

**March 2025**

## Message from the President

Dear members,

As I type up this message, the affects of ex-tropical cyclone Alfred are making its presence felt here in Brisbane with strong winds, heavy and continuing rainfall, and localised flooding. To our members in similar cases, we are thinking of you at this time.



Firstly, on behalf of the club, my condolences go to StepBridge member Lalita Kanetkar (LalitaK) on the sudden passing of her husband Avinash Kanetkar. Avinash's obituary has been posted on the ABF website <https://www.abf.com.au/vale-avinash-kanetkar/>

In the first week of February there was the Gold Coast Congress. Congratulations to those members who did well at the Congress. During the congress we had a table out in the foyer to promote our club of StepBridge. Thank you to those members who assisted at the table and those who dropped by to say hello.

Grafton Bridge Club held their Online Congress on StepBridge on Saturday 15 February and I believe it was a great success for them. Our first StepBridge Congress for 2025 will be held on Saturday 31 May. Entries are now open on the MyABF website: <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2280>

A reminder to players from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia that daylight savings ends on Sunday morning 6 April. Therefore play will start one hour later for these players from this date.

Looking ahead to Easter, at this stage we will have all the usual sessions each day over the Easter weekend.

Happy Bridging,  
Chris Larter (ChrisLar)

## Committee

### President

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

### Vice President & Treasurer

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### Secretary

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### Committee Members

Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)  
Sebastian Wright (SebW)

### StepBridge International Representative:

Epko Steinmetz (Epko)

## Non-Committee Roles

### Head TD

Sarah Zoral (SarahAn)  
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### Masterpoint Secretary

Antonina Hayles (Antonina)

### Newsletter Editors

Chris Larter (ChrisLar)  
Greg McCarron (GregMc)

### Public Officer

Eric Taylor (EricTay)

## Email Address

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## CLUB PLAYING NUMBERS

				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
Dec-22	9,142	Nov-22	9,090	Oct-22	9,036	Sep-22	8,594
Aug-22	9,631	Jul-22	10,344	Jun-22	9,322	May-22	9,980

## New Players

Welcome to the following new players that started to play in the second half of January and the first half of March. 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

CathyC    ChrisMu    GregL    JennyMe    JohnE    JohnRob    KerryPB    LiliaM  
 RiaJ    RichardB    RodM    RoseSch    SarahSt    ShirleyW    SusanMcE    ValerieR

### RESTRICTED

BarbCra    BobDa    CarolB    DianeHu    DonPoole    EileenL    MichelK    PeterDu  
 SallyCl    Siobhan    TanyaM    Upasana

### NOVICE

AliBa    AngelaMc    AngusMa    AnnaBow    AnnaOH    AnonaK    CarolinB    Danuta  
 DianaOF    Elzbieta    GlenA    GrantW    GregTo    HeatherR    HelenFi    HughM  
 JackF    JamesLe    JanieS    JillianM    JohnSc    JulieLa    KarenA    KarenCu  
 KarenMar    KitD    KynaF    LeviC    LindseyK    LizLeF    LynneT    Malgorza  
 MariaMi    MerleT    MerrenW    Michael8    MicheleF    MikeMa    NancyWi    PrueJ  
 RobertCu    RohanC    Rosanna    RuthBu    SallyB    SaraW    SmitaD    StuartSt  
 SueRo    SusanK    SusanMac    SusieT    SuzanneD    TheresaK    VinceSm    WayneM

## Instructions

### Setting a New Password

StepBridge uses encrypted passwords as an extra layer of protection for your account.

Support team members are unable to view your password. This means that if you forget your password, or would like to change your password, you will need to follow the instructions in the link below.

<https://www.stepbridge.com.au/set-new-password/>

## Gold Coast Congress 2025

StepBridge has been a sponsor of the Open Teams event at the GCC for the last 4 years. On the following pages are excerpts from the final bulletin of the GCC, showcasing the Open Teams Final.

All bulletins from the GCC can be found at this link: <https://qldbridge.com.au/gcc2025-bulletins>.

A lot of work, by many people, goes into producing the bulletins. Of particular interest to members are the reports on various events, including commentary from well respected and accomplished players about the hands that were played.

The Queensland Bridge Association is working hard to find a way to bring us this popular event in future years.

In thanking StepBridge for our support and sponsorship of the GCC, Richard Ward, President of the Queensland Bridge Association has written to us the following message:

*“Well we did it once again! Another successful GCC comes to an end, probably for the last time. I want to thank you for your support. The StepBridge sponsorship will make a significant impact to our bottom line when we finalise the P&L data for the event. I noticed that you had a number of people dropping by for a chat and hope that your time was well spent. “*



*Tony White (TonyW), Mary Poynton (MaryPoynt)  
& Lalita Kanetkar (LalitaK)*



*Mike Morrissey (MikeMorr)  
& David Cumming (DavidCum)*



*Michael Zhu (Michael3) & Zhan Wan (ZhanW)*



*Martin Wu (MartinW) & Eugene Pereira (EugeneP)*

# Gold Coast Congress 2025 Open Teams Final

63rd Gold Coast Congress

Broadbeach, Gold Coast

## GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS FINAL

*Barry Rigal*

### Sets 1 and 2

The finals would feature four essentially natural partnerships, but with Markey-Haffer playing a lot of wildness including mini no-trump and specific two-suiter openings, flimsy openings and overcalls and a host besides. Everyone present had signed a contract never to pass an 11-count and 9- and 10-counts non-vulnerable would not be off-limits.

Slam on a finesse isn't always worth writing about – but this one had a point that eluded me.

Board 2, Dealer East, NS vulnerable

♠AQ8	
♥AK932	
♦108	
♣A74	
♠964	♠102
♥7	♥8654
♦A96	♦Q754
♣K108532	♣QJ6
♠KJ753	
♥QJ10	
♦KJ32	
♣9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Appleton	Hung	Castellino	Brake
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

### TABLES

Total tables: 8,465  
 2024 comparison: 7,200 tables  
 2020 comparison: 9,007 tables

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Markey	Brown	Haffer
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Technically slam here is worse than 50% (no one ever mentions that spades might be 5-0, hearts 5-0 or diamonds 6-1) but, in practice, it comes down to finding the diamond honours. Brake had a normal opening and bid out her shape, then co-operated once, and that was enough for Hung. Appleton led a trump, declarer drew trumps, Castellino encouraging in diamonds at his first turn. Then she ran the hearts on which Castellino pitched another diamond. That persuaded her (following Terence Reese's dictum) that the discards were more likely to be from the ace than queen so she misguessed the suit and Appleton had 13 IMPs. Nicely defended.

Barry Goren wrote to me and said that declarer SHOULD have got diamonds right. Why? Because the hand on lead had a singleton heart and didn't lead it. (remember here Hung had not responded 2♥ so hearts were an off-suit not a bid suit). Why would you avoid the heart lead – because you know partner does not have the ace – therefore you have the ♦A, not partner.

Appleton picked up a second 12 IMP swing when Brake-Hung got too high on an auction where it is arguable who did too much.



*Phil Markey, Matt Brown, Joe Haffer and Adam Kaplan*

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The N/S hands were:

♠AK10952  
♥AQ82  
♦2  
♣53  
♠J  
♥J109643  
♦AQJ9  
♣J2

After:

West	North	East	South
	Hung		Brake
1♣	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♣	...		

Hung bid 4♣ – yes 4♦ might have simplified his partner's life but is it natural or splinter? Over 4♣ Brake bid 4♦ (slam might be cold facing a 6-4-1-2 with the right A-AK-K combination after all. Now Hung jumped to 5♥ and though Brake passed she now needed to find ♥K and didn't do so – and yes, to maximize irritation, it was singleton offside.

It was Castellino's turn to have to guess an honour in a high-level contract a board later.

Board 6, Dealer East, EW vulnerable

	♠K63	
	♥AQ10762	
	♦7	
	♣Q63	
♠AJ72		♠4
♥3		♥J854
♦A10542		♦KQJ
♣K52		♣AJ1097
	♠Q10985	
	♥K9	
	♦9863	
	♣84	

***Congratulations to Di Coats and Jan Clarke  
who won the Friday Butler Swiss Pairs.***

***The Reg and Joan Trophy was won by  
Usher Zeng and Herman Yuan.***

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Appleton	Hung	Castellino	Brake
		1♣	Pass
1♦	1♥	Double	Pass
1♣	2♥	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Markey	Brown	Haffer
		1♣	1♣
2♥(♦)	3♣	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Castellino's 3♣ call looks like a considerable overbid to me, but maybe I'm missing something. Appleton was obviously expecting more but slam isn't terrible for E/W – though curiously a diamond lead prevents you from ruffing a heart. Brake led ♥K of course and shifted to a spade. Since the auction had suggested North had the long hearts declarer's line of crossing to a diamond to take the club finesse looks eminently reasonable, but unlucky. The Closed Room looked at the diamond slam but stayed safely low. That made it 25-15 to Appleton.

OK: turnabout is fair play. it was Appleton's turn to get too high, when Castellino was encouraged to take a phantom sacrifice on an auction where perhaps he should not have been encouraged to participate, and perhaps he should not have taken the plunge anyway.

Castellino held a 2-4-4-3 7-count with ♥J, ♦A, and ♣Q. Both vulnerable, he saw his partner open 1♥ and when doubled he raised to 2♥. Brake bid 2♣, Appleton 4♣ (hearts and clubs) and Hung 4♣. What now? He chose to bid 5♥ – which might have been right if he had been facing a singleton spade, but wasn't today when partner had ♠KJ.

Appleton only went one down in his contract but the other room was defending and collecting 500 against his teammates in 4♣X.

The lead lasted one board, when a triumph for Markey's methods saw him overcall on a piece of manure, and then

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know not to lead that suit against the opponents' confidently bid 3NT. In the other room Hung had no such warning and led his long suit, conceding the ninth trick in 3NT at once. The match score was 36-27 now after eight deals.

Finally someone bid to a good slam – but you'd have to say that the auction involved a bow and arrow rather than heat-seeking guided missiles.

Board 11, Dealer S, Nilvulnerable

	♠K82	
	♥954	
	♦65	
	♣98652	
♠AQ9654		♠10
♥K		♥AJ10762
♦AJ3		♦K109872
♣KJ3		♣--
	♠J73	
	♥Q83	
	♦Q4	
	♣AQ1074	

In one room Hung heard Brake open 1♣ and Appleton double. He improvised with 1♠ and when Castellino jumped to 4♥ Appleton could think of nothing to say. 4♥ made 480, while in the other room a mini no-trump from Haffer saw Kaplan show one major. Then he removed

2♥ to 2NT to show extras; Brown jumped to 4♥, and when Kaplan corrected to 4♣ he tried 6♦, completing an elegant sequence to the correct spot. Those 10 IMPs saw an eventful set conclude at 38-36 to Brake.

The first deal of the second set saw Matthew Brown and Stephen Castellino each faced with the problem of whether to act over RHO's 1♣ opener. They held an unremarkable 3-4-4-2 13-count with the doubleton ♠AK and (critically) not just just king-third of spades but K-8-x. Brown doubled and heard partner cuebid so tried 2NT raised to game. Partner had ♣J-9-x and the opening lead to 3NT was the doubleton spade ten, turning a decent contract into a laydown one. Castellino passed 1♣, as I would have done too I must admit, and collected +200 on defence, facing a balanced hand that might have reopened with 1NT. 10 IMPs to Brake.

Brake picked up a further 11 IMPs a deal or two later in rather similar fashion when Hung drove to a playable 3NT game facing one of Brake's opening bids while Markey-Haffer appeared to face confusion about whether they were having a strong, weak or invitational sequence to play a part-score. It was 61-36 now for Brake, who had scored the last 36 IMPs.

But the tide turned when Brown and Kaplan's light opening bid style saw Kaplan respond 1NT to a 1♣ opener with a balanced 12-count. Brown simply drove to 3NT, missing a laydown club slam, duly reached by Castellino-Appleton on an inverted minor sequence.

One of the disadvantages of playing two-suited opening bids is that it sometimes seems you are obliged to make the call whenever you have a hand that qualifies by virtue of its shape, even if the high cards do not support that view. On the next deal Appleton opened 2♣ vulnerable with a decent nine-count, but ♠9-x-x-x-x and ♦A-Q-x-x-x as well as ♥K-x. that didn't have to be bad for his side, but Castellino had to guess whether to play 5-2 spades (holding the doubleton king in support) or look for a 5-3 or 5-4 minor suit fit, and guessed wrong. 2♣ went quietly down, while 3♦ was relatively straightforward in the other room. It was 69-50 now for Brake, but the action wasn't over.

Castellino picked up:

♠AQ832
♥AQJ853
♦3
♣A

and doubled a club opener, heard a 1♥ response then basically Blackwooded his way to slam facing one keycard. Right he was. Partner had a doubleton spade with the king onside, and 12 tricks were easy. That left it with Brake leading 72-63 at the halfway mark.

## Saturday Walk-In Pairs Winners

**NS: Michelle Gan – Stuart Grant**

**EW: Sue Reilly – John Toogood**

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## Set 3

An adjustment to the score had given Brake 4 IMPs on a deal where they had lost 2 IMPs in the second set. That will be shown now in the running scores.

The set started out with Appleton on a tear – the match has been going in phases where one team scores three or four big swings in a row...

Deal 1, Dealer North, Nil vulnerable

♠ K102	
♥ 109742	
♦ 643	
♣ A3	
♠ QJ3	♠ A98764
♥ void	♥ AKJ86
♦ KJ1097	♦ A
♣ 107542	♣ J
	♠ 5
	♥ Q53
	♦ Q852
	♣ KQ986

The set started off with a bang when Castellino-Appleton bid a slam off a cashing ace and king-ten fourth of trumps. The unopposed auction was a confusing one:

West	East
	1♣
2♣	3♣
4♣	4NT
5♦	5♣
6♣	6♣
Pass	

Trumps did not behave but the club ace could be discarded if it wasn't cashed – and Harrison was not going to lead a club from KQ986 on this auction. When he led a trump it not only allowed the discard it also simplified the trump position. Castellino's 3♣ call with a 6-5-1-1 shape earned the swing. Appleton trailed 68-72.

Four boards later Hung and Markey faced an opening lead problem against 4♥ on essentially identical auctions, knowing declarer was strong and unbalanced.



Andy Hung, Stephen Castellino, Jess Brake and David Appleton

Which minor would you lead from:

♠ KJ8  
♥ 6  
♦ J1065  
♣ Q8642

Hung led a club and declarer shook a spade loser on dummy's ace-king, Markey led the diamond jack and Haffer won his ace and the defence then cashed three spades. Appleton led 84-72. They added a part-score swing when all four members of the Brake team could be argued to have done too much bidding on the same hand. That made it 84-73.

Suddenly, the momentum shifted to Brake, for no discernible reason except that was just how the match had been going!

Board 7 produced a fascinating problem for declarer and defence:

	♠ A3	
	♥ J106	
	♦ Q982	
	♣ J1075	
♠ 1076542		♠ K98
♥ A93		♥ 85
♦ J7		♦ AK1064
♣ 84		♣ 632
	♠ QJ	
	♥ KQ742	
	♦ 53	
	♣ AKQ9	

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Each West led a heart after hearing 1♥-2♥-4♥ on a club lead.

Declarer led a trump to dummy and a second trump as East followed up the line (maybe it is right to call for spades if playing suit preference). Appleton continued clubs. Harrison won in hand and drew the last trump, stripped off the clubs and led a diamond to the eight. Castellino, down to ♠K-9-8 and ♦A-10 was helpless. Had he kept one more diamond and pitched a spade he could at least have given declarer a guess in the ending.

Kaplan led a club and shifted to the diamond jack, covered all round. Back came a club and Haffer drew the last trump but did not take the last club before playing a second diamond. Brown could win and exit with a club, leaving declarer no recourse but the spade finesse. Down one and 12 IMPs back to Brake.

They regained the lead on a strange deal where it seemed that Markey's discretion would pay dividends.

Deal 11, Dealer South, Nil vulnerable

	♦AQJ53		
	♥J72		
	♦84		
	♣AQ4		
♠109		♠K762	
♥A95		♥K1064	
♦KQ9763		♦J	
♣J10		♣8652	
	♦84		
	♥Q83		
	♦A1052		
	♣K973		

3NT looks nearly hopeless with the spade break so unfavourable. When Haffer opened a mini 1NT, Markey invited game via the transfer, stopping in 2NT, and Kaplan led a top diamond. Haffer won and took the spade finesse, crossed to hand with a top club (blocking the suit) then repeated the finesse. Back came a spade and now, if declarer cleared spades, the defence would return a club and lock him in dummy. Haffer took his spade winner, unblocked the clubs but could only come to seven tricks.

In the other room Hung opened a strong no-trump and Harrison chose to drive to game via Puppet Stayman. Castellino guessed to lead the ♦J – not a bad choice today. Hung won and took a winning spade finesse, ran four club tricks and repeated the spade finesse. Appleton had pitched an encouraging heart so Castellino shifted to one. His choice of the ♥10 was disastrous though, when Appleton ducked. Hung had one heart, two spades, four clubs and a diamond in the bank and, when he exited in hearts, all Appleton could do was win his now bare ace and give dummy the ninth trick in diamonds.

The final deal of the set saw Haffer let through a doubled game when he misread the count while cashing out on defence, and suddenly Brake led 111-90, having trailed by double digits. 12 boards to go. When would the music stop?

There were several interesting boards in the final set, though the scoreline shows as 14-10 to Brake, and Brake won the GCC Open Teams 125 to 100.1 IMPs.

Congratulations to Jessica Brake, Shane Harrison, Andy Hung, Matt Brown and Adam Kaplan and commiserations to David Appleton, Phil Markey, Stephen Castellino and Joe Haffer (pictured below).





## Monthly Awards: January 2025

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in January 2025</i>	Overall	1	60.12	6	<b>Kerryn Peary (KerrynP)</b>
		1	60.12	6	<b>David Owens (DavidO)</b>
		3	58.62	8	Alex Wu (AlexW)
	Open	1	60.06	6	<b>Alex Wu (AlexW)</b>
		2	58.51	11	Martin Wu (MartinW)
		3	58.19	12	Paul Hill (PaulS)
	Restricted	1	57.22	16	<b>Glen Chick (GlenC)</b>
		2	56.43	21	Steven Kemp (StevenK)
		3	56.3	9	Penny Cory (PennyCoy)
	Novice	1	60.12	6	<b>Kerryn Peary (KerrynP)</b>
		1	60.12	6	<b>David Owens (DavidO)</b>
		3	58.11	16	Zhan Wan (ZhanW)
	Open IMPs	1	34	8	<b>Mrinal Dey (MrinalD)</b>
		2	33	8	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	25	6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy)
Open	1	57.14	8	<b>Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)</b>	
Individual	2	56.34	23	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
	3	54.02	9	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in January 2025</i>	Overall	1	60.12	6	<b>David Owens (DavidO), Kerryn Peary (KerrynP)</b>
		2	58.45	8	Steven Kemp (StevenK), Glen Chick (GlenC)
		3	57.57	8	Robert Van der hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)
	Open	1	57.57	8	<b>Robert Van der hoek (RobertV), Sue Neill (SueN)</b>
		2	57.46	9	Rod Binsted (RodBin), Judy Scholfield (JudySch)
		3	57.38	12	Rez Karim (MeemKar), Philip Bapty (PhillB)
	Restricted	1	60.9	6	<b>Steven Kemp (StevenK), Glen Chick (GlenC)</b>
		2	58.11	7	David Cumming (DavidCum), Mike Morrissey
		3	56.32	9	Steven Kemp (StevenK), David Cumming
	Novice	1	60.12	6	<b>David Owens (DavidO), Kerryn Peary (KerrynP)</b>
		2	55.94	9	Bob Laing (BobLa), Lee Furness (LeeF)
		3	55.92	7	Stella Jansen (StellaJa), Zhan Wan (ZhanW)
	Open IMPs	1	25	6	<b>Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren</b>
	2	4	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander	
	3	-3	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)	

As an incentive for the player / pair who has most sessions in the month and the most improved player / pair in the month, a prize will be awarded to the person / pair that comes first in each category. The prize is 100 participation points per player. The players who have received the prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2025</i>	Overall			<b>80</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				75	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				60	Mary Hinves (MaryH)
	Open			<b>71</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				56	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
				55	Robert Fulcher (RobertF)
	Restricted			<b>30</b>	<b>Rhonda Henry (Rhonda)</b>
				23	Ina Buhse (InaBuhse)
				23	Mike McGlone (MikeMcG)
	Novice			<b>33</b>	<b>Ann Rinder (AnnRin)</b>
				28	Mary Hinves (MaryH)
				23	Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Sandi Pirozzo (SandiPir)</b>
				<b>9</b>	<b>Brenda McClean (Brenda)</b>
	Open			<b>27</b>	<b>Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)</b>
	Individual			<b>27</b>	<b>Elsie Chua (ElsieC)</b>
				23	John Friesen (JohnFri)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in January 2025</i>	Overall			<b>23</b>	<b>Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)</b>
				22	Graham Boast (GrahamBr), Kath Boast (KathBr)
				21	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)
	Open			<b>23</b>	<b>Gillian Buganey (GillBu), Gayle Keenan (GayleK)</b>
				21	Beryl Morris (BerylM), Celia McKew (CeliaMcK)
				18	Carmel Martin (CarmelMa), Abigail Wanigaratne (AbbyW)
	Restricted			<b>18</b>	<b>Rhonda Henry (Rhonda), Peter Thorpe (PeterTh)</b>
				14	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)
				11	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Margaret Portess (MargPo)
	Novice			<b>22</b>	<b>Graham Boast (GrahamBr), Kath Boast (KathBr)</b>
				14	John Adams (John), Merran Adams (MerranA)
				14	Jeanette Pecenicic (JeanettP), Jane Rooney (JaneRoo)
	Open IMPs			<b>9</b>	<b>Eugene McClorey (EugeneM), Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)</b>
				6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)
				6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in January 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Alex Wu (AlexW)</b>
		2	9.44	6	David Owens (DavidO)
		3	8.88	7	Penny Mullumby (PennyM)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Rex Livingston (RexLiv)</b>
		2	6.56	11	Ada Sun (AdaS)
		3	4.8	7	Ken Smith (KenSmith)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Peter Webb (PeterWeb)</b>
		2	4.43	10	Anne Downes (AnneDow)
		3	4.42	10	Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>8.88</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Penny Mullumby (PennyM)</b>
		2	7.85	7	Corinne Craggs (Corinne)
		3	5.75	14	Jennifer Bissett (JenniBi)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Margaret Dyer (MargDy)</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Brenda McClean (Brenda)</b>
		3	0.13	8	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Helen Thomas (HelenT)</b>	
Individual	2	4.57	14	Merrill Lance (Merrill)	
	3	4.56	12	Gail Cowen (GailCo)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in January 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>8.64</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Penny Mullumby (PennyM), Jane Boland (JaneBo)</b>
		2	5.18	8	Matt Sun (MattS), Ada Sun (AdaS)
		3	4.37	7	Judy Havas (JudyHa), Ken Smith (KenSmith)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Matt Sun (MattS), Ada Sun (AdaS)</b>
		2	4.37	7	Judy Havas (JudyHa), Ken Smith (KenSmith)
		3	4.21	6	Linda Picone (LindaPi), Maria Mactaggart (MariaMac)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Colin Morrison (ColMor), Nick Armitage (NickA)</b>
		2	3.74	7	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
		3	3.3	8	Terry Buckett (TerryBuc), Carole O'Connor (CaroleO)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>8.64</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Penny Mullumby (PennyM), Jane Boland (JaneBo)</b>
		2	4.13	6	John Duckitt (JohnDuc), Inez Pinto (InezP)
		3	4.03	12	Jennifer Bissett (JenniBi), Neil McMaster (NeilMc)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Margaret Dyer (MargDy), Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)</b>
	2	0.01	6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)	

## Monthly Awards: February 2025

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Highest Player Average in February 2025</i>	Overall	1	58.61	10	<b>David Cumming (DavidCum)</b>
		2	58.12	6	Sa Smith (SaSmith)
		3	57.38	6	Michelle Hill (MichellH)
	Open	1	57.97	7	<b>Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)</b>
		2	56.83	10	Barry Dalsto (BarryD)
		3	56.57	22	Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
	Restricted	1	58.82	7	<b>Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)</b>
		2	58.61	10	David Cumming (DavidCum)
		3	58.12	6	Sa Smith (SaSmith)
	Novice	1	57.43	10	<b>Zhan Wan (ZhanW)</b>
		2	57.3	10	Robert Ford (RobertFo)
		3	55.85	6	Danny Rhodes (DannyRh)
	Open IMPs	1	20	6	<b>Hans Van Weeren (HansVanW)</b>
		2	17	8	Rez Karim (MeemKar)
		3	15	6	Margaret Dyer (MargDy)
Open	1	57.67	8	<b>Peter Karol (PeterK)</b>	
Individual	2	55.79	6	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)	
	3	54.07	9	John Friesen (JohnFri)	
<i>Highest Pairs Average in February 2025</i>	Overall	1	60.65	6	<b>Steven Kemp (StevenK), David Cumming</b>
		2	58.44	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Lucy D'Ambrosio
		3	57.38	6	Michelle Hill (MichellH), Keith Hill (KeithH)
	Open	1	56.1	6	<b>Krystyna Homik (Krystyna), Frank Hymus</b>
		2	55.98	9	Dianne Dwyer (DianneD), Mardi Grosvenor (Mardi)
		3	55.86	8	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Bev Daniel (BevD)
	Restricted	1	60.65	6	<b>Steven Kemp (StevenK), David Cumming</b>
		2	58.44	6	David Hancock (DavidHan), Lucy D'Ambrosio
		3	56.77	12	Jian Williams (JianW), Glen Chick (GlenC)
	Novice	1	56.5	7	<b>Dianne Holst (DianneHo), Robert Ford (RobertFo)</b>
		2	55.54	7	David Suttie (DavidSu), Margot Woodward (Margot)
		3	55.1	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole
	Open IMPs	1	9	6	<b>Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)</b>
		2	4	7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander
		3	-3	6	Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)

As an incentive for the player / pair who has most sessions in the month and the most improved player / pair in the month, a prize will be awarded to the person / pair that comes first in each category. The prize is 100 participation points per player. The players who have received the prizes are marked in red text below. Congratulations!

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Player Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in February 2025</i>	Overall			<b>70</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				59	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
				55	Dianne Dwyer (Dianned)
	Open			<b>62</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				46	Wendy Harris (WendyH)
				43	Mal Clark (MalCl)
	Restricted			<b>23</b>	<b>David Hancock (DavidHan)</b>
				22	Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo)
				22	Rhonda Henry (Rhonda)
	Novice			<b>22</b>	<b>Helen Thomas (HelenT)</b>
				20	Ann Rinder (AnnRin)
				17	Phil Rinder (PhilRin)
	Open IMPs			<b>8</b>	<b>Elizabeth McNeill (ElizaMc)</b>
				<b>8</b>	<b>Brenda McClean (Brenda)</b>
				<b>8</b>	<b>Rez Karim (MeemKar)</b>
	Open			<b>21</b>	<b>Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai)</b>
	Individual			20	Elsie Chua (ElsieC)
				16	Dot Slattery (DotS)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Pair Who Has Played the Most Tournaments in February 2025</i>	Overall			<b>40</b>	<b>Mal Clark (MalCI), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)</b>
				28	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				22	Kerri Grant (KerriG), Wendy Dodd (WendyDod)
	Open			<b>34</b>	<b>Mal Clark (MalCI), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)</b>
				28	Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC), Marieta Borthwick (MarietaB)
				17	Patricia Mannerstrale (PatMann), Leif Mannerstrale (LeifM)
	Restricted			<b>16</b>	<b>Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), Terry Herfort (TerryHer)</b>
				12	Jian Williams (JianW), Glen Chick (GlenC)
				11	Dave Bright (DaveB), Lorna Bright (LornaB)
	Novice			<b>12</b>	<b>John Adams (John), Merran Adams (MerranA)</b>
				<b>12</b>	<b>Ann Rinder (AnnRin), Phil Rinder (PhilRin)</b>
				8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs			<b>7</b>	<b>Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)</b>
				6	Mal Clark (MalCI), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
				6	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)

Award	Class	Rank	Score	Tourn	Players
<i>Most Improved Player in February 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>7.04</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Corinne Craggs (Corinne)</b>
		2	5.99	7	Margot Woodward (Margot)
		3	5.96	6	Danny Rhodes (DannyRh)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>James Willetts (JamesWi)</b>
		2	4.7	6	Brenda McClean (Brenda)
		3	4.31	7	Deana Wilson (DeanaWil)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>6.59</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Sue Mittermair (SueMit)</b>
		2	6.53	7	Lucy D'Ambrosio (LucyD)
		3	4.59	11	Shirley Reddin (ShirleyR)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>7.04</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Corinne Craggs (Corinne)</b>
		2	6.08	7	Margot Woodward (Margot)
		3	5.35	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Brenda McClean (Brenda)</b>
		2	0.14	8	Laraine Dolan (LaraineD)
		3	0.12	6	Tony Carsley (TonyCar)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Jen Ahern (JenniA)</b>
Individual	2	4.54	8	Peter Karol (PeterK)	
	3	3.32	10	Sue Thomas (SueT)	
<i>Most Improved Pair in February 2025</i>	Overall	<b>1</b>	<b>6.02</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>David Suttie (DavidSu), Margot Woodward (Margot)</b>
		2	5.79	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
		3	4.9	8	Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Bev Daniel (BevD)
	Open	<b>1</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Michele Tredinnick (Michele), Bev Daniel (BevD)</b>
		2	4.37	10	Christopher Raisin (ChrisRai), Gary Goldsmith (GarGolds)
		3	3.83	6	Wendy Harris (WendyH), Matthew Geeve (MatthewG)
	Restricted	<b>1</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Derek Colenbrander (DerekCo), David Alexander (DavidAl)</b>
		2	3.18	8	Paul Nitschmann (PaulN), Annie Sinclair (AnnSincl)
		3	2.46	6	Steven Kemp (StevenK), David Cumming (DavidCum)
	Novice	<b>1</b>	<b>6.11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>David Suttie (DavidSu), Margot Woodward (Margot)</b>
		2	5.35	8	Stephen Tjiantoro (StephenT), Marinus Kole (Marinus)
	Open IMPs	<b>1</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Mal Clark (MalCl), Tony Carsley (TonyCar)</b>
	2	0.02	7	Annegrete Kolding (AnneK), Heidi Colenbrander (HeidiC)	



# Masterpoint Promotions

## January & February 2025

Wilson, Deana	Silver Grand	Berry, Trish	Silver National
Jenkins, Joan	Grand	Cumming, David	Silver National
Lohmann, Adrian	Grand	McClintock, Diane	Silver National
Spilsbury, Marcey	Grand	Barns, Kerry	Bronze National
Halloran, Phil	Gold Life	Charters, Joscelyn	Bronze National
Labuschagne, Manda	Gold Life	Chick, Glen	Bronze National
Rogers, John	Gold Life	Coffey, Lance	Bronze National
Seymour, Carolyn	Gold Life	Hamam, Chris	Bronze National
TOUTON, Ryan	Gold Life	Hesketh, Tina	Bronze National
Chotai, Ashok	Silver Life	Heyward, Libby	Bronze National
Cutcliffe, Tamara	Silver Life	Hilton, Sandra	Bronze National
Filmer Ramsay, Clare	Silver Life	Hubbard, Tammy	Bronze National
Hocking, Cathy	Silver Life	Mahony, Margaret	Bronze National
Houlton, Philip	Silver Life	Morgan, Lauren	Bronze National
Kanetkar, Lalita	Silver Life	Munro, Peter	Bronze National
Males, Kathy	Silver Life	Skeate, Jasmine	Bronze National
Neville, Loraine	Silver Life	Vazirzadeh, Jamshid	Bronze National
Page, Charles	Silver Life	White, Bronnwyn	Bronze National
Rayani, Jamal	Silver Life	Berry, Ann	National
Williams, Barry	Silver Life	Caldwell, Julia	National
Gillies, Nerida	Bronze Life	Czarnocki, Edward	National
Han, Paul	Bronze Life	Gammal, Carmel	National
Luke-Paredi, Jack	Bronze Life	Kent, Jay	National
Macdonald, Kate	Bronze Life	Moller, Erik	National
McCombie, Gail	Bronze Life	Morrison, Colin	National
Savage, Julie	Bronze Life	Onstein, Ludo	National
Vickers, Jennifer	Bronze Life	Phillips, Carl	National
Wright, Seb	Bronze Life	Plant, Gordon	National
Wu, Martin	Bronze Life	Veling, Jeff	National
Flicker, Damon	Life	Willetts, Jim	National
Goss, Alex	Life	Brake, Roger	Bronze State
Leung, Ben	Life	Cusack, Margaret	Bronze State
Lyons, Peter	Life	Lennox, Jane	Bronze State
Schmidt, Peter	Life	Mactaggart, Maria	Bronze State
Shadbolt, Sue	Life	McCoull, Erica	Bronze State
Van Vugt, Elizabeth	Life	Morgan-Pertus, Thais	Bronze State



**Congratulations!**

## Masterpoint Promotions

### January 2025 and February 2025

Quinlivan, Jo	Bronze State	Harris, Lee	Silver Local
Shotter, Annie	Bronze State	Johnson, Jill	Silver Local
Smith, Moira	Bronze State	Kirby, Julie	Silver Local
Thorpe, Peter	Bronze State	Leaver, Marion	Silver Local
Wan, Zhan	Bronze State	Seto, Lesley	Silver Local
Wells, Robyn	Bronze State	Sevil, Edette	Silver Local
Brown, Jude	State	Woodward, Duncan	Silver Local
Carsley, Tony	State	Boast, Kath	Bronze Local
Christy, Trish	State	Clarke, Jenny	Bronze Local
Cotton, Peter	State	Dayman, Mike	Bronze Local
Day, Joie	State	Hollingsworth, Christine	Bronze Local
Goss, Peter	State	Michael, Sally	Bronze Local
Kestenberg, Alan	State	Mitchell, Adele	Bronze Local
King, Graeme	State	Mitchell, Jane	Bronze Local
Langdon Macmillan, Tom	State	Mulligan, Janet	Bronze Local
Lemarchand, John	State	O'Brien, George	Bronze Local
Pemberton, Mike	State	Williams, Maree	Bronze Local
Rae, Sue	State	Baker, Andrew	Local
Shilling, Penelope	State	Bracewell, Amanda	Local
Stanmore, Peter	State	Greenbaum, Marc	Local
Stevens, Ryan	State	Howden, Brian	Local
Stevenson, Anne-marie	State	Koschade, Sue	Local
Williams, Jenny L	State	Langford, Emma	Local
Zhu, Michael	State	Mullumby, Penny	Local
Jacobs, Nan	Bronze Regional	O'Shea, John	Local
Clastres, Nada	Regional	Pinto, Inez	Local
Emmett, Susan	Regional	Rooney, Jane	Local
Evans, Lisa	Regional	Simojoki, David	Local
Kowalczyk, Magdalena	Regional	Kolbe, Cheryl	Club
McKay, Murray	Regional	Langdon Macmillan, Molly	Club
Murphy, Carmel	Regional	Prowse, Lyn	Club
Armenis, Theo	Silver Local	Sun, Ada	Club
Bissett, Jennifer	Silver Local	Zhang, Qian	Club
Bradwyn, Julie-Ann	Silver Local	Alderman, Richard	Graduate
Caldwell, Keith	Silver Local	Woodward, Margot	Graduate
Goss, Samuel	Silver Local		



**Congratulations!**

**StepBridge  
McCutcheon 2024  
Top 50**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>TOTAL MPs</b>	<b>2024 MPs</b>	<b>2024 RANK</b>
1	De Livera, Arjuna	Emerald Grand	11,598.53	422.63	3
2	Brahma, Gwyneira	Grand	2,194.46	331.5	15
3	Grosvenor, Mardi	Gold Life	1,278.34	309.94	23
4	Munro, Dave	Silver Grand	3,397.67	306.56	25
5	Free, Jonathan	Gold Grand	5,394.37	296.67	26
6	Wilson, Deana	Grand	2,484.48	272.66	31
7	Dwyer, Dianne	Silver Life	1,012.31	269.53	33
8	Van Weeren, Hans	Grand	1,543.31	258.67	36
9	Karim, Rez	Grand	1,625.54	252.13	37
10	Bartley, George	Silver Life	545.53	219.89	49
11	Zhao, Kimberley	Grand	1,210.23	217.66	52
12	Theriault, Joann	Life	312.49	210.68	56
13	McNeill, Elizabeth	Grand	2,769.02	202.41	63
14	Bodycote, Terry	Grand	2,433.82	201.07	64
15	Maltby, Florence	Grand	2,276.68	198.4	66
16	Tredinnick, Michele	Grand	2,132.69	193.42	72
17	Macdonald, Kate	Life	374.39	192.71	73
18	Langdon, Rachel	Grand	1,061.89	188.94	78
19	Moore, Nikolas	Grand	2,427.21	186.17	83
20	Wanigaratne, Abby	Grand	1,200.21	181.86	88
21	Van Vucht, Niek	Silver Grand	3,472.50	180.88	89
22	Cathcart, Sachiko	Life	433.82	178.97	93
23	Steer, Stella	Grand	2,289.73	177.52	95
24	Lynn, Gary	Silver Grand	2,896.97	175.16	98
25	Dey, Mrinal	Grand	1,840.14	173.78	100
26	Sheedy, Tex	Grand	2,106.87	173.38	101
27	Moses, Larry	Silver Grand	4,052.18	173.12	103
28	Davis, Tim	Silver Grand	3,612.30	171.68	107
29	Bugeia, Noel	Grand	2,400.10	170.46	109
30	Fox, Richard	Grand	2,148.83	169.64	110
31	Hyland, Annette	Grand	1,666.40	168.83	112
32	Smith, Lori	Grand	1,312.51	168.7	114
33	Coats, Di	Grand	2,271.21	168.18	115
34	Cransberg, Alan	Gold Life	890.07	164.92	119
35	Luke-Paredi, Jack	Life	353.83	159.3	125
36	Hymus, Frank	Grand	1,963.40	158.19	129
37	Kazi, Ziauddin	Grand	1,279.25	155.77	135
38	Martin, Carmel	Grand	1,957.35	153.89	138
39	Bapty, Phil	Silver Life	896.96	153.25	139
40	Andrew, Jake	Silver Life	651.9	150.66	141
41	Clarke, Jan	Grand	1,684.54	147.61	148
42	Wright, Seb	Life	390.15	144.01	151
43	Dawson, Ken	Silver Grand	3,309.98	143.84	152
44	Chick, Glen	National	255.86	141.27	158
45	Beattie, Pat	Grand	1,553.48	139.8	160
46	Cook, Alexander	Grand	1,252.91	139.22	161
47	Kumar, Rakesh	Grand	2,308.74	137.07	165
48	Reid, Jeremy	Bronze National	236.5	134.78	170
49	Pereira, Eugene	Gold Life	759.81	133.78	173
50	Goss, Alex	Bronze National	237.85	132.07	0

**StepBridge  
McCutcheon 2024  
Most Improved**

NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2024 MPs	2024 IMPROVEMENT
Theriault, Joann	Life	312.49	210.68	5,108
D'Ambrosio, Lucy	Bronze State	127.5	100.9	4,435
Macdonald, Kate	Life	374.39	192.71	4,062
Reid, Jeremy	Bronze National	236.5	134.78	4,005
Chick, Glen	National	255.86	141.27	3,970
Goss, Alex	Bronze National	237.85	132.07	3,909
Ross, Zac	National	152.13	96.82	3,840
Morgan, Lauren	National	176.53	100.25	3,625
Luke-Paredi, Jack	Life	353.83	159.3	3,510
Cusack, Margaret	State	99.48	68.94	3,456
Bartley, George	Silver Life	545.53	219.89	3,406
Cathcart, Sachiko	Life	433.82	178.97	3,353
Moller, Erik	Bronze State	157.25	85.65	3,329
Wan, Zhan	Regional	73.83	57.66	3,317
Ellice-Flint, Edward	Regional	55.27	46.93	3,022
Wright, Seb	Life	390.15	144.01	2,938
McCoull, Erica	State	93.17	56.64	2,932
Arnott, Toni	Bronze State	141.75	68.57	2,836
Hughes, Kevin F.	Bronze State	100.61	55.66	2,775
Holst, Dianne	Regional	73.06	48.01	2,774
Redin, Sebastian	Silver Local	37.8	37.8	2,743
Antropov, Vladimir	Regional	54.45	42.25	2,736
Skeate, Jasmine	National	198.16	81.21	2,724
Kemp, Steven	National	259.54	97.42	2,710
Ford, Robert	Regional	58.68	42.15	2,656
Jansen, Stella	State	68.66	44.67	2,649
Tissera, Simon	Life	329.15	113.02	2,634
Morrissey, Mike	Bronze National	233.89	87.82	2,630
Malthouse, Ronnie	State	90.31	49.07	2,578
Goss, Samuel	Bronze Local	34.45	34.45	2,562
Dayman, Andrea	State	113.78	53.96	2,524
Pietraszkiewicz, Vic	State	84.17	45.93	2,494
Hesketh, Tina	National	266.09	90.52	2,473
Lenahan, Joan	Regional	69.01	41.71	2,468
Low, Gek	State	114.37	52.72	2,459
Gissing, Joyanne	Bronze National	211.91	76.62	2,456
Armenis, Theo	Bronze Local	32.4	32.4	2,447
Dwyer, Dianne	Silver Life	1,012.31	269.53	2,423
McCabe, Eamonn	Bronze National	278.6	90.93	2,402
Jegatheesan, Raman	Life	433.38	125.67	2,356
Koh, Yulia	National	172.32	63.97	2,349
Morin, Angelique	State	74.41	40.91	2,346
Fredheim, Paul	State	101.15	46.94	2,334
Jones, Annmaree	Regional	70.46	39.56	2,321
Evans, Lisa	Silver Local	42.74	33.12	2,320
Mittermair, Sue	Bronze State	111.36	48.74	2,306
Cumming, David	Bronze National	293.8	90.17	2,290
Dwan, Carmel	National	190.71	66.12	2,274
Brake, Roger	State	86.63	42.32	2,268
Wu, Martin	Life	358.71	103.78	2,262

**StepBridge  
McCutcheon 2024  
Top 50 All Time**

	NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2024 MPs	2024 RANK
1	De Livera, Arjuna	Emerald Grand	11,598.53	422.63	3
2	Collins, Shirley	Gold Grand	5,905.14	60.32	790
3	Dutton, Nigel	Gold Grand	5,620.31	127.89	193
4	Ridgway, Gary	Gold Grand	5,540.47	59.55	804
5	Free, Jonathan	Gold Grand	5,394.37	296.67	26
6	Robbins, Arthur	Silver Grand	4,972.68	78.93	474
7	Marshall, Annette	Silver Grand	4,475.67	70.08	608
8	Brown, Janet	Silver Grand	4,462.33	63.39	731
9	Belonogoff, Cynthia	Silver Grand	4,135.79	110.26	256
10	Milward, Helen	Silver Grand	4,125.15	64.41	711
11	Moses, Larry	Silver Grand	4,052.18	173.12	103
12	Blight, Jan	Silver Grand	3,946.59	57.12	854
13	Samuel, Eva	Silver Grand	3,697.20	101.4	306
14	Davis, Tim	Silver Grand	3,612.30	171.68	107
15	Mangos, Theo	Silver Grand	3,585.52	113.27	240
16	Clarke, Sally	Silver Grand	3,567.44	110.62	252
17	Van Vucht, Niek	Silver Grand	3,472.50	180.88	89
18	Bailey, John	Silver Grand	3,399.74	0	0
19	Munro, Dave	Silver Grand	3,397.67	306.56	25
20	Krishan, Bal	Silver Grand	3,367.45	74.64	543
21	Afflick, Ian	Silver Grand	3,336.04	101.25	308
22	Dawson, Ken	Silver Grand	3,309.98	143.84	152
23	Gurfinkiel, Michael	Silver Grand	3,239.10	46.95	1,143
24	Williams, Chris	Silver Grand	3,062.65	106.91	269
25	Lynn, Gary	Silver Grand	2,896.97	175.16	98
26	Price, Ian	Silver Grand	2,870.99	100.66	313
27	Gariepy, Tania	Silver Grand	2,828.39	23.1	2,853
28	Clarke, Ann	Silver Grand	2,797.70	52.38	953
29	Small, Anne	Silver Grand	2,777.44	80.03	464
30	McNeill, Elizabeth	Grand	2,769.02	202.41	63
31	Tant, Kevin	Grand	2,595.46	95.05	340
32	Futaesaku, Shizue	Silver Grand	2,593.98	19.78	3,427
33	Johnson, Michael	Silver Grand	2,577.89	17.88	3,866
34	Dyer, Margaret	Grand	2,539.08	109.48	259
35	Maclaurin, Normand	Silver Grand	2,502.53	24.32	2,680
36	Wilson, Deana	Grand	2,484.48	272.66	31
37	McNamara, Patricia	Grand	2,479.75	25.44	2,528
38	Burica, Neven	Grand	2,473.38	76.71	507
39	Livingston, Rex	Grand	2,441.45	38.66	1,503
40	Bodycote, Terry	Grand	2,433.82	201.07	64
41	Moore, Nikolas	Grand	2,427.21	186.17	83
42	Warren, Fiske	Grand	2,424.19	44.69	1,240
43	Bugeia, Noel	Grand	2,400.10	170.46	109
44	Gibbs, Margaret	Grand	2,326.26	72.76	570
45	Kumar, Rakesh	Grand	2,308.74	137.07	165
46	Steer, Stella	Grand	2,289.73	177.52	95
47	Maltby, Florence	Grand	2,276.68	198.4	66
48	Hadaway, Christine	Grand	2,275.81	61.36	766
49	Coats, Di	Grand	2,271.21	168.18	115
50	Van Abbe, Quentin	Grand	2,264.21	42.9	1,313

## A Chat with Cass

On my first journey in the tournament world, my partner Clare Filmer-Ramsay [ClareFR] and I found ourselves on table 1 in the Penline 500 section back when Canberra was held at the QT. It was 2017.

Clare and I had just learned Reverse Bergen a few weeks earlier (note to self: don't change the system right before going to your first major tournament!). So there we were on table one North-South for the last round. I opened 1S, west bid 2C and Clare bid 3D. I didn't alert it (brain fart). No one asked me what it meant (if they had, maybe I'd have clued in but alas, they didn't). Bidding came around to me and I thought, "she doesn't like my spades and she has lots of diamonds. I have 2 diamonds, so I'll just let her play in 3D" and I passed. Clare has a poker face usually and this time was no different until west passed and east led. Now I get a look from Clare that seriously would have sent shivers down the spine of the most hardened criminal!

Still I didn't have any idea it was Reverse Bergen. We went down 3 for a -4 score. This didn't cost us the match but it shook my confidence enough that it affected the rest of the boards and we lost that match by -23. It was the only match we lost. We came second. Lessons learned? You betcha!

I recognise Reverse Bergen now! I'm trying to let bad boards float away and focus on the next game. I now know one card played or not, one bid made or not ... these can cost you big time. I love the big congresses!

The thrill of being in the same room as all these fanatics, the thrill of being able to play a hand to the best of my ability, the thrill of winning a match, bettering your ranking, beating a higher ranked pair, talking bridge in the evenings ... these give me the drive to do it all again. For those of you who are curious as to what Bergen is, here is a brief description:

*After a major 1 level opening:*

### **With a 3 card fit:**

- A simple 1 level raise (1H-2H or 1S-2S) = a 3 card fit, 6-9 points and/or 9 losers (more often than not you will have both the points and loser count if you have one of them).
- Skipping the next level of the other major and bidding that other major (1H-2S or 1S-3H) = 'hey partner, I have 3 of your suit and 10-12 points and/or 8 losers' (again more often than not if you have one of them, you'll have both).

### **With a 4 or more fit:**

- 2NT = 4 card support and an opening/close to opening hand (with partnership agreement you could make this bid with a 3 card fit too. Agree with your partner if this also means you have no more than 6 losers too)
- 3C = 4+ card support and 6-9 points and/or 9 losers
- 3D = 4+ card support and 10-12 points and/or 8 losers
- 3H/3S = 4+ card fit and 6 or less points and/or 10 losers (with a fit, this is the weakest bid). Advantage is it blocks ops from finding their suit.
- 4H/4S = fit in suit and 7 losers and no interest in slam. If not vul against ops who are vul, you can have a lower point count as opposed to if the vulnerability is reversed.

Of course, this is by partnership agreement.

## A Chat with Cass cont.

One advantage of it is when you bid the other major (1S-3H or 1H-2S), the opposition can't find their fit in that other major and would be hard pressed to bid a minor at a higher level.

Another advantage is the opener knows from your one bid if they're going to game, part score or seek a slam.

As I write this, I am looking forward to flying up to the Gold Coast tomorrow night for the Congress there. I still remember being so intimidated the first time I went there and saw the sea of tables, so many I could even see the end of the room.

Maybe I'll write about a winning hand or two from this Congress next month, if you want to read about it.

If there are other questions you would like answers to, ask me. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

Until then though, it doesn't matter where you play, it matters THAT you play. My only goal as a director is that my players enjoyed their games.

*Cassandra Mitchell (CassMi)*

## Happy 80th Birthday Richard Lawrie (Ricky)

Ricky celebrated his 80th Birthday on 1st February 2025.

Ricky was a long standing member of our Committee and is a Past President of StepBridge Australia. Ricky, as Treasurer, was part of the small team that helped StepBridge grow and thrive as covid hit.

We wish Ricky good health and many games of Bridge, for years to come. All the best from your StepBridge family, Ricky.



## Partnership Platform

February! Of course, this means mid-Summer and the Gold Coast International Congress. Somewhat bittersweet as we were there to celebrate 65 years showcasing Bridge, whilst knowing that this would be our very last time playing cards, catching up with friends and sitting in on workshops. Players from all corners of Australia are hoping to see this Congress return in a new form - life won't be quite the same without Broadbeach.

Meantime, it was lovely to catch up with so many of the StepBridge family and to hear their stories. It was very heartening to meet new partnerships who had sprung from a match on Partners4Bridge, then played some trial games on StepBridge, took the plunge and came to Broadbeach. Textbook!

During the coming months you will meet some of the StepBridge family who came to the desk and introduced themselves. If you would like to be featured as Member of the Month (my hope is to feature each and every one of you) please email me at [ino@partners4bridge.com](mailto:ino@partners4bridge.com) and we'll start the process.

Also, if you are looking for a partner we can let the community know and try for a match. No more showing up in the Lobby five minutes before play – join Partners4Bridge and see if you can organise a game in advance.

StepBridge will have topped up your participation points by 100 (even for existing members) so your first couple of games will be on the house.

Remember, It's free to register and use the platform. Head to [www.partners4bridge.com](http://www.partners4bridge.com) or use the QR code.

Tell us a bit about yourself and sit back and see if we can find you a match. Use the platform to message each other and discuss system, availability, etc.

*Jay Novak (JayN)*



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On [partners4bridge.com](http://partners4bridge.com)



For feedback, enquiries and support,  
email us at  
[admin@partners4bridge.com](mailto:admin@partners4bridge.com)



## Partnership Platform - Meet the Member

Without further ado, it's time to meet **Barbara O'Shea**, our February/March Member of the Month.

Barb lives in Armidale and is a keen Congress player. In the last few months, I have met up with her in Sydney at The Spring Nationals, in Canberra for The Summer Festival of Bridge, and of course she was hardly likely to miss Gold Coast's Last Hurrah! Barbara joined StepBridge around 2022 and you'll recognise her as BarbO when you meet her at the table.

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

Barbara had been living in Sydney and returned to Armidale in 1991. Her mother played Bridge and Barbara now had time to develop her game. Like so many of us she became hooked.



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

Armidale is a very friendly Club and is situated on the inland Highway enroute to Brisbane. Why not have a stopover and call in? Local clubs love welcoming new members even if the visits are fleeting.

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

You'll have no problem finding advice and tips. Way more important is that when you find a complementary Partner, just enjoy the game. The cards won't always be kind but if the Partner is a good fit, treasure them.

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

I am a house plant tragic. I keep way too many cuttings, I've got a green thumb, and I may soon have to move out. But then, just like Bridge, I can't resist and keep coming back for more.



*Jeremy Reid (JeremyRe)*



*GCC Open Team Winners: Andy Hung, Matt Brown, Jessica Brake, Adam Kaplan & Shane Harrison*



Visit Adelaide for the  
**2025 Autumn Nationals**

**Thursday 1st May - Monday 5th May 2025**

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

**Gold Masterpoints awarded  
PQPs in Open and Mixed events**

**David Lusk Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs  
Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)  
Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)**

**Final only on Monday - no Consolation**

**Tournament Organiser:** Barbara Travis  
**Phone:** 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@sabf.asn.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF



## Funnies Column

Thank you Bev Cleary (BevClea), Dave Bright (DaveB) and Sarah Zoral (SarahAn) for this months funnies



**Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only #1, 3, & 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs!**



Please send your funnies through by emailing [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au) with "newsletter" in the subject line

## StepBridge Tournament Fees

Green Point Session: 50 Participation Points

Red Point Session: 75 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*)

7.50pm (Wednesday & Friday)

Novice: 3.50pm (Everyday)

7.50pm (Tuesday & Thursday)

## IMPs Sessions

Tuesday: 8.00pm Open

Thursday: 8.00pm Open

## Contributions to the Newsletter

All contributions, big or small, would be welcome to this newsletter.

- Do you have an interesting hand from a recent bridge session or congress?
- Can we interview you, so we can all get to know you better?
- Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share?
- Do you have any other information you wish to share?

Please email your contributions to [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au) with the subject title of the email being **Newsletter**.

## Facebook

Visit our StepBridge Australia Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/Stepbridge.com.au/](http://www.facebook.com/Stepbridge.com.au/)

## Upcoming Red Point Sessions

### March

*Saturday, 15 March*

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

*Sunday, 16 March*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted

*Monday, 17 March*

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

*Thursday, 20 March*

- 7:50pm Novice & 8pm Open

*Sunday, 23 March*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted

*Tuesday, 25 March*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Wednesday, 26 March*

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

*Sunday, 30 March*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted

### April

*Friday, 4 April*

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

*Sunday, 6 April*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted

*Monday, 7 April*

- 8:00pm Open Teams

*Thursday, 10 April*

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

*Sunday, 13 April*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted

*Monday, 14 April*

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

*Saturday, 19 April*

- 10:00am Open Individual

*Sunday, 20 April*

- 2:30pm Open & Restricted