

**April 2026**

## Message from the President

Dear members,

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



### Autumn Nationals in Adelaide

Good luck to StepBridge members travelling to Adelaide for the Autumn Nationals, especially if you are playing in the StepBridge Australia sponsored events.

There will be a StepBridge table out in the break-out area which a couple of our Committee Members, Cassandra Mitchell and Sue Shadbolt, will be looking after. Due to work and other commitments, I won't be flying to Adelaide. However Sue Falkingham, one of our Tournament Directors, our club Teacher, and a ABF Councillor, will represent StepBridge for the prize giving of our sponsored events.

### New StepBridge Version

The older version of StepBridge has now been discontinued, and a forced upgrade has been completed for any players who had not yet transitioned. We're pleased to confirm that we are now at 100% on the new version. Thank you to everyone for making the move!

StepBridge Onboarding Sessions are still being held every Tuesday at 4:30pm AEST. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/4kpm1G9>

The Onboarding Sessions are a great way to learn about the New Version with many tips and tricks.

### 3.50pm Weekday Session

At its April meeting, the Committee decided to change the weekday 3:50pm sessions from Novice to Restricted, following a number of Novice sessions at that time being cancelled due to low participation.

Novice sessions will continue to be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:50pm, as well as on Saturdays and Sundays at 3:50pm.

## 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)

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## 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>

## StepBridge 750 Congress

As announced via email a couple of weeks ago, Saturday 27 June will be our first StepBridge 750 Congress.

The StepBridge 750 Congress has been created exclusively for players with fewer than 750 masterpoints — offering competitive, enjoyable bridge among players of similar experience, with cash prizes and Red Masterpoints on offer.

Entries to the congress can be made via [www.myabf.com.au/go/StepBridge750](http://www.myabf.com.au/go/StepBridge750)

To our senior members — your support and encouragement of your less experienced fellow members means the world. Please do spread the word!

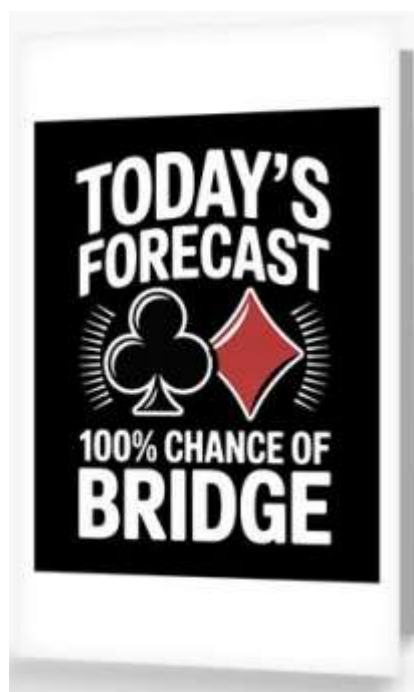
## Bridge Education

The Bridge Education Working Group is currently looking at the next round of Lessons for Improving Players. Details should be finalised over this next month and ready for advertising in our next newsletter.

## 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)



## Special General Meeting

The Committee of StepBridge Australia Bridge Club Inc. is convening a Special General Meeting (SGM) to be held via Zoom on **Monday, 18 May 2026**.

As a valued member, your participation is invited to vote on a single amendment to the Club Constitution regarding committee term limits.

### Meeting Details:

- **When:** Monday, 18 May 2026
- **Time:** 6:15 P.M. (ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC) | 5:45 P.M. (NT, SA) | 4:15 P.M. (WA)
- **Where:** Online via Zoom. Please [Register Here](#) to receive your personalised meeting link.

### Business of the Meeting

The meeting will consider a **Special Resolution** to amend Section 14 (5) of the Constitution. The proposed change removes the consecutive term limit for the role of President, bringing it into alignment with other committee positions.

### Resolution Text

*“That section 14 (5) of the Constitution be amended to read: There is no consecutive term limit for office bearers or ordinary committee members.”*

### Reference Materials:

- [Formal Notice & Agenda](#)
- [Current StepBridge Australia Bridge Club Constitution](#)

We look forward to seeing you online.

Regards,

Sarah Zoral  
Secretary, StepBridge Australia Bridge Club Inc.

## A note from the Treasurer

If anyone can identify the below payment please contact [suzi@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:suzi@stepbridge.com.au) with a copy of your payment receipt. It is probably a membership payment.

35719;09/02/2026;TRF;;10.00;PAYMENT FROM JUNE WHITEHEAD JUNE WHITEHEAD StepBridge;

Just a few reminders to everyone.

- Please don't add extra \$ amounts if you are late! Just pay the exact amount due.
- There's no need to send us a copy of your payment receipt unless we ask for it.
- Please don't use old reference numbers which might pop up on your banking page, every payment (either for pps or membership) has its own unique reference. Also, please put your reference number FIRST in the description line. Sometimes banks limit the number of characters allowed and the reference doesn't appear at our end.
- We will only send you a reminder if we haven't received a payment, so if you do get a reminder when you think you have paid, please check the payment actually left your account and if it did, email us straight away.



# 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

<b>Directors</b>	Chris Snook
<b>Movement</b>	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.
<b>Conditions of Entry</b>	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.
<b>Start Time</b>	10am (ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC & TAS) / 9.30am (NT & SA) / 8am (WA)
<b>Closing Date</b>	Thursday 28th May 2026, 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time. Late entries accepted at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
<b>Entries &amp; Entry List</b>	<a href="https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4132">https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4132</a> If you have not used MyABF before, register for MyABF via the following link: <a href="https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register">https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register</a>
<b>Entry Fee</b>	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.
<b>Prizes</b>	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.
<b>StepBridge Username Registration</b>	All players must be registered with StepBridge Australia. Details on registration at <a href="http://www.stepbridge.com.au">www.stepbridge.com.au</a> 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 <a href="mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au">support@stepbridge.com.au</a>

INAUGURAL EVENT

# STEPBRIDGE 750 CONGRESS 2026

**Your Tournament. Your Level.**

*A major online Congress for emerging players*

UNDER  
**750**  
MPs

Open to Novice, Restricted and those with less than 750 masterpoints as at 30 April cut-off date. Competitive, welcoming, and designed for players ready for a special event at their level.

**01 Play at your level**

Compete against players at a similar stage of their bridge journey.

**02 A real Congress event**

Enjoy a full one-day online Swiss Pairs competition.

**03 Prizes across grades**

Overall, Novice and Restricted prizes.

**04 A title to play for**

Compete to become the inaugural StepBridge 750 Champions.

**05 Entry fee and booking**

Enter via the MyABF link. Entry Fee: 450 participation points (approx \$30.00)

## EVENT DETAILS

**WHEN**

Saturday 27 June 2026  
Log in from 9:15am  
Start at 10:00am

**FORMAT**

9 rounds of 6 boards  
Swiss Pairs competition  
Under 750 MPs at 30 April cut-off

**ENTRIES**

Enter via MyABF  
Close: Thu 25 June,  
5:00pm  
Waiting list available

**ENTER NOW VIA MYABF**

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4133>



StepBridge.com.au

[www.stepbridge.com.au](http://www.stepbridge.com.au)

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

## New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from **19 March 2026 to 18 April 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

Maryanne

### RESTRICTED

AnnettK AnneWak DiannHod JennifeT MargieMc

### NOVICE

BrendaG DebraM DennisWa GayeP JanetWo JohnSo KayeLD LynneHa  
MargOn MarvinB MeganG MichBa MichellC NickC PipCr  
RobynMcN SandraCl Stephen3 SueKu SusanTu TracyU VeronicR

## 2026 Congresses

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

Saturday 27 June (StepBridge Australia) - Under 750 Pairs (Audio Video)

**Saturday 8 August** (StepBridge Australia) - Teams (Audio Video) - **NOTE NEW DATE**

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

## Club Playing Numbers

Apr-26		Mar-26	9,020	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

## A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn



**StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis**

**Optimum:**  
EW 5C; -600  
LoTT: 18-18 = 0

♠ 9 8 6 4 3 2  
♥ K 10 8 5  
♦ A J 7  
♣

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

♠ 5  
♥ Q J 4 2  
♦ Q 5  
♣ A Q 9 8 4 3

22

♠ A K Q J 10  
♥ A 9 3  
♦ 8 6  
♣ K 7 5

KR (?)

8		
11	4	17

♠ 7  
♥ 7 6  
♦ K 10 9 4 3 2  
♣ J 10 6 2

	♠	♥	♣	NT
N	-	1	-	-
S	-	1	-	-
E	5	-	2	2
W	5	-	3	3

Save Edit Play Options Help

Analyse More..

This hand from the March Individual was a real beauty. Across the eight tables, no pair reached what looks to be the best contract of **5♣**. Most Easts played in **2♠** or **4♠**, making 6, 7, 8 and even 10 tricks. A couple of North-South pairs sacrificed in **5♦**, doubled, making 9 and 7 tricks. One pair ended in **4♥ by East** after the auction **1♠ – 2♣ – 2♥ – 3♥ – 4♥**, with the opponents silent throughout, and made the contract after what appeared to be a misclick by South at trick two.

The bidding presents some interesting questions. East's jump to **3♣** after partner's **2♣** response is risky with only a five-card suit; that rebid really needs six spades. Rebidding **2♥** on only three cards is also unattractive. **2NT** is too weak, showing 12–14 with this shape, while **2♠** is also on the weak side and, ideally, should promise six spades as well. **3NT** overstates the hand, with too many likely diamond losers.

The most practical rebid is **3♣**, agreeing clubs even though partner's **2♣** response could be based on only four cards. Here, however, West has six clubs and would be delighted to raise to **4♣**, after which East should have little trouble bidding game. The club game is excellent: it needs the ♥K to be onside, and declarer must discover the club position early enough to finesse against South's **J-10**. West's failure to bid **3NT** also strongly suggests a lack of diamond stops.

There is also a case for South entering the auction over **3♣** with a lead-directing **3♦**. Ironically, that may help East judge the hand more accurately, since South's diamond action points to heart values with West, given that East already holds the ♠K and strong spade values. West, having shown 10+ points with the **2♣** response, can have only limited club values. South might even consider a direct **3♦** over **1♠**: only four points, yes, but green against red. That could also make it easier for East-West to settle in clubs, as **4♣** would be natural rather than Gerber, which in the INDY applies only after a notrump opening.

As it happened, **4♣** was allowed to make. The **7♥** was led and went **Q – K – A**. Two rounds of trumps then revealed the terrible spade break, South discarding two diamonds. On the third round of trumps, South threw another diamond and declarer pitched the ♦Q from dummy. North then ruffed the ♠K, but after being given the wrong signal switched to the ♦A and then a heart, allowing declarer to win the ♥J in dummy and preserve the ♥9 in hand. Declarer next led the ♠A, ruffed a club, exited again in hearts, won the return, drew the last trump and claimed. At another table, South's **4♦** over East's poor **3♣** rebid encouraged North to sacrifice in **5♦**. There, East-West found the correct defence and held the contract to just seven tricks, doubled, for **800** and a top board.

This was a fascinating deal, full of bidding judgement, defensive signalling issues and declarer play opportunities. It was also a reminder that the best contract is not always the one that gets reached at the table.

## Vale - Bev Hopley (BevHople) 1951 - 2026

We are saddened to share the passing of Bev Hopley, a member of the StepBridge community, who passed away on 7 February 2026 at the age of 74.

Bev joined StepBridge in March 2020 and quickly became a regular participant in our online bridge sessions. Over the years, she played in hundreds of tournaments and became a familiar and welcome presence at the tables. Her consistent involvement reflected not only her enjoyment of the game, but also her commitment to staying connected with the bridge community.

Bev achieved the rank of State Master and took part in more than 400 tournaments, contributing warmly to the friendly and inclusive spirit that defines StepBridge.

We extend our sincere condolences to Bev's family, including her daughter Jo, and to all who knew her.

## Vale - Don Du Temple (DonDuT) 1936 - 2026

We are saddened to share the passing of Don Du Temple, who passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 89.

Don joined StepBridge in June 2022 and soon became part of our online bridge community.

During his time with us, he took part in more than 100 tournaments and achieved the rank of National Master. His steady participation reflected both his enjoyment of the game and the place bridge held in his life.

His presence at the tables will be missed by those who played alongside him.

We extend our sincere condolences to Don's family and friends, and to all who knew him.



## A Global Opportunity for Australian Players



### eBridge Cup 2026 – Global Bridge Starts Here

Australian players are invited to take part in the **2026 eBridge Cup**, a major international bridge competition played online on **Bridge Base Online (BBO)** and **Funbridge**.

Supported by the **World Bridge Federation** and **ACBL**, the event is open to players worldwide and designed to be easy to join, easy to follow, and structured for fair competition.

After attracting **10,000 players globally** in its first edition, the 2026 eBridge Cup is set to be even bigger.

Players compete for:

- Official points
- Prize money
- International competition
- Progression to finals in **Katowice, Poland**

The final live stage will be held at the same venue as the **World Bridge Series**.

### Key Dates

Qualifiers: 1–31 May

Semi-Finals: 8 June – 5 July

Final Stages: July & August

### Learn More

[ebridgecup.com](http://ebridgecup.com)

<https://news.bridgebase.com/ebridge-cup-2026-faq/>

**A great opportunity for Australians to be part of a global bridge event**

## New StepBridge Version

100% of our player base has now transitioned to the New Version of StepBridge. Thank you to everyone who made the transition a success.

### 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 AEST

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: March 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in March 2026</i>	Overall	1	59.76	6	<b>Judy Scholfield (JudySch)</b>
		2	59.55	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)
		3	59.31	7	Michael Zhu (Michael3)
	Open	1	59.76	6	<b>Judy Scholfield (JudySch)</b>
		2	59.55	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)
		3	58.87	6	Michael Zhu (Michael3)
	Restricted	1	57.84	8	<b>Erik Moller (ErikM)</b>
		2	57.59	7	Mark Groves (MarkGr)
		3	56.38	7	Robert Ford (RobertFo)
	Novice	1	56.27	7	<b>Michael Parr (MichaelP)</b>
		2	53.65	6	Duncan Woodward (Duncan2)
		3	52.64	9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT)
	Open IMPs	1	20	6	<b>Quentin Van Abbe (QuentinV)</b>
		2	19	7	Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	18	9	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
Open	1	56.4	6	<b>Phil Jacobsen (PhilJaco)</b>	
Individual	2	56.28	12	Sue Walker (SueWalk)	
	3	54.51	6	Michele Tredinnick (Michele)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in March 2026</i>	Overall	1	59.76	6	<b>Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)</b>
		2	59.55	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	59.22	6	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Open	1	59.76	6	<b>Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)</b>
		2	59.55	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	59.22	6	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Restricted	1	57.59	7	<b>Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)</b>
		2	55.68	7	Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)
		3	55.4	6	Kim Robson (KimRob), Ian Robson (IanRob)
	Novice	1	53.65	6	<b>David Suttie (DavidSu), Duncan Woodward</b>
		2	52.64	9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
		3	51.81	10	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	19	6	<b>Dianne Dwyer (Dianned), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)</b>
		1	19	7	<b>Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)</b>
		3	9	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)

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 March 2026</i>	Overall			<b>78</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				65	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				63	Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
	Open			<b>52</b>	<b>Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)</b>
				50	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				48	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Restricted			<b>25</b>	<b>Savitri Newman (Savitri)</b>
				23	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)
				22	Julie Coates (JulieCot)
	Novice			<b>14</b>	<b>Sue Cornwell (SueCorn)</b>
				12	Lyn Forby (LynForby)
				11	Martin Haines (MartinH)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)</b>
				8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
	Open			<b>31</b>	<b>Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)</b>
	Individual			28	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				25	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in March 2026</i>	Overall			<b>33</b>	<b>Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)</b>
				24	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				19	Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi), Clare Filmer-Ramsay (ClareFR)
	Open			<b>29</b>	<b>Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)</b>
				19	Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
				15	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Jian Williams (JianW)
	Restricted			<b>15</b>	<b>Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)</b>
				10	Savitri Newman (Savitri), Meera Kudva (MeeraK)
				10	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP), Sean Quinn (SeanQ)
	Novice			<b>10</b>	<b>Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)</b>
				9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				6	David Suttie (DavidSu), Duncan Woodward (Duncan2)
	Open IMPs			<b>7</b>	<b>Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)</b>
				6	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
				6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in March 2026</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>8.73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Sanjay Hirekodi (SanjayH)</b>
		2	7.21	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)
		3	6.66	10	Gordon Conroy (GordonC)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Annegrete Kolding (AnneK)</b>
		2	5.24	6	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
		3	5.21	9	Sue Evershed (SueEv)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Gordon Conroy (GordonC)</b>
		2	5.03	9	David Boyle (DavidBoy)
		3	4.98	8	Erik Moller (ErikM)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>6.07</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>David Callan (DavidCal)</b>
		2	4.65	9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT)
			4.65	9	Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Maria Ruttiman (MariaRu)</b>
		2	0.12	8	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3	0.09	7	Mal Clark (MalCl)
Open Indi-	<b>1</b>	<b>5.91</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Phil Jacobsen (PhilJaco)</b>	
	2	4.14	12	Sue Walker (SueWalk)	
	3	3.78	16	Sue Thomas (SueT)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in March 2026</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>6.26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Wendy Harris (WendyH), Libby Heyward (LibHeywa)</b>
		2	5.21	9	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Sue Evershed (SueEv)
		3	5.2	6	Nimal Weerasinghe (NimalW), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>6.26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Wendy Harris (WendyH), Libby Heyward (LibHeywa)</b>
		2	5.21	9	Trish Berry (TrishBer), Sue Evershed (SueEv)
		3	5.2	6	Nimal Weerasinghe (NimalW), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Wendy Sheehan (WendyS), Trish McDonell (TrishMcD)</b>
		2	2.97	7	Len Pascoe (LenV), Agnes Marsh (AgnesMa)
		3	2.54	7	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse), Heather Whitely (HWhitely)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)</b>
		2	0.18	10	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)</b>
		2	0.05	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
		3	0.02	7	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)

## Masterpoint Promotions

March 2026

Prince, Bob	Silver Grand	Francis, Anne	State
Aquino, John	Grand	Jackson, Barry	State
Lidl, Pamela	Grand	Jarvis, Beverly	State
Girvan, Chris	Gold Life	Mazengarb, Jill	State
Martin, Sue	Gold Life	Pearce, Helen	State
Sawyer, Jennifer	Gold Life	Samuels, Richard	State
Georgeson, Tony	Silver Life	Studholme, Barbara	State
Gillies, Nerida	Silver Life	Taylor, Sue	State
Grace, Andrew	Silver Life	Thomas, Merle	State
McKay, Fitz	Silver Life	Buell, Christina	Regional
Perino, Lauri	Silver Life	Fielding, Paul	Regional
Chick, Glen	Bronze Life	Holburt, Greg	Regional
Clark, Ian	Bronze Life	Lewis, Connie	Regional
Cumming, David	Bronze Life	Parker, Carl	Regional
McCabe, Eamonn	Bronze Life	Schettler, Peter	Regional
McClellan, Brenda	Bronze Life	Gam, Anthony	Silver Local
Reid, Jeremy	Bronze Life	Grady, Hugh	Silver Local
Leal, Melva	Life	Katekar, Leonie	Silver Local
Mooney, Eugenie	Life	Mason, Sylvia	Silver Local
Tongs, Christine	Life	Stent, David	Silver Local
Daniel, Bev	Silver National	Cockerell, Michael	Bronze Local
Kennard, Susan	Silver National	Darwell, Gabi	Bronze Local
Wong, Magdeline	Silver National	Kilmartin, Margie	Bronze Local
Borg, Jeff	Bronze National	Pashev, Jack	Bronze Local
Burrows, Patricia	Bronze National	Connor, Nellie	Local
Doyle, Wendy	Bronze National	Green, Philip	Local
Gray, Erica	Bronze National	Johnston, Bob	Local
Kent, Jay	Bronze National	Lawrence-Berne, Terina	Local
Stephens, Jane	Bronze National	Mohan, Mushfiqur Rahma	Local
Summerhill, Jodie	Bronze National	Paltridge, Ian	Local
Veling, Jeff	Bronze National	Seale, Michelle	Local
Arnott, Toni	National	Yee, Barbara	Local
Goss, Samuel	National	Discher, Sarah	Club
Mackiggan, Rebecca	National	Dougherty, Tracy	Club
Reddin, Shirley	National	Ferguson, Fraser	Club
Sandwith, Alison	National	Fisher, Meg	Club
Venter, Diane	National	Harris, Rhett	Club
Wells, Robyn	National	Jens, Neil	Club
Newman, Savitri	Bronze State	Ross, Jodie	Graduate
Dorman, Rebecca	Bronze State		
Hendry, Annette	Bronze State		
Lester, Marguerite	Bronze State		



## Partnership Platform

April – Bookended by the Central West Festival of Bridge in Orange and the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide. Some of you will have attended one, or both, and I do hope the cards were kind.

I missed Orange this year but Adelaide is on the cards. However, at the time of writing, the world is feeling far from stable. Let's trust our oil supplies and our airlines can keep us moving and that I'll get to say hello to StepBridge Members in The Festival State.

**StepBridge** is the main sponsor of the Adelaide event; support which is very gratefully received. And now **StepBridge** will be running its own **750 Congress on 27 June**. I must say I do love a good Congress. Playing Bridge all day – what's not to love? Do consider entering the June congress which is open to all players holding less than 750 master-points. Now that's exciting. We'll be in the depths of Winter, and I can't imagine anything better than to be inside, warm and cosy, cup of tea to hand, and a full day's bridge. Looking forward to seeing you there ....

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](mailto: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.

For players who'd like the opportunity to collect 100 **StepBridge** playing points why not consider joining **Partners4Bridge**. You'll cast your net just that bit further, you'll be offered the opportunity to partner with players from elsewhere, and you'll be able to use your **StepBridge** playing points to get to know them. Encourage your new friend to join **StepBridge** and spread the word. It's free to join **Partners4Bridge** [www.partners4bridge.com](http://www.partners4bridge.com) and you'll collect 100 **StepBridge** playing points just for signing up.



**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 is dedicated to meeting the **StepBridge** crew, the tireless folk who keep the wheels turning. Let's say hello to Suzi Ledger, Treasurer for StepBridge – perhaps one of the unsung heroes, but absolutely key to the successful running of the Club.

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

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

I am a member of the Sanctuary Cove Golf Club and they used to have a lovely old Country Club building with a ladies lounge. Several ladies used to play there informally. Eventually it was suggested we get Joan Butts in to hold some beginner lessons and our Club blossomed from there. We are probably only a small Club as most of us also still play golf, but Bridge and golf seem to go together, don't they?

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

We call ourselves the friendly Club! We have a stunning playing area overlooking the golf course, and if we get bored can watch the pelicans and kangaroos around the lake instead.

### **How did you come across StepBridge?**

A friend of mine (LynnieB) lives most of the time in Tasmania, and back in 2017 I joined so we could have the occasional evening game on StepBridge. I can't remember there ever being more than about 6 tables, but when the balloon went up in 2020 it was our lifesaver. The largest game I played in back then was 96 tables! Soon after that I came on board as a TD and eventually Treasurer.

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

Count, count, count. It's probably the hardest thing to do as a beginner as there is just too much going on in your head already.

### **Any Hobbies outside Bridge?**

Believe it or not, Golf! I did get down to a single figure handicap when COVID was on (not much else to do) but I think those days are past. You can always get better at Bridge, but unfortunately, age catches up on your golfing abilities eventually.

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

I can't overestimate how much StepBridge improved my game. Just being able to see both hands when you are dummy and actually have a bit of time to analyse it yourself while you're not under pressure has been invaluable.

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

The funniest thing that happened when I was just quite new was that we had finished the bidding and were on about the 5th trick, when someone noticed that dummy wasn't down on the table yet! Maybe we were busy chatting.

### **And advice for newcomers to Bridge?**

Don't get disheartened if you are constantly coming last or near the bottom. EVERYONE had to start there too. You learn something new every time you play. Congresses are a great way to embed your conventions - don't be scared.

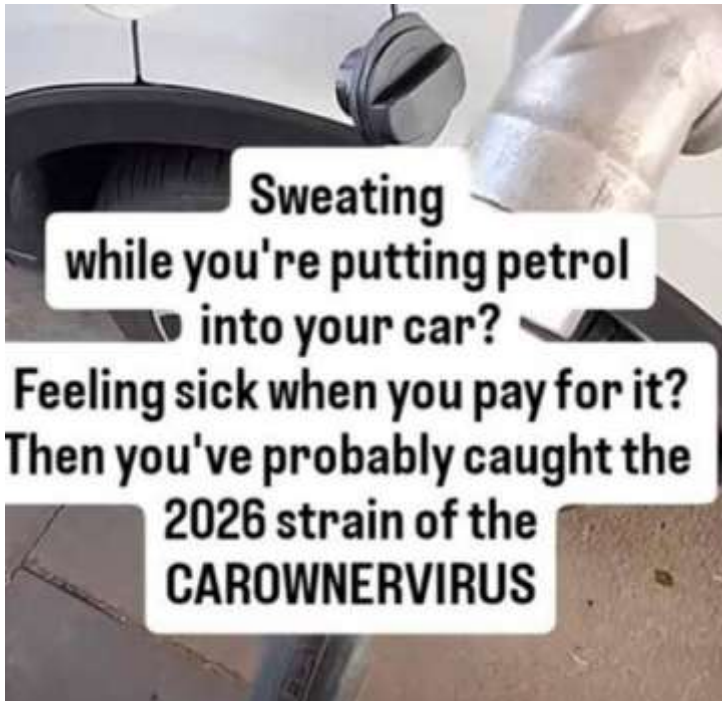
### **And finally, Surprise us. Tell us something about yourself that we would never guess.**

I lived in Hong Kong for several years in the early 90s and our daughter was born there. I worked initially in the financial services industry, but eventually started my own business doing Admin work for several Clubs and Associations, including The Australian Wine Appreciation Society in HK (also known as AWASH). It was very popular among the expats!



# Funnies Column

Thank you to Dave Bright (DaveB) 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*)

3.50pm (Monday - Friday)

7.50pm (Wednesday & Friday)

Novice: 3.50pm (Saturday & Sunday)

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

*Friday, 1 May*

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

*Saturday, 2 May*

- 8:00pm Open

*Sunday, 3 May*

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

*Monday, 4 May (Labour Day Qld/NT)*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Tuesday, 5 May*

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

*Wednesday, 6 May*

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

*Thursday, 7 May*

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

*Friday, 8 May*

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

*Saturday, 9 May*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Sunday, 10 May*

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

*Monday, 11 May*

- 8:00pm Open Teams

*Tuesday, 12 May*

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

*Wednesday, 13 May*

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

*Friday, 15 May*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Saturday, 16 May*

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

*Sunday, 17 May*

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

*Monday, 18 May*

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

*Thursday, 21 May*

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

*Friday, 22 May*

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

***The complete list of Red Point Sessions for May 2026 can be found on the StepNews popup, when you enter the club.***