

63RD INTERNATIONAL
Gold Coast Bridge Congress
Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Monday 27th January 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

PRELIMINARY BULLETIN

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Tournament Organiser	Tim Runting	0458 448 765
On-Site Managers	Richard Ward Kim Ellaway	0419 729 470 0412 064 903
Chief Tournament Director	Dr Laurie Kelso	0412 559 171
Bulletin Editors	Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal	0460 887 300
Chief Scorer	Matthew McManus	
Reviewers	Stephen Fischer and Russel Harms	
Review Consultants	David Appleton, Shane Harrison and Jodi Tutty	
Recorders	Phil Markey, Pele Rankin, Bob Sebesfi and Richard Ward	
ABF On-Site Representatives	Warren Lazer and Liam Milne	

STAFFING

Our Floor Managers, Kim, Amber, and Kate are dressed in light blue vests.

Our Caddies are in purple. However, they are only here to caddy. See our floor managers if further assistance is required.

Our Directors led by Laurie Kelso have the navy vests with blue undershirts.

Our Scoring Staff are led by Matthew McManus, and can be found wearing Black Shirts. However, all scoring issues should be addressed to the Scoring Enquiries Desk, outside the scoring room, just inside the doors in the centre of the playing area.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions at the Bridge Administration Desk where there is a team of people only too willing to help.

FROM JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

WELCOME FROM JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP

As the State Member for Surfers Paradise and patron of the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club, I am pleased to welcome you to the beautiful Gold Coast for the 63rd Annual Bridge Congress.

The Annual Bridge Congress is always a wonderful event here on the Gold Coast, and that's why so many competitors keep coming back. Congratulations to your organising committee!

Whether you're a first-time visitor to this city, or a local, I hope you take the time to explore and enjoy the fabulous Gold Coast when you are not competing. The Gold Coast has something for everyone. We're home to golden beaches, world-class entertainment and shopping, a beautiful hinterland, and famous attractions.

I wish you a very successful tournament, and a wonderful celebration of the Gold Coast Bridge Congress' 60th anniversary. Thank you for selecting this city for the 63rd Annual Bridge Congress and I hope you have an enjoyable stay.

Best wishes,



The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP
Member for Surfers Paradise
Minister for Education and the Arts



FROM THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

TIM RUNTING AND RICHARD WARD



Welcome to the 63rd and final Gold Coast International Congress. Ever since the decision was made to bring this wonderful congress to an end after 2025, we have been deluged by expressions of support and disappointment from all over the world. Thank you for all your support.

The reasons for the cancellation are essentially two-fold:

- The management of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre has, in recent years, found it increasingly difficult to provide us with future dates in a timely fashion. For 2026, we were advised that the GCCEC was fully booked out for all non-school holiday weeks;
- The GCC has been so successful that it needs around 5,000 square metres of floor space to accommodate the expected number of tables. Despite extensive research into alternative venues, including the possibility of multiple venues, there is simply nothing suitable.

As a result, the Management Committee of the QBA has decided to have a year off in 2026 with a view to creating a brand new event in 2027 – certainly smaller and possibly in an entirely different location. Watch this space!

A warm welcome to all of our international guests – at last count we have 190 of our friends from over the ditch who are here, along with another 30 international players from 10 other countries. We also welcome back all of our regulars, who have been the backbone of our tournament for decades, and all first-timers, especially novices.

The online Bulletins are your greatest source of information and, this year, we welcome our new Editors, Australian representatives, Lauren and Barbara Travis, heading our team, with world-renowned bridge expert and journalist Barry Rigal, who is back again. Thank you Barry!

This year there will not be the usual “Theme Day” on the Wednesday. Instead, our staff have been encouraged to wear black as a sign of the passing of this legendary congress. Players are welcome to join us similarly on that day. Please note also that there will be no “Bridge Widows” excursions (with the exception of the In Her Shoes champagne breakfast on Friday) nor a Congress Dinner on Saturday.

Few of us would be aware of all that goes on behind-the-scenes to ensure that an event of this size and complexity runs so smoothly. The GCC team roles range from: the administrative staff, led by Kim and Ray Ellaway, directors, bulletin editors; floor staff; caddies, board dealers; MyABF coordinator; partnership organisers; coffee makers; and others who help throughout the week but, equally importantly, before and after the tournament. There are at least 80 people who make this all happen, and approximately 40,000 boards are pre-dealt for the tournament.

Once again, we have a number of sponsors to thank: TBIB Insurance, StepBridge, Fixed Income Solutions, Paul Lavings BridgeGear. Please support them. In addition, we are pleased to announce that bidding boxes will be in use in some sections thanks to the generosity of BridgeGear’s supplier, Flemming Kaalund, who we also welcome this year. We also welcome Fella Hamilton to our list of sponsors.

The GCC has zero tolerance for unacceptable behaviour. Please help us to ensure that everyone enjoys their time here by treating partners, opponents, directors and other staff with respect at all time. Be kind to each other! Your plan should be to sit back, relax, and enjoy the tournament.

Happy bridging to all.

Tim and Richard

WELCOME FROM THE ABF PRESIDENT

ALLISON STRALOW

On behalf of the ABF, I welcome you to the Gold Coast Congress, 2025. I look forward to another spectacular nine days of bridge.

As usual, many New Zealanders and international players have made the journey to compete in this wonderful event. To all of you, and to the Australian players who make an annual trip to the Gold Coast, thank you for your support.

Tim Runting and Richard Ward and their team have again put in hours of work to make sure we can all sit at the table and enjoy our bridge. Every part of their team's planning is aimed at making your experience at the Gold Coast Congress a memorable one for all.

Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers will be onsite during the event, so please take the time to chat to them about their services. I also encourage you to support all the sponsors from the event: Fixed Income Solutions, StepBridge, Paul Lavings BridgeGear, Two Men and a Truck, and the Oasis Shopping Centre.

Events such as this are important to me as they give me the opportunity to talk to a large section of the bridge community. I look forward to catching up with you during the week.

I want to thank the GCC Team which has worked tirelessly to try to secure the future of the Gold Coast Congress. Unfortunately, this could not be done, and we will make sure that the last GCC is one to remember.

WELCOME FROM THE ABF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DAVID FRYDA

It is a sad duty for me to be writing a welcome letter to what is being flagged as the final Gold Coast Congress (GCC) in just my second year in the role as ABF Executive Director. Last year I lamented the end of Kim Ellaway's and Tim Runting's tenures as Tournament Manager and Tournament Organiser. The only good outcome from the GCC coming to an end is that both Kim and Tim agreed to "come back" one more time.

Both the QBA and I have been inundated with correspondence since the announcement was made that we were unable to secure a date from the Convention Centre (GCCEC) for 2026. The pleas we have received for us to do whatever we can to keep this marvellous tournament going were wonderful to receive but I can assure you that the QBA Management Committee felt that everything that could have been done, had been done. With the need to have dates set well in advance, the decision had to be made, when it was made.

The ABF and the QBA are working together to determine what a suitable, Queensland based, event will look like in 2027 and beyond. Unfortunately, the popularity of the GCC meant that to replicate it we would need to find a venue of a comparable size to the GCCEC, in a location like Broadbeach, and that doesn't really exist!

We have a meeting lined up with the GCCEC and are hopeful, with support from the new Queensland government that we might reach a suitable outcome. If that doesn't happen, we will endeavour to start anew in another exciting location.

In the meantime, I wish you all one more wonderful experience at what is, and always will be, one of Australia's and the world's favourite bridge tournaments.





Paul Lavings
Bridge Supplies

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VISIT HELEN AND PAUL AT OUR STALL IN THE FOYER

WELCOME FROM

**PAUL LAVINGS
BRIDGE SUPPLIES
TO THE 63rd
GOLD COAST
CONGRESS**

**Check out our stall
Reading bridge books
is the best way to
improve your bridge**

**BRIDGE CLUBS
Please speak to Paul about
our great bridge supplies**

Fri 31 Jan	No Frills Walk-In Pairs 1 session	6.00pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid.
Sat to Mon 1-3 Feb	Bobby Richman Pairs Championship 5 sessions (Matchpoint Pairs) (all pairs play in all sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Intermediate (under 750 MPs) • Restricted (under 300 MPs) • Novice (under 100 MPs) 	2 qualifying sessions Saturday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm 3 finals sessions Sunday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 6.00pm. Monday 10.00am Open Pairs Championship will be playing for the Bobby Richman Trophy. Best Women's pair will be playing for the Gerda Stern Trophy – sponsored by David Stern. Best Qld Pair in each category receives a voucher prize. Best Intermediate Pair will receive a Trophy. Restricted Pairs Championship will receive a trophy. Novice Pairs Championship will be playing for the Tony Jackman Shield.
Sat 1 Feb	Saturday Butler Swiss Pairs 2 sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • 0-500 	10.00am and 2.30pm. Butler Swiss Pairs event. Separate NS and EW fields in the Open. 6 x 9 board matches over 2 sessions finishing by 5.45pm.
Sun 2 Feb	Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs 2 sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • 0-500 	10.00am and 2.30pm. Butler Swiss Pairs event. Separate NS and EW fields in the Open. 6 x 9 board matches over 2 sessions finishing by 5.45pm.
Sun 2 Feb	Rookie Pairs Walk-in Pairs 10am Walk-In Pairs 2.30pm	10.00am finishing approx. 1.30pm. Single session Matchpoint pairs for players under 10 MPs – 24 boards minimum. Walk-In Pairs - No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid.
Mon 3 Feb	Monday Butler Swiss Pairs 2 sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • 0-500 Walk-in Pairs 10am Walk-In Pairs 2.30pm	10.00am and 2.30pm. Butler Swiss Pairs event. Separate NS and EW fields in the Open. 6 x 9 board matches over 2 sessions finishing by 5.45pm. Walk-In Pairs - No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid.
Tue to Thu 4-6 Feb	Teams Championship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Under 1500 MPs • Intermediate (under 750 MPs) • Restricted (under 300 MPs) • Novice (under 100 MPs) 	Comprising 12 x 14-board matches for all sections. Open Teams field will play for the Stepbridge Trophy. Under 1500 will play for a Trophy, Intermediate Teams will play for the Two Men and a Truck Trophy. Restricted Teams Trophy is in memory of Pauline Evans. Novice Teams will play for the Therese Tully Trophy. Matches: Starting times each day – 10.00am & 2.30pm (4 matches per day), finish by 6.00pm. Finals: Fri-Sat – see Teams Finals below.
Tue 4 Feb	0-50 MP Pairs Sessions 1 & 2 Walk-in Pairs 10am Walk-In Pairs 2.30pm	Two-session matchpointed pairs for players with fewer than 50 MPs - 10.00am and 2.30pm. Walk-In Pairs - No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid.
Wed 5 Feb	0-50 MP Pairs Sessions 1 & 2 Walk-in Pairs 10am Walk-In Pairs 2.30pm	Two-session matchpointed pairs for players with fewer than 50 MPs - 10.00am and 2.30pm. Walk-In Pairs - No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid.
Thu 6 Feb	Rookie Pairs Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions 0-50 MP Butler Swiss Pairs	10.00am. Single session matchpointed pairs for players with fewer than 10 MPs. Walk-In Pairs - No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player, pre-paid. 10.00am and 2.30pm. Two-sessions with 6 x 8 board matches for players with fewer than 50 MPs.
Fri and Sat 7-8 Feb	Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Intermediate (under 750 MPs) • Restricted (under 300 MPs) • Novice (under 100 MPs) 	Comprises 10 x 8-board matches over 3 sessions: Friday 10.00am and 2.00pm, session finishing by 6.00pm, and Saturday 10.00am finishing by 1.30pm. Open, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice players will be playing for the Ivy Dahler Trophies. Two fields in Open section. Single fields in Intermediate, Restricted and Novice sections.

TRANSPORT TO BROADBEACH

Transport to Broadbeach from Brisbane Airport:

- Train and tram is the cheapest way to get to Broadbeach - approximately \$45 per person - Airtrain.com.au
- Door to Door shuttle service - approximately \$55 per person - [Con-X-ion](#)

Transport to Broadbeach from Gold Coast Airport:

- Taxi is approximately \$80 depending on time of arrival and road works
- Public Transport information may be found at [Gold Coast Airport website](#)
- [Con-X-ion](#) Shuttle service and [Link Transfers](#) offer Door to Door service

PROBLEMS

Tim Runting is the Convenor and Richard Ward, the On-Site Manager. If you experience any problems with the events, see either of them.

PENS

Pens will be issued at the start of the Pairs and start of the Teams and belong to the players who are responsible for carrying their own pens from table to table. There will be no replacement pens.

PARKING

Parking will be available for \$15 per entry per day or \$63 for a weekly pass with unlimited entry from Saturday 1st February to Saturday 8th February inclusive.

The Bridge Administration Desk is the ONLY place you can obtain a weekly pass. It will be open on Friday 31st January from 1pm until 5pm, then from Saturday one hour before play to half an hour after play finishes. Weekly passes can only be used from Saturday to Saturday inclusive.

DAILY BULLETIN WILL BE ONLINE

There has been an increasing trend for players to read the Daily Bulletin online. This has enabled us to reduce the print runs of the bulletin, reducing our carbon footprint, and keeping down the costs for you.

ROOM SET-UP AND COLOUR CODING OF SECTIONS

For player convenience, playing areas will be colour coded for the whole event through the use of coloured tablecloths and matching coloured flag. This will help to identify your section, results and playing area.

- Open Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Blue
- Under 1500 Teams - Orange
- Intermediate Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Yellow
- Restricted Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Green
- Novice Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Maroon
- Rookies/0-50/Walk-Ins - Fuchsia**
- Open Saturday, Sunday, Monday Butler Swiss Pairs in Orange
- 0-500 Saturday, Sunday, and Monday Butler Swiss Pairs - Purple
- Friday Open Butler Pairs - Purple**

***This may change on the day depending on the layout approved by the GCCEC.*

TEA, COFFEE AND WATER

As a service to participants, volunteers will be operating a tea and coffee service for this event. Coffee is made from ground coffee beans with fresh milk and will cost \$4 a cup. The service will start around one hour before play and continue until late into the last session.

Fixed Income Solutions are subsidising coffee costs in 2025, allowing us to keep the prices the same as in the past.

There will be \$40 vouchers available for purchase from the Coffee Shop. \$40 voucher entitles you to 11 coffees.

As we are not allowed to run the free water service in the playing area, we will be selling bottles of water at \$2 from the coffee shop. These can be purchased via your \$40 voucher in lots of two.

We will not be doing double shots this year. We cannot provide free water - hot or cold - it is a public liability issue.

CLOSING TIMES FOR ENTRIES

All events except Friday events (mentioned below) close 24 hours before the event starts, or prior (within the final week) if it suits the movement of the event. Entries must be made online via MyABF.

Friday events:

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs Thursday 8.00pm

Friday Butler Swiss Pairs Thursday 8.00pm

Only way of entering the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs and the Friday Butler Swiss Pairs after February 1st, is via MyABF.

SCORING ERRORS

The Scoring Liaison Officer is Toni Bardon.

She will act as liaison between players and the Scoring Unit.

Any problems and concerns you have about scoring and results should be addressed to Toni – she has a desk outside the Scoring Room. Phone Number is 0456 587 765 – text messages only.

SCORING CORRECTION PERIODS

World Championships have been awarded based on scoring errors. E/W Pairs should not simply acknowledge the scores on the Bridgemates but should check them carefully. Incorrect scores can change the result of an event, even though the relevant pairs may have nothing to do with the scoring error.

Errors in scoring must be advised to the Scoring Enquiries desk before the following times:

PAIRS:

Morning sessions: 3.00pm on the day of the session.

Afternoon sessions: One hour after that day's final session scores are posted.

TEAMS:

Matches 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: One hour after the end of the next even numbered match.

Matches 2, 4, 6, 8, 10: At the start of the next even numbered match.

Matches 11, 12: 8.30pm Thursday for corrections affecting Final series qualification. Midnight, Thursday, for all other corrections.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TBIB Daily Prize Wheel: You Must be Present to Win.

A TBIB lucky star under a chair in main playing area for a spin opportunity (in the GCCEC foyer).

Directors Get Together: Thursday 6th February at 8.30am, upstairs in Meeting Room 12A. Enquiries: Chris Snook 0413 136 435 chris@snook.id.au

PRIZES - PAYMENT

All cash prizes will be paid via Bridge Credits.

(If a youth player has paid no entry fee and he/she wins a prize over \$150, half price entry fee to be taken out of the prize.)

UNDER 50 MPs - HELP BEFORE PLAY

For ROOKIES, UNDER 50 MPs and NOVICES there will be help available from 9.30am every day!

Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat and working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow, fluorescent jackets.

AIR CONDITIONING AND PLAYER COMFORT

Over time the organisers have noticed that there are areas where it is particularly cold due to air pockets coming from the air conditioner.

What **YOU** can do to improve your personal comfort level:

- please bring a jumper or shawl to keep you warm
- we have a supply of pashminas and wraps so please just ask a caddy who will bring it to you - we do ask that you return these to the caddy at end of the session
- if it is obviously too cold for you and those around you, please ask the caddy to report the table number and section to the Bridge Admin Officer who will see if it can be fixed or, perhaps, if we can move the table.

Things you can do that will **NOT** improve your comfort level: discuss the issue with a Director.

SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM CARDS

Each pair is required to have two current ABF approved, systemically identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round. Overseas players will be permitted to use New Zealand and WBF system cards in addition to ABF cards. ABF system cards and guide to completing them are available at this site: <http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/>.

GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted without restriction.

RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all events except for **Restricted and Novice Pairs and Teams Championships**, all **0-50 Masterpoint events, Rookie Pairs, Friday Novice Pairs and Restricted Butler Swiss Pairs**. In addition, in these events, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.

Eligible pairs may claim Protected Pair status in all events with the exception of the major Final of the **Open Pairs Championship**.

Provided the required system submission (detailed below) has been complied with, YELLOW systems will be allowed in the **Open Teams Championship** from Round 3 onwards. They may not be played against a contestant with a current position in the lower two-thirds of the field (decimals rounded up).

Pairs intending to play a YELLOW system must provide the Tournament Organiser with an adequately completed ABF Standard system card and a bona fide defence before 10.00am on 31 January 2025.

PHOTOS POLICY

The Gold Coast Congress photographer takes random photos of winners and players during the week of the congress. Should any player not wish to have their photo taken, they should advise the GCC Manager in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the congress.

BRIDGEMATES - TUTORIAL

If you have never used the Bridgemate Scoring Units we suggest you arrive a few minutes before your first session and ask a Director for a quick tutorial. We are confident that your opponents will also help you to use this user-friendly technology.

BRIDGEMATES - PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS

During the team events, when you turn on the Bridgemates, you will be asked to enter your player numbers. This is **NOT** your ABF number. Each player in every team has been assigned a number. These will be found on the bright orange sheet which will be on your table at the start of play. NS at the home table should enter the player numbers for the players in your own team.

SUBSTITUTES

If you need a substitute during the week, see Toni Bardon at the Scoring Desk. Except in case of emergency, substitutes are not permitted in Matches 8-10 of the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs.

DAY OF MOURNING

The Kinky Boots theme has been cancelled. Wednesday will instead be a day of mourning for the last Gold Coast Congress. GCC staff will all be wearing black and players are encouraged to join them.

CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

Liam Milne Will Jenner-O'Shea

Andy Hung Joan Butts

Paul Marston Barry Rigal

Upstairs opposite administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

Maximum 100 participants

ZEPHYR EDUCATION: the charity supported by the Gold Coast Congress

My name is Carmel Martin, co-founder and treasurer of Zephyr Education. For the few who don't know, Zephyr helps those affected by domestic and family violence to resume their education – usually within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a request for assistance. The vast majority assisted by Zephyr are children – starting with little preppies.

You will no doubt be as dismayed as I am that we are probably attending our last GCC as we know it. The bridge community has been behind Zephyr from the very beginning – almost 12 years ago. That was when we started by registering 2 Women's shelters in Brisbane so that we could supply them with the full educational needs of children. When my sister, Zephyr's president, approached them to see if this need was being addressed, she expressed her idea that we would provide what they needed whether it was a pair of shoes or the full kit, including stationery made to the booklist of the new school the children would be attending – within 24 to 48 hours... they thought she was crazy. She asked them to give us a go and the rest is history.

We started Zephyr as a family charity with Isabella, David, Terry and me. David had not long retired and thought he'd be off to the beach. Isabella and Terry were still working and I was working on making bridge my full-time occupation. Not to be – Isabella promised to stop registering shelters when we got to 25. She lied. Once the amazing Followmont Transport came on board to transport thousands of boxes to every corner of the state free of charge, her eyes widened with the potential for expansion. Upon visiting Zephyr, Victor Feros wryly commented that the definition of our name means 'a gentle breeze' but that what had been created was more like a hurricane.

As of October, when I am writing this, Zephyr operates in EVERY State and Territory in Australia. We have 231 DFV shelters, Family Service organisations and outreach services registered for Zephyr's support. This even reaches families living in their cars.

We provide (mostly) children with some or all of their school needs, as and when required – on approval only, which approval is frugally and carefully assessed. We don't pay into any private accounts. The range of what Zephyr pays for includes: the full book list specific to the child's year and school; full uniform including shoes, socks and hats; swimwear; lunchbox and water bottle; resource fees, camp fees, iPads and laptops - expensive, yet indispensable learning tools. Since Covid – our second highest expense.

Our aim is solely to have that child, the saddest and most vulnerable victim of domestic violence, look like every other school child, so they do not feel out of place, nor appear less valuable than others, nor attract the eye of a potential bully. This is all in the hope that they can resume their education successfully. This needs to happen immediately though and this is Zephyr's distinguishing quality and reason for success as a game changer in the sector.

Last financial year, we provided for over 3,000 children at a cost of \$884,573 – an increase of 18.7% on the previous year. Our overheads remain at around 2%. We receive no government funding and this leads me to you – my fellow bridgies, who stagger me every year with your generosity and moral support. I am now imploring you to keep following and supporting Zephyr once my collectors and I will no longer be in your faces when all you want to do is play bridge.

The heart of Zephyr is an incredibly selfless, generous, unpaid, motivated team of over 50 volunteers working daily to ensure that we are responding to and completing every request as quickly as possible, raising funds, delivering to all corners of the country (thank you again, Followmont Transport and all the suppliers who deliver free of charge) and attending to the myriad logistics which come with operating what is now a sizeable business.

Zephyr wouldn't exist without the hugely compassionate contribution of these tireless good men and women some of whom you will find as partners or opposition at this very congress. On top of all this is the support and motivation received from everyone who supports Zephyr's vision – you are all an indispensable part of the team.

I can't begin to thank Kim Ellaway and all the team who nominated Zephyr as its charity for the GCC. I can't individually thank the many, many people who give us ongoing financial and moral support which gives us the confidence to expand, but please know we are supremely grateful.

Our focus is, and always has been, on the children and their education. But this, of course, also assists the carers of all children who fall within our scope, including Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, foster carers and guardians. You've all got behind us and huge numbers of children have felt less alone and a little more loved.

We frequently receive unsolicited feedback from both case workers and mothers that confirms the impact of the support Zephyr provides.

The first is from a case worker at a Sydney shelter:

Please find attached the receipt from Shoes and Sox and I can't express how much these shoes mean to the client. You made her week!! She just wants to be able to provide for her boys and this means they can now have brand new shoes which will bring them so much joy! Also thank you for the school packs and stationery items!! You are such a beautiful organization and making such a difference in the world for women and children who have survived domestic and family violence. Thank you so much.

Here are some recent examples including two Facebook posts from DFV support organisations we help:

Dear Zephyr Education Inc,

I am a client of (a DFV support organisation Zephyr helps). My son is starting school on Monday and I just wanted to say the biggest Thank you! We have received a lovely starter pack for school, which is just incredibly amazing during tough times. You are so very kind.

Wonderful Steve (Steve is one of 12 Zephyr volunteers who monitor, respond to, and action requests for support.)

Thank you so much. Little man came into the office yesterday and insisted on showing us his new school uniform. Proud as punch and had a fantastic day as he had everything he needed to feel and look like he belonged.

So appreciative for everything Zephyr does. Have a great day.

Thank you Kelsey (Zephyr's Operations Manager),

I have worked in the refuge for 7 years and I cannot express just how much your support means and how grateful the mums I see are to be able to provide the right resources to their children.

Facebook post from Women's Crisis Support Service Inc:

There are many volunteers who donate their time to support victim-survivors of Domestic and Family Violence and WCSSI attributes much of our success to these humble behind-the-scenes heroes who rarely ever receive any recognition. The team at Zephyr Education Inc are all volunteers, and they ensure every single child who enters a DV shelter has the uniforms, stationery, and other resources to start at their new school.

These are provided by Zephyr Education free of charge and we cannot convey how much difference this makes to each and every child we support.

And just one last blow of my own trumpet, a group of donors visited Zephyr recently and we received this:

Dear Carmel,

I couldn't let today go by without thanking you [all] for your hospitality and candour in sharing your Zephyr stories.

It has affected me very deeply to have seen for myself that out of a basement carpark so much good is being done without fanfare or fuss. Your vision and practical commitment is inspiring. May your work continue to prosper as long as the need is there.

If you would like to make a donation, we will be rattling collection boxes and have Eftpos machines on hand. Kim Ellaway in the main office has kindly volunteered to accept donations as well.

All donations are tax deductible and for those of you who may wish to donate by bank transfer – Zephyr’s bank account details are:

NAB Zephyr Education Inc

BSB: 084-004

ACC: 15-629-0526

Please Reference Your Name and send your email address to admin@zephyreducation.com.au so I can forward your receipt.

And to repeat what I said last year – have a safe, brilliant congress. We’re so lucky to have this fabulous game in our lives – non bridge players have no idea what they’re missing.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Carmel Martin

Co-founder and Treasurer

Zephyr Education Inc

ABN 47 805 738 577 ARBN 615 454 227

PO Box 6096 Fairfield Gardens Qld 4103

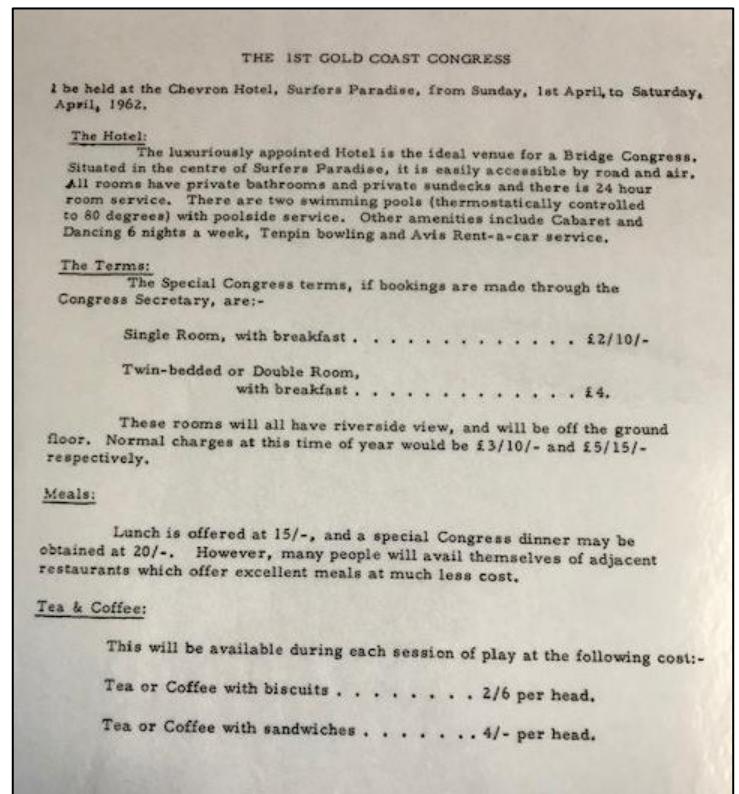
Tel: 0438 873 620

admin@zephyreducation.com.au

www.zephyreducation.com.au



*The Chevron Hotel in 1962,
venue for the first Gold Coast Congress.*



in her shoes

In Her Shoes will hold their Champagne Breakfast on Friday 7th February.

VENUE:

In Her Shoes

LOCATION:

Ground Floor, Oasis Shopping Centre, Broadbeach

DATE:

Friday 7th February

TIME:

8.00am to 10.00am

Any bridge player (or partner) who attends will receive a gift bag from In Her Shoes.

They are offering a 10% discount store-wide (excluding jewellery and sale stock), for three days:

Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th February.

Please support our sponsors. Many thanks to Netta for her ongoing support.

CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Min \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge (Free for Youth Players)

100 participants maximum – GCCEC Health and Safety Regulations

Saturday 1st

1.30-2.15pm

Liam Milne

**How to Win a World
Championship Silver Medal**



At the World Bridge Games last October in Buenos Aires, the NZ-Australian team 'PERO BUENO' defied expectations to win the silver medal in the World Transnational Open Teams. Come along and find out the secrets of performing at the highest level from team member Liam Milne.

Liam Milne is a current member of the Australian Open team. As well as playing professionally, Liam also teaches and directs in Sydney. His recent national titles include the 2023 South-West Pacific Teams, the 2024 Open Playoff, and the 2024 Open ANC Teams.

Sunday 2nd

1.30pm-2.15pm

William Jenner-O'Shea

Introduction to 2NT Scramble



Scrambling 2NT, the most useful convention you probably have never heard of...

Will Jenner-O'Shea has represented Australia in several bridge events, including the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. Will has also built a very successful career teaching Bridge over many years.

Monday 3rd

9.00am-9.45am

Andy Hung

**Stoppers: Showing, Asking,
or Neither?**



Having a suit stopped or not can make or break a No-Trump contract. Is it better to show a stopper, or ask for a stopper, or not worry about them entirely? Andy will give you some easy rules to remember when dealing with stoppers (or lack thereof). **Andy Hung** is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia in Open competitions. He has won several Australian National Titles, an international tournament in India, and was also the runner up of the recent US National Reisinger tournament. When he's not competing in tournaments, you will find him teaching Bridge at various Bridge clubs, or running bridge holidays in Australia, or overseas - contact him for more info!

Tuesday 4th

1.30pm -2.15pm

Joan Butts

**Shining a Light on the
Defence**



There are new ways to look at defence which are sure to improve your results. Use your own logic: look at dummy, take a lot of notice of partner's lead, and observe the way declarer is playing the hand. There are many clues...**Joan Butts** is a world class Bridge teacher who has represented Australia and taught thousands of students worldwide. As the National Teaching Coordinator with the ABF for 12 years, Joan created a comprehensive Teacher Accreditation Programme training hundreds of Bridge teachers across Australia using her background in education and psychology. In 2017, Joan launched the Online School of Bridge, which was updated in 2023 offering advanced features.

Wednesday 5th

9.00am – 9.45am

Paul Marston

How to Bid a 5-3 fit



How to bid a 5-3 fit when responder has five – the right way and the wrong way.

Paul Marston has long been one of Australia's top Bridge teachers. His classes are very popular, both face-to-face and online. He has a special interest in teaching beginners where his retention rate is greater than 80% face-to-face and 95% online.

Thursday 6th

1.30pm -2.15pm

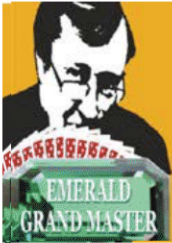
Barry Rigal

**When to Pre-empt and the
Theory of Flaws**



We don't want to teach players only to pre-empt with the perfect hand. We don't want to teach them to open any six- or seven-card suit. What is the happy medium? **Barry Rigal** was born and bred in London and has lived in NYC for the last 30 years. He has won most UK major championships, representing England at The Camrose five times, without ever losing.

Barry has also won two US major national titles; a journalist for 40 years he became President of IBPA a decade ago. Barry is a syndicated columnist (Bridge with the Aces) and travels to most major world and European events doing bulletins and Viewgraph. Barry has attended the GCC for over 10 years as co-editor of our Bulletin, he is on record stating the GCC has been his long-time favourite tournament to visit.



Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies

plavings@gmail.com

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WE WELCOME OUR SUPPLIER, FLEMMING KAALUND, TO THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

POSTFREE BRIDGE BOOKS BEGAN IN 1990 AND I STRUGGLED FOR YEARS TO FIND A SUPPLIER THAT SUITED ME

IN 2008, I MET FLEMMING AT A CONGRESS IN MACAO WHERE HE HAD A STALL, JUST LIKE OUR STALL HERE

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER EVER SINCE AND FLEMMING HAS CREATED MANY GREAT PRODUCTS. THE 20% LARGER PIPS FOR PLAYING CARDS ARE GREAT, I PREDICT THE STANDARD PIPS WILL BECOME OBSOLETE WITHIN A COUPLE OF YEARS.

FLEMMING HAS DONATED 160 SETS OF 4 OF HIS BIDDING BOXES TO THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS. PLEASE SEE THEM IN ACTION HERE.

FLEMMING AND HIS WIFE LILY WILL VISIT US IN WOLLONGONG AFTER THE CONGRESS. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A BRIDGE MUSEUM WHICH ALSO WILL SERVE AS A CENTRE FOR YOUTH BRIDGE WORLDWIDE.

FLEMMING WILL BE CHECKING OUT OUR HUGE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUES TO FILL THE MUSEUM

ENQUIRIES WELCOME

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The Gold Coast Congress cannot run without our sponsors. We are deeply indebted to them and would ask you to show your appreciation by supporting them.



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Australia's national bridge magazine now comes in two different editions, Regular and Novice. You can subscribe to either magazine at Paul Lavings' book stall or visit www.australianbridge.com

DAVID STERN

In memory of his mother, Gerda Stern, the best Women's Pair in the Open Pairs will receive prize money and a trophy donated by David Stern.



FELLA HAMILTON

Fella Hamilton are supporting the Rookie events. They are a women's clothing store with stores located throughout Australia. www.fellahamilton.com.au



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PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Paul has been a stalwart support of this event for well over 20 years and all third-placed pairs win vouchers for items from his stall. The best way you can support Paul is by checking out his stall in the foyer. You will love the range of items and his reasonable prices. www.bridgegear.com

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SPRING NATIONALS: BRIDGE NSW

The Spring Nationals offer free entry to two Queensland teams and four Queensland pairs to enter their events.



STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA

StepBridge Australia is an online Australian bridge club that offers novice, restricted and open bridge sessions daily, in a friendly and controlled environment. New players joining StepBridge receive five free introductory games. StepBridge has a virtual club facility that allows face-to-face bridge clubs to organise their own sessions and congresses. Youth players are offered additional introductory games, no membership fees and half price table fees.

www.stepbridge.com.au



TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS (TBIB)

TBIB provide \$5,000 in sponsorship, plus the Prize Wheel. Take the opportunity to speak with them at the Congress; you will be impressed with the travel insurance deals they offer. www.tbib.com.au/abf/



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They move all our gear from Brisbane to the Gold Coast at a very discounted rate. They are an amazing company.

www.twomen.com.au

To those who wish to remain anonymous – we can only say thank you.

To the surrounding bridge clubs – thank you.

To the volunteers – players, friends and family who donate their hours to make this event the success it is – thank you.