

May 2026

Message from the President

Dear members,

Constitution Change

At the Special General Meeting (SGM) held on Monday 18 May, Sarah Zoral lead the process on the amendment to the Constitution Change so there are no consecutive term limit for any office bearer or ordinary committee member. This motion was passed unanimously by all present at the meeting.



StepBridge May Congress

Good luck for all members playing in our first StepBridge congress for 2026 this Saturday, 30 May.

StepBridge 750 Congress

Coming up on Saturday 27 June is 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

Bridge Improvers Workshop Series

Our next education workshop series will be held on Saturday mornings beginning on 4 July and continuing for 5 weeks until 1 August. Further details are in the flyer further on in this newsletter. Register for the Workshop Series via www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4337

Server Outage

A few weeks ago we had a server outage, which was beyond our control. The Committee is currently developing ways to communication to members when issues, such as a server outage, occurs. One example may be a SMS to our members.

Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Committee

President

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

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Suzi Ledger (Suzi)
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Secretary

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Committee Members

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

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Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Newsletter Editor

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

Email Address

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

GeorgeTo HayleyM KarinLR MaxG Parakram RichardL WendyBo

RESTRICTED

AntheaB Caroline JennFer JillPatt NicoleB SenaH Yiwei

NOVICE

AlbertA AlfredH AmandaS AndrewBl AngelaPe CarolBel CarolDor
DeniseC DianeHo ElaineM GenW GlenLo HelenRoa JaneP
JeanNew JeffD JoeG JohnMcR JudyPej JulieCol KariB
MargMe MarjM MarkM MichellN NoelG PhyllisS Roderick
RoxanneS SheilaR ShelleyL TimB TinaC TrishBro

2026 Congresses

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	8,972	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 Message from our Head Tournament Director

Automatch Partnerships and System Card Responsibility

One of the most important principles of StepBridge is that every partnership must display and follow a system card.

To make this easier, every player has access to a library of sample system cards. Players may:

- Use one of the supplied cards as it is
- Copy and edit a card to suit their own agreements, save the customised versions in your own library with clear labels such as “Chris and Sarah” for easy identification
- Share copied versions with other players

This flexibility allows partnerships to develop agreements that suit their preferred style while still ensuring opponents receive proper disclosure.

Choosing the Correct Card

When a partnership is formed, the players must decide which system card they are using.

At the start of every tournament, StepBridge sends a message asking the partnership to select the system card that will be in play. The chosen card is then identified at the table with an icon showing whose card is active.

Unfortunately, many players simply click “accept” without checking whether the correct card has been selected.

This often leads to:

- The wrong system card being used
- Partners having different expectations about agreements
- Bidding misunderstandings
- Opponents receiving incorrect information
- Director calls and complaints
- Frustration for both partners

The Challenge with Automatch Partnerships

The problem becomes even more significant with Automatch partnerships.

Automatched players are paired only five minutes before the start of play. During this short period, partners should:

- Communicate about their preferred methods
- Decide which system card will be used
- Review any unusual agreements
- Confirm they are both willing and able to play the selected system



Sadly, this opportunity is often not used effectively.

Too frequently, play begins with players randomly accepting a card without discussion, and then failing to follow the agreements shown on the card anyway.

This creates unnecessary problems:

- The new partner may feel misled or unsupported
- Opponents may receive inaccurate explanations
- Misunderstandings can affect the fairness of the game
- Directors may be required to resolve avoidable disputes

Your Responsibility as a Player

Selecting a system card is not just a formality.

When you accept a system card, you are confirming that:

- You know which card is being used
- You understand the agreements on the card
- You intend to follow those agreements during play

If you are unfamiliar with a convention or agreement on the selected card, it is far better to discuss it before the round starts rather than improvising during the auction.

The Individual Tournament System Card

To assist players in Automatch and casual partnerships, StepBridge also provides an Individual Tournament System Card.

This card was specifically created to offer a simple, straightforward system for players who may be partnering a different player each round or who have limited time to discuss agreements before play starts.

Many players choose to use this card because it:

- Provides familiar and uncomplicated methods
- Reduces the need for lengthy partnership discussions
- Helps avoid misunderstandings with new partners
- Creates clearer expectations for opponents
- Is especially useful when time is limited before the start of play

The Individual Tournament System Card can be an excellent option for Automatch partnerships, particularly when players have only a few minutes to prepare.

Rather than hurriedly accepting an unfamiliar card, players may find that using a recognised basic system leads to smoother and more enjoyable games for everyone involved.

A Simple Reminder

Before the tournament begins:

1. Check which card has been selected
2. Talk to your partner
3. Make sure you are both comfortable playing the same methods
4. Follow the agreements shown on the card

A few moments of preparation can prevent confusion, complaints, and disappointment for everyone involved.

Good partnership communication and accurate system card usage help create a fair, friendly, and enjoyable StepBridge experience for all players.

*Sarah Zoral
Head TD*

WhatsApp Bridgemate Partnership Finder

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).

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>

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn

John's hand for May will appear in the June Newsletter



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

support@stepbridge.com.au



STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA



BRIDGE IMPROVERS WORKSHOP

Your next step in better bridge

Online lessons for Improvers,
Advanced Beginners & Intermediate Players



STARTING SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026
10:30am AEST



Delivered online in our Virtual Classroom on StepBridge

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

01 **Xs: Double, double, toil and trouble!**
Understanding takeout doubles, negative doubles, penalty doubles, responsive doubles, lead-directing doubles, and when doubles can help — or hurt.

02 **Overcalling 1NT ... by you or your opponents. What to do????**
How to handle 1NT overcalls, competing auctions, conventions, and practical responses. There are many systems available — we'll take a look at Cappelletti.

03 **Strong opening hands ... such fun!**
Game-forcing hands, powerful openings, slam interest, and making the most of strength.

04 **More on defence, card play and signals**
Essential defensive techniques, signalling methods, and improving partnership understanding.

05 **Revision and guided hands reinforcing Lessons 1-4**

COURSE DETAILS



WHEN

Saturdays 10:30am-12:00pm AEST

4 Jul • 11 Jul • 18 Jul
25 Jul • 1 Aug 2026



COST

\$65 for the full 5-week program
(Paid via Participation Points)



FORMAT

Interactive online lessons
and guided play on StepBridge

YOUR TEACHER SUE FALKINGHAM



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



REGISTER VIA MYABF

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4337>



New to MyABF? Create an account:

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



StepBridge

Bridge to your next level.



Enquiries: lessons@stepbridge.com.au



www.stepbridge.com.au

Autumn Nationals

At this years Autumn Nationals, hosted by the SABF, StepBridge sponsored the ***Under Grand Masters & Under Life Master Teams, Australia Blue Ribbon Pairs Under Grand Master & Under Life Master events.*** Sue Falkingham (SueF) presented on behalf of StepBridge Australia

STEPBRIDGE UNDER GRAND MASTER TEAMS

Winners: Sue Falkingham from StepBridge, Megan Edwards, Phil Young, Lynda Young, Michelle George



STEPBRIDGE UNDER LIFE MASTER TEAMS

Winners: Nathanael Shoumack, Albert Kong, Mandy Tomney, Audrey Donsen



Autumn Nationals

STEPBRIDGE UNDER GRAND MASTER TEAMS

Second place: Jake Andrew, Michael Young, Sue Falkingham (StepBridge), Tony White, Mary Poynten (absent)



STEPBRIDGE UNDER LIFE MASTER TEAMS

Second place: Kate Hartley, Peter Wilson, Anne & William Morgan



Photos from the Autumn Nationals



Photos from the Autumn Nationals



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

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: April 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in April 2026</i>	Overall	1	58.19	9	Alexander Cook (AlexCook)
		2	57.21	21	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	56.71	12	Aaron Oskay (AaronO)
	Open	1	58.19	9	Alexander Cook (AlexCook)
		2	57.21	21	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	56.65	24	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Restricted	1	59.11	6	Leonie Katekar (LeonieK)
		2	58.31	11	Mark Groves (MarkGr)
		2	58.31	11	Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice	1	58.37	9	Phil Kay (PhilK)
		2	56.45	8	Michael Parr (MichaelP)
		3	55.16	8	Lee Furness (LeeF)
	Open IMPs	1	19	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
		1	19	6	Simon Tissera (SimonT)
		3	18	7	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
Open	1	57.82	7	Frank Hymus (FrankHy)	
Individual	2	55.25	12	Lawrie Hall (LawrieHa)	
	3	55.04	8	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in April 2026</i>	Overall	1	59.18	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	58.43	6	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith (ValeriSm)
		3	58.21	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
	Open	1	59.18	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Ziauddin Kazi
		2	58.21	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	56.51	9	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
	Restricted	1	58.43	6	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith
		2	58.31	11	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
		3	54.4	21	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
	Novice	1	55.16	8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		2	52.84	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
		3	52.23	7	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
	Open IMPs	1	16	7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
		2	14	6	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		3	9	7	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)

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 110 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 April 2026</i>	Overall			87	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				86	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				64	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Open			61	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				55	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
				52	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Restricted			33	Dianne Holst (DianneHo)
				27	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
				26	Christine Chodasewicz (ChrisCho)
	Novice			11	Sue Cornwell (SueCorn)
				10	Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				10	Martin Haines (MartinH)
	Open IMPs			9	Laraine Dolan (LaraineD)
				9	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
				8	Delma Casabene (DelmaCa)
	Open			29	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Individual			27	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)
				27	Jurate Laisve (Juratel)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in April 2026</i>	Overall			34	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				25	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				25	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
	Open			34	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				25	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				21	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
	Restricted			21	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
				14	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR), Dave Bright (DaveB)
				11	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice			8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
				7	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
	Open IMPs			7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
				7	Edward Ellice-Flint (EdwardEF), William Hendershaw (Pwears)
				6	Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Mary Hives (MaryH)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in April 2026</i>	Overall	1	7.54	9	David Suttie (DavidSu)
		2	5.97	7	Lizzie Rasheed (LizzieR)
		3	5.42	10	Duncan Woodward (Duncan2)
	Open	1	5.18	12	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR)
		2	4.67	9	Alexander Cook (AlexCook)
		3	4.57	6	Sue Jackson (SueJack)
	Restricted	1	8.61	14	Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
		2	5.97	6	Leonie Katekar (LeonieK)
		3	5.68	10	Richard Alderman (Richard3)
	Novice	1	9.26	9	Phil Kay (PhilK)
		2	4.91	7	Karen Moss (KarenMos)
		3	4.16	6	Lindin Ross (LindinR)
	Open IMPs	1	0.19	6	Rosemary Porter (RoseP)
		2	0.13	6	Sarah Gaunt (SarahGa)
		2	0.13	7	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)
	Open	1	4.07	10	Christine Hadaway (ChristiH)
Individual	2	3.82	7	Christine Chodasewicz (ChrisCho)	
	3	2.99	7	Frank Hymus (FrankHy)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in April 2026</i>	Overall	1	5.97	7	Kay Bennetts (KayBenn), Lizzie Rasheed (LizzieR)
		2	5.88	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	5.78	9	David Suttie (DavidSu), Duncan Woodward (Duncan2)
	Open	1	5.88	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	4.52	6	Sue Jackson (SueJack), Ross Sydney (RossSy)
		3	4.1	8	Elizabeth Lawrence (LizLaw), Henrietta Hohnen (Henrieta)
	Restricted	1	4.48	7	Sylvia Mason (SylviaM), Barbara Studholme (BarbSt)
		2	4.13	6	Julie Coates (JulieCot), Angela Carroll (AngelaC)
		3	3.54	7	David Suttie (DavidSu), Duncan Woodward (Duncan2)
	Novice	1	3.78	7	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
		2	3.34	8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	2.62	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	1	0.13	7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)

Masterpoint Promotions

April 2026

Maltby, Florence	Silver Grand	Cumming, Robert	Silver Local
Blakey, Gill	Silver Life	Higham, Paula	Silver Local
Ellice-Flint, Catherine	Silver Life	Horsley, Louise	Silver Local
Flicker, Damon	Bronze Life	Horsley, Patrick	Silver Local
Wozniczka, Les	Bronze Life	Krishnamachari, Ramarathinam	Silver Local
D'Ambrosio, Lucy	Life	Lennon, Alexia	Silver Local
Heyward, Libby	Life	Li, Samuel	Silver Local
Queree, Shannon	Life	Suttie, David	Silver Local
Simmonds, John	Life	Abraham, Ross	Bronze Local
Stucley, Graham	Silver National	Andrianopoulos, Nick	Bronze Local
Morrison, Colin	Bronze National	Canavan, Andrew	Bronze Local
Neal, Bronwyn	Bronze National	Collins, Julia	Bronze Local
Spurway, Frank	Bronze National	Dewar, Rhys	Bronze Local
Bissett, Jennifer	National	Mohan, Mushfiqur Rahma	Bronze Local
Hunter, Simon	National	Paltridge, Debbie	Bronze Local
O'Brien, Miriam	National	Roe, John	Bronze Local
Stanton, Margaret	National	Stark, Denis	Bronze Local
Ardern, Melissa	Bronze State	Beattie, Fiona	Local
Christy, Trish	Bronze State	George, Rose	Local
Hart, Prue	Bronze State	Losurdo, Angela	Local
Lean, Graeme	Bronze State	Pool, Bruce	Local
Low, Gek	Bronze State	Vanyai, Alec	Local
Viebke, Marianne	Bronze State	Vince, Marty	Local
Clifton, Robyn	State	Robertson, Heather	Club
Herfort, Terry	State	Atkins, Mary	Graduate
Macdonald, Mandy	State	Lynch, Carol	Graduate
Matheson, Stewart	State	Nightingale, Sue	Graduate
Miranda, Margo	State		
Munro, Jenny	State		



Congratulations!

Partnership Platform

I was extremely lucky to visit Adelaide for the Autumn Nationals – what a treat! Glorious weather and a well-run, smooth flowing Congress. StepBridge Director, Cassie Mitchell was there proudly waving the flag and busily seeking new recruits.

I was able to pin Cassie down for Meet the Member and I'd encourage you to read this through. There's a great deal that will be of interest to players and to those who want some background on our Director's lives away from the coalface.

Without further ado let's hear from Cassie. And for those of you who signed on to Partners4Bridge during the Adelaide festivities, your 100 StepBridge playing points will be added to your membership, entitling you to a couple of free games! www.partners4bridge.com

Enjoy!

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.

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 and you'll collect 100 StepBridge playing points just for signing up.

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, identified as Cassie Mitchell in the text.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

What brought you to Bridge?

In 1975 when my husband and I were dating, we used to go to our friend's house for dinner. They played and introduced me to the game. I was hooked from the first card! I had grown up in Washington DC playing games every weekend at our summer house on an island just south of the city. We didn't have a TV there so every night we played something, 500, Pinochle, Canasta and board games - we played them all. I consider 500 the pre-school for Bridge. In 1986 when we moved back to Sydney from Malaysia and Melbourne, I picked it up again and played at the Gordon Bridge Club with Pauline Haynes (who passed away in 2023 at 103, still playing bridge the day before she died). We played twice a week for 25 years. Then after a fortunate phone call, ClareFR found me and asked me to play with her. We have played together now for 14 years. Early in Covid, we found StepBridge. Being able to dissect the bad boards and see exactly – card by card – how the winners played has really improved our play and bidding. Now we prefer to dissect the good boards to see how we played the hand and hopefully replicate it next time.



How competitive are you?

My friends would say I'm very competitive at bridge but in reality, I don't compete against other people; I compete against myself. I love to know I played a hand really well. It doesn't matter to me if I beat others – that's a side benefit. What matters to me is that I feel good about how I played.

What is your favourite convention?

Oh so many! Most taught to us by a friend who plays much better than me; AnneS. CRO Gerber (a way of asking for aces that, if you have 2 – you can tell partner exactly which 2. Reverse Bergen. Signals and discards. Loser count (vital for informing you how far the contract should go). When I think back to our early days, if we had used these systems – we would have been so much better in restricted congresses. We came 2nd in Canberra our first time there but should have come first except for an unfortunate brain snap by me (didn't recognise a Bergen raise and passed. Hard way to learn but never done it since!).

Tell us a bit about yourself

I'm married (51 years) and we are so lucky to have 4 wonderful sons (triplets 47 and the other one is 46), 2 amazing 'daughters' who married 2 of our sons and 6 kind & wonderful grandchildren. We live in Roseville NSW.

I taught school for 45 years, spending the last 20 as a Principal of a Trauma-Informed School. Nearly my whole career was centred around supporting students with special needs; physical, intellectual and emotional. I had the best students, staff and parents. The bureaucracy was at times, challenging! Far too much paperwork for little or no benefit.

I came to Australia in 1974 to teach as part of a program to recruit teachers. I met Graham and never went back; something I am immensely grateful for now that the atmosphere in the US is so divisive and destructive to children in schools and women in general. I enjoy the safety in Australia to go about my life without fear that someone with a gun is having a bad day.

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

What do you wish the players understood about TDing?

*When a TD sends out a message of 'Will you play'– please respond to it with yes or I can't. Don't just ignore it.

*How busy it is at the start of each session; matching players, trying to fill tables – TDs do not have the time to teach players how to change their system card or how to move from one section to the other. Please make use of the 'ONBOARDING' lessons so you learn how to make the most out of the program. You will improve your bridge and have far less stress.

*The general messages are there for a reason – PLEASE READ THEM!

*If using an iPad, clear your history before joining the activity. This might clear up some issues iPad users have. Most calls of 'I can't do XYZ' are from iPad users and are usually due to not clearing history or not being sufficiently familiar with how to use an iPad.

*Speaking of iPads; they have this annoying habit of changing your settings during the game. If ever you can't move a card and you're NOT DUMMY (duh!) – it's a good idea to check your settings and see if what is selected is what you want.

PLEASE spend some time investigating the settings in the new version (go to your initials top right and then settings). There's so much in there to help you customise your game so that you are more comfortable. For example, I dislike the pop up of the results after each hand over on the right. It restricts my table size. In settings you can remove that option (it's in advanced). I like having 4 colours too so I always have that on. Just simple things like that allow me to have a consistent feel to the system. These and much more are some of the things you learn in the onboarding lessons.

Why do TDs want you to use the undo button instead of the call TD button?

When you click on CallTD, we have to come to the table, open up the log to see if we can tell the reason there, go back to the table by closing that log, then ask you 'How can I help?'. So much easier and quicker to just use the UNDO button.

Advice to players

Play with a regular partner (to refine your system and be able to trust the bidding and play)

Participate in congresses at your level. You will learn heaps and this improves your enjoyment of the game.

Always be polite to your partner and the opposition.

Compliment your partner privately. Dissect the good boards and IF ASKED by your partner, dissect the bad ones.

Realise even when you stuff it up, there are other hands you played or bid brilliantly.

Play as often as you are able but don't neglect your 'other life'. However if it's a choice between housework or bridge, I choose bridge every time!

Funnies Column

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

**RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE ARGUING
OVER WHO LOST THE KEYS...**



**SHOULD I TELL THEM OR
JUST SIT BACK AND LAUGH.**

**YOU'RE
NOT
TRULY
BROKE
UNTIL
YOU
THINK...**



**TOILET PAPER: \$1.25/ROLL
FAST FOOD NAPKINS: FREE**

**YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU BUY A BAG
OF SALAD & IT
GETS ALL BROWN
& SOGGY?**

**COOKIES DON'T
DO THAT**



**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU
GIVE RED BULL TO A WOODPECKER**



**A moment of tension in Vatican.
If the bishop moves forward the
queen can take him.**



**THE OLDER YOU GET
THE MORE YOU APPRECIATE
BEING AT HOME DOING
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.**

*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*)

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 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

Wednesday, 3 June

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

Thursday, 4 June

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

Friday, 5 June

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

Saturday, 6 June

- 8:00pm Open

Sunday, 7 June

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

Monday, 8 June

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)

Wednesday, 10 June

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

Thursday, 11 June

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

Friday, 12 June

- 10:00am Open Individual

Saturday, 13 June

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

Sunday, 14 June

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

Monday, 15 June

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

Tuesday, 16 June

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

Friday, 19 June

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

Saturday, 20 June

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

Sunday, 21 June

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

Tuesday, 23 June

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

Wednesday, 24 June

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

Thursday, 25 June

- 10:00am Open Individual

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