

August 2026

Message from the President

Dear members,

Supervised Play

Following on from the Bridge Improvers Course in July, we are looking at introducing a Supervised Play session on Saturday mornings. This would involve a talk on a topic, followed by playing of hands based on the topic.

One-Session Workshop

We are looking at holding a one-session workshop by an expert teacher. Further details will be provided once confirmed with our prospective teacher.

Willem Willemse Club Championships

Our Willem Willemse Club Championships, with 6 different categories of Open Pairs, Open IMPs Pairs, Restricted Pairs, Novice Pairs, Open Individual and Open Teams, commences at the start of September. Details of the sessions appear later in the newsletter.

Open Individual Session

Before the end of 2026, a new format will be introduced for our 10am Open Individual Sessions, where one human player competes at a table with three robots.

These sessions will provide members with another flexible way to enjoy bridge. Keep an eye out for further details as we get closer to launch!

2026 Date Claimers

- Melbourne Cup Day Session - Tuesday 3 November, 1.00pm AEDT
- StepBridge December Congress (Open & Restricted IMPs Pairs) - Saturday 5 December



Committee

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Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Thank You, Eric Taylor

Acknowledging many years of service to StepBridge Australia

StepBridge Australia would like to acknowledge **Eric Taylor**, who served as our Public Officer from 2017 to 2026.

Eric joined **StepBridge Australia in 2011** and also served on the Committee for a number of years, giving generously of his time and experience to the Club.

The role of Public Officer is one of those important positions that often operates quietly in the background, but it carries significant responsibility in ensuring that the Club meets its obligations as an incorporated association.

We are very grateful to Eric for undertaking this role on behalf of StepBridge and for the contribution he has made to the sound governance and continued operation of our Club.

Thank you, Eric, for your service and support of StepBridge Australia.

On behalf of the Committee and members of StepBridge Australia, we extend our sincere appreciation to Eric for his long-standing contribution to the Club.



*Helen & Eric Taylor
Leeton Bridge Congress, 2016*

BBO IS CHANGING... HAVE YOU MET SABI?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**Your AI bridge partner
at StepBridge Australia**

- Practise whenever you feel like playing
- Play on your own with SABI filling the other three seats
- Bring your partner and practise bidding and defence together
- Take your time – there's no pressure
- Undo a bid or play and try again
- Test yourself against a robot playing at an advanced bridge level

Whether you want to practise, improve your game, learn the StepBridge system, or simply enjoy a few hands of bridge, SABI is ready when you are.

And when you're ready for some human company, StepBridge offers friendly, supervised duplicate bridge every day.

 **StepBridge.com.au**

Come and meet SABI.
Come and discover StepBridge Australia.

Willem Willemse Club Championships

StepBridge will be holding its fifth annual Club Championships during the month of September. It has been decided to name our Club Championships after **Willem Willemse**, who introduced StepBridge to Australia in 2004.

Red masterpoints will be awarded to the top half of each session as well as the top third for those who qualify for the championship. There will be the five categories of Open Pairs, Open Individual, Open Teams, Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) and Novice Pairs (100 masterpoints) played at the following times:

Novice Pairs

Thursdays 3, 10, 17 & 24 September - 7:50pm session (Audio-Video)

Open IMPs Pairs

Thursdays 3, 10, 17 & 24 September - 8:00pm session (Audio-Video)

Open Individual

Saturdays 5, 12, 19 & 26 September - 10:00am session (Audio-Video)

Open Pairs & Restricted Pairs

Sundays 6, 13, 20 & 27 September - 2:30pm session (Audio-Video)

Open Teams

Mondays 7, 14, 21 & 28 September - 8:00pm session (Audio-Video)

For the Restricted and Novice categories, the cut-off for eligibility is as of 31 August 2026.

The cost will be 120 PPs per person, per session.

To qualify for a category, you need to play at least 3 out of the 4 sessions. Your best 3 results will be combined and averaged.

For the pairs session, you need to play with the same partner to qualify.

For the teams session, you need to play with the same team of four to qualify (no subteams or teams of 5 & 6 players).

The championship in each category will be awarded to the team/pair/individual with the highest average.

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category.

If you have any questions, please email support@stepbridge.com.au. Good luck everyone!

New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from **23 June 2026 to 23 August 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

DavidChr EdwinaWi Eveline JohnMcQ LouisC Shijun

RESTRICTED

CharliSt DavidGrt DebraBr GarryS GeoffDy IreneBl JohnCe
MarinaS PaulHu

NOVICE

AlixK	Allistai	AngelaMc	Anita	AnnaD	AnnD	AnneMI
AnneO	AnthonyM	Barnaby	BarrieG	Brooke	ChrisLy	Christin
ChrL	Cilla	ClaireB	ClareD	CliveC	Coral	Craig
Elzbiet	FionaMc	FiP	FlickH	GailT	GaryH	GenevivH
Ian	IanC	Ivan	Jacqui	JaneMI	JaneP	JanSa
JenniCod	JennyDn	JillD	JoanneSp	JohnHy	JulieBrw	KarenJm
Lamorna	LillianH	Lilly	LouiseGi	LynetteK	Marg	MargCI
MariaR	Meena	MeganS	MichellD	Moyra	Natasha	Oliver
PamC	PamT	Pauline	Peter	RichardR	RichardY	Robert
Rohan	RossM	SeanR	SharonH	ShaunT	SueHt	SueMcG
SueMy	TamaraG	Thommy	VictV	Vivienne	WendyP	WilliamZ
Xinsheng						

2026 Congresses

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

Club Playing Numbers

		Jul-26	9,248	Jun-26	9,222	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
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

StepBridge Congress Results

StepBridge 750 Congress (Saturday 27 June 2026)

1st Overall - Ian Clark & Dave Parham

2nd Overall - Marieta Borthwick & Alexander Berdyshevski

3rd Overall - David Cumming & David Johnson

1st Restricted - Paul Fredheim & Laura Bauermeister

2nd Restricted - Yulia Koh & Miriam O'Brien

3rd Restricted - Mark Hetherington & Dagmar D'Arcy

1st Novice - Louise Horsley & Patrick Horsley

2nd Novice - Jennifer McKenzie & Kay Rundle

3rd Novice - Sue Koschade & Maree Williams

StepBridge Teams Congress (Saturday 8 August 2026)

1st Overall - Hans Van Weeren, Sachiko Cathcart, Glen Chick, Ian Jamieson

2nd Overall - John Donovan, Paul Nelson, Tim Davis, Florence Maltby

3rd Overall - Tony Georgeson, Tina Hesketh, Martin Clear, Jacky Gruszka

Best Restricted - Rebecca Mackiggan, Rox Kruger, Valerie Smith, Mary Dwyer

Best Novice - Fiona Beattie, Joseph Pearce, Tom Hou, Theo Armenis

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 SABl our friendly robot.

Question Time for all your needs.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hQdFayilQV6Q4-L4Nte-ig#/registration>

A Message from our Head Tournament Director

Pre-Alert of Short Club Systems

From time to time our Tournament Directors encounter situations where a partnership is playing a 1♣ opening that may contain one club or even no clubs.

These methods are classified as Red Systems under the StepBridge Australia regulations and must be pre-alerted before play begins.



Why is a pre-alert important?

A 1♣ opening that may be short is unusual. Opponents are entitled to know this before the auction starts so they can make informed decisions during both the auction and the play.

The pre-alert is separate from any announcement or alert made during the auction.

Remember these obligations

If your partnership plays a 1♣ opening that may contain one club (or fewer):

- Pre-alert your opponents before play begins.
- Ensure your system card accurately describes the agreement.
- Make any required announcement or alert during the auction in accordance with StepBridge procedures.

Completing only one of these steps is not sufficient.

Why does it matter?

Failure to disclose an unusual agreement can lead to Director calls and difficult rulings. While not every failure will result in an adjusted score, it can create unnecessary disputes and may disadvantage opponents.

A few moments spent giving a proper pre-alert helps ensure everyone is playing with the same understanding.

Good disclosure leads to better bridge and fewer Director calls.

Did you know?

A 1♣ opening that promises two or more clubs is generally not a Red System. However, if your partnership agreement allows the opening to be made on one club or fewer, it must be pre-alerted before play begins.

*Sarah Zoral
Head TD*

A Message from our Head Tournament Director

Who's Directing This Table?

Good Table Etiquette and the Role of the Tournament Director

One of the pleasures of StepBridge is that players from many different backgrounds and experience levels can enjoy competitive bridge together. Every day we welcome new members who are learning not only the game itself but also the procedures used in online tournaments.

Occasionally situations arise where an opponent forgets to alert an artificial bid, provides an incomplete explanation, or appears to deviate from their system card. While these situations can be frustrating, how we respond is just as important as the original mistake.



Assume an honest mistake

The overwhelming majority of procedural errors are exactly that—mistakes. Many players are still learning the online alerting procedures or simply forget in the heat of the auction.

A calm reminder is far more likely to improve future behaviour than criticism.

Let the Tournament Director do the directing

If you believe there has been an irregularity:

- Ask politely for an explanation if required.
- If the matter cannot be resolved, call the Tournament Director.
- Once the TD is present, allow them to manage the situation.
- Avoid debating the issue with your opponents during the auction.

The TD's role is to investigate impartially and apply the Laws and StepBridge Regulations consistently.

Resist the temptation to become the "Bridge Police"

Experienced players are invaluable to our club and naturally notice when something appears to be amiss. We appreciate members who care about maintaining good standards.

However, there is an important distinction between **identifying a possible irregularity and trying to enforce the Laws yourself.**

If you think something is wrong:

- Ask politely if you require an explanation.
- Call the Tournament Director if necessary.
- Then allow the TD to investigate and deal with the matter.

The Tournament Director will determine the facts, consider any explanations, assess whether any damage has occurred and, if necessary, apply an appropriate ruling.

Well-intentioned attempts to correct opponents, debate procedures or continue discussing the issue at the table can unintentionally increase tension and distract everyone from enjoying the game.

Your job is to play bridge. Our job is to apply the Laws.

Rely on the system card

Remember that opponents are expected to play the methods described on their system card.

Sometimes a player forgets their partnership agreement or simply makes an accidental call. Not every unusual bid or unexpected result is evidence of misinformation.

If, after the board has been completed, you believe misinformation or a failure to alert has damaged your side, the Tournament Director will happily consider whether an adjusted score is appropriate.

Keep the atmosphere friendly

Bridge is competitive, but it should also be enjoyable.

A courteous question is always preferable to a confrontation. Most problems can be resolved quickly when everyone remains calm and respectful.

Today's opponents may well be tomorrow's partners.

We all share responsibility

Experienced players play an important role in helping newer members learn StepBridge procedures.

A friendly explanation or gentle reminder often achieves far more than criticism.

By treating each other with patience and respect, we help make StepBridge a welcoming club where everyone can continue to learn and enjoy the game.

"Good bridge isn't just about playing the cards well. It's about treating opponents, partners and Tournament Directors with the same courtesy and respect we hope to receive ourselves."

Remember

- ✓ Ask politely.
- ✓ Call the Tournament Director if needed.
- ✓ Allow the TD to manage the situation.
- ✓ Complete the board without confrontation.
- ✓ If you believe you have been damaged, ask the TD to review the board after play.

*Sarah Zoral
Head TD*

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn

StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis



Optimum:
NS 3C+1; +130
LoTT: 15-16 = -1

♠ Q 7 3
♥ A 9 6 4 3 2
♦ 7 5
♣ 9 4

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

♠ A J 6
♥ K J 8 7
♦ J 9 6
♣ 8 3 2

7

♠ K 10 9 4 2
♥ Q
♦ K 10 8 4 2
♣ J 7

☐ KR ?

10 6 9
15

♠ 8 5
♥ 10 5
♦ A Q 3
♣ A K Q 10 6 5

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	4	-	2	-	2
S	4	-	2	-	2
E	-	2	-	1	-
W	-	2	-	1	-

Save
Edit
Play
Options
Help
Analyse
More..

This hand turned up in May, with no game available for either pair. Universally, South opened 1♣, while West, with 10 points but a flat hand, had to pass. Most Norths now bid 1♥ or 2♥ (although a jump shift is not defined in the INDY bidding system). Some Easts decided they did not have enough to bid naturally but were good enough to support either of the other two suits, so they doubled.

Regardless, South should rebid clubs with a strong hand and only two hearts, although this was not always the case. Needless to say, some E/W pairs now bid some number of spades and were left to play there, generally making only seven tricks—and one managed just six. One North decided 3♠ was not safe and pushed on to 4♥; they should be thankful they were not doubled by West. Another somehow pulled out 3NT and made it (!) after East was squeezed by their partner and discarded a spade in order to keep the ♦K. Souths playing in clubs made anywhere from eight to eleven tricks; going down was generally not a good score for N/S.

Personally, I think 2♥ by North is a great bid if they can be left there. Otherwise, 1♥ is fine, provided the auction has not reached the three-level by the time it comes around again and the hearts can be repeated. One West tried doubling 3♥ after South raised for blood, but their partner still took it as take-out and bid 3♠. East does want to show their two-suiter, but sitting in fourth seat this is not always going to be possible.

The play in clubs by South is fairly straightforward, requiring only a finesse against the ♦K, but not everyone managed it. The South who made eleven tricks received a low spade lead from West. East could not read this as being from the jack, so rose with the king, allowing declarer eventually to discard the heart loser on the ♠Q.

The Easts who played in spades had a much harder time, with South able to see West's cards and therefore knowing what to play. A clever East should throw the ♣J under the obvious ♣A lead, trying to force a switch. However, switching to the ♥10 does not help: North wins the ace and simply returns another club. Another heart from South gives declarer an entry to dummy, but there is still no good line from there. Declarer has to pick the ♠Q with North and must lose two diamonds as well.

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn

StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis



Optimum:
EW 5Dx, EW 5Cx; +200
LoTT: 20-18 = 2

♠ 9 3
♥ K J 6 5 2
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 8 5 2

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

♠ K Q
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A K Q 10 8
♣ J 10 7

☐ KR ?

4
17 8
11

20

♠ J 5 2
♥ 10
♦ J 9 7 4
♣ A Q 9 4 3

♠ A 10 8 7 6 4
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ 5
♣ K 6

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	-	-	4	3	-
S	-	-	4	3	-
E	4	4	-	-	-
W	4	4	-	-	-

Save Edit Play Options Help

Analyse More..

During one of the red-point sessions in June, this absolute beauty rocked up. At the table, all five denominations were tried. Most pairs played in diamonds by West, at the two-, three- or five-level, making anywhere from nine to twelve (!) tricks. Clubs were also tried after a 1NT opening and a club transfer by East, making ten tricks, while 3NT made either six or ten. Hearts were bid by North but poorly played, making just seven tricks in 3♥X, although I don't think a heart overcall by North is warranted after a 1NT opening. Finally, 2♠ by South made exactly eight tricks.

A 1NT opening by West is certainly a fair call, with what appear to be stoppers in all the non-diamond suits, although opening 1♦ is also a reasonable choice. North should initially remain silent with their poor four-point hand and five hearts, even after a 1♦ opening.

After 1♦—Pass, East has neither a major nor ten points, so 1NT is the natural response. Bidding 2♣ would be very poor, although it happens to work rather well this time. After a 1NT opening, East should transfer to clubs via 2♠—they certainly shouldn't pass with eight points—even with only five clubs. With no major, however, a 2NT invitation might also be considered.

I can fully understand West going on to 3NT after an invitation, but the rather obvious heart lead gives N/S the first six tricks. With the ♣K offside as well, 3NT should finish three down.

The transfer sequence creates more of a quandary for South, but after 1NT—Pass—2♠, South should be happy to bid spades naturally if the methods allow it. I would not be unhappy with a double showing the majors either. A double of the artificial 2♠ transfer bid should, at the very least, be lead-directing. However, South's spade holding is so poor beneath the ace that, after a spade lead against 3NT, South must find the heart switch rather than continue spades and give West control.

That failure resulted in one West making ten tricks in 3NT. West won the second spade in hand, ran the diamonds and took a club finesse. South discarded all their hearts except the ace on the run of the diamonds, and when they eventually won the ♣K, they had little alternative but to cash the ♥A and exit with a spade straight back into dummy. The principle here is to lead into dummy's weakness: an underlead of the ♥A would have been absolute gold!

West should mention their diamonds at the second opportunity if possible; ten tricks in diamonds really are cold. However, after a double by South showing both majors—or even just general takeout—North really should introduce their hearts.

In fact, 4♥ is a super contract, provided declarer places the ♣A with East rather than West and successfully finesses the ♥Q. West should then save over 4♥ with 5♦, going one down for the par result.

Monthly Awards: June 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Highest Player Average in June 2026	Overall	1	57.18	8	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	56.75	20	Nick Cantatore (NickCa)
		3	56.1	9	Karin Le Roux (KarinLR)
	Open	1	57.18	8	Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	56.75	20	Nick Cantatore (NickCa)
		3	56.1	9	Karin Le Roux (KarinLR)
	Restricted	1	58.09	7	Heather Whitely (HWhitely)
		2	57.33	6	Anne Heyes (AnneHe)
		3	56.96	6	Frances Pope (FrancesP)
	Novice	1	56.32	9	Graeme King (GraemeK)
		2	55.64	8	Kay Rundle (KayR)
		3	54.96	6	Nick Andrianopoulos (NickAn)
	Open IMPs	1	34	8	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		2	26	8	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3	20	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
	Open	1	55.89	8	Lawrie Hall (LawrieHa)
Highest Pairs Average in June 2026	Individual	2	55.06	16	Kay Baguley (KayB)
		3	54.4	8	John Friesen (JohnFri)
	Overall	1	57.18	8	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	56.89	6	Florence Maltby (Florence), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
		3	56.63	12	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Open	1	57.18	8	Barry Dalsto (BarryD), Firdous Zulfiqar (Firdous)
		2	56.89	6	Florence Maltby (Florence), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
		3	56.63	12	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Restricted	1	58.09	7	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse), Heather Whitely
		2	55.69	7	Jian Williams (JianW), Zhan Wan (ZhanW)
		3	55.14	8	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM), Duncan Welsh
	Novice	1	54.75	6	Graeme King (GraemeK), Phil Kay (PhilK)
		2	54.28	8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	54.24	7	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
	Open IMPs	1	15	8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
		2	-8	9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3	-22	8	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

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 120 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 June 2026</i>	Overall			79	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				69	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				58	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
	Open			54	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
				50	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				49	Robyn Pearce (RobynP)
	Restricted			34	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
				23	Dianne Holst (DianneHo)
				22	Gek Low (GekL)
	Novice			10	Tricia Scanlan (TriciaSc)
				9	Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				9	Martin Haines (MartinH)
	Open IMPs			9	Sue Shadbolt (SueSh)
				9	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
				9	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
				9	Robert Stammel (RobS)
				9	Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Open			29	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Individual			25	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				25	Jurate Laisve (JurateL)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in June 2026</i>	Overall			41	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				32	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
				32	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Open			32	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
				31	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				20	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart
	Restricted			10	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
				10	Jennifer Kroon (JenKroon), Annmaree Jones (Annmaree)
				10	Mark Groves (MarkGr), Robert Brooks (Robert3)
	Novice			9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
				8	Tricia Scanlan (TriciaSc), Vicki Lee (VickiLee)
	Open IMPs			9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				8	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)
				8	Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW), Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in June 2026	Overall	1	5.59	9	Shane Whiting (ShaneWh)
		2	5.39	8	Ashok Chotai (AshokC)
		3	4.92	7	Barry Williams (BarryWi)
	Open	1	5.44	8	Gerry Davies (GerryDav)
		2	5.39	8	Ashok Chotai (AshokC)
		3	5.23	13	Wal Brake (WalBra)
	Restricted	1	8.71	6	Frances Pope (FrancesP)
		2	6.29	7	Heather Whitely (HWhitely)
		3	6.14	6	Freda Ietto (Freda)
	Novice	1	7.36	6	Nick Andrianopoulos (NickAn)
		2	4.23	7	Anne Reynolds (AnneRey)
		3	2.91	7	Trish Wright (TrishW)
	Open IMPs	1	0.2	8	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		2	0.15	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
		3	0.14	6	Patrick Smith (PatSmith)
	Open Indi-	1	6.99	7	Jude Brown (JudeB)
		2	5.52	8	Felicity Jensen (Felicity)
		3	3.89	7	Julia Collins (Julia)
Most Improved Pair in June 2026	Overall	1	7.16	8	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM), Duncan Welsh (DuncanW)
		2	4.7	11	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai), Margaret Morgan (MargMor)
		3	4.6	6	Barry Williams (BarryWi), Ashok Chotai (AshokC)
	Open	1	4.7	11	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai), Margaret Morgan (MargMor)
		2	4.6	6	Barry Williams (BarryWi), Ashok Chotai (AshokC)
		3	4.22	10	Jennifer Capel (JenniCa), Patricia Bone (PatBone)
	Restricted	1	6.29	7	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse), Heather Whitely (HWhitely)
		2	5.55	8	Denise McTaggart (DeniseM), Duncan Welsh
		3	4.26	6	Len Pascoe (LenV), Margot Nelson (MargotN)
	Novice	1	0.94	8	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)

Monthly Awards: July 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Highest Player Average in July 2026	Overall	1	58.39	11	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		2	57.98	10	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
		3	57.71	6	Martin Strong (MartinS)
	Open	1	58.39	11	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		2	57.98	10	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
		3	57.29	28	Tim Davis (TimD)
	Restricted	1	58.92	14	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2)
		2	57.53	6	Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		3	56.92	6	Lynne Talmont (LynneTa)
	Novice	1	56.27	10	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
		2	55.63	6	Sandy Tawa (SandyTa)
		3	53.63	9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT)
	Open IMPs	1	42	7	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	28	7	Rex Livingston (RexLiv)
		3	21	8	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
	Open	1	55.54	9	Lawrie Hall (LawrieHa)
Highest Pairs Average in July 2026	Individual	2	55.32	16	Isabelle Jensen (IzzyJ)
		3	55.14	7	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
	Overall	1	59.87	9	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		2	57.83	6	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith
		3	57	9	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
	Open	1	59.87	9	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
		2	57	9	Mardi Hogarth (MardiHo), Ian Fraser (IanFras)
		3	56.71	7	Marcey Spilsbury (MarceySp), Eugene Pereira
	Restricted	1	57.83	6	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith (ValeriSm)
		2	55.08	9	Ian Robson (IanRob), Louise McGoldrick (LouiseM)
		3	54.65	6	Julie Barker (JulieBar), Sue Mittermair (SueMit)
	Novice	1	53.63	9	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
		2	51.04	6	Sanjay Hirekodi (SanjayH), Ian Hodgson (IanHo)
		3	50.89	8	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
	Open IMPs	1	16	7	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)
		2	-12	9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3	-22	8	Colin Meek (ColMeek), Ronnie Malthouse (RonnieM)

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 120 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 July 2026</i>	Overall			84	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				74	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				65	Robyn Pearce (RobynP)
	Open			58	Robyn Pearce (RobynP)
				54	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				48	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
	Restricted			39	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
				29	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				27	Helen Thomas (HelenT)
	Novice			11	Martin Haines (MartinH)
				10	David Evans (DavidE)
				10	Ian Winton (IanWi)
	Open IMPs			9	Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
				9	Robert Stammel (RobS)
				9	Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Open			30	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
	Individual			24	Dot Slattery (DotS)
				21	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in July 2026</i>	Overall			39	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				28	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				25	Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
	Open			30	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				25	Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
				22	Anne Riley (AnneRil), Gary Lynn (GaryLynn)
	Restricted			15	Andrea Dayman (AndreaD), Mike Dayman (MikeDay)
				14	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
				14	Patricia Hamilton (PatHamil), Christine Meijer (ChrisM)
	Novice			9	Stephen Tjianoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				8	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
				6	Sanjay Hirekodi (SanjayH), Ian Hodgson (IanHo)
	Open IMPs			9	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				7	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in July 2026	Overall	1	8.64	14	Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		2	7.84	8	Michael Gough (Michael9)
		3	7.34	13	Robyn Rogers (RobynRog)
	Open	1	7.2	10	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
		2	6.68	8	Ramarathinam Krishnamachari (RamaK)
		3	6.47	13	Robyn Rogers (RobynRog)
	Restricted	1	8.64	14	Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		2	8.27	7	Theo Armenis (TheoAr)
		3	5.69	6	Dee Sinton (DorothyS)
	Novice	1	7.22	10	Sue Koschade (SueKo)
		2	3.9	7	Claire Goodwill (ClaireG)
		3	3.45	10	Michelle Nally (MichellIN)
	Open IMPs	1	0.3	7	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	0.11	7	Susie Hall (SusieH)
			0.11	9	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar)
	Open	1	3.75	10	Marina Green (MarinaG)
	Individual	2	3.7	18	Suzanne Harrison (SuzanH)
		3	3.6	16	Kay Anderson (KayA)
Most Improved Pair in July 2026	Overall	1	8.18	14	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		2	7.84	8	Sue Gough (SueGou), Michael Gough (Michael9)
		3	7.19	6	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc), Eugene Pereira (EugeneP)
	Open	1	7.19	6	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc), Eugene Pereira (EugeneP)
		2	6.39	8	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA), Ramarathinam Krishnamachari (RamaK)
		3	5.44	6	Tony Georgeson (TonyGeor), Tina Hesketh (TinaH)
	Restricted	1	8.18	14	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
		2	5.69	6	Dee Sinton (DorothyS), Gloria Carlson (GloriaC)
		3	4.85	7	Alma Van der Walt (MariaAlm), Kathy Ivits (Kathyl)
	Novice	1	3.77	6	Karen Moss (KarenMos), Michelle Nally (MichellIN)
		2	1.72	9	Stephen Tjianoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	1	0.11	7	Michael Gurfinkiel (MichGar), Susie Hall (SusieH)

Masterpoint Promotions

June 2026

Conroy, Jeff	Grand	Fielding, Paul	State
McEntee, Sue	Grand	Mitchell, Adele	State
Saunders, Colin	Gold Life	Williams, Annie	Bronze Regional
Saunders, Esther	Gold Life	Katekar, Leonie	Regional
White, Tony	Gold Life	Rundle, Kay	Regional
Koster, Barry	Gold Life	Duncan, Caro	Regional
Goss, Alex	Silver Life	Taylor, Di	Regional
Rosetta, Jennette	Silver Life	Marais, Eugene	Regional
Biscoe, Jane	Silver Life	Sharp, Jennifer	Regional
Van Vugt, Elizabeth	Bronze Life	Riseam, Clive	Regional
Wurf, Shayne	Bronze Life	Finger, Pamela	Regional
Adams, David	Life	Andrianopoulos, Nick	Silver Local
Spencer, Sandy	Life	Spencer-Cole, Lyn	Silver Local
Kemp, Steven	Life	Devalia, Smita	Silver Local
Mulcahy, Sandra	Life	Paltridge, Debbie	Silver Local
Smith, Sa	Life	Lehmann, Jennifer	Silver Local
Koh, Yulia	Life	Sheridan, Greg	Silver Local
Arnold, Dick	Silver National	Waters, Patrick	Silver Local
Vella, John	Bronze National	Michael, Sally	Silver Local
Mackiggan, Rebecca	Bronze National	McTaggart, Alex	Silver Local
Mittermair, Sue	Bronze National	Ozich, Susan	Silver Local
Kelly, Pat	Bronze National	Petrovic, Ivan	Bronze Local
Coates, Julie	National	Beattie, Fiona	Bronze Local
Ruxton, Gary	National	Losurdo, Angela	Bronze Local
Brinck, Keith	National	Hou, Tom	Bronze Local
Welsh, Duncan	National	Cunningham, Belinda	Bronze Local
Quinn, Sean	National	Fletcher, Tony	Local
Saunders, Joanne	National	Paton, Prue	Local
Fraser, Susie	National	Gorham, Lyn	Local
Fraser, Sandy	National	Germain, Sue	Local
Quinlivan, Jo	National	Iron, Richard	Local
Buhse, Ina	Bronze State	Nightingale, Sue	Club
McCartney, Bob	Bronze State	Rynia, Veronica	Club
Berdyshevski, Alex	Bronze State	Rauscher, Michaela	Club
Hall, Brenda	Bronze State	Roberts, Sal	Club
Kelly, John	Bronze State	Bartel, Rosemary	Club
Wayland, Margaret	Bronze State	Dempster, Judy	Club
Luke, Ann	Bronze State	Christian, Sally	Club
Khan, Hafizur	Bronze State	Nally, Michelle	Graduate
Sunter, Andy	Bronze State	Pendlebury, Megan	Graduate
Dwyer, Mary Louise	Bronze State	McDonald, Erica	Graduate
Stevenson, Anne-	Bronze State	Burchell, Bernadette	Graduate
Ellice-Flint, Edward	State	Mead, Margaret	Graduate
Dayman, Mike	State	Ford, Jack	Graduate

Masterpoint Promotions

July 2026

Johnston, Terry	Gold Life	Ford, Robert	Bronze Re-
Beckman, Sue	Gold Life	Dewar, Rhys	Regional
Bustany, Alan	Gold Life	Mossman, Bernadette	Regional
Morris, Bob	Silver Life	Pender, Toni	Silver Local
Jones, Rita	Silver Life	Sunderland, John	Silver Local
Novak, Jay	Silver Life	Mallen, Margie	Silver Local
Jacobsen, Phil	Silver Life	Meares, Heather	Bronze Local
Paterson, Max	Bronze Life	George, Rose	Bronze Local
Fitch, Donna	Bronze Life	Pearce, Joe	Bronze Local
McClore, Eugene	Silver National	Reynolds, Anne	Bronze Local
Kirberger, Robert	Silver National	Swabey, Peter	Bronze Local
Thomson, Trish	Bronze National	Pohle, Chris	Bronze Local
Bennion, Lynda	Bronze National	Finberg, Natasha	Bronze Local
Talmont, Lynne	Bronze National	Schrieber, Leslie	Local
Barker, Julie	Bronze National	Bowden, Anna	Local
O'Brien, Miriam	Bronze National	Kay, Nat	Local
Hunter, Simon	Bronze National	Boan, Mark	Club
Goss, Samuel	Bronze National	Davies, Kristine	Club
Gammal, Carmel	Bronze National	Robinson, Marg	Graduate
Hughes, Mal	National	Lawry, Janet	Graduate
Petterson, David	National	Sorrentino, John	Graduate
Lewis, Louise	National	Baker, Ron	Graduate
Oliver, Lesley	National		
Wright, Trish	State		
Chodasewicz, Chris-	State		
Oskay, Aaron	State		
Oprysa, Anna	State		
Udall, Annette	State		
Byrne, Simon	State		
Appelby, Paul	State		



Congratulations!

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Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

StepBridge Sign-in

ChrisSn, (TDChrisS, TDCris2)

When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

I remember it well. June 1994. Every Friday night a group of friends (most of us with young families) would meet, have dinner, a few wines and play cards – usually 500, Canasta, Bolivia etc. One night someone turned up, scribbled a few numbers of a bit of paper and taught us a new game ... “bridge” that came from his grandma. I turned my nose up at it because I didn’t like being told how to value my hand with the high card points, because “I knew how to judge my hand”. By the next week I was on board with the idea and I’d enrolled in lessons at the South Australian Bridge Association (well, I got through about 7 of the 10 lessons before I moved to Toowoomba for work). I’ve been hooked ever since.



Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?

I’ll be greedy and name two.

- Toowoomba Bridge Club: perched up the hill on the Darling Downs. We have a variety of sessions ranging from 25 tables down to a night-time session with 3-5 tables. Very friendly, and we try to offer something for everyone.
- StepBridge Australia: the online platform and family to most of us. Sessions are offered four times a day, every day of the week. We really do offer something for everyone!

Your best Bridge tip or advice from an Expert

Experts say learn how to count. I say enjoy yourself and be the best and nicest partner that you could possibly be. Afterall, they are paying table money to play with you, week in, week out.

Any Hobbies outside Bridge?

Bridge.

Any Book you’d recommend?

“The Laws of Duplicate Bridge”. I have to give this a plug in my role of training and Director accreditation. We need Directors for the game to continue, so if you have some capacity in this regard then please speak to one of your regular Directors or enquire about Directing through your state body.

How have you lifted your bridge game over the years?

Quite seriously, I have been told that my game improved significantly when I started Directing. I think partly due to knowing how the game worked and spending time focusing on hands.

Do you have any favourite Bridge memories?

Every game has been a blessing; I have no favourites.

And advice for newcomers to Bridge?

Enjoy yourself. After the game sit down with partner over a cuppa and talk through one or two hands, but don’t overdo the analysis and never blame. If an auction has gone astray, don’t ever say “you should have done XYZ”, instead say something like “I thought that meant ZYX”.

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

If you have ever spoken to me then you won’t guess this – ‘coz I sound very Aussie. I am a Yorkshireman, born in Keighley, near Bradford ... “And you try to tell the young people of today that ... they won’t believe you.”



2027 AUTUMN NATIONALS

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL – SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2027

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

TBIB AUTUMN NATIONAL TEAMS AND THE AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS:

Wednesday 28th April
Thursday 29th April

SWISS TEAMS:

Open, Under Grand, Under Life categories
(Open Teams Final: Friday 30th April)

Friday 30th April

ONE-DAY SWISS BUTLER PAIRS

Under Grand, Under Life, Novice, Rookie

and

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Open (Qual)

Saturday 1st May

**BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Open (SF),
Under Grand and Life (Qual)**

Sunday 2nd May

**BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: All Finals
and consolations**

PQPs in Open Teams and Blue Ribbon Pairs (Open)

Funnies Column

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

Have you ever realised that a woman's "I'll be ready in five minutes" and a man's "I'll be home in five minutes" are exactly the same?



I'M AT THE AGE WHERE MY MIND STILL THINKS I'M 29, MY SENSE OF HUMOR SUGGESTS I'M 12, WHILE MY BODY MOSTLY KEEPS ASKING IF I'M SURE I'M NOT DEAD YET.



When you smoke weed for the first time



BOSS to an employee:
Do you believe in life after Death?

EMPLOYEE:
Certainly not, there's no proof of it

BOSS: Well, there is now
After you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came here looking for you



Please send your funnies through by emailing support@stepbridge.com.au with "newsletter" in the subject line

StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 60 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 85 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

Club Championship – Week 1

Thursday, 3 September

- 7:50pm Novice (Audio Video)

- 8:00pm Open IMPs (Audio Video)

Saturday, 5 September

- 10:00am Open Individual (Audio Video)

Sunday, 6 September

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

Monday, 7 September

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)

Club Championship – Week 2

Thursday, 10 September

- 7:50pm Novice (Audio Video)

- 8:00pm Open IMPs (Audio Video)

Saturday, 12 September

- 10:00am Open Individual (Audio Video)

Sunday, 13 September

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

Monday, 14 September

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)

Club Championship – Week 3

Thursday, 17 September

- 7:50pm Novice (Audio Video)

- 8:00pm Open IMPs (Audio Video)

Saturday, 19 September

- 10:00am Open Individual (Audio Video)

Sunday, 20 September

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

Monday, 21 September

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)

Club Championship – Week 4

Thursday, 24 September

- 7:50pm Novice (Audio Video)

- 8:00pm Open IMPs (Audio Video)

Saturday, 26 September

- 10:00am Open Individual (Audio Video)

Sunday, 27 September

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

Monday, 28 September

- 8:00pm Open Teams (Audio Video)