Newsletter Editor

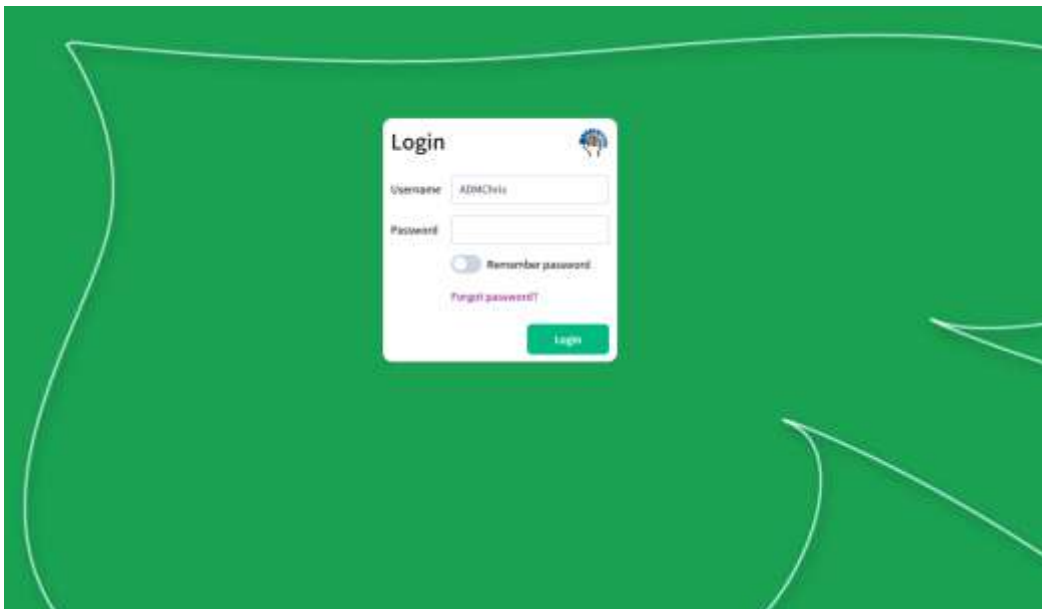
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

Email Address

support@stepbridge.com.au



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3.50pm Novice Sessions

The Novice Liaison Working Group these last couple of weeks has began contacting Novices, via SMS, who have not been playing in our Novice sessions, reaching out to them for support they may require. The aim of this work is to increase the Novices members playing on StepBridge, especially in our Novice sessions which currently have low attendance numbers. A further update will be provided in our April Newsletter.

Our Club Needs YOU: Leadership and Volunteers Required

We are currently working through the names of those who put their hand up, following my letter in February, to assist the club.

Currently, we have some new spare players for our 10am Open Individual session and are working on spare players for our Monday 8pm Teams.

Then we will move onto touching base with our mentors and those who may wish to assist in a Working Group or coming onto the Committee down the track.

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.

StepBridge May Congress

Our first StepBridge congress for 2026 is coming up on Saturday 30 May. The flyer is included in this newsletter with all the details. Entries: <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4132>

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 *(By joining this group, your mobile number will be shared amongst other members of the group).*

Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

StepBridge Australia MAY CONGRESS

Open & Restricted

(An approved SABF red masterpoint congress)



Online on the StepBridge Platform

SATURDAY 30th MAY 2026 – SWISS BUTLER IMP PAIRS

Directors	Chris Snook
Movement	Swiss Butler IMP Pairs – Two separate fields of Open & Restricted The number of boards and rounds will be at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Conditions of Entry	SABF Approved Red Masterpoint Congress conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Masterpoints not guaranteed unless ABF number is provided. Green, blue & red systems, and Brown Sticker conventions and treatments, permitted in the Open Grade. Blue & green systems permitted in the Restricted Grade. No Yellow (HUM) systems in this Congress. Novice players must have fewer than 100 Masterpoints as at 31 March 2026. Restricted players must have fewer than 300 Masterpoints as at 31 March 2026. Each pair must have 2 systemically identical current system cards. Players are responsible for ensuring their system classification is correct. Audio Video will be used. Players are responsible for ensuring their Audio Video works.
Start Time	10am (ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC & TAS) / 9.30am (NT & SA) / 8am (WA)
Closing Date	Thursday 28th May 2026, 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time. Late entries accepted at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Entries & Entry List	https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4132 If you have not used MyABF before, register for MyABF via the following link: https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register
Entry Fee	450 Participation Points per Player per Day. Select "Club PP System" in MyABF for payment The Participation Points will be deducted from your account on the day of the congress. Please ensure you have enough Participation Points in your account.
Prizes	Cash Prizes will be awarded in the separate fields. 1st \$300, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$150, subject to 20 tables in the particular field. Should there be less than 20 tables in the particular field, the above prizes will be reassessed & reduced. Prize for Best Novice Pair in the Restricted Grade.
StepBridge Username Registration	All players must be registered with StepBridge Australia. Details on registration at www.stepbridge.com.au If registering solely for this Congress, you can have temporary membership with no membership fee payable and in addition 100 free Participation Points to familiarise yourself with the StepBridge Australia platform. You will need order and pay \$20 for purchase of your Participation Points for this event. Account Name: StepBridge Australia BSB: 012013 Account Number: 302538455 StepBridge enquiries to support@stepbridge.com.au

New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from 21 February 2026 to 21 March 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

LenaJ PhilipT

RESTRICTED

JeanCP KathF MaryKi PeterYu

NOVICE

KayP LoriK MargBi MarkL MeganG NickAn PamWa PenelopW
RicharBa RobynBax RobynCh SueNi SusanTu TimL ViviennH YvonneT

2026 Congresses

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	8,510	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

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

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>

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn



StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis

Optimum:
NS 3H; +140
LoTT: 17-18 = -1

♠ Q 8
♥ A Q 8
♦ K 7 6
♣ Q J 10 6 2

Bridge Solver Online:
John Goacher
Double Dummy Solver Module:
Bo Haglund

♠ 7 6 2
♥ K 10
♦ A Q 9 5 4
♣ K 5 4

□ KR ?

14
12 8
6

13

♠ J 9 5
♥ J 7 6 4 2
♦ 8
♣ A 9 7 3

♠ A K 10 4 3
♥ 9 5 3
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ 8

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	3	-	3	-	1
S	3	-	3	-	1
E	-	2	-	2	-
W	-	2	-	2	-

Save Edit Play Options Help

Analyse More..

North was the dealer and all were vulnerable. The results across the field were quite varied. Some East–West pairs played spade contracts at the 3, 4, and even 5 level, making between 7 and 8 tricks, and in one instance an impressive 10 tricks (!). A couple of North–South pairs played 4♣, both going down one trick, while one table played 3♦ by West making nine tricks. Only a single table managed to reach the optimal contract of 2♥.

Reaching 2♥ using the Open Individual system requires North to upgrade their hand and open 1NT. Over this, East is less likely to enter the bidding, allowing South to transfer to hearts. This sequence effectively silences West as well and guides North–South to their best spot.

However, most North players opened 1♣. This allowed East to overcall 1♠. South, lacking the strength to bid 2♥ directly, typically doubled instead. West could then either bid diamonds or support partner's spades. North, unwilling to sell out and lacking a spade stopper, often bid 3♣. East would then either support diamonds or compete further with 3♠. At this point, South usually abandons the idea of hearts and either raises clubs to the 4 level or passes. If South bids 4♣, West may feel compelled to compete again, possibly with 4♠. By now, both sides are generally too high.

In terms of play, North–South in hearts or clubs will typically lose one diamond, one club, and two spades, with the heart king falling to a finesse. Conversely, East–West in diamonds or spades will lose one diamond, two hearts, one club, and one spade. In spades by East, if declarer carelessly plays low on an opening lead of the ♦8, North can win the king and return the suit for a ruff, giving North–South their spade trick early.

Upgrading the North hand to a 1NT opening is entirely reasonable. The hand features a good five-card minor, a half stopper in spades, and full stoppers in the other suits. Opening 1♣ invites interference from the opponents and makes it very difficult for South to show hearts constructively (although a less experienced player might still try). Well done to the North player who chose to upgrade. Being one point or one card short of your ideal bid is often a good reason to consider making that bid anyway.

Monthly Awards: February 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in February 2026</i>	Overall	1	62.86	6	Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
			62.86	6	Eva Pendel (EvaP)
		3	57.45	7	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2)
	Open	1	57.19	12	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		2	57.18	20	Philip Bapty (PhillB)
		3	57.06	6	John McMullan (JohnMcM)
	Restricted	1	58.05	6	Zhan Wan (ZhanW)
		2	57.45	7	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2)
		3	57.42	10	Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
	Novice	1	62.86	6	Eva Pendel (EvaP)
			62.86	6	Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
		3	55.41	10	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
	Open IMPs	1	32	8	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		2	23	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		3	13	8	Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
	Open	1	55.21	13	Frank Hymus (FrankHy)
Individual	2	54.68	6	Lyn Redman (LynRed)	
	3	53.92	7	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in February 2026</i>	Overall	1	62.86	6	Eva Pendel (EvaP), Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
		2	60.04	7	David Hancock (DavidHan), Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		3	58.41	6	Florence Maltby (Florence), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
	Open	1	58.41	6	Florence Maltby (Florence), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
		2	58.32	7	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		3	57.79	6	Krystyna Homik (Krystyna), Sue Spurway (Suzanne)
	Restricted	1	60.04	7	David Hancock (DavidHan), Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		2	56.64	11	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
		3	55.63	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
	Novice	1	62.86	6	Eva Pendel (EvaP), Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
		2	51.31	10	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	46.59	8	Alex McTaggart (AlexMcT), Patricia Fulton (PatFul)
	Open IMPs	1	13	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
	2	7	7	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)	
	3	3	6	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 February 2026</i>	Overall			77	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				70	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				53	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Open			59	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				50	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				44	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Restricted			26	David Hancock (DavidHan)
				25	Savitri Newman (Savitri)
				24	Mary Hinves (MaryH)
	Novice			11	Martin Haines (MartinH)
				10	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
				10	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
	Open IMPs			8	Brenda McClean (Brenda)
				8	Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
				8	Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
				8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW),
				8	Mal Clark (MalCl)
	Open			25	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
	Individual			25	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				23	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in February 2026</i>	Overall			41	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				25	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				25	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Open			37	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				25	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				19	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Restricted			14	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
				13	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
				11	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice			10	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
				8	Alex McTaggart (AlexMcT), Patricia Fulton (PatFul)
				7	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs			8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
				8	Mal Clark (MalCI), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
				7	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in February 2026</i>	Overall	1	7.34	7	Lynnie Bain (LynnieB)
		2	6.53	7	Sandra Belcher (SandraBe)
		3	6.04	6	Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
	Open	1	7.34	7	Lynnie Bain (LynnieB)
		2	5.34	7	Moira Smith (MoiraSm)
		3	5.26	17	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS)
	Restricted	1	6.53	7	Sandra Belcher (SandraBe)
		2	5.58	11	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
		3	4.83	6	Zhan Wan (ZhanW)
	Novice	1	6.12	10	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
		2	0.22	10	Bob Laing (BobLa)
			0.22	10	Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	0.13	7	William Hendershaw (Pwears)
		2	0.1	7	Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)
		3	0.08	6	Laraine Dolan (LaraineD)
Open Indi-	1	5.4	6	Antonina Hayles (Antonina)	
	2	4.81	6	Graeme Lean (GraemeL)	
	3	4.43	14	Richard Alderman (Richard3)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in February 2026</i>	Overall	1	6.16	6	Annmaree Jones (Annmaree), Sue Koschade (SueKo)
		2	6.04	6	Eva Pendel (EvaP), Caro Duncan (CaroDu)
		3	5.41	6	Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor), Tina Hesketh (TinaH)
	Open	1	5.41	6	Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor), Tina Hesketh (TinaH)
		2	5.34	7	Pamela Lidl (PamelaLi), Moira Smith (MoiraSm)
		3	4.28	8	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS), Geoffrey Sharpe (GeoffS)
	Restricted	1	4.33	9	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
		2	3.19	7	Eric Bottle (EricBot), Judith Boyd (JudithBo)
		3	3.18	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
	Novice	1	0.22	10	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	0.02	6	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)

Masterpoint Promotions

February 2026

Tissera, Simon	Silver Life	Hendricks, Glynis	Regional
Hesketh, Tina	Life	Hill, Keith	Regional
Meadowcroft, Rex	Life	Hill, Michelle Lee	Regional
Sauer, Ann	Life	Lewis, Michelle	Regional
Jerkovic, Debbie	Silver National	Mantello, Joy	Regional
McLain, Lyn	Silver National	Udall, Annette	Regional
Hancock, David	Bronze National	Woodward, Duncan	Regional
James, Shelley	Bronze National	Cooper, Nita	Silver Local
Dyball, Sharon	National	Wilson, Catriona	Silver Local
Kaiwa, Emi	National	Bracewell, Amanda	Bronze Local
Murphy, Martin	National	Krishnamachari, Ramarathinam	Bronze Local
Goss, Peter	Bronze State	Ru, Xinyu	Bronze Local
Hammond, Susan	Bronze State	Spencer-Cole, Lyn	Bronze Local
Paramore, Toni	Bronze State	Leaman, Peter	Local
Shaw, Caroline	Bronze State	Rumega, Ela	Local
Bennett, Mike	State	Kay, Nat	Club
Corbett, Paula	State	McCauley, Anne Maree	Club
Kelly, Elaine	State	Moore, Bernadette	Club
Farquhar, Richard	Bronze Regional	Moss, Karen	Club
Harding, Kerry	Bronze Regional	Lee, Vicki	Graduate
Carroll, Addy	Regional	Scanlan, Tricia	Graduate
Gorton, Colin	Regional		



Partnership Platform

Well, no sooner do you put away the beach towels than you find Autumn has crept up on you. How did that happen? I think it's because time seems to fly when you play Bridge. Must say I'm enjoying the new StepBridge interface. Isn't technology amazing!

Equally frustrating and mind-boggling. When I consider my first computer, a Sinclair QL in 1987, I realise just how far we have come.

Now let's talk Partners and then let's Meet the Member. Best method for finding a partner is as follows –

For StepBridge players please sign up for the WhatsApp group where you can resolve partner problems in a heartbeat. Simply email support@stepbridge.com.au and you will receive a link to the page. Seasoned WhatsApp groupies will know that Directors are often looking for last minute fill ins. If you are alert you could find yourself enjoying a game, a new partner and the undying gratitude of the StepBridge Director. Give it a try – you really have nothing to lose.

Jay Novak (JayN)

Remember, It's free to Register and use the platform.

Head to 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.

The logo for Partners 4 Bridge, featuring the text "Partners 4 Bridge" in white on a green background. To the right of the text is a small black and white portrait of a smiling woman with short grey hair.The logo for Partners 4 Bridge, featuring the text "Partners 4 Bridge" in white on a green background.

Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new opportunities

On partners4bridge.com



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

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

This year is dedicated to meeting the StepBridge crew, the tireless folk who keep the wheels turning. There'd be very few players who have not joined a session directed by Sarah Zoral – and I'm sure you'd like to know a little more about her. Step up Sarah, and take the floor.

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



When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

For more than 20 years I played in a 500 Tournament every lunchtime at the legal practice where I worked. I always wanted to learn Bridge but whilst working never found time for lessons. In 2005 we went on QE2 World Cruise from New York, an 'At sea' offering was Bridge, the addiction began there with lessons every day we were sailing.

Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?

StepBridge is my club and I recommend it to all players. The wonderful people from all over Australia I have met due to our club, is a great joy to me. Here in Türkiye I play online with Diamond Bridge Club based in Istanbul.

Any Book you'd recommend?

The Lone Wolff an auto biography of bridge maverick Bobby Wolff .

How have you lifted your bridge game over the years?

My bridge game has deteriorated over the years, my focus is helping others with navigating our technology to enable them to play bridge from the comfort of their home environment.

Do you have any favourite Bridge memories?

My bridge partner and bridge mentor in Tasmania Bruce Williams. He always amazed me he could always read the cards from the bidding as if he could see through the back of them. A gentle giant who was taken from us too soon. He was responsible for teaching me sufficient to win Restricted Pairs at the ANC in Hobart in 2010.

And advice for newcomers to Bridge?

Remember bidding is a conversation, it is the universal language of bridge, irrespective of our spoken language we can play worldwide and speak the same language at the table. Master the basics forget the tricks and fancy conventions – you don't need them.

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

I was born in NZ and before moving to Sydney in 1979, I was Live-in caretaker of a Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shelter in Rotorua NZ. Routinely we had up to 30 dogs, 50 cats, sheep, goats, cows and horses in residence.



AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 29th April to Sunday 3rd 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

Early Bird Discount ends on 31st 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 1st May

PAIRS EVENTS

DAVID LUSK ROOKIE PAIRS (Under 35 MPs)

Friday 1st May (only)
6 x 8 board matches

ONE DAY RESTRICTED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

Novice (Under 100 MPs), Under Life Master, Under Grand Master
Friday 1st May (only)
6 x 8 board matches

AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS

Friday 1st (Qualifying), Saturday 2nd (Semi Final) and
Sunday 3rd May (Final)

BLUE RIBBON UNDER LIFE MASTER PAIRS

BLUE RIBBON UNDER GRAND MASTER PAIRS

Saturday 2nd (Qualifying) and Sunday 3rd May (Final)

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

Organiser: Barbara Travis
Email: 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 29th and 30th April, with the Open Teams final being held on Friday 1st 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 31st 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 1st 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

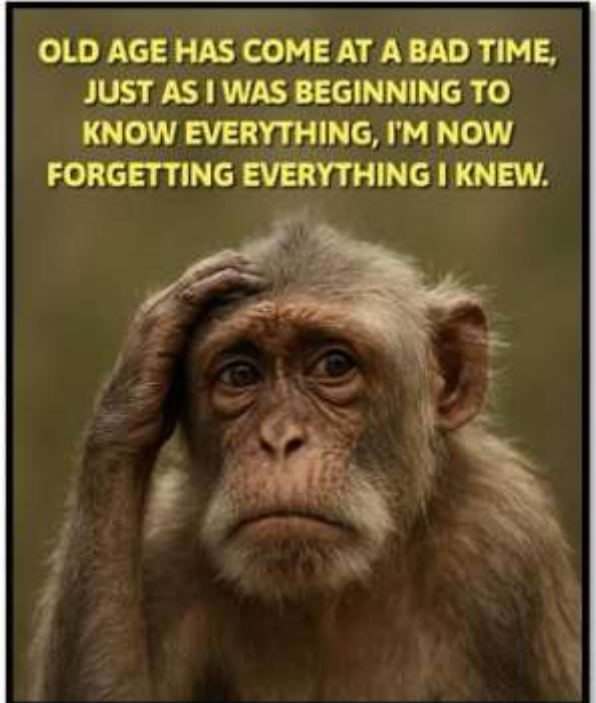
Tournament Organiser

email: anot@sabf.asn.au

phone: 0437 919 928

Funnies Column

Thank you to Dave Bright (DaveB) for this months funnies



90% of women don't like men in pink shirts.
Ironically 90% of men in pink shirts don't like women

My family told me to get help for my drinking...so I hired a bartender

Please send your funnies through by emailing 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 with the subject title of the email being **Newsletter**.

Facebook

Visit our StepBridge Australia Facebook page

www.facebook.com/Stepbridge.com.au/

Upcoming Red Point Sessions

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

Sunday, 12 April

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

Wednesday, 15 April

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

Thursday, 16 April

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

Sunday, 19 April

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

Wednesday, 22 April

- 10:00am Open Individual

Saturday, 25 April (ANZAC Day)

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

Sunday, 26 April

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

Thursday, 30 April

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

Sunday, 3 May

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