



# THE LINKS BRIDGE CLUB

## Year End Newsletter

### Chairman's Report 2025

2025 has been solid for The Links.

The Links has been relatively successful in reviving F2F bridge. Although not in the numbers we would like, we are happy that we are up in the top echelon of post covid successes.

This success could not have been achieved without assistance, and it is our people who create our prosperity, and who must be acknowledged for our achievements:-

The solid rocks who keep our club well anchored. My co committee members, Lex van Vught, Val Bloom and Rob Stephens.

Our Thursday Bridge supervisors, Neville, Bernard, Rob, Val, Tas, Diana, James and others who come to assist – your value is priceless and irreplaceable.

Joan, Richard and Johannes who do so much in the background.

Thanks to Nicky and Grant for assisting with scoring on a Saturday and doing a whole lot more administrative tasks when called upon.

To Lotte. A precious gem whose talents extend way beyond making cakes. Anything required at any given time Lotte will be there to help without hesitation.

Bernard Donde has thrown himself into becoming a very fine tournament director and in all aspects of administration. His contributions to our club are enormous.

And, once again, thanks to the club's biggest treasure:

Rob, there really are not enough words for you.

Your continued contributions and innovations are just so much bigger than you. Knowing what you do behind the scenes as well, makes your accomplishments even more staggering. Rob manages to keep this club running at such a high standard, and nothing is too much trouble for him. He goes above and beyond, never disappointing, and somehow always seems to take it in his stride. Walking ladies to their cars under an umbrella in the pouring rain is a small thing, but indicative of the extent you will go to. Rob and The Links are synonymous.

Of course, our club could not exist without the people to fill it, and so to you, our loyal members, thank you for your continued support.

I wish everyone a safe and blessed festive season with your loved ones, and look forward to seeing you all in 2026 for lots of enjoyable bridge.

We hope that next year will build on the success we have managed to achieve this year.

With thanks,

*Peta Feinstein*

Chairman

### The Links Committee



Peta Feinstein



Lex van Vught



Val Bloom



Rob Stephens



## Merle Modlin: Online Player of the Year?

Merle Modlin has long been one of South Africa's top woman players for decades, forming one of the best partnerships with Petra Mansell more than 30 years ago, and representing the South African Women's team more than 10 times. Since Covid, Merle had played the vast majority of her bridge online, through the BBO Platform. Easily the player who has played the most Links Tournaments in the past 5 years, Merle has already played close to 300 sessions this year alone. Playing so many hands in a year must surely have some effect on overall results, and this year was clearly indicative of that. Merle has wrapped up several big tournament wins in the past couple months with various partners, to end the year on a high, including the following:



GBU Red Point Pairs (F2F @ The Links) – 1<sup>st</sup> with Ghita Sandler

Outeniqua Open Teams Online @ RealBridge) – 1<sup>st</sup> with Peter Ward (with Andre van Niekerk & Rose Duff)

SAWBA Teams (Online @ RealBridge) – 1<sup>st</sup> with Vanessa Armstrong (with Tas Nestoridis & Lotte Sorensen)

SAWBA Pairs (Online @ RealBridge) – 1<sup>st</sup> with Ghita Sandler

Merle is also streaks ahead in The Links' BBO Masterpoint Race for 2025, with over 140 masterpoints, almost 40 clear of Neville Eber.

**Congratulations Merle on a wonderfully successful 2025!**



## 2026 Membership and Playing Fees.

Most people will understand how much general prices of everything have increased since Covid.

The Links has not been immune to these increases, with so many unseen expenses occurring week to week, the club has also invested a lot to not just maintain the premises but enhance it as well. Sadly, the club cannot be compared to many smaller clubs around the country, who have vastly different expense structures and many volunteer positions which would naturally create cost cutting.

With the general attendance figures still less than 50% from pre-Covid levels, the revenue from The Links' BBO Tournaments continue to subsidise a large part of the physical club's activities.

As such, the cost of the online tournaments will rise to around R60/player. As the actual cost is dependent on exchange rates with the US\$, this figure will fluctuate throughout the year.

Thank you to all the players who continue to support The Links through these BBO tournaments!

Membership and F2F playing fees for 2026 are listed on the next page.



# 2026 Membership & Playing Fees



Membership for 2026:

SABF (R250), GBU (R50) & The Links  
(R200), **Total = R500**

Playing Fees:

**Cash: R120/player/session**



Voucher Discounts during 2026:

**R1000 / 10 Playing Vouchers**



End of Year 2025 Bundle (to be paid by 31  
December):

**All subs for 2026 + 10 Playing Vouchers for  
R1400 (Save R300)**



Payment may be made by EFT into the  
following account:

Bridge SA The Links  
Bank: Nedbank  
Account #: 1756009600  
Account type: Current account  
Branch code: 198765  
Reference: Vouchers + name/sabf#





# The Links BBO Teams League

Wednesday nights on BBO have become part of many players' regular playing schedules, with each edition of The Links' Teams League taking place over 5 weeks at a time. Play is competitive yet friendly, and a great opportunity to play against different teams throughout the country. 6 Editions took place in 2025, with the following teams winning:

## 30th Edition:

Val Bloom - Neville Eber - Kevin Smith - Chris Castelein

## 31st Edition:

### A Section:

Maureen Narunsky - Rob Sulcus - Gail Gersowsky - Selwyn Gersowsky -  
Michael Alexander - Michele Alexander

### B Section:

Peta Balderson - Jennifer Gautschi - Renee Kenny - Jenny Foaden - Kit  
Gilmour - Lotte Sorensen - Maureen Holroyd

### C Section:

Nathan Herscovitz - Myron Elias - Alon Atie - Shaun Danin - Daphne Ryder  
- George Raymer

## 32nd Edition:

### A Section:

Val Bloom - Neville Eber - Kevin Smith - Chris Castelein

### B Section:

Imtiaz Kaprey - Zela Stern - John Bryant - Sue Botha - Lorraine Weers -  
Duncan Keet

## 33rd Edition:

### A Section:

Brian Pincus - Diniar Minwalla - Craig Gower - Alon Apteker -  
Omphemetse Moedi - Di Rosslee

### B Section:

Bev Hewitt - Trish Crosse - Lex van Vught - Sam Trocki - Tanya Rawson -  
Janne Masojada

## 34th Edition:

### A Section:

Val Bloom - Neville Eber - Kevin Smith - Chris Castelein - Hennie Fick

### B Section:

Avril Kotzen - Peta Feinstein - Stephen Dietrich - Rob Solomon - Duncan  
Craggs

## 35th Edition:

### A Section:

Val Bloom - Neville Eber - Kevin Smith - Chris Castelein - Hennie Fick

### B Section:

David Beinart - Glen Holman - Dawn Palmer - Glynis Dornon

If you're interested in entering a team in 2026, please contact Rob Stephens. We'd love to host more teams and have a 3<sup>rd</sup> section more frequently. Entry fee has remained unchanged since Covid at R500/team (R25/player/night).





## Sunday F2F Teams 2025

The Links hosted its first F2F Teams event since Covid with 8 teams entering and playing over 7 Sundays throughout the year. The standard was varied, but all agreed it was a pleasant event, especially with Lotte catering each match.

Some teams struggled to field a lineup each match, which made organising the event a bit harder. The committee has decided it may be best to host pairs events every couple of months in 2026, however we will put feelers out for a possible continuation of this teams. If 10 teams show interest in playing, we will consider starting a new competition in early February.

Visit <https://www.bridgewebs.com/links/> for 2025 results.



### Interesting Stats:

**2756** Face-to-face tables hosted at The Links in 2025.

Over **5600** tables hosted at The Links on BBO in 2025.

Approximately **15786** Boards Dealt for face-to-face sessions at The Links in 2025.



# The Links' 2025 Averages by Club

## Saturday Afternoon F2F Pairs - Averages 2025 (minimum 6 events played)

Pos.	Player	Played	Average	Top 3 Scores			Worst 3 Scores		
1	Val Bloom	19	60.11%	73.51%	67.92%	66.67%	55.00%	54.58%	54.46%
2	Neville Eber	19	59.84%	73.51%	67.92%	66.67%	54.58%	54.46%	52.68%
3	Di Rosslee	29	59.81%	69.64%	68.75%	68.75%	52.38%	51.19%	49.58%
4	Craig Gower	34	58.52%	68.75%	68.75%	67.56%	50.30%	49.58%	45.42%
5	Greg Hingle	10	58.24%	69.64%	64.29%	63.99%	55.06%	46.73%	46.73%
6	Lotte Sorensen	30	56.34%	65.83%	64.88%	64.58%	49.40%	48.51%	48.51%
7	Tas Nestoridis	25	55.68%	65.83%	64.88%	64.58%	48.51%	44.58%	44.05%
8=	Alan Lewis	23	55.09%	70.00%	63.10%	62.50%	49.70%	47.92%	46.13%
8=	Jenni Lewis	23	55.09%	70.00%	63.10%	62.50%	49.70%	47.92%	46.13%
10	Peta Feinstein	25	54.57%	66.67%	63.39%	63.10%	45.24%	44.94%	44.64%

## Wednesday Afternoon F2F Pairs - Averages 2025 (minimum 6 events played)

Pos.	Player	Played	Average	Top 3 Scores			Worst 3 Scores		
1	Rob Stephens	15	62.80%	72.62%	72.05%	67.01%	55.65%	53.57%	49.38%
2	Lotte Sorensen	15	62.72%	72.62%	72.05%	67.01%	55.65%	52.38%	49.38%
3	Craig Gower	33	56.98%	70.54%	66.10%	64.58%	48.81%	46.13%	45.24%
4	Lauren Dove	7	56.84%	67.56%	65.31%	58.14%	53.87%	51.19%	47.62%
5	Karen Rothbart	8	56.76%	67.56%	65.31%	58.14%	53.87%	51.19%	47.62%
6	Alan Lewis	18	56.71%	63.39%	63.10%	61.01%	52.08%	51.79%	49.11%
6	Jenni Lewis	18	56.71%	63.39%	63.10%	61.01%	52.08%	51.79%	49.11%
8	Joel Harris	34	56.52%	69.05%	66.07%	66.07%	47.28%	46.26%	42.80%
9	Kay Rahn	36	56.42%	70.54%	66.10%	64.58%	48.21%	46.13%	45.24%
10	Entha Zagnoev	45	55.91%	70.45%	69.35%	68.45%	44.35%	42.26%	41.67%
10	Barney Zagnoev	45	55.91%	70.45%	69.35%	68.45%	44.35%	42.26%	41.67%

## Friday Morning F2F Pairs - Averages 2025 (minimum 3 events played)

Pos.	Player	Played	Average	Top 3 Scores			Worst 3 Scores		
1	Robert Stephens	6	62.50%	66.67%	64.29%	63.10%	62.50%	60.94%	57.50%
2	Lotte Sorensen	7	58.43%	68.25%	58.33%	58.33%	56.25%	55.73%	55.00%
3	Jennifer Adams	12	56.22%	68.75%	64.29%	60.94%	51.39%	46.35%	41.27%
4=	Entha Zagnoev	13	52.76%	63.89%	63.49%	60.00%	43.65%	38.19%	38.10%
4=	Barney Zagnoev	13	52.76%	63.89%	63.49%	60.00%	43.65%	38.19%	38.10%
6	Tobie Vermaak	4	52.74%	60.94%	58.33%	48.61%	43.06%		
7	Sheila Francis	10	52.39%	68.25%	62.50%	58.33%	42.06%	33.33%	32.74%
8	Bev Kassel	12	51.83%	61.11%	58.75%	57.14%	47.92%	45.83%	44.00%
9	Delys Shepard	12	51.39%	68.75%	60.94%	59.00%	42.50%	41.27%	33.33%
10	Pierre du Toit	10	51.28%	61.11%	58.75%	52.08%	47.92%	45.83%	44.00%

## Tuesday F2F Gentle Pairs - Averages 2025 (minimum 3 events played)

Pos.	Player	Played	Average	Top 3 Scores			Worst 3 Scores		
1	Kim Anderssen	4	61.04%	72.92%	63.33%	56.25%	51.67%		
2	Debbie Deist	15	59.14%	79.46%	66.67%	66.67%	48.33%	48.33%	47.62%
3	Caroline Harris	12	56.33%	66.67%	66.67%	62.50%	48.33%	48.33%	47.62%
4	Grainne Formby	14	54.27%	72.92%	67.86%	65.00%	43.33%	41.67%	41.67%
5	Penny Vickers	12	52.95%	67.86%	65.00%	60.00%	43.75%	41.67%	39.58%
6	Inga Bothner	8	52.12%	63.33%	57.14%	56.25%	50.00%	43.33%	41.67%
7=	Lisa Stein	8	51.44%	65.18%	61.67%	58.04%	51.67%	34.52%	29.17%
7=	Caron Herbert	8	51.44%	65.18%	61.67%	58.04%	51.67%	34.52%	29.17%
9	Sally Nielsen	11	51.39%	66.67%	60.42%	60.00%	40.00%	37.50%	34.52%
10=	Marcia Favish	3	51.09%	62.50%	49.11%	41.67%			
10=	Jackie Feldman	3	51.09%	62.50%	49.11%	41.67%			

The full list of averages can be found on The Links' website  
here: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/links/>





## Thursday Morning Supervised

It was another great year for The Links' Supervised sessions on Thursday mornings from 10:00 – 12:00.

Tables varied anywhere between 14 – 25 throughout the year, with many regular groups arriving with their foursomes.

This session wouldn't be a success without the players, but obviously more importantly the special supervisors who so willingly give their time to give back. Special thanks to Neville Eber, Bernard Donde, Val Bloom, Tas Nestoridis, Di Balkin, James Grant, Lotte Sorensen & Rob Stephens. Other top players have also dropped in on occasion to assist.

We wish Di Balkin all the best as she has sadly left us for beautiful Cape Town.

Please contact Rob Stephens (072 431 6599) if you wish to join us on Thursdays. We have a WhatsApp group for communication and notices which you'd be welcome to join as well.



Neville Eber will often talk for 5-10 minutes on a random subject, which is always interesting and beneficial to player's growth.

The Links will reopen on  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

BBO Tournaments continue throughout with the following tournaments available:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 & 15:00

Friday: 15:00

Saturday: 14:00



## BBO Masterpoint Race 2025

With just a week left to go for this year's Masterpoint Race, Merle Modlin is well clear of 2<sup>nd</sup> place, but then it's all to play for. Neville Eber is clear over 3<sup>rd</sup> in the A bracket, but Delys Shepard and Helene Roberts are very close to Neville, despite being in the B bracket. Both the C and D brackets are quite close between the first few positions. Visit <https://www.bridgewebs.com/links/> for the full list.

Bracket	Masterpoint Race - Leaders	Points
A	Merle Modlin	145.98
A	Neville Eber	113.00
A	Val Bloom	98.57
A	Tom Collinge	78.48
A	Ellie Hanlon	72.86
A	Sharon Izerel	63.46
A	Ghita Sandler	62.98
A	Laureen Harris	61.19
A	Pamela Murinik	58.17
A	Joan Fihrrer	57.00
K	Delys Shepard	109.72
K	Helene Roberts	106.00
K	Sam Trocki	100.46
K	Howard Strauss	85.92
K	Ian Katz	79.83
K	Irene Sundelson	65.00
K	Tracy Kaplan	64.47
K	Machelle Shapiro	58.45
K	Merlyn Munro	52.91
K	Marion Brivik	52.00
Q	Ilona Mervis	43.58
Q	Sue Malcomess	41.49
Q	Linda Bloch	36.59
Q	Jackie Solovei	24.99
Q	Tricia Owen	24.32
Q	Kalle	24.09
Q	Mary Smith	23.73
Q	Sandra Jacobs	23.10
Q	Steve Cohn	21.14
Q	Sharon Kahn	20.67
J	Phyllis Rubin	11.10
J	Paul Rome	8.40
J	Jill Magid	7.87
J	Patricia Stapleton	5.93
J	Brenda Haarburger	5.36
J	Linda Schmulian	5.16
J	Arlene Ketz	4.39
J	Gail Hurry	4.38
J	Lorraine Tooch	4.12
J	Daphne Dorf	4.03







# The Missing Links

First to correctly find all 52 words will receive \$10 in BBO Credit. Email [drowzee88@gmail.com](mailto:drowzee88@gmail.com) with a photo of your searches.

## The Links & Bridge Related Word Search



1. ADDICT    2. AGGRESSIVE    3. ALERT    4. BBO    5. BEGINNERS    6. BRIDGE
7. BLACKWOOD    8. CARDS    9. CHECKBACK    10. COURSE    11. CROSSRUFF
12. DECLARER    13. DIRECTOR    14. DOUBLE    15. DUMMY    16. DUPLICATE    17. ENDPLAY
18. EXPLANATION    19. FINESSE    20. FLAIR    21. GAUTENG    22. GENTLE    23. GERBER
24. GRANDSLAM    25. HAMILTON    26. IMPS    27. KEYCARD    28. KICKBACK    29. LADDER
30. LINKSFIELD    31. MASTERPOINTS    32. MATCHPOINTS    33. PAIRS    34. PENALTY
35. PRECISION    36. PREEMPT    37. PSYCHE    38. REBID    39. REVERSE    40. REVOLVING
41. SACRIFICE    42. SINGLETON    43. SQUEEZE    44. STAYMAN    45. SUPERVISED
46. TEAMS    47. TEXAS    48. THELINKS    49. TIMID    50. TRANSFER    51. UDCA
52. VULNERABLE

**Wishing all our members a joyful festive season and everything of the best for 2026!**

