

June 2026

Message from the President

Dear members,

StepBridge 750 Congress

Good luck for all members playing in our Under 750 Masterpoints congress for 2026 this Saturday, 30 May.

Increase in Participation Points Per Session

The Committee agreed at their meeting on Monday 15 June of the following increase to Participation Points per session as of 1 July 2026.

- Green Masterpoint Session = 60 Participation Points
- Red Masterpoint Session = 85 Participation Points

These minor increase are mainly due to an increase in expenses over the past 12 months.

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

Australian National Championship

Good luck to all players representing their state or territory at the Australian National Championships, which will be held in Canberra in early July. We wish you every success and look forward to hearing about your achievements.

Strategic Plan Review

Approximately six months ago, the Club introduced its Strategic Plan to help guide future growth and development. At the June Committee Meeting, a new process was established to monitor and track progress against the Plan's objectives.

To ensure the Strategic Plan remains relevant and on track, progress will now be formally reviewed twice each year, allowing the Committee to assess achievements, identify priorities, and make any necessary adjustments.

Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)



Committee

President

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Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

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

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Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

Newsletter Editor

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

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Congress Results

StepBridge Australia December Congress IMPs Pairs - Saturday 30th May 2026

Open Grade Pairs: <https://legacy.stepbridge.com.au/reports/congress/23533>

1st Adrian Lohmann & Karin Le Roux
2nd Edward Hahn & Pat Beattie
3rd Florence Maltby & Tim Davis

Restricted Grade Pairs: <https://legacy.stepbridge.com.au/reports/congress/23532>

1st Miriam O'Brien & Brenda Campbell
2nd Paul Smith & Sa Smith
3rd Elaine Jones & Beth Magick

Best Novice Pair in Restricted Grade

Trish Christy & Aaron Oskay

New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from **29 May 2026 to 22 June 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

CyrilR PaulJn

RESTRICTED

ElenaR MarleneR OlegG RoseR RoxK TomR

NOVICE

Allistai	AngelaS	BenL	CarolynR	Cheryl2	ChrisBur	GailH
GarryM	GaryWd	GunillaJ	JaneJ	JanetCt	JudithAd	JudyB
Kandapil	KayeD	LeeS	LindaSt	Maduraa	MariaMi	MariaS
Martin2	MeganP	Muthukum	PhyllisS	RobynWh	TerryFit	TonyL
VickiD						

2026 Congresses

Saturday 8 August (StepBridge Australia) - Teams (Audio Video) - **NOTE NEW DATE**
Saturday 5 December (StepBridge Australia) - Pairs (Audio Video)

Club Playing Numbers

May-26	9,212						
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



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>



Enquiries: lessons@stepbridge.com.au



www.stepbridge.com.au



StepBridge

Bridge to your next level

Event

2026 ABF Club Teams Knockout

The 5th Club Teams Knockout, a National Gold Point event will begin on 21 July.

This year the event will be played online on Realbridge on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.30 pm (AEST), on the following dates ...

- 21 July
- 18 August
- 15 September
- 13 October
- 17 November

There will be 5 divisions - Open, U750, U300, U100 and U50, with cash prizemoney in each division according to the number of entries in that division.

Cost is \$200 per team, which covers the 5 evenings.

There will be 2 qualifying rounds, on 21 July and 18 August.

The top 8 teams in each division will then play a quarter final knockout on 15 September with the winners playing a semifinal knockout on 13 October.

Finally the remaining 2 teams will play a final on 17 November. Teams that are knocked out will play in a consolation match.

We encourage as many StepBridge teams to enter the event.

For further information or to enter, please go to <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4446>



A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn



StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis

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

♠ A J 10 8
♥ A 5 2
♦ 10 7 3 2
♣ 6 5

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

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 8 7 6
♦ K Q J 8
♣ J 10 8

☐ KR ?

9 9 13

6

♠ K 7 4 2
♥ J
♦ A 9 6 5 4
♣ K Q 7

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

♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ K 9 4 3
♦
♣ A 9 4 3 2

Save Edit Play Options Help

Analyse More..

This hand produced a remarkable variety of contract choices from both pairs. Contracts played included diamonds by EW at the 2, 3 and 5 levels (including one doubled 3♦ and one 5♦), notrump by East at the 1 and 3 levels, and spades by NS at the 2, 3 and 4 levels.

East will almost certainly open 1♦, leaving South with a difficult choice between doubling (with 9 HCP and a diamond void) or simply overcalling 2♣. If South doubles, West should respond 1♥, after which North can double to show spades and values with their balanced 9-count. If South overcalls 2♣ immediately, West does not quite have enough to bid 2♥—there is no guarantee of a heart fit—but should certainly not pass. Partner is known to have at least three diamonds, so my preference is to stretch slightly and bid 2♥. East should be comfortable correcting to diamonds at the three level if necessary.

North should again double to show spades and values. Simply bidding spades would imply a five-card suit and could encourage partner more than is warranted. Regardless of South's initial action, East has little enthusiasm for hearts and should rebid diamonds at the lowest available level.

At this point South can comfortably compete in spades, knowing North has shown the suit. While some players may hesitate to bid 3♠, it is the right call. Doubling 3♦ with a void and the balance of points perhaps favouring EW would be risky; passing is preferable if South is unwilling to bid 3♠.

From here the auction becomes something of a guessing game. Is 3♠ making? Is 4♦ making? Could East make 3NT? As the cards lie, 3♠ is the limit. Any further bidding generally results in the side making the last bid being the one that loses.

Against 3♦, South should lead a spade, given the known fit. North wins the ace, discovers partner's void, and should continue with the ace of hearts. When declarer's jack appears and South encourages, a further heart is still best, forcing declarer to ruff and reducing dummy's trump control.

Declarer can no longer draw trumps comfortably, with North holding all the outstanding high diamonds and a club loser still looming. The best practical line is to draw a couple of rounds of trumps to discover the break, ruff a spade, and then lead a club from dummy. Eventually East loses one trick in each suit and records nine tricks for +110.

The play in 3♠ is somewhat more straightforward. On a routine diamond lead, declarer ruffs in hand and then cashes the ace of clubs followed by another club. The defence's best continuation is to force declarer with another diamond, reducing South's trump length. EW will always score a spade trick with the king, together with a heart and a club. Declarer should also arrange to lose a diamond at some stage, using the opportunity to discard a loser from hand. As the cards lie, 3♠ is exactly the limit of the hand.

A Message from our Head Tournament Director

Check Your Bidding Box Settings Before Your Next Session

A simple settings check can prevent accidental passes and bidding errors

Important: If you have recently experienced an unexpected Pass during the auction, please check that **"Select pass as default bid in bidding box"** is switched **OFF** in your Play Settings. This is the most common cause of accidental passes reported to StepBridge Australia.

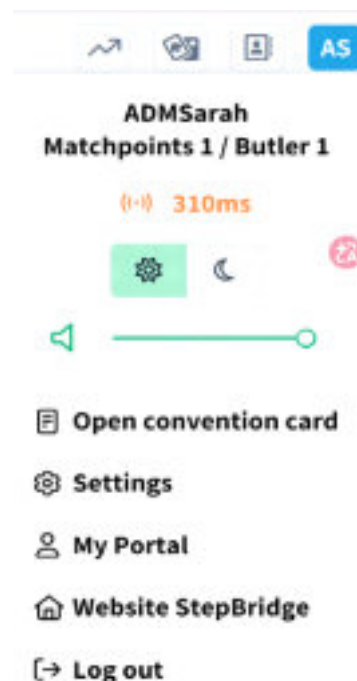
Step 1 – Open Your Settings

When you enter the Competition Lobby, click the blue button displaying your initials in the top-right corner of the screen.

This opens your player menu.

Select **Settings** from the menu.

Click your initials and select Settings.



Step 2 – Check Your Play Settings

Select the **Play** tab.

We recommend the following settings:

Bidding Box

- Compact
- Select pass as default bid in bidding box – OFF

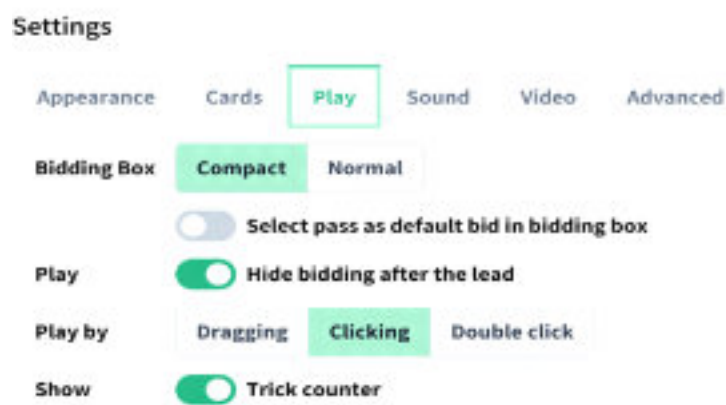
Card Play

Choose your preferred method:

- Dragging
- Clicking
- Double Click

The card play method is a matter of personal preference.

The important setting is ensuring that **"Select pass as default bid in bidding box"** remains switched OFF.

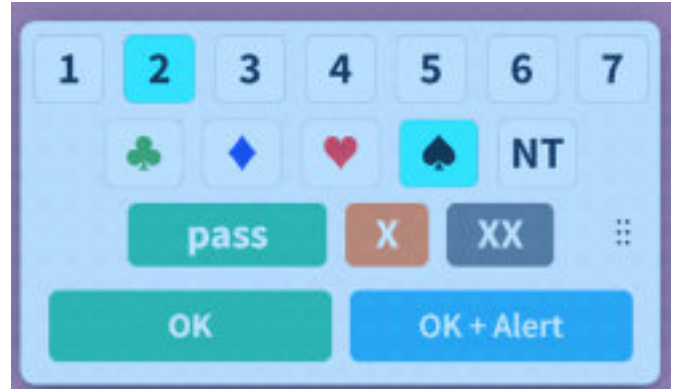


Step 3 – Using the Compact Bidding Box

With the Compact bidding box selected, bidding is completed in three simple steps:

1. Select the level (1–7)
2. Select the suit (♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT)
3. Click OK

If your bid requires a self-alert, click **OK + Alert** instead.



Step 4 – Self-Alerting a Bid

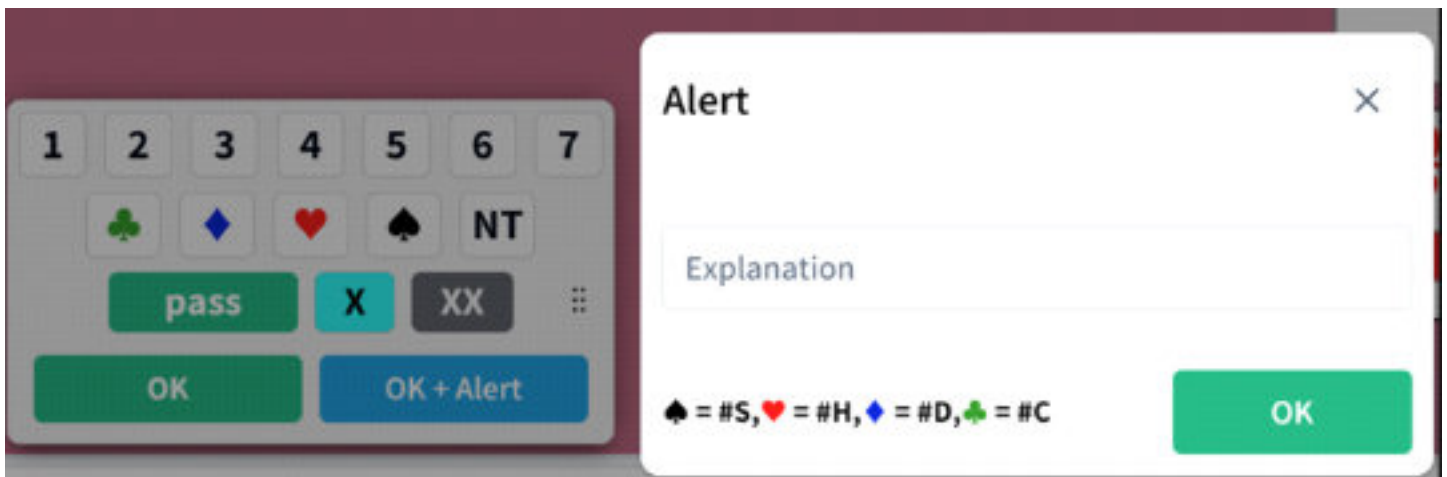
After selecting **OK + Alert**, an explanation box will appear.

Enter a brief description of your bid and click OK.

Examples include:

- Transfer to Hearts
- Stayman
- Weak Two in Hearts
- 5+ Clubs, 11–21 HCP

As a guide, explain what the bid means rather than simply naming the convention.



Quick Checklist

- ✓ Open Settings
- ✓ Select the Play tab
- ✓ Choose Compact bidding box
- ✓ Ensure "Select pass as default bid in bidding box" is OFF
- ✓ Confirm your preferred card play method

A quick settings check today could save a costly board tomorrow.

A Message from our Head Tournament Director

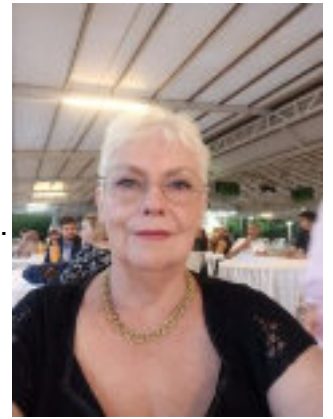
Automatch Partnerships and System Card Responsibility

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.

- Use one of the supplied cards as it is
- Copy and edit a card to suit their own agreements, save the customised 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*

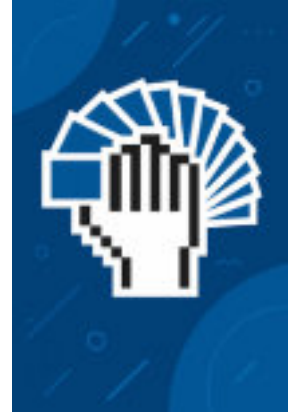
New StepBridge Version

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

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).

Monthly Awards: May 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Highest Player Average in May 2026	Overall	1	59.88	9	Firdous Zulfikar (Firdous)
		2	59.64	6	Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		3	58.74	18	Paul Smith (PaulSm)
	Open	1	59.88	9	Firdous Zulfikar (Firdous)
		2	57.73	16	Barry Dalsto (BarryD)
		2	57.73	9	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Restricted	1	58.74	18	Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		2	58.7	20	Sa Smith (SaSmith)
		3	56.56	7	David Milburn (DavidMil)
	Novice	1	54.55	6	Trish Wright (TrishW)
		2	54.07	7	Kay Rundle (KayR)
		2	54.07	7	Jennifer McKenzie (JennMc)
	Open IMPs	1	25.	8	Raman Jegatheesan (RamanJ)
		2	17.	7	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3	15.	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Open Individual	1	59.4	6	Ada Sun (AdaS)
		2	54.94	6	Lou Stanley (LouStan)
		3	54.52	10	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Highest Pairs Average in May 2026	Overall	1	59.88	9	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfikar (Firdous)
		2	58.74	18	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		3	57.73	9	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Open	1	59.88	9	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfikar (Firdous)
		2	57.73	9	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	56.96	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Eamonn McCabe (EamonMcC)
	Restricted	1	58.74	18	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
		2	56.27	6	John Adams (John), Merran Adams (MerranA)
		3	56.	13	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice	1	54.07	7	Jennifer McKenzie (JennMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
		2	53.27	10	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
		3	49.76	6	Tricia Scanlan (TriciaSc), Vicki Lee (VickiLee)
	Open IMPs	1	11.	7	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		2	-2.	6	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)

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
Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in May 2026	Overall			84	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				78	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				57	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Open			60	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				58	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				48	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
	Restricted			29	Christine Chodasewicz (ChrisCho)
				29	Savitri Newman (Savitri)
				27	Mary Hirves (MaryH)
	Novice			12	Martin Haines (MartinH)
				10	Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				9	Tricia Scanlan (TriciaSc)
	Open IMPs			8	Patrick Smith (PatSmith)
				8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
				8	Laraine Dolan (LaraineD)
	Open Individual			28	Jurate Laisve (JurateL)
				26	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				24	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in May 2026	Overall			32	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				31	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
				31	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
	Open			30	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				25	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
				20	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
	Restricted			18	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PaulSm)
				14	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)
				13	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
	Novice			10	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				7	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
				6	Tricia Scanlan (TriciaSc), Vicki Lee (VickiLee)
	Open IMPs			7	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
				6	Stewart Duxbury (StewartD), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in May 2026	Overall	1	6.8	17	Rachel Wagner (RachelW)
		2	6.6	13	Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		3	6.09	8	Sue Perry (SuePerry)
	Open	1	5.44	8	Naidene Smal (Naidene)
		2	5.11	6	Julie Sheehan (JulieSh)
		3	5.09	9	David Hancock (DavidHan)
	Restricted	1	6.6	13	Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		2	6.09	8	Sue Perry (SuePerry)
		3	5.83	7	David Milburn (DavidMil)
	Novice	1	7.07	6	Richard Alderman (Richard3)
		2	5.34	6	Trish Wright (TrishW)
		3	3.18	12	Martin Haines (MartinH)
	Open IMPs	1	0.15	8	Raman Jegatheesan (RamanJ)
		2	0.13	6	Alex Glikin (AlexGlik)
		3	0.06	7	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Open Individual	1	6.49	6	Lou Stanley (LouStanI)
		2	3.58	15	Christine Hadaway (ChristiH)
		3	2.49	6	Lesley Meyer (LesleyMe)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Pair in May 2026	Overall	1	6.09	8	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse), Sue Perry (SuePerry)
		2	5.5	13	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		3	5.38	6	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu), Roger Dennison (RogerDen)
	Open	1	6.58	9	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
		2	5.38	6	Herb Neumeister (HerbNeu), Roger Dennison (RogerDen)
		3	5.06	7	Elizabeth Lawrence (LizLaw), Diane Nichols (DianeNic)
	Restricted	1	6.09	8	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse), Sue Perry (SuePerry)
		2	5.5	13	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		3	4.46	18	Sa Smith (SaSmith), Paul Smith (PauSm)
	Novice	1	2.79	10	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)

Masterpoint Promotions

May 2026

Brahma, Gwyneira	Silver Grand	Buttner, Cheryl	Bronze Regional
McLay, Deborah	Grand	Dodd, Wendy	Bronze Regional
Riley, Anne	Gold Life	Groves, Mark	Regional
Parham, Dave	Gold Life	Ross, Kim	Regional
Robinson, Sue	Gold Life	Koschade, Sue	Regional
Waight, Peter	Gold Life	Oskay, Aaron	Regional
Simpson, Mavis	Silver Life	Hopkins, Karen	Regional
Sullivan, Michael	Bronze Life	Ward, Tony	Regional
Hubbard, Tammy	Life	Dewar, Rhys	Silver Local
Clarkson, Eve	Life	Mohan, Mushfiquir Rahma	Silver Local
Drake, Peta	Life	Saurine, Kathy	Silver Local
Goh, Michael	Life	McGregor, Katherine	Silver Local
Bunworth, Gwenda	Life	Evans, Shelley	Silver Local
Smith, Sa	Silver National	Anderson, Thistle	Silver Local
Rose, Francis	Bronze National	McKenzie, Jennifer	Silver Local
Tagney, Jane	Bronze National	Everson, Carmel	Silver Local
Wan, Zhan	Bronze National	Rhodes, Danny	Bronze Local
Brinkman, Cynthia	Bronze National	Lewis, Sarah	Bronze Local
Heath, Moira	Bronze National	Hesterman, Gigi	Bronze Local
Smith, Patrick	National	Jasotharan, Shan	Bronze Local
Dayman, Andrea	National	McDiarmid, Michelle	Bronze Local
Kudva, Meera	National	Petrovic, Ivan	Local
Robson, Ted	National	Pearce, Joe	Local
Jansen, Stella	National	Gilson, Wendy	Local
Smith, Val	Bronze State	Siedle, Mark	Local
Eason, Susan	Bronze State	Williams, Bronwyn	Local
Green, Anna	Bronze State	Kopelke, Sue	Local
Jackson, Michael	Bronze State	Geutjes, Jane	Local
Williams, Jenny L	Bronze State	Haines, Martin	Local
Camarri, Erica	State	Dorman, Jacob	Club
Reilly, Denise	State	Smal, Naidene	Club
Hinves, Mary	State	Lee, Vicki	Club
Bauermeister, Laura	State	Scanlan, Tricia	Club
O'Ferrall, Diana	State	Graham, Katie	Club
Lewis, Michelle	State	Sidhwa, Jehangir	Club
Langford, Emma	State	Hubbell, June	Club
Dyson, John	State	Williamson, Grant	Graduate
		Geutjes, Luke	Graduate
		O'Halloran, Anna	Graduate
		Cutbush, Julie	Graduate
		Dennis, Carol	Graduate





**Partners
4 Bridge**

**Partners
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Connect

Forge partnerships

And build bridges to new
opportunities

On **partners4bridge.com**



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

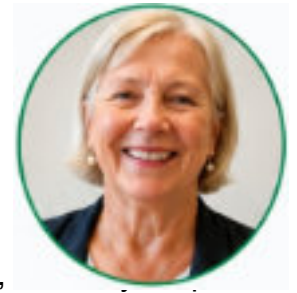
Best method for finding a partner is as follows –

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 110 **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.

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 Sue Falkingham, one of our Tournament Directors and our Club Teacher.



When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

It was 2011 and the local club at Narrabeen (in Sydney) that was near where I lived, my local shopping centre advertising a beginner course. I had seen the bridge newspaper articles by Ron Klinger and could not understand them and was intrigued. Thought there must be something to it as it is played all around the world and I loved playing cards. Then my love affair began ...

Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?

I played, directed and taught bridge for several years in Sydney before moving to paradise. I now play, direct and teach in Hobart. The main club here is the 10th biggest in Australia, we have sessions every day, sometimes two or three. All our sessions are walk in, you do not need a partner, so turn up next time you are in town. We have our own purpose built club rooms and the people are lovely.

Your best Bridge tips or advice from an Expert

Downgrade hands that have 2 doubletons. They are yuk
Use the Rule of 9 for Penalty Xs.

Any Hobbies outside Bridge?

Love my golf. I play the two games that humiliate and reward in equal measure.

Any Books you'd recommend?

Anything by Kate Atkinson, but the must reads are The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold and The Lady of Hay by Barbara Erskine. Then there is Chris Hammer, Kate Morton, Liane Moriarty, Jane Harper.....

Oh you meant bridge books!

How have you lifted your bridge game over the years?

Certainly hope so. It is incremental sometimes and a light bulb goes off at others.

Do you have any favourite Bridge memories?

Have had some successes winning the Restricted at the ANOT some years ago now. Did pretty well at the Gold Coast one year. Big thrill seeing a player I had taught in Sydney win the Novice at the Gold Coast. Another player I taught 5 years ago is off to China for the World Youth Championships in the U31 team. So proud of Jeremy who is playing with Seb Wright, one of our StepBridge Directors. Wishing them both lots of good fortune.

I am also going as the Captain/Coach of the U16 team, very excited.

The funniest thing was in 2012 I did a cruise on the Queen Elizabeth from Southampton around the Mediterranean and back. 16 nights of such fun. The first sea day when bridge was on, I walked into the lovely bridge room and got paired up with the elderly gentleman that walked through the door at the same time. He looked like David Niven, like a squadron leader. Very erect and a little moustache. He asked me if I had been playing long and I excitedly said yes almost a year, he groaned. I asked about him and he said he had just retired from professional play. Disappointment number 1. A couple of days later, we played every day, he mentioned Gerber. I said oh yes I have heard of it, asking for aces isn't it. He said no I am telling you Gerber's daughter was my partner. Disappointment number 2. Few days later he asked me if I watched Downton Abbey. I said no, not really my thing, do you like it?

I am in it he said. Disappointment number 3. Well we ended up doing ok, he coached me along and we had some successes!

And advice for newcomers to Bridge?

Play and keep playing. Do not put expectations on yourself to be good straight away, learn from your mistakes, there will be lots! Play at clubs, play online, read books, watch YouTube, go to as many lessons as you can and have a go at congresses. Just play for the joy of the challenge in each hand. Ask friends around and play at home. Mainly just have fun!

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

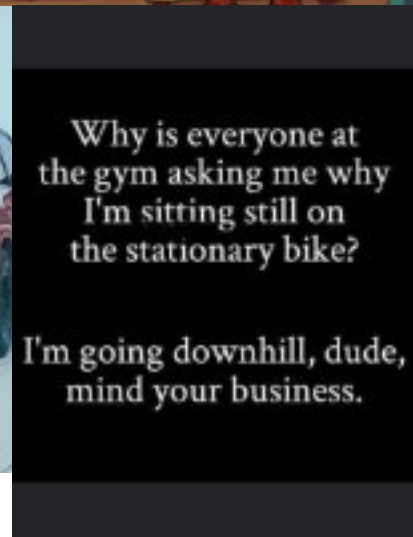
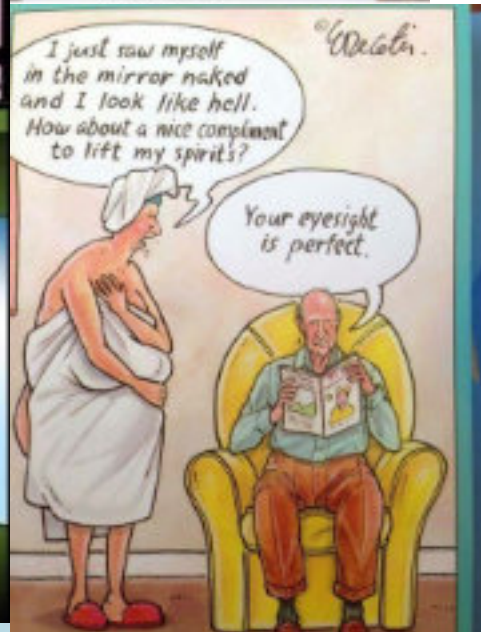
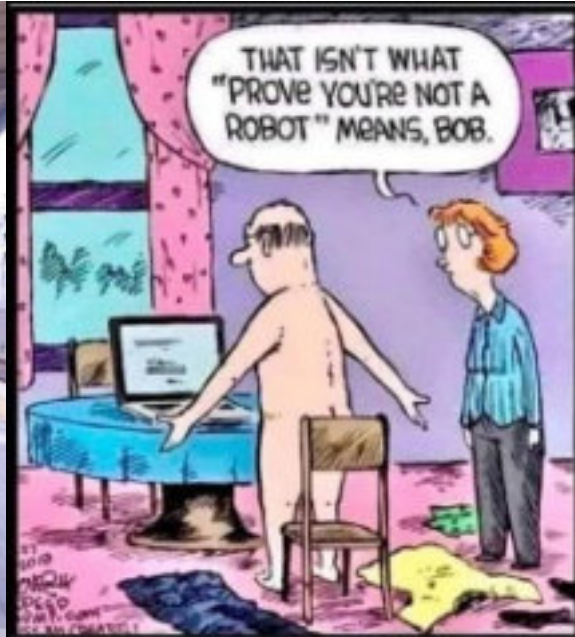
As far as bridge goes, I had 10 masterpoints when I decided I really wanted to be a director. Also started teaching beginners when I didn't have much more, but found out I was really good at it.

I love coins, growing garlic and flowers and watching The Big Bang Theory over and over..



Funnies Column

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



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 with "newsletter" in the subject line

Upcoming Red Point Sessions

Date	Day	Time	Session	Notes
2 Jul	Thur	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Novice / Open	
3 Jul	Fri	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
4 Jul	Sat	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Novice / Open	
5 Jul	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
6 Jul	Mon	10:00am	Open Individual	
7 Jul	Tue	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
8 Jul	Wed	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Restricted / Open	
11 Jul	Sat	10:00am	Open Individual	
12 Jul	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
13 Jul	Mon	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
15 Jul	Wed	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
17 Jul	Fri	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Restricted / Open	
18 Jul	Sat	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
19 Jul	Sun	10:00am	Open Individual	
19 Jul	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
21 Jul	Tue	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
23 Jul	Thur	10:00am	Open Individual	
24 Jul	Fri	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
25 Jul	Sat	8:00pm	Open	
26 Jul	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
27 Jul	Mon	8:00pm	Open Teams	Audio Video
29 Jul	Wed	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	

StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 60 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 85 Participation Points

Session Times

All sessions are Pairs unless otherwise stated.

START	SESSION	BOARDS	APPROXIMATE FINISH
10.00am	Open Individual	27	12.35pm
12.50pm	Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) <i>[Monday – Saturday only]</i>	24	3.10pm
1.00pm	Open Pairs	24	3.20pm
2.30pm	<i>All Around Australia – Red Masterpoints</i> <i>[Sunday only – Audio Video]</i> Open Pairs Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints)	27	5.05pm
3.50pm	Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) <i>[Monday – Friday only]</i>	24	6.10pm
3.50pm	Novice Pairs (under 100 masterpoints) <i>[Saturday – Sunday only]</i>	24	6.10pm
4.00pm	Open Pairs	24	6.20pm
7.50pm	Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) <i>[Wednesday & Friday only]</i>	24	10.05pm
7.50pm	Novice Pairs (under 100 masterpoints) <i>[Tuesday & Thursday only]</i>	24	10.05pm
8.00pm	Open Pairs <i>[Tuesday – Sunday]</i> <i>Tuesday and Thursday are scored by IMPs</i>	24	10.20pm
8.00pm	Open Teams <i>[Monday only – Audio Video]</i>	24	10.20pm

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?

Email your contributions to support@stepbridge.com.au with the subject title being **Newsletter**.

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