

September 2026

Message from the President

Dear members,

Supervised Play

We will be beginning some Supervised Play sessions in November on a Saturday morning. These sessions will focus on a topic with 12 hands based on the chosen topic. Further details later in this newsletter.



Willem Willemse Club Championships

We are coming towards the end of our Club Championships with, at the writing of this message, one week left in all events. I wish all players good luck as they play their final sessions.

Daylight Saving Time

A reminder to players from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia that play will start 1-hour earlier from Sunday 4 October.

Open Individual Session

As mentioned last month, 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. By early October, we should be in a position to do some testing before introducing the new format to our 10am session.

Melbourne Cup Day Session

Our annual Melbourne Cup Day session will be held on Tuesday 3 November with the 1.00pm session (AEDT). There is no 12.50pm Restricted session on this day.

Annual General Meeting

As you will see later in the newsletter, our AGM is scheduled for Monday 16 November. Further details appear later in the newsletter.

Happy Bridging,
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

Committee

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Vacant

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New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play from **24 August 2026 to 19 September 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

AnneHz JennyA SanjayS

RESTRICTED

BrianBr BruceMcD DavidM EnidBr HelmutG JillyP

NOVICE

AlanCh	AnneSr	AnnettCr	BarbaraN	BruceH	BryceC	CarolV
ChrisFi	ChrisRy	ChrisWd	CliveC	DerekH	Ercelle	GlenB
JacquiL	JamesP	JanSi	JeffreyH	JennyGt	JohnSn	JoseRo
JoW	JoyceH	KarenJm	Kathy	LaurieT	LeonieHr	LizB
Magdalen	MarkMul	MaxineL	Merilyn	PamelaRI	PaulineS	Salvator
SharlieC	Stephen4	TeresaK				

Upcoming Events

Melbourne Cup Day Session - Tuesday 3 November, 1.00pm session AEDT

Annual General Meeting - Monday 16 November, 6.30pm AEDT

SABF State-Wide Pairs - Tuesday 24 November, 7.50pm Novice AEDT & 8.00pm Open AEDT

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

Club Playing Numbers

Aug-26	9,168	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

Annual General Meeting

The 2026 StepBridge Australia Bridge Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 16 November at 6.30pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on Zoom.

As this is the main meeting of the club, all members are welcome to attend and participate.

We also welcome anyone who would like to nominate for a position on the Committee or submit any agenda items. If you wish to nominate for a position on the Committee, please email Chris Larter at chris@stepbridge.com.au for a nomination form. You can also talk to Chris about any position and what it entails.

To nominate for a position on the Committee and/or for any motions / matters of business for the meeting, please have these emailed by Sunday 25 October at the very latest.

StepBridge members will be emailed information regarding the AGM, including the minutes from the last AGM, agenda, reports from the various positions, and a list of candidates by Monday 2 November. If you have not received your AGM email by this date, please email support@stepbridge.com.au as this will mean your email may have gotten lost in cyberspace.

Finally, if you have any questions about the AGM, please email support@stepbridge.com.au

WhatsApp Bridgемate 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 (AEDT from 6 October)

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>

ATTENTION

QUEENSLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY & WESTERN AUSTRALIA PLAYERS

Daylight Savings starts on Sunday morning 4 October.

This means play will start one hour earlier for players from Queensland, the Northern Territory & Western Australia.

Below is the spelled out timetable for these players.

Weekly Timetable

	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>
Open Individual:	9.00am	8.30am	7.00am
Restricted: (Mon-Sat)	11.50pm	11.20am	9.50am
Open:	12 noon	11.30am	10.00am
Open/Restricted (Sun)	1.30pm	1.00pm	11.30am
Restricted/Novice: 2.50pm (Novice: Sat & Sun / Restricted: Mon-Fri)		2.20pm	12.50pm
Open:	3.00pm	2.30pm	1.00pm
Restricted/Novice: 6.50pm (Novice: Tue & Thu / Restricted: Wed & Fri)		6.20pm	4.50pm
Open: (Tue-Sun)	7.00pm	6.30pm	5.00pm
Open Teams: (Mon)	7.00pm	6.30pm	5.00pm

Note: There is no change of time for players from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia & the Australian Capital Territory.

Melbourne Cup Day Session

Tuesday 3 November - 1.00pm Session
Audio Video Session

Red Masterpoints

Sweeps

Prizes for Best Hats



South Australian



Bridge Federation Inc

STATE-WIDE PAIRS 2026

The SA Bridge Federation is offering for all affiliated clubs to participate in the

2026 STATE-WIDE PAIRS

which will be held during the week of

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER TO SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2026

All participants play the same pre-dealt boards,
with a booklet providing analysis of the hands available to all players.

Scoring is done at the local club level (with masterpoints), then the club's results are sent
through to the SA Bridge Federation where scoring is done across the State
(with red masterpoints awarded).

*StepBridge Australia's SABF State-Wide Pairs Sessions
Tuesday 24 November - 7.50pm Novice and 8.00pm Open*

These sessions will be using Audio and Video

*Green Masterpoints awarded at the StepBridge Sessions
Red Masterpoints awarded for the Overall Placings Across the State*

All StepBridge members can participate

*Note: If you live in South Australia, you can only play once
either at your Face 2 Face club or on StepBridge*



StepBridge

Bridge to your next level

Play Learn Connect Belong

SUPERVISED PLAY

*Play with confidence.
Improve with support.*

Real hands. Real decisions. Expert guidance.



SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
Play, ask questions and learn as you go.



EXPERT GUIDANCE
Chris Larter is there to help.



BUILD CONFIDENCE
Turn experience into improvement.



HAND RECORDS & NOTES
Continue learning after the session.



NOVEMBER 2026 SERIES

Four Saturday sessions

7
NOV

14
NOV

21
NOV

28
NOV

10:30 am AEDT each day



12 boards



Approx.
1½ hours



Online with
audio & video

Join us for one session – or all four!

YOUR SUPERVISOR



Chris Larter

Chris is President of StepBridge Australia and an experienced bridge player and teacher. He is passionate about helping players improve, build confidence and enjoy the game.

PLAY YOUR WAY

It's your choice!



PLAY WITH YOUR PARTNER

Register together and enjoy a supported session as a partnership.



INVITE AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER

Arrange to play with an experienced player for additional support. Need to find someone? Post in our WhatsApp Partner Finder Group (see below).



NO PARTNER? NO PROBLEM.

You can also register solo and select "I want to be paired" when signing up.

HOW TO REGISTER ON STEPBRIDGE

1

Look for the Supervised Play event in the StepBridge tournament list from Thursday each week.

2

Enter your partner's username (if you have one).

3

If you are paying for your partner, select "I want to pay for my partner".

4

If you need a partner, select "I want to be paired".

5

Payment is made using your Participation Points (PPs).

LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED PARTNER?



Post in our StepBridge WhatsApp Partner Finder Group. Experienced players who are happy to partner an improving player are also encouraged to post their availability. Players make their own arrangements.

COST & CONDITIONS



60 Participation Points (PPs) per player
If you are paying for an experienced player, the total will be 120 PPs (covers both players).

No masterpoints awarded.



StepBridge

Bridge to your next level

Play
Learn
Connect
Belong

NEWS & UPDATES

Supervised Play is Coming to StepBridge

Play with confidence. Improve with support.

This November, we're introducing a new way to learn and enjoy your bridge — **Supervised Play** with Chris Larter.

Sometimes the best learning happens not in a lesson, but at the table. You pick up your cards, the auction takes an unexpected turn and suddenly you're wondering: *What should I bid now? Should I lead that suit? Was there a better way to play this hand?*

Supervised Play is designed for exactly those moments.

A relaxed and supportive session

Across **four Saturday mornings in November**, players will enjoy a 12-board session with audio and video, with Chris on hand to provide guidance, answer questions and help turn the decisions that arise at the table into useful learning opportunities. Hand records and notes will also be provided, so you can revisit the boards afterwards.

Play your way

Come with your regular partner, arrange to play with an experienced player, or simply register on your own and select "I want to be paired."

If you're an improving player who would particularly like to play alongside someone more experienced, you can make your own arrangement with a player you know or post in our StepBridge WhatsApp Partner Finder Group.

Experienced players – we'd love your help!

Would you enjoy partnering an improving player for a session? If so, we'd love you to put your hand up. Post your availability in the Partner Finder Group and allow another member of our community to contact you directly. There's no expectation that you teach the session — Chris will be there to supervise. Just play your normal game, share the table and perhaps help another player gain a little more confidence along the way.

Players arrange their own partnerships, so StepBridge won't be allocating experienced partners.

The November Series



Saturdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 November 2026
10:30 am AEDT

12 boards | Approx. 1½ hours | Audio & video

60 Participation Points (PPs) per player

No masterpoints awarded.

There is no requirement to attend all four sessions. Come along for one, several — or join us for the whole series.

Newer and improving players — come and practise.

Experienced players — come and share your experience.

Most of all, come and play.

See you at the table!

Questions? support@stepbridge.com.au
Real hands. Real decisions. A brighter you.



StepBridge

Bridge to your next level



Enquiries: support@stepbridge.com.au



www.stepbridge.com.au



*Friendly people.
Brighter bridge.*

IMPs or Matchpoints?

Why the Scoring Changes the Way You Play

Many newer players do not realise that the same hand may require a different strategy depending on the scoring method.



Scoring matters - a lot. A decision that is sensible in a Matchpoint event may be completely wrong in an IMP event. The simplest way to remember the difference is: at Matchpoints, every trick matters; at IMPs, big swings matter.

Matchpoints – Beat the Field

- Your result is compared with every other pair.
- Small differences can make a huge difference.
- Overtricks and tiny score gains matter.
- Compete hard for partscores.
- Aim to do slightly better than the field.



VS

IMPs – Protect the Big Score

- Your score is compared with another table.
- Big swings matter more than small gains.
- Do not risk the contract for an overtrick.
- Reasonable games are worth bidding.
- Focus on avoiding expensive mistakes.



FIVE KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

1 Overtricks



At Matchpoints, one extra trick can transform your result. At IMPs, overtricks are usually much less important. Make the contract first.

2 Games Matter More at IMPs



Game bonuses create large swings in IMP scoring. If a game is reasonable, IMP scoring often encourages you to bid it.

3 Safety Plays



At Matchpoints you may chase the maximum number of tricks. At IMPs you should usually choose the safest line that protects the contract.

4 Partscores and Doubles



Matchpoint players often compete fiercely for partscore advantages and may double for a better score. At IMPs, be more cautious — the reward may be small, but the cost of being wrong can be large.

5 Defence



At Matchpoints, every overtrick matters. At IMPs, the first question is whether the contract can be beaten. If not, avoid taking wild risks just to save one trick.



Golden thought: *At Matchpoints every trick matters.
At IMPs big swings matter.*

IMPs v Matchpoints – Quick Reference

A simple guide to the strategic differences between the two scoring methods.

Situation	Matchpoints	IMPs
 Overtricks	Very important. One extra trick can dramatically improve your score.	Usually much less important. Do not risk the contract for an overtrick.
 Bidding Game	Be cautious with marginal games. +170 may score well if others stop short.	Be more willing to bid a reasonable game. The game bonus creates a large swing.
 Playing the Contract	Look for the maximum number of tricks.	Look first for the safest way to make the contract.
 Safety Plays	Sometimes unattractive because giving up an overtrick may cost Matchpoints.	Often very valuable because protecting the contract is more important than an extra trick.
 Competing for Partscores	Compete actively. +110 instead of -110 can transform the board.	Still compete sensibly, but do not risk a large penalty over a small partscore difference.
 Penalty Doubles	+200 instead of +100 can be a huge Matchpoint result.	Be more cautious. The extra reward may be small compared with the cost if the contract makes.
 Defending	Every trick matters. Preventing an overtrick may be crucial.	Concentrate first on beating the contract.
 Sacrificing	Depends heavily on what the rest of the field is doing.	Compare the likely penalty with the opponents' game or slam score.
 Slams	Field position matters greatly. Missing a slam others bid can be disastrous.	Good slams are very important because the bonus creates a large IMP swing.
 General Philosophy	Beat the other pairs.	Avoid the big loss and collect the big gain.

One Simple Example

You are in 3NT vulnerable and have nine certain tricks.



At Matchpoints:

+630 may beat +600, so the overtrick can matter.



At IMPs:

Take your nine tricks. Risking +600 for an extra 30 points is usually a poor bargain.



The Golden Rule

MATCHPOINTS – *Every trick matters.*

IMPs – *Make your contract and avoid the big swing.*

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.

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn



StepBridge Double Dummy Analysis

Optimum:
NS 6D; +1370
LoTT: 17-18 = -1

♠ 9 2
♥ A K 10 9
♦ 10 7 5 4 3
♣ 7 5

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

♠ 3
♥ Q 7 6 4 3
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ J 10 9

☐ KR ☐ ?

7
3 8
22

5

♠ K Q 10 6 5
♥ J 8 5 2
♦
♣ Q 6 4 3

♠ A J 8 7 4
♥
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K 8 2

	♠	♥	♣	NT
N	3	6	1	3
S	3	6	1	3
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

Save Edit Play Options Help

Analyse More..

This lovely hand showed up in July. While the slam in diamonds is not trivial, only one pair managed to find it — and unfortunately, they could not play it correctly and went one down.

I can well imagine the bidding going something like this, starting with North as dealer:

*P – P – 2♣ – P – 2♦ (forced waiting bid) – P – 2♠ – P – 3♥**

North is wanting to show the major ahead of the longer minor, with South assuming that North has a heart stopper and finishing in 3NT. In fact, this did happen at one table.

East, however, could possibly come in on either the first or second round with **2♠**. Yes, it is weak and only five cards, but the void significantly improves its playing strength. Over a **2♠** opening, South must double, knowing that North is going to bid hearts, and can then bid 3NT, which should be passed out. Alternatively, East can come in on the second round, after **2♣ – 2♦**, with essentially the same result: South doubles, North bids 3♥, and South bids 3NT.

However, some South players did not open 2♣, but **1♠**. In response, North should bid **1NT** — not 2♦ or 2♥! South should then rebid **3♣** to show a good hand, bidding up the line. A 3♦ rebid does not leave room if partner has clubs. North can now show a preference for diamonds. With a trump suit, length is generally more useful than strength, and North has more diamonds.

South can now either bid **4♦**, showing a desire to go further, or bid 3NT to finish the auction. North should have no hesitation bidding **5♦**, but it would take something of a miracle to reach 4NT (ace-asking) after a 1♠ opening.

After a **2♣** opening, and with North showing a preference for diamonds rather than hearts after South's spade rebid (or after a double if East intervenes with spades), South should definitely bid **4♦** and, in my opinion, **4NT** to ask for aces. Getting the desired response of one ace — which must be the ace of hearts, giving a loser a place to go — a king ask also receives a one response, allowing the auction to subside in **6♦**.

Much poorer is simply bidding **5♦**, as happened at several tables.

A Hand from the Open Individual with TDJohn

The Play in Diamonds

The play is clear if North is declarer. The obvious lead is the **king of spades**, won in dummy with the ace. Play one round of trumps and get the bad news.

Now play the **A-K of clubs** and ruff a club. Then play the **A-K of hearts** and ruff a heart. Play a club from dummy; West is best to discard a heart rather than ruff, although in practice it does not matter. Ruff another heart.

It does not matter whether you now play another trump from dummy — North-South hold the two best remaining trumps — or simply play a spade. West will be ruffing. The only important point, if you lead a spade at trick 12, is to play the **7 rather than the 10**.

From the South hand, the play is a little trickier. West does well to avoid a heart lead, but it actually does not matter: any lead except the queen will still result in 12 tricks. A club lead is safe.

Again, play one round of trumps and get the bad news. Then simply follow the same sequence: play the other club honour and ruff a club, play A-K of hearts and ruff a heart, and continue with the same steps.

The Play in NT

In NT, North-South need some cooperation from the opponents to establish the hearts in the North hand.

The strangest result came from a player who did not follow the **INDY card** and instead used clubs (Gerber) to ask for aces and kings. North passed the second question, leaving South playing **5♣ in a 4-2 fit!**

Another poor result came when North corrected back to spades at the five level after South had clearly shown an agreement in diamonds.

A fascinating hand, with plenty of opportunities for both the bidding and the play to go astray!

AI Tries to Play Bridge

Bridge is the only game on the planet that does not yet have a computer that can beat the top experts (all of them anyway). Chess, Go, and poker have all been conquered.

But not bridge.

A misleading Guardian headline in 2022 claimed “Artificial intelligence beats eight world champions at bridge” in the NookAI vs. Champions match in Paris but this was not strictly true. AI beat 7 champions, true, but not Russian champion Anna Gulevich.

	Human Score	AI score
Anna	695	690
Benedicte	610	771
Brad	600	731
Mikael	777	879
Nevena	627	809
Roy	578	725
Sabine	564	733
Thomas	787	798



Anna GULEVICH
Russia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e50Q8Rkn_uk Pete Hollands on this subject

And the challenge was a very limited one indeed. The bidding for example, generally considered the hardest part of bridge for AI, was excluded from the match. There are roughly 10^{47} (one hundred quadrillion) possible bidding sequences. AI struggles to handle all the nuance and ambiguity in such a huge number of human bidding systems. So all the contracts were 1NT – 2NT – 3NT. And there was no defending.

The challenge was simply to play a 3NT hand that had only the bare amount of recommended HCP.

Why is bridge the holdout game?

Bridge is a game of imperfect information and partnership skills, rather than just deterministic calculation. Maybe the crux of the problem for AI is that there genuinely *isn't* a single optimal bidding system. Different partnership agreements can be better or worse against different bidding systems. Or the optimal system at one place and time won't be the best against a different field of players.

And of course there's the human element of bridge, largely absent in chess or Go. AI can't assess their opponents psychologically the way humans can. Human players can pick up on body language, opponent anxiety, the too fast play of a card by an opponent or their hesitation — elements difficult to program. Humans also bluff and deceive their opponents. An AI trained against "honest" robots, fails against humans being unpredictable.

AI proves hilarious at solving a bridge problem

Recently, a bridge friend passed on a nice bridge problem to me that Gary Brown presented to his class in Melbourne. The task is to make 4H on the lead of the KD. Before we had even figured it all out my friend decided to jump the gun and “ask Claude”. Before you read the AI answer to this problem, have a think about it yourself.

ENTRIES ARE EVERYTHING

NORTH (Dummy)

Contract: 4H

♠A6543

♥KJ3

♦A76

♣QJ

South	West	North	East
3♥	Dbl.	4♥	All Pass

W leads ♦K

SOUTH (You)

♠J

♥AQT8762

♦843

♣65

Here is Claude's cheerfully confident answer

(word for word .. cross my heart .. **My comments in red**)

Let me analyze this carefully.

The Problem

The four losers are clear:

Three diamonds (South has 843, North has A76 — so after the Ace, two diamonds are lost) One club (at least) **? How could it be one loser? Ohhh ...the opponents with nine clubs between them decide to play the Ace on top of their King. Hmm ... I think we can assume TWO losers in clubs.**

West has led the King of Diamonds, suggesting KQJ of diamonds, and has doubled, so West holds the bulk of the missing high cards.

The Optimum Line of Play

Win the Ace of Diamonds immediately (don't hold up — you need it). **You sure do need it**

Then — the key move: lead a LOW SPADE from dummy toward the Jack. **Whaaaat!!**

The purpose is the Spade Jack as an entry-creating loser elimination play. **????**

But actually the real solution is

The Elimination / Endplay

Win ♠A at trick one

Draw trumps **Nope**. — pull all enemy trumps ending in dummy (using ♥K or ♥J as entries)

Cash ♠A, then ruff a spade in hand — stripping spades

Lead ♣Q or ♣J from dummy **Nope. EW immediately take the two top clubs and the QJ of diamonds**

Now West is endplayed: **Nope**

If West wins the club and plays a diamond → gives you a ruff-and-discard **Nope** or leads into nothing **Huh??**

If West plays diamonds → you ruff in one hand, discard a club loser from the other **But you still have diamonds and must follow suit**

The Coup

West, who doubled and holds the diamond winners, is thrown in and forced to either:

Lead a diamond (ruff-and-sluff, eliminating a club loser), or

Lead away from a club honour into dummy's ♣QJ

10 tricks made. ♠ **Nope**

The key insight is using the elimination ending to neutralise West's diamond winners by forcing West to concede the contract.

I sent this 'solution' on to another bridge friend who summed it up well: "Absolute AI nonsense; in fact a fine example of an AI not solving a problem but looking for similarly worded problems and parsing out some cobbled-together logic that clearly does not work. Honestly, AI is looking very Emperor's New Clothes at the moment".

As far as bridge is concerned, I can only agree wholeheartedly.

PS: Another funny one I came across recently is the AI generated animation that accompanies an "Introduction to Bridge" video on YouTube. The spoken words are okay but the animation is so distracting! Why are there two QH cards and two AH cards? Why are people holding their cards so that half of them can be seen by others? Why do some cards have pictures on both sides?? What's the card with a "G" on it at 1:42? Why aren't they holding 13 cards? Where's the dummy? What's with the *fifth ghost card player* at the end??

Beginners Beware!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-Epy-mUfp8>

PPS: You'd like a clue to the bridge problem? You need to maximise the entries to dummy in order to set up the spades and get to the last one. This means making every one of dummy's trumps an entry.

Jacky Gruszka (JackyGru)

Monthly Awards: August 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in August 2026</i>	Overall	1	58.2	7	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		2	57.8	7	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)
			57.8	13	Sachiko Cathcart (SachikoC)
	Open	1	58.2	7	Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		2	57.59	18	Nick Cantatore (NickCa)
		3	57.43	8	Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Restricted	1	59.53	8	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse)
		2	57.4	9	Valerie Smith (ValeriSm)
		3	56.83	20	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2)
	Novice	1	55.91	9	Kay Rundle (KayR)
		2	54.89	10	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc)
		3	53.98	6	Kristine Davies (KristinD)
	Open IMPs	1	46	7	Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
			46	6	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		3	28	7	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)
	Open Indi-	1	57.98	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
<i>Highest Pairs Average in August 2026</i>		2	54.99	14	Margaret (Meg) Pisko (MegP)
		3	54.82	7	Jennifer Bissett (JenniBi)
	Overall	1	61.72	6	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Nick Cantatore (NickCa)
		2	58.92	8	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith (ValeriSm)
		3	58.2	7	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
	Open	1	61.72	6	Mrinal Dey (MrinalD), Nick Cantatore (NickCa)
		2	58.2	7	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	57.43	8	Tim Davis (TimD), Robert Van Der Hoek (RobertV)
	Restricted	1	58.92	8	Rebecca Mackiggan (Rebecca2), Valerie Smith (ValeriSm)
		2	55.98	11	Laura Bauermeister (LauraBa), Paul Fredheim (PaulFr)
		3	55.1	6	Sandra Lawrence (SandraL), John Sunderland (JohnSu)
	Novice	1	55.91	9	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
		2	53.98	6	Kristine Davies (KristinD), Jodie Ross (JodieR)
		3	53.56	6	Megan Pendlebury (MeganP), Tony Lippey (TonyL)
	Open IMPs	1	46	6	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin), Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)
		2	11	8	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		3	-32	7	Dot Slattery (DotS), Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP)

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 August 2026</i>	Overall			82	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				73	Cathy Russell (CathyR)
				68	Dot Slattery (DotS)
	Open			56	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				44	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
				43	Libby Heyward (LibHeywa)
	Restricted			49	Cathy Russell (CathyR)
				31	Julie Barker (JulieBar)
				29	Karen Hopkins (KarenH)
	Novice			13	David Evans (DavidE)
				12	Megan Pendlebury (MeganP)
				11	Michelle Nally (MichellIN)
	Open IMPs			8	Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				8	Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP)
				8	Brenda McClean (Brenda)
				8	Robert Stammel (RobS)
	Open			27	Christine Hadaway (ChristiH)
	Individual			26	Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)
				25	Jurate Laisve (JurateL)

Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in August 2026

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in August 2026	Overall			44	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				26	Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
				25	Martin Haines (MartinH), Angela Losurdo (AngelaL)
	Open			36	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				26	Joan Mladen (JoanM), Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
				21	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne
	Restricted			17	Cathy Russell (CathyR), Suzie Long (SuzieL)
				14	Gek Low (GekL), Christine Chodasewicz (ChrisCho)
				14	Ann Rinder (AnnRin), Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
	Novice			9	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
				8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
				6	Karen Moss (KarenMos), Michelle Nally (MichellIN)
	Open IMPs			8	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
				7	Dot Slattery (DotS), Thais Morgan-Pertus (ThaisMP)
				6	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin), Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
Most Improved Player in August 2026	Overall	1	6.56	6	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS)
		2	5.75	12	Jodie Ross (JodieR)
			5.75	12	Kristine Davies (KristinD)
	Open	1	6.56	6	Jennifer Sharpe (JenniS)
		2	5.78	9	Sandra Clancy (SandraCl)
		3	5.42	7	Paul Fielding (PaulF)
	Restricted	1	4.64	8	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse)
		2	4.32	6	Terry Buckett (TerryBuc)
		3	4.28	7	Marg Orme (MargOr)
	Novice	1	5.16	8	Karen Moss (KarenMos)
		2	4.76	6	Kristine Davies (KristinD)
			4.76	6	Jodie Ross (JodieR)
	Open IMPs	1	0.25	6	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin)
		2	0.18	8	Robert Stammel (RobS)
			0.18	8	Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
	Open	1	3.17	13	Barb Power (BarbP)
Most Improved Pair in August 2026	Individual	2	3.16	14	Margaret (Meg) Pisko (MegP)
		3	3.06	7	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD)
	Overall	1	6.38	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		2	6.24	6	Whalley Robin (WhalleyR), Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
		3	5.77	6	Rosemary Porter (RoseP), Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
	Open	1	6.38	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Bronwyn Neal (BronwynN)
		2	6.24	6	Whalley Robin (WhalleyR), Joan Lenehan (JoanLe)
		3	5.77	6	Rosemary Porter (RoseP), Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)
	Restricted	1	4.32	6	Terry Buckett (TerryBuc), Carole O'Connor (CaroleO)
		2	3.91	9	Frances Pope (FrancesP), Cheryl Buttner (CherylBu)
		3	3.65	6	Kristine Davies (KristinD), Jodie Ross (JodieR)
	Novice	1	5.19	6	Karen Moss (KarenMos), Michelle Nally (MichellIN)
		2	4.76	6	Kristine Davies (KristinD), Jodie Ross (JodieR)
		3	2.68	9	Jennifer McKenzie (JenniiMc), Kay Rundle (KayR)
	Open IMPs	1	0.18	8	Robert Stammel (RobS), Claire Stammel (ClaireS)
		2	0.09	6	Ziauddin Kazi (Ziauddin), Andrzej Adamczewski (AndrzejA)

Masterpoint Promotions

August 2026

Pereira, Eugene	Grand	Johnson, Jill	Bronze Region-
Willcocks, Kevin	Gold Life	Fowler, Julie	Regional
Powis, Patricia	Gold Life	Dwyer, Kent	Regional
Fraser, Sally	Silver Life	Lakota, Mark	Regional
Gaskill, Deanne	Silver Life	Petrovic, Ivan	Silver Local
Willcocks, Julie	Silver Life	Beattie, Fiona	Silver Local
Lyons, Peter	Silver Life	Abraham, Ross	Silver Local
Gibbons, Florence	Bronze Life	Melletts, Steve	Silver Local
Scott, Julie	Bronze Life	Tawa, Sandy	Silver Local
Rogoysky, Helen	Bronze Life	Daw, Alex	Silver Local
Maslen, Peerapan	Bronze Life	Greenbaum, Marc	Silver Local
Jerkovic, Debbie	Life	Roberts, Cynthia	Silver Local
Hamam, Chris	Life	Darwell, Gabi	Silver Local
Stallbom, Bea	Silver National	Cheng, Joseph	Silver Local
Day, Lindell	Silver National	Canavan, Andrew	Silver Local
Wallwork, Karen	Silver National	McCarron, Greg	Silver Local
Jensen, Susan	Silver National	Paltridge, Ian	Bronze Local
Mathieson, Dave	Silver National	Geutjes, Jane	Bronze Local
Kierath, William	Bronze National	Seale, Michelle	Bronze Local
Setiawan, Maria	Bronze National	Hirekodi, Sanjay	Bronze Local
Devine, Inta	Bronze National	Ramage, Judy	Bronze Local
Smith, Simon	National	Leaman, Peter	Bronze Local
Woolfe, Barb	National	Hodgson, Ian	Bronze Local
Burrows, John	National	Bennett, Sue	Bronze Local
Zhu, Michael	National	Mullumby, Penny	Bronze Local
Lee, Jacinta	National	Bavin, David	Local
Dorman, Rebecca	National	Byrnes, Helen	Local
Kowalczyk, Magdalena	Bronze State	Gough, Mike	Local
Dickie, Carol	Bronze State	Trott, Greg	Local
McMaster, Neil	Bronze State	McDonagh, Jeannie	Local
Mitchell, Wayne	Bronze State	Pendlebury, Megan	Club
Paterson, Jenny	Bronze State	Ross, Jodie	Club
Lemarchand, John	Bronze State	Bassetti, Bobbie	Club
Kestenbergs, Alan	Bronze State	Nally, Michelle	Club
Robson, Ian	State	Khatri, Suresh	Club
Duncan, Kit	State	Rossi Ford, Sally	Graduate
Rose, Mary	State	Evans, David	Graduate
Lippey, Tony	State	Cohen, Jenny	Graduate
Halliday, Ann	State	Winton, Ian	Graduate
Jones, Richard	State	Van Der Kamp, Roel	Graduate
Gough, Sue	State		
Dewar, Rhys	State		
Ross, Kim	State		
Krishnamachari,	State		
Cumming, Robert	State		

Partnership Platform



Connect
Forge partnerships
And build bridges to new
opportunities
On **partners4bridge.com**



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

September – It's Spring! With so much to look forward to - there's nature dazzling us with flower and leaf, there's the Spring Nationals just around the corner and no doubt we'll be seeing more shorts and sandals at the Club. (And that's just the guys) I'm incredibly happy when the temperature starts to rise. You can take the girl out of the Tropics but can you take the tropics out of the girl! This year has been devoted to the selfless workers who keep the wheels turning in the engine room of StepBridge. I am full of admiration for this crew. As we all know, when tech is working well it's blissful, but when the wheels fall off it's nightmarish. This month let's meet Brenda McClean, one of our StepBridge Director's.

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.

Jay Novak

Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Brenda McClean

StepBridge Sign-in

Brenda, (TDBrenda, TDBren2)

When did you start playing Bridge, and why?

In 1979 I was living in Echuca Victoria, I played most card games and decided I wanted to learn bridge. I put an ad in the local paper, and got a call from a lady who said come to my house on Friday at 7pm. etc. I arrived and there were 3 bridge tables setup, and a chap came up to me and said, "Hi I'm Pat you are my partner. Count 4 for an ace, 3 for a king, 2 for as queen and 1c for a jack, add your hand and if you have 13 points say 1 of what you have the most of." I looked at my first hand & got over excited and said (out loud) I've got 19 points. He said, "SHUT UP you can't tell everyone". OOPS, not a good start!!!!

Anyway, when I went home, my husband said Well how do we play it?

I said I have no idea, but I'm going back next week to find out. So, I kept going back and finally got the gist of it.

Tell us about your Club and why we should visit?

I belong to the Hervey Bay Bridge Club now and love it. If you come to our club, you will be made very welcome. Hervey Bay is a beautiful seaside town, with wonderful cafes and great beaches. We hold 2 congresses each year, in May and November, and would love to have you come visit us.

Your best Bridge tip or advice from an Expert

COUNT YOUR LOSERS

Any Hobbies outside Bridge?

I love Mahjong, and in my younger days played tennis, squash, badminton and water skied.

Any Book you'd recommend?

The bridge flipper is a good start.

How have you lifted your bridge game over the years?

I have played with lots of players, playing different systems, but my favourite is KISS (Keep it simple stupid.)

Do you have any favourite Bridge memories?

This happened many years ago. My partner May and I went to Adelaide to play in the Festival of Bridge, and she had booked us a unit for the week. When we arrived at the accommodation, it was a bit of a shock. There was a smashed window, the front door was off its hinges, and there was a young couple having a very vocal fight next door. Luckily, my partner rang the landlord, and they found us a lovely motel unit for the week.

We did very well that week and had no more glitches.

And advice for newcomers to Bridge?

Enjoy learning, it is worth the effort.

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

OMG I HATE SPIDERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





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)

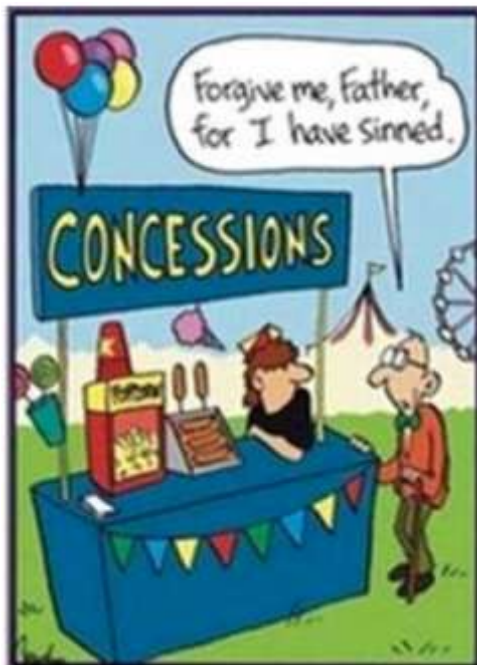
Funnies Column

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

At the rate we're going,
they're going to cancel
shampoo so bald
people don't get
offended.

**I made a huge
to do list for
today.
I just can't
figure out who's
going to do it.**

I got myself a
seniors' GPS. Not
only does it tell me
how to get to my
destination, it tells
me why I wanted to
go there.



I tried the Japanese method
of decluttering where you
hold every object that you
own and if it does not bring
you joy, you throw it away.
So far I have thrown out all
of the vegetables, my bra,
the electric bill, the scale, a
mirror and my treadmill.

I am starting
to think
I will never
be old enough
to know better

Some call it multi-tasking, I
call it doing something else
while I try to remember what
I was doing in the first place



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
1 Oct	Thurs	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
2 Oct	Fri	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Restricted / Open	
3 Oct	Sat	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
4 Oct	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
5 Oct	Mon	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
6 Oct	Tue	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Novice / Open	
8 Oct	Thur	10:00am	Open Individual	
9 Oct	Fri	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
11 Oct	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
13 Oct	Tue	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
14 Oct	Wed	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Restricted / Open	
16 Oct	Fri	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
17 Oct	Sat	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Novice / Open	
18 Oct	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
19 Oct	Mon	8:00pm	Open Teams	Audio Video
20 Oct	Tue	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
21 Oct	Wed	10:00am	Open Individual	
22 Oct	Thurs	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Novice / Open	
25 Oct	Sun	2:30pm	Open & Restricted	Audio Video
25 Oct	Sun	8:00pm	Open	
26 Oct	Mon	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
27 Oct	Tue	7:50pm / 8:00pm	Novice / Open	
28 Oct	Wed	12:50pm / 1:00pm	Restricted / Open	
30 Oct	Fri	3:50pm / 4:00pm	Restricted / Open	
31 Oct	Sat	8:00pm	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.

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/

Bridge Bloopers

We all have those moments at the bridge table when things don't quite go according to plan. A missed bid, a forgotten convention, a spectacular misplay — or simply a moment when the brain decides to take the afternoon off!

Here are a few recent reminders that, in bridge as in life, nobody gets it right all the time...

The Convention That Wasn't

"I thought that was a transfer."

"It wasn't."

"Oh."

And sometimes, that's the entire post-mortem required.

The Phantom Card

Declarer confidently played a card from dummy — only to discover that the card they were looking for had disappeared.

It hadn't disappeared. It was sitting in their own hand.

The Confident Claim

"I can claim."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, absolutely."

Pause.

"Well... perhaps we won't claim just yet."

The Bidding Problem

Partner: "What did 2♥ mean?"

You: "A weak two."

Partner: "I thought it was forcing."

You: "It was when I started playing it."

And Finally...

Remember: a bad result is only a disaster if you don't have a good story to tell afterwards!