

Bridge gold for grandmaster?

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GOLD by name, and soon, perhaps, also by title. Bridge guru Leigh Gold, who currently holds the ranking of silver grand master, is this week contesting the Australian National Championships in Melbourne.

Tipped as a member of the team to beat, Gold hopes to progress to the final stages of the competition where he will have the opportunity to secure the elusive gold grand master ranking.

“Hopefully by the end of the Australian National Championships, I will have accomplished all of the objectives needed and have enough points to achieve the ranking of gold grand master,” the 35-year-old told *The AJN* ahead of the competition.

“To get close to being a gold grand master, you need to have won at least 10 national events.”

Gold explained that rankings work on a points basis, with a certain number of points allocated per game.

Naturally, the more games played – accelerated by progressing to final stages of competitions – the higher the ranking of the player.

He estimated there have been gold

grand masters in Australia, but only half of them are still living.

Gold will take on the national titles with his playing partner of more than 15 years. The duo began playing together in 1995, shortly after Gold had “become more serious” about the game.

“I started playing bridge when I was 13. You need four people to play a game and my mother would play with my grandparents, and they needed one more,” he explained. “I was the chosen one.”

Getting a taste and talent for the game, Gold began competing at a junior level, turning professional about 10 years ago.

Besides competing and teaching the card game, Gold and his wife Bianca also run the Tricks and Trumps Bridge Club at the North Eastern Jewish Centre four days a week.

Home to a once flourishing bridge club, the Golds hope to bring the game, and its followers, back to the Doncaster centre. Lessons are held regularly on Wednesdays, and games on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

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