



Gold Coast Congress 2024 Information Manual

(This manual is a work in progress. Highlighted topics need to be updated)

Table of Contents

2024 DATES	7
ABF NUMBER	7
ACCOMMODATION	7
ADVERTISING IN BULLETIN	7
ADVERTISEMENTS	8
ADVISORS	8
AIR CONDITIONING – PLAYER COMFORT	8
ALERTS - SUMMARY	8
BBO	9
BRIDGE MATES	9
BRIDGE MATES II – PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS	9
BRIDGE COMPANION'S PROGRAM	10
BULLETIN	13
BUS - GCC	13
CADDY NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS	13
CALENDAR 2024	15
CATEGORIES - TEAMS	15
CATEGORY PRIZE POLICY - TEAMS	16
CHARITY 2024 – ZEPHYR FOUNDATION	16
CLOSING TIMES FOR ENTRIES FOR EVENTS	16
COFFEE, TEA AND WATER	16
CELEBRITY SPEAKERS	17
COLOUR CODING FOR SECTIONS	18
CONGRESS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2024	18
CONTACTS FOR GCC STAFF	18
CORRECTION OF SCORES	19
COURTESY BUS	19
DINNER DANCE	19
DIRECTOR, CHIEF TOURNAMENT	20
DIRECTORS GET TOGETHER	20
DISCOUNT ENTRY FEES - YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS	20
DISCOUNT PERIOD FINISHING DAY	20
DOCTOR	20

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL	
DRAW FOR NEXT ROUND PAGE	21
DRESS UP THEME DAY	21
DROP-IN PAIRS	21
DROP-IN SCORES - From the Appendices.....	21
ELIGIBILITY	22
ENTERING	22
ENTRIES	23
ENTRY DISCOUNTS.....	23
ENTRY FEES	23
ENTRY FORM	24
EVENT ORGANISERS	24
EVENT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY	24
FINALISTS.....	25
FINALS INCLUDING TOP 4 AND SEMI FINALS.....	25
FINDING US ONLINE	25
GOLD POINTS	25
HELP BEFORE PLAY.....	25
HELP BEFORE PLAY VOLUNTEERS	26
HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPING COSTS DOWN.....	26
HOSPITALITY.....	26
HOUSE TEAMS AND PAIRS.....	26
IMPORTANT POINTS	26
INTERMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY	27
LATE ENTRIES IVY DAHLER BUTLER PAIRS AND FRIDAY BUTLER PAIRS	27
LUNCHES.....	27
MASTERPOINTS	27
MINOR SPONSORS.....	27
MyABF – SIGNING UP	28
MyABF REFUNDS.....	28
NEW ZEALAND MASTERPOINT CONVERSION	29
NIGHT PLAY.....	29
NO FRILLS WALK-IN PAIRS.....	29
NOVICE ELIGIBILITY	29
NOVICE AND ROOKIE ACTIVITIES	29
NOVICE EVENTS.....	30
NOVICE HELP BEFORE PLAY	30

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL	
ONLINE ENTRIES	31
ONSITE PERSONNEL	31
OPEN PAIRS and TEAMS PLAYOFF POINTS	32
OVERSEAS ELIGIBILITY	32
PARKING.....	32
PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS.....	32
PAYING AN ENTRY THAT'S ALREADY BEEN LODGED	32
PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY	33
PAYMENT OPTIONS	33
PENS	33
PHOTOS POLICY.....	33
PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS USING BRIDGEMATE II	33
PLAYER QUALIFYING POINTS.....	33
POLICY BRIDGE COMPANIONS ATTENDEES	34
POLICY DINNER DANCE.....	34
POLICY PHOTOS.....	34
POLICY REFUNDS	34
POLICY TEAM CATEGORY.....	34
POLICY YOUTH DISCOUNT.....	34
PQPs – PLAYER QUALIFYING POINTS	35
PRIZES.....	35
PRIZE MONEY – 2024	35
PRIZES – PAYMENT.....	37
PRIZES – RESTRICTED PAIRS	37
PRIZES – YOUTH	37
PROBLEMS.....	37
PROTECTED PAIRS	37
PROGRAM	38
RECORDERS	40
REFUNDS.....	40
REFUNDS POLICY	40
RESTRICTED ELIGIBILITY	40
RESTRICTED PAIRS PRIZE.....	40
REVIEWERS	40
REVIEW CONSULTANTS	40
ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE LIAISON OFFICERS	40

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL	
ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE COLOURS	41
ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE EVENTS	41
ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50, AND NOVICE HELP	41
ROOKIE (0-10) ELIGIBILITY	41
ROOKIE (0-10) HELP BEFORE PLAY	41
ROOM SET UP – COLOUR CODING	42
SCORE BOOKLETS	42
SCORING ISSUES	42
SCORING CORRECTION PERIODS	43
SEATING	43
SERVICES	43
SESSION TIMES	44
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	45
SPRING NATIONALS PRIZES	45
SPONSORS – (MINOR)	45
SPONSORS	46
STAFF PHOTOES	47
STAFFING	47
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS	47
SYSTEM REGULATIONS	47
STARTING TIMES	48
SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM CARDS	49
SUBSTITUTES	49
TEA, COFFEE AND WATER	49
TEACHING	50
TEAM CATEGORIES	50
TEAM CATEGORY PRIZE POLICY	50
THEME	50
TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS	50
TRANSPORT TO BROADBEACH	51
TROPHIES and SPONSORSHIP	51
UNDER 1500S ELIGIBILITY	52
UNDER 50S ELIGIBILITY	52
UNDER 50s HELP BEFORE PLAY	52
UNIFORMS	52
WALK-IN PAIRS AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS	52

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL	
WEB DRAW FOR NEXT ROUND PAGE.....	53
WEBSITE	53
WITHDRAWALS	53
YOUTH ELEGIBILITY	53
YOUTH & OTHER CONCESSIONAL ENTRY FEES.....	53
YOUTH PLAYERS ACCOMMODATION	53
YOUTH - PRIZES	54
ZEPHYR FOUNDATION (2024 GCC Charity)	54

2024

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

2024 DATES

Saturday 17th February 2024 – Saturday 24th February 2024

ABF NUMBER

All players will need an ABF number to play in the Gold Coast Congress. Please email masterpoints@abf.com.au with your gender, NZB number and date of birth. Alternatively, email Pele Rankin and she will get the ABF number for you.

If you already have an ABF number but don't remember it, you may search for it [here](#) - ABF Masterpoint Centre.

Once you have an ABF number, you need to be **registered with [MyABF](#)** to submit an entry to any event. International players may submit their entries via Pele Rankin - gccentries@qldbridge.com.au

New Zealand players will need an ABF number before you can sign up. Please email masterpoints@abf.com.au with your gender, NZB number and date of birth. If you already have an ABF number but don't remember it, you may search for it [here](#) - [ABF Masterpoint Centre](#).

To sign up to [MyABF](#), please follow these instructions. It only takes a couple of minutes:

Sign up at this site <https://www.myabf.com.au/view>

Click on 'SIGN UP', which will take you to this link <https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register> where you will need to enter **ABF number, Name, Email address and a password** that's easy to remember to avoid having to reset password.

Once you have done this, you will be sent an email to activate your account. Check spam for the activation email if you haven't received it.

Once you have activated your account, it will take you to a site with your profile. Include your mobile phone number and select the box for notifications if you would like to receive your results via text message.

For information on registering - [MyABF resources and how to sign up](#)

ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation enquiries, contact Sue Smith –
M - 0429 056 445 or E – Sue.gccongress@gmail.com

Some accommodation options are listed on the GCC website: [ACCOMMODATION](#)

Regretfully, we will no longer be offering subsidised youth accommodation.

ADVERTISING IN BULLETIN

Events Any ABF event and any QBA Gold Point event held prior to June 30th can have a free advertisement – size is the Editors prerogative. All other ABF events will be published in the Coming Events Calendar. Strict deadlines must be adhered to. Deadlines set by Editor with Tournament Organiser's approval.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements are \$300 a page. The editor has the prerogative to negotiate with prospective advertisers regarding possible columns to be published in the Bulletins for advertising.

ADVISORS

David Appleton, Jonathan Free and Shane Harrison

AIR CONDITIONING – PLAYER COMFORT

There are approximately two thousand players at the venue, ensuring the comfort of ALL players is a challenge.

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

The room sometimes leaks from condensation due to the amount of air conditioning we are using.

What you **CAN** do to improve your personal comfort level:

- as advertised in all communication, please bring a jumper or something 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 Kim Ellaway who will bring her thermometer to see if it can be fixed or perhaps, we can move the table.

Things you can do that will **NOT** improve your comfort level:

- discuss the issue with a Director or the Scoring Staff
- discuss it with the Recorder.

ALERTS - SUMMARY

PRE-ALERTS

List your unusual or complex treatments in the pre-alerts section of the system card. For instance – RCO 2s, Bergen raises, DONT Dbl vs 1NT, unusual carding (leading low from doubletons should be noted in the “leads” section of system card).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announce the number of clubs contained in a 1♣ opening and the HCP range of a 1NT opening. Those playing a strong club system just need to announce 1♣ as “Strong 16+”.

ALERTS DURING THE AUCTION

Alert by circling partner’s call and saying “Alert” but don’t offer an explanation unless asked (then aim to be concise, yet complete).

DON’T ALERT:

- Any double or redouble.
- Any call beyond 3NT, except a conventional opening bid
- A bid of a suit *bid* or *shown* by an opponent.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

- Any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction (e.g. *Stayman*)
- Any Jump Raise in a contested auction.

For our New Zealand players, we do **NOT** use STOP Cards

DO ALERT:

All other conventional calls (such as Transfers, 2♥=hearts and a minor)

‘Unusual’ natural bids. These include: weak jump shift responses, pre-emptive jump raises (but only in uncontested auctions), inverted minors, canapé tendency, negative free bids, transfer accepts that deny four trumps, etc.

At the end of the auction, the declaring side should mark any unusual calls that weren’t alerted at the time. Do this with a plus sign (+).

IF PARTNER STUFFS UP

Declarer/Dummy: If partner fails to alert or provides a wrong or misleading explanation, you should wait until the **end of the auction** before calling the Director and correcting.

Defenders: wait until the **end of the hand** before piping up.

BBO

THE BBO liaison Officer is Ray Ellaway. Open Finals will be the only matches on BBO. BBO will only be available if operators come forward to assist.

BRIDGE MATES

If you have never used the Bridgmate 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.

BRIDGE MATES II – 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.

The reason for this is that, if done correctly, the scoring team will produce a summary of the results for each pair in your team, comparing their results against the average score across your section on each board (the datum). These results have no official status and are just for your own interest. It is a service we are happy to be able to provide, but to take advantage of it, it is important that the player numbers are accurately entered each round.

Our observations from recent years show that over 90% of teams sit in the same seats for the whole event. To simplify the process for entering player numbers for these teams, from Round 2 onwards if your team is sitting in the same seats as in Round 1, you may just enter “1” for all four players. The unit will display “same as Round 1” as the player names and the system will correctly record the pairs.




GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL
BRIDGE COMPANION'S PROGRAM

2024 Bridge Companion's Program





Hello and a huge welcome back to this coming years **Bridge Companion's** program.
 We look forward to seeing you all again– having a little fun – and visiting spots along our famous Gold Coast.
 Below, please find the organised activities for the week.

Please note that in 2024, we will have one bus and one people carrier. Numbers limited, pre bookings welcome.





Here's to a fun week, Sue and Lana

Location	Dates	Event	Meeting	Depart	Costs
	Saturday 17th February	Get together Non-Bridge Partners. Golf days will be discussed at the same time. Arranged by Ian Wright	Apartment 3005 Air on Broadbeach 11.00am-12.30pm		
	Sunday 18th Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre Lunch – Apex Dining Menu Spring 23	The Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC) is the third and final stage of the Tweed Regional Gallery. MOAC celebrates the career, life and legacy of its namesake, Margaret Olley – Australia's most celebrated painter of still life and interiors. Central to MOAC is the recreation of areas of Olley's famous home studio, principally the Hat Factory and the Yellow Room. Lunch at the Apex dining tearoom	Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach	11.00am – 4.30pm latest	Lunch and tea costs to be incurred by self \$25 bus
	Monday 19th Fashion Parade	Fashion Parade, at the Oasis Shopping Centre, Level 1. <i>Wraps, sandwiches, and Champagne served</i>	Meeting at Change Alley Level 1 at 'A Little Oasis Café' 2pm –3pm.		No cost to self

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

	Tuesday 20th	Get together for Non-Bridge Partners	Apartment 3005 Air on Broadbeach	9.45am-10:30am	
	Tuesday 20th Curtis Falls https://www.aussiebushwalking.com/qld/se-qld/tamborine-np/curtis-falls https://witcheschasecheese.com/our-story/	The Curtis Falls track at Mt Tamborine National Park is a lush waterfall hike that is easily accessible and features arguably the most beautiful waterfall in the area. Lunch at Witches Chase Cheese	Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach	Leave 10 :30 am - Bus to be back by 5:00pm Latest	\$25 bus, Lunch at own cost. <i>The owner will put a cheese board menu together for us in the new year.</i>
	Wednesday 21st David Fleay Wildlife Park https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/david-fleay/	David Fleay Wildlife Park is a wildlife park with a difference! You can stroll through natural habitats and visit a nocturnal house to see some of Australia's most iconic wildlife. You will meet crocodiles, koalas, emus, brolgas, dingoes, dunnarts, bilbies, and kangaroos, as well as platypus.	Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach	10:45 am – 4:30pm	\$15 bus, Adult \$26.15 Senior \$17.20
	Thursday 24th Burleigh Heads National Park. Walking trails. Map below https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/162512/burleigh-head-webmap.pdf The Paddock bakery for tea/lunch https://www.paddockbakery.com/	Burleigh Heads National Park offers perfect views of the Gold Coast City skyline, access to remote beaches and creeks, native rainforest and several unique viewpoints. Please see map for different trails Paddock Bakery Delicious food, with great atmosphere, set in an old weatherboard home with a leafy garden. Renowned for their award-winning breakfasts, lunches and delicious treats such as the crème brulee doughnut.	Ground floor Air on Broadbeach	10.45am – 4:30pm Approx.	\$15 bus Lunch at own expense

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

	Friday 25th Champagne and Nibbles	All welcome to champagne and nibbles where you will receive a 10% discount on certain items. Enter a free draw to win a pair of shoes, to be drawn that morning.	Meeting at In-Her Shoes Oasis Shopping Centre, 8.15am		No cost
	Fri 25th Aquaduck https://www.aquaduck.com.au/gold-coast-river-cruise/	Aquaduck experience begins in the heart of Surfers Paradise on Cavill Avenue. From Surfers Paradise beach towards the glamour and beauty of Main Beach. Along the way, the Pacific Ocean, Southport Yacht Club, Marina Mirage, Palazzo Versace. That's where the Aquaduck gets to show its true colours splashing into the water for a scenic cruise of the spectacular river and Broadwater. The key sights from the water, wildlife and all the activity of surrounds.	Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach	Bus leaves at 11:30am for a tour start time of 12:15pm	\$10 for bus Lunch at own expense \$36.55 (RPP \$43)
	Other Options <u>Harbour Town</u>	Visits are also available to Harbour Town, one of Australia's largest outlet shopping centres with over 240 stores, as well as providing alfresco dining. Harbour Town have their own shuttle buses to and from the Convention Centre at 9.15am & 10.30am, returning 2pm & 5pm. VIP invitations to Harbour Town are available at the get together at apartment 3005, Air on Broadbeach.			
	<u>SkyPoint Observation Deck</u>	SkyPoint Observation Deck offers panoramic views of the Gold Coast, 230m above sea level, located atop the iconic Q1 building in Surfers Paradise. SkyPoint's unique vantage point lets you take in the entire city from the 77 floor.			\$29 pp one time entry
Any expressions of interest or pre-bookings would be very welcome.	Contacts: Sue (m) 0424 830 158	gcchospitality@qldbbridge.com.au	Bridge Companions		
	Lana (m) 0481 187 578		Bridge Companions		
	Ian Wright (m) 0417 194 347	ian83@me.com	Golf Only		

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

BULLETIN

Stephen Lester is the Bulletin Editor. The quality of the Bulletin is enhanced with contributions from players of all standards. Quality play, defence or bidding or humorous stories from the tournament or even general comments or criticisms are greatly appreciated. There are many ways to make a submission including:

- see a Bulletin Editor – there is often one at the venue
- phone or SMS the number on the header of the Daily Bulletin (0468 459 351)
- send an email to the address on the header of the Daily Bulletin sleksix@gmail.com)
- put a submission in the Bulletin Submission box opposite the Administration desk

BUS - GCC

The Gold Coast Congress Bus will pick up and return visiting players who are residing within a reasonable distance from the Gold Coast Convention Centre. No pickup from The Star Gold Coast or Freshwater Point Resort.

The bus service is mainly for those who need the service. To make pre-bookings – contact Barry on 0418 747 078 and advise your location so he is aware when driving the loop.

CADDY NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS

2024 Caddy Dates are Sunday 18th February to Saturday 24th February – 2 sessions each day except the last Saturday where there is one.

Caddy Notes and Instructions

PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THEIR MOBILE PHONES DURING SESSION TIMES. STAFF ARE NOT ALLOWED MOBILE PHONES AND THAT MEANS **CADDYS ARE NOT ALLOWED MOBILE PHONES FOR ANY REASON**. Prue (Operations Manager), the Bridge Administration Office or the Congress's coffee shop (in the foyer) will look after your phone if you are expecting urgent calls.

CADDYS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE EARPHONES IN THEIR EARS FOR ANY REASON as they need to be listening for caddy calls.

A good caddy is one whose section never needs to call for a caddy as **WE LIKE PROACTIVE CADDYS**. A proactive caddy is one who regularly patrols their section recognising fast tables and rather than have them call you, you have boards ready to go on their table.

FEEL FREE TO BRING A BOOK however do not get immersed in the book as a good caddy is proactive caddy. There is always something to do so if you are bored and you have not brought reading materials, ask your floor manager for jobs.

DO NOT LEAVE THE FLOOR FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT YOUR FLOOR MANAGER BEING ADVISED including toilet visit or coming out to the Admin Office to see me.

CADDIES CAN BE SEEN BUT NOT HEARD. YOU MUST NOT SPEAK TO A PLAYER UNLESS YOU ARE SPOKEN TO FIRST. DO NOT DISTURB THEM FOR ANY REASON

Clothing - Caddy attire includes a Shirt (Purple colour) provided by me and it is to be worn during the bridge session. The shirt provided is to be handed in at the end of the day for washing and a different shirt will be issued the following day. It is strongly recommended that you wear long shorts/pants (rather than skirt or dress) and enclosed shoes. Short Shorts or Skirts are not

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

appropriate – **all clothing MUST be at least halfway down the thigh**. ALL caddies MUST wear covered in **comfortable enclosed shoes** throughout the whole week – runners are perfect. Walking around in bare feet is not allowed – thongs are not considered appropriate and there is a lot of walking. **Caddys will be sent home if they are dressed INAPPROPRIATELY**. Caddies who take their shirt home either on purpose or by accident will be expected to wash the shirt and either return or bring it back.

Hours - You will need to arrive half an hour before a session especially your first one. Your allocated Floor Manager will advise of starting times. **PLEASE DON'T BE LATE!**

Pay – I will pay you via bank transfer after the event. I will come and get your details sometime over the week.

Parking – I have organised parking privately with each caddy. It is expected that caddies find alternative parking however we are given some free ones so please enquire.

Caddy Bags - At the start of the event you will receive a caddy bag which carries what the players may need - system cards, pens and bidding pads. Spare Scoring Booklets for the Event you are caddying should be added to your bag. You will need to have your caddy bag with you throughout each session – When you start the caddy bags will have the required stationery for the first event except scoring book. After that event it is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct stationery for the players. Floor Managers will explain what the stationery is for each event.

Distributing & Picking Up Boards - Each caddy will be allocated a section and Floor Manager. Your job is to ensure players always have boards to play. Each event has different board allocation requirements. **LISTEN TO YOUR FLOOR MANAGER** as to distribution of boards. The numbers of the boards change but it is your job to hand them in the numerical order as instructed. **IT IS VITAL THAT THE BOARDS GET HANDED OUT CORRECTLY.**

Once the players have finished with their boards you must go and pick up the boards and put them in the correct order in your boxes. A new round within a session cannot commence until all boards have been found.

Caddy Calls - A player will call for a caddy for three reasons (1) when they need a new board or (2) when they need something from your caddy bag or (3) when they need you to fill in as dummy (see elsewhere). When they ask for a new board it is your job to go and find the board they are after. Your Floor Manager will advise you as to where you can get boards from and listen to the players as they usually know which boards they want. Once the players have finished with the board that you have got for them, you will need to return it to the table you took it from. Smokers and Toilet visits are looked after at events with caddys offering to be dummy whilst the player leaves the table. All you have to do is pull the card that the player nominates and turn it after the trick has been played. We will show you, but this is part of the service of being a caddy. However, remember at the end of the session you will not have time to be dummy as there will be lots of caddy calls.

Director Calls –If you realise that the player who is calling for the Director is not being heard, you can assist by standing next to the player and calling for the director yourself.

Turn Overs – At the end of each event, we need to turn the rooms around. The major turnovers are Monday and Thursday. Additional payment for those who are asked to stay behind to assist with set up will be made.

BRING YOUR LUNCH On most days you will not have time to go home or across the road between the sessions to get something to eat and we do not supply meals on any of the days, please be prepared. There is a snack bar at the Centre which is costly. Please bring your own food or there

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

are snack food stores across the way, but you may not have time to access these. We will have a fridge for staff use and we will advise their location once you start.

Caddies usually come back for a second go so it is enjoyable especially if you do the right thing by your floor manager.

Please note – do not bring any expensive items on to the premises as there is nowhere to store valuables when you are busy. I am contactable throughout the whole congress – if you have any problems, **my number is 0412064903** - Kim Ellaway, Manager.

CALENDAR 2024

Fri 16 Feb	Sat 17 Feb	Sun 18 Feb	Mon 19 Feb	Tue 20 Feb	Wed 21 Feb	Thu 22 Feb	Fri 23 Feb	Sat 24 Feb
		BR Pairs Championship Sun Qual/Mon Final						
		Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs	Monday Butler Swiss Pairs				Friday Butler Swiss Pairs	
		Rookie 0-10 MP Pairs				Rookie 0-10 MP Pairs		
No GCC	Walk-in Pairs x1	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x2	Walk-in Pairs x1
				Teams Championship			Teams Finals	Open Teams Final
				0-50 #1&2 Masterpoint Pairs	0-50 #1&2 Masterpoint Pairs	0-50 #1&2 Butler Swiss Pairs	Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs – #1,2 & 3	
								Dinner Dance

CATEGORIES - TEAMS

All teams should have nominated their categories when submitting their entry.

Please check to see you are entered correctly into the various categories as once winners are announced, no correspondence will be entered into.

Open Categories: Same Sex, Mixed*, Queensland and Best New Zealand Team

Under 1500 MPs Categories: Same Sex, Mixed*, Queensland

Intermediate Categories: Same Sex, Mixed* and Queensland

Restricted Categories: Same Sex, Mixed* and Queensland

Novice Categories: Same Sex, Mixed*

**Mixed category requires at least 1 male and 1 female player*

CATEGORY PRIZE POLICY - TEAMS

Special category prizes are awarded to the highest placed team not qualifying for the finals series or third place. Teams must nominate a single category for which they wish to contend prior to the category nomination closing time specified by the TO. There must be at least 6 teams within a category for a prize to be awarded. If there are fewer than 6 teams in a category at the close of entries, such teams will be moved to a different category by the Manager or Entries Coordinator.

CHARITY 2024 – ZEPHYR FOUNDATION

Please see [ZEPHYR FOUNDATION](#)

CLOSING TIMES FOR ENTRIES FOR EVENTS

All events except Friday events (mentioned below) close 24 hours before the event starts. Online entry via MyABF is preferred.

Friday events:

Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs

Thursday 6.00pm

Friday Butler Swiss Pairs

Thursday 6.00pm

Any player making changes to their entries at the venue will be charged an administration fee of \$10 per player.

COFFEE, TEA 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. Please understand that the service is run for the benefit of players by volunteers. There will be \$20 vouchers and \$40 vouchers available for purchase from the Bridge Office. \$20 entitles you to 5 coffees without handling any money apart from payment. \$40 entitles you to 11 coffees. As we are not allowed to run the free water service in the playing area this year we will be selling bottles of water at \$2.00 from the coffee shop. These can be purchased via voucher in lots of 2's. We cannot under any circumstance give free – a cup of hot water so please don't request – it is a public liability issue. We will not be doing double shots this year. VOUCHERS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE BRIDGE OFFICE VIA EFTPOS OR CASH. No refunds once a voucher has been purchased. Coffee, Tea and Water can be individually purchased via EFTPOS.

Located upstairs opposite Administration office.

Please note that GCCEC permits a maximum of 102 seated attendees.

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

<p>Saturday 17th 1.30pm-2.15pm Liam Milne</p>	 <p>Trusting Partner on Defence</p> <p>The most satisfying moments on defence come when both defenders are on the same wavelength and trusting each other. Come along and discover a few situations where you and your partner can build that trust together</p> <p><i>Liam Milne has appeared on the Australian Open team several times in recent years. His recent domestic wins include the 2022 Gold Coast Teams, ANC Open Teams, Victor Champion Cup and Spring National Open Teams.</i></p>
<p>Sunday 18th 1.30pm-2.15pm William Jenner-O'Shea</p>	 <p>Counting The Opponent's Hands</p> <p>Working out Where the missing Cards are Counting the length of the Opponent's Suits Improve your guesses! These are some of the most important aspects of Bridge.</p> <p><i>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 successful career teaching.</i></p>
<p>Monday 19th 9.00am – 9.45am Finn Kolesnik</p>	 <p>Winning at The Soloway!</p> <p>USA teen sensation Finn Kolesnik takes you through some hands that helped his team in winning the prestigious Soloway KO 2022.</p> <p><i>Finn Kolesnik is an 18-year-old Bridge Pro from Austin Texas. He is currently a member of the U26 USA 1 Junior Team. His other accomplishments include 1st U21 pairs WC 2022, 1st U26 teams WC 2022, and many other top NABC finishes.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday 20th 1.30pm-2.15pm Andy Hung</p>	 <p>The Art of Bidding with Bad Hands</p> <p>Ever pick up a near-yarborough hand and find yourself yawning? I hope not, as you can sometimes get creative! Andy will give you the expert insight of when to bid with them, and when to pass.</p> <p><i>Andy Hung is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia Open competitions. He has won several Australian National titles and placed third in two previous US Nationals. When he's not competing in tournaments, you will find him teaching at the WABC in Perth, or running bridge holidays in Australia, or overseas - contact him for his holidays this year!</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 21st 9.00am-9.45am Paul Marston</p>	 <p>Fit matters – do not hide your minors</p> <p>I will do my best to convince you about one convention you should play, and one you should avoid.</p> <p><i>Paul Marston has won more than 50 open national titles and his books have sold more than 500,000 copies.</i></p>

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

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

CONGRESS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2024

[System regulations](#) are published 1 January on the Gold Coast Congress MyABF website.

[Supplementary regulations](#) are published on the website.

CONTACTS FOR GCC STAFF

The main contacts are:

General Enquiries	Kim and Ray Ellaway 0412 064 903 manager@qldbridge.com.au
Tournament Organiser	Tim Runting 0458 448 765 gccconvenor@qldbridge.com.au
Partnership Enquiries	Toni Bardon Mobile 0401 082 054 tmbardon@hotmail.com
Accommodation Enquiries	Sue Smith 0429 056 445 Sue.gcccongress@gmail.com
Entry Enquiries	Pele Rankin 0439 949 060 gcccentries@qldbridge.com.au (Email preferred. Please call only between 9am and 5pm)
Chief Director	Dr Laurie Kelso 0412 559 171 lskelso@ihug.com.au
New Zealand enquiries	Alister Stuck acs@inspire.net.nz (06) 358 3449
Hospitality	Sue Ziegenfuss gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au 0424 830 158

CORRECTION OF SCORES

Scoring Area Phone Number is 0456 587 765 – accepts text messages only

After each session, a printout of the results for each pair or team will be made available. For the last session of a stage of an event, you may obtain a copy on request from the Scoring Enquiries Desk – located in the Administration Office during the pairs and outside the playing area thereafter.

If you believe that there is a mistake, you need to follow this procedure:

1. on the board where you believe that there was an error, agree with your opponents that the score was entered incorrectly;
2. make the correction on your printout and have them sign it;
3. give the corrected printout to the Scoring Liaison Officer, Toni Bardon, under the sign “SCORING ENQUIRIES” next to the Scoring Room. She will check that you have provided all the necessary information. The correction will be made by the scorers during the following session and a new personal printout will be made available for you to collect.

Agreed scoring errors need to be advised within the scoring correction period for the session in which the error occurred. The scoring correction periods are displayed prominently near the scoreboards. At the conclusion of the scoring correction period, scores become final and, under the Laws of Bridge, no further changes can be made. **This is critical for the last rounds when the correction period is limited, and scorers may not pick up anomalies. You are responsible for your own actions - or lack thereof.**

The Scoring team may be advised of potential scoring errors via text to 0456-587-765 (receives texts only). Include the following information: Event, Session/Match, Pair number, Board number, Contract, Declarer, Score, What you believe is correct. The scoring team has a protocol to follow to determine if a result is manifestly wrong. If it is not accepted or if the error relates to the number of tricks taken, you will need to obtain written confirmation from your opponents as described above.

COURTESY BUS

The Gold Coast Congress Bus will pick up and return visiting players who are residing within a reasonable distance from the Gold Coast Convention Centre. No pickup from The Star Gold Coast or Freshwater Point Resort.

The bus service is mainly for those who need the service. To make pre-bookings – contact Barry on 0418 747 078 and advise your location so he is aware when driving the loop.

DINNER DANCE

Saturday 24th February 7.30pm. Limited Numbers.

Table Lists can be collected from the Dinner Dance Table next to the Scoring Area. Table sizes are for 10 guests and unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate larger tables than 10. Numbers will be restricted to 250 people. Please advise us of any special dietary requirement when making your booking.

Please return your form before 5:00pm Wednesday 21st February. Seating allocation will be based on the time of lodgement of your form.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

To help us in providing you with the best possible food, wine and entertainment at the GCC, as well as eliminating the waste of no shows, we are asking all participants in the Gold Coast Congress other than the Walk-In Duplicates to contribute \$20. Non-players are asked to pay \$50. No tickets will be issued. Your table allocation will be posted on boards next to the dining hall doors.

The evening includes a 3 course meal and drinks, prize giving and the return of the fabulous Captain Wow to dance the night away.

Only first prizes to be presented and only for: Pairs Championships (4 divisions), Teams Championships (5 divisions) and Ivy Dahler (3 divisions). First in Open Pairs and Open Teams will be announced even if players not there to collect. ABF Medallions will be presented to First and Second in the Open Teams and Open Pairs.

The GCCEC has strict guidelines regarding its liquor licence and the responsible serving of alcohol. Under no circumstances can alcohol be brought onto the premises for consumption at the dinner dance, nor can any alcohol purchased at the GCC Dinner be taken from the premises during or after the event. No alcohol will be served to those under 18, or the drunk and disorderly. Please refer to GCCEC website for its policy on the responsible serving of alcohol.

[http://www.gccec.com.au/responsible service alcohol](http://www.gccec.com.au/responsible-service-alcohol).

Should you have any further questions regarding the dinner dance, please go to the Dinner Dance desk next to the Scoring Room.

DIRECTOR, CHIEF TOURNAMENT

Laurie Kelso is the Chief Tournament Director

DIRECTORS GET TOGETHER

A Directors get-together will be conducted by Chris Snook on Wednesday 21st February 2024 from 8.30am to 9.45am upstairs in Meeting Room 12 opposite administration office. Enquiries: Chris Snook 0413136435 chris@snook.id.au

DISCOUNT ENTRY FEES - YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS

All players born on or after 1 January 2006 are entitled to free entry. If free-entry Youth wins a cash prize, half the value of entry fee to be deducted before payment.

All players born on or after 1 January 1999 are entitled to a 50% discount.

Your state-based bridge association or local bridge club may also offer a subsidy – it doesn't hurt to ask!

DISCOUNT PERIOD FINISHING DAY

The \$10 discount per person for most entry fees applies if prepaid by midnight Monday 12th February 2024. No discount for Rookie Pairs and Walk-Ins.

DOCTOR

During session time, if you need a doctor or medical assistance you can contact Kim Ellaway through the Administration Desk. Kim will direct you to the inhouse Doctor.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Outside of session time, contact the Broadbeach Medical Centre on 07-5531-6344, Suite GO1, 2681 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach. Please note they do not bulk bill. After-hours service: National Home Doctors Service on 137425 who do bulk bill.

DRAW FOR NEXT ROUND PAGE

The draw for the next round in the Teams and Swiss Pairs events will be published on the web at the same time it is displayed on the projector screens at the venue. So, if you are "[connected](#)" you can check your standings and the draw online.

DRESS UP THEME DAY

We encourage all players to dress in keeping with the Gold Coast Annual Theme for Wednesday Teams Sessions. The 2024 theme is **SPORTS** celebrate our 62nd year and wear your most sporty gear. The photography will commence when play finishes 2:30pm to 3:00pm Wednesday 21st February. Prizes will be available for some combination of groups, pairs or individuals.



DAY! Please and the parade from Prizes will be

DROP-IN PAIRS

Pairs of players defeated in the Open Teams Round-of-4 will be permitted to enter the Ivy Dahler Pairs commencing in Round 4 subject to the following conditions:

- only players who were in teams defeated in the Round-of-4 will be allowed to enter, but partnerships may be from different teams
- only an even number of entries will be accepted (i.e. 2 pairs, 4 pairs, etc)
- full entry fee will be payable
- entry for pairs must be submitted and paid for at Bridge Administration Desk by 1.00pm
- drop-in pairs will be randomly assigned to either the NS or EW field and will be randomly drawn against each other in Round 4
- drop-in scores will be assigned according to the formula described in the Appendices

DROP-IN SCORES - From the Appendices

Drop-in scores for pairs entering the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs - Open in Round 4

Assuming an original entry of n tables, pairs entering at Round 4 will be assigned a VP score, x (rounded to 2 decimal places), equal to the greater of:

- i) the average score of the top $n/10$ (rounded up) pairs at the conclusion of Round 3; and
- ii) the leader's score at the conclusion of Round 3 minus 10.5.

Scores for NS and EW drop-in pairs will be calculated separately.

Such pairs will be assigned an IMP score for each of Matches 1-3 as nearly equivalent as possible to the IMP score which would convert to $x/3$ VPs.

ELIGIBILITY

General eligibility* is based on awards processed as officially released by the ABF in October 2023. Players must individually meet the eligibility criteria to compete in the events. This includes Team/Pair events where all players must be under the stated masterpoint range or age as per below.

Overseas players may enter Novice, Restricted, Intermediate and 0-1500 events, however, they must quote their local registration number and be eligible to play in equivalent events in their own country.

Grand Slam players must state their rating when entering, eligibility includes under 54% for Novice, 56% and under for Restricted, and 59% and under for Intermediate events and 62% and under for the Under 1500 event.

A player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction, or higher, as the one entered. Notwithstanding, players who have already entered a restricted category at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible. Winners of events restricted by masterpoints cannot play in the identical event in subsequent years.

CATEGORY	GENERAL ELIGIBILITY	NZ ELIGIBILITY
0-10MP's (Rookie)	Under 10 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Novice as at 30/09/2023
0-50 MP's	Under 50 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Certificate of Proficiency or lower as at 30/09/2023
NOVICE	Under 100 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Club Master or lower as at 30/09/2023
RESTRICTED	Under 300 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Provincial or lower as at 30/09/2023
INTERMEDIATE	Under 750 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Master or lower as at 30/09/2023
0-1500 MP's	Under 1500 MPs as at 30/9/2023*	Life Master or lower as at 30/9/23
MIXED	Required to have at least 1 male and 1 female player	
YOUTH	Must be born on or after 01/01/1999	

Players born on or after 01/01/2006 (under 18 years) and born on or before 01/01/1924 (over 100 years) are entitled to free entry - courtesy of Gold Coast Congress. Players born on or after 01/01/1999 (under 25 years) are entitled to a 50% discount. Please advise DOB when entering (ABF Policy).

ENTERING

On-line entering with [MyABF](#) is the preferred and only option to enter. Pele from Entries, and Kim and Ray from Enquiries can assist in these areas.

Pele Rankin: gccentries@qldbridge.com.au m: 0439 949 060. Email preferred. Please call between 9am and 5pm.

Kim & Ray Ellaway: manager@qldbridge.com.au m: 0412 064 903

You need to be registered with MyABF to submit an entry to any event. International players may submit their entries via Pele Rankin - gccentries@qldbridge.com.au

New Zealand players will need an ABF number before you can sign up. Please email masterpoints@abf.com.au with your gender, NZB number and date of birth. If you already have an ABF number but don't remember it, you may search for it [here](#) - ABF Masterpoint Centre.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

To sign up MyABF website, please follow these instructions. It only takes a couple of minutes:

Sign up at this site <https://www.myabf.com.au/view>

Click on 'SIGN UP', which will take you to this

link <https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register> where you will need to enter **ABF number, Name, Email address and a password** that's easy to remember to avoid having to reset password.

Once you have done this, you will be sent an email to activate your account. Check spam for the activation email if you haven't received it.

Once you have activated your account, it will take you to a site with your profile. Include your mobile phone number and select the box for notifications if you would like to receive your results via text message.

For information on registering - [MyABF resources and how to sign up](#)

ENTRIES

Please ensure you get your entries in and remember they need to be paid by 12th February 2024 to receive the early bird discount. Never rely solely on your team-mates to do it for you.

MyABF is the preferred option for entering. Pele, Kim, and Ray are available to assist.

Entries close 24 hours prior to all events starting. Late entries for Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs and Friday Butler Swiss Pairs will be accepted up to 6.00pm on Thursday 22nd February 2024. Any changes to entries to these events will be charged an administration fee of \$10 per player. QBA reserves the right not to accept late entries and also reject entries without assigning cause.

Online entries close 48 hours prior to event. Phone entries may be accepted up to 24 hours prior to play starting, however for events on Friday and Saturday, entries will be accepted until 6.00pm on Thursday 22nd February.

Refunds are automatically given to those pairs who qualify for teams final. Youth players claiming a reduction in fees must disclose DOB at time of entry.

ENTRY DISCOUNTS

Youth Players and Senior Players are entitled to free entry (see DOB eligibility details in table below). GCC Prize Money Policy applies. Players born on or after 1 January 1999 (under 25 years) are entitled to a 50% discount. Players claiming a discount must disclose DOB at time of entry (ABF Policy). Early Bird Prices only apply if entry payment is received by 5 February 2023.

ENTRY FEES

Entry Fees – A few players, because of extenuating circumstances, have not been able to pre-pay their entry fee. If this means YOU, then please proceed to Bridge Administration Desk and take care of the matter. **Your team or pair cannot commence play if an entry fee is unpaid.**

Entry Fees for the events are as follows –

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Bobby Richman Pairs Championship: | \$290 p/pair (\$250 if paid by 12/2) |
| ▪ Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs: | \$170 p/pair (\$130 if paid by 12/2) |
| ▪ Monday Butler Swiss Pairs: | \$170 p/pair (\$130 if paid by 12/2) |
| ▪ Teams Championships | \$860 p/team (\$780 if paid by 12/2) |

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

- Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs \$230 p/pair (\$190 if paid by 12/2)
- Rookie Pairs \$90 p/pair per session (\$50 if paid by 12/2)
- 0 - 50 Masterpoint Pairs (2 sessions) \$140 p/pair x Tuesday (\$100 if paid by 12/2)
\$140 p/pair x Wednesday (\$100 if paid by 12/2)
\$140 p/pair x Thursday (\$100 if paid by 12/2)
- Friday Butler Swiss Pairs: \$170 per/pair (\$130 if paid by 12/2)
- Walk In Pairs: \$15 per player (Pay at table)

Players born on or after 1 January 2006 (under 18 years) and born on or before 1 January 1924 (over 100 years) are entitled to free entry - courtesy of Gold Coast Congress. Players born on or after 1 January 1999 (under 25 years) are entitled to a 50% discount. Please advise DOB when entering (ABF Policy).

If you have not paid, you must go to the Bridge Administration Desk before play starts. Entry to the Ivy Dahler Pairs and Friday Butler Swiss Pairs will be accepted up to 6.00pm on Thursday.

Early bird discount applies to each person for most events if entry and entry fee is received prior to midnight Monday 12th February 2024.

ENTRY FORM

There is no official Entry Form but there is a form you can complete if you would like to post/email an entry. Control/Click this link: [Entry Form](#)

EVENT ORGANISERS

Tournament organiser – Tim Runting
Chief Tournament Director –Dr Laurie Kelso
Chief Scorer – Matthew McManus

EVENT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

OPEN: Carries ABF Open Playoff Points. Swiss Pairs Events do not carry playoff points.

YOUTH: Open to players born after 1st January 1999.

0-1500: Open to players who have not attained 1500 MPs as at 30 Sept 2023

INTERMEDIATE: Open to players who have not attained 750 MPs as at 30 Sept 2023

RESTRICTED: Open to players who have not attained 300 MPs as at 30 Sept 2023

NOVICE: Open to players who have not attained 100 MP's as at 30 Sept 2023

UNDER 50 MP: Open to players who have not attained 50 MPs as at 30 Sept 2023

ROOKIE: Open to players who have not attained 10 MP's as at 30 Sept 2023

FINALISTS

Those teams qualifying for a berth in the Finals series of the Teams Championships in all sections do so only on the condition that they are willing and available to progress to the conclusion of their respective events.

For the Under 1500, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice - If one or two teams are not available the play off for the finals to be given to third and/or fourth place. If no two teams are available, the team willing to participate in the finals series to be given the title and prizemoney with the runner up to be given second place status.

FINALS INCLUDING TOP 4 AND SEMI FINALS

The top 2 from each field of Under 1500, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice teams will play in finals beginning at 10.00 am on Friday. The top 6 in the Open Field will play finals on Friday and then the top 2 on Saturday.

OPEN - TOP 6 AT END OF MATCH 12

Round of 4 - 3rd to 6th

Friday 9:00am 24 Boards (2x12 Board Stanzas)

Losing teams in the round of 4 may feed into the Ivy Dahler Pairs or play in the Walk In Pairs. Conditions apply.

OPEN - SEMI FINAL

1st, 2nd and winners of the Round of 4

Friday 2:00pm 36 Boards (3x12 Board Stanzas)

OPEN - FINAL

Saturday 9:00am 48 Boards (4x12 Board Stanzas)

UNDER 1500, INTERMEDIATE, RESTRICTED and NOVICE,

Top 2 at the end of Match 12

Friday 10:00am 48 Boards (4x12 Board Stanzas)

FINDING US ONLINE

[GCC website](#) or [Facebook](#)

GOLD POINTS

Gold points are awarded for all events except Walk In Pairs.

For further information regarding masterpoint allocation, please refer to [Masterpoints](#) .

HELP BEFORE PLAY

Help will be available as follows:

Rookies	Sunday 18 th February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am
	Thursday 22 nd February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am
Under 50s	Tuesday 20 th February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am
	Wednesday 21 st February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am
	Thursday 22 nd February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am
Novices	Sunday 18 th February Novice Pairs start 10.00am help from 9.30am

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Tuesday 20th February Novice Teams start 10.00am help from 9.30am

Friday 23rd February Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs starts 10am help from 9.30am

Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat & working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. We can also assist with any queries regarding alerting or anything else you might like to know, but also refer to the timetable of activities. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow, fluorescent jackets.

HELP BEFORE PLAY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Day	Event	Help from	Play Starts	Volunteers
18/02/2024	Sunday	BR Novice Pairs	9.30am	10.00am	Mick Fawcett, Lyn Tracey, Andrew & Susan Sharp
18/02/2024	Sunday	Rookies	9.30am	10.00am	Mick Fawcett, Richard Fox, Sameer Pandya
20/02/2024	Tuesday	Novice Teams	9.30am	10.00am	Kathy & Warren Males, Michelle Radke, Phil Hale
20/02/2024	Tuesday	0-50s	9.30am	10.00am	Jim & Pamela Evans, Andrew & Susan Sharp
21/02/2024	Wednesday	0-50s	9.30am	10.00am	Richard Fox, Rachel Langdon, Sameer Pandya
22/02/2024	Thursday	0-50s	9.30am	10.00am	Sameer Pandya, Jim and Pamela Evans
22/02/2024	Thursday	Rookies	9.30am	10.00am	Kathy Males & Warren Males, Michelle Radke
23/02/2024	Friday	Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs	9.30am	10.00am	Mick Fawcett, Lyn Tracey, Phil Hale

HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPING COSTS DOWN

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 the players.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is held in the Convener's Unit daily usually after the afternoon's play in the pairs and after the last match during the teams. The Convener, at times, allows other officers to host hospitality sessions.

HOUSE TEAMS AND PAIRS

Any nominations are welcomed in the event that House Teams or Pairs are required. House players are eligible to win prizes and master points.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Gold Points are awarded in all events except Walk-in Pairs
- List of prizes are published on the website after 1st January 2023
- [System regulations](#) are available on the MyABF GCC website after 1 January 2023
- [Supplementary regulations](#) are published on website after 1st February 2023
- Seating for Pairs and Teams Championships are available on website 24 hours prior to event
- Gold Coast Congress Compendium updated regularly as information comes to hand

INTERMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have not attained 750 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

LATE ENTRIES IVY DAHLER BUTLER PAIRS AND FRIDAY BUTLER PAIRS

Entries for the end-of-week events (Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs, Sere McMahon Swiss Pairs and Friday Novice Pairs) close at **6.00pm Thursday**.

To relieve the pressure on the Administration Desk at this time, and to cut down on the queues, we are leaving the web site on-line entries open right up until **6.00pm Thursday** for players wishing to enter and pay on-line by credit card. The QBA reserves the right not to accept late entries and reject entries without assigning cause.

You will still be able to pay at the Administration Desk using cash, cheque, or credit card. Changes to existing entries (different players, changing events, cancellations etc.) will need to be done at the Administration Desk. Any changes to entries to these events will be charged an administration fee of \$10 per player.

Avoid the queues and enter on-line. If you make the finals, you will automatically receive a refund.

LUNCHES

The Convention Centre Kiosk, The Combi, will sell a few sandwiches, salads and sausage rolls. Alternatively, here are some suggestions nearby from the GCCEC – [Cafes near GCCEC](#)

MASTERPOINTS

Walk-In Pairs are awarded Red Masterpoints.

All other events including Rookies and 0-50mps are awarded Gold Masterpoints.

Masterpoint Awards:

Gold in main events, red for walk-ins

Sunday/Monday/Friday

Butler Swiss Pairs - Open

0.36 gold masterpoints for each win

Open Teams

1.12 gold masterpoints for each win

Under 1500 MPs Teams

0.56 gold masterpoints for each win

Intermediate Teams

0.50 gold masterpoints for each win

Restricted Teams

0.41 gold masterpoints for each win

Novice Teams

0.36 gold masterpoints for each win

Open Butler Swiss Pairs

0.64 gold masterpoints for each win

Intermediate Butler Swiss Pairs

0.29 gold masterpoints for each win

Restricted Butler Swiss Pairs

0.23 gold masterpoints for each win

Novice Butler Swiss Pairs

0.16 gold masterpoints for each win

0-50 MPs Butler Swiss Pairs

0.16 gold masterpoints for each win

Substantial awards for outright places (top half of field in pairs, top third of field in Teams and Swiss pairs). All Masterpoint awards are subject to final field size.

MINOR SPONSORS

Voucher Sponsors are entitled to free advertisements. A \$50 voucher is entitled to an advertisement equivalent to the size of 1/6th of a page. \$500 of vouchers will provide a daily advertisement of the same size.

MyABF – SIGNING UP

All players will need an ABF number to play in the Gold Coast Congress. Please email masterpoints@abf.com.au with your gender, NZB number and date of birth. Alternatively, email Pele Rankin and she will get the ABF number for you.

If you already have an ABF number but don't remember it, you may search for it [here](#) - ABF Masterpoint Centre.

Once you have an ABF number, you need to be **registered with MyABF** to submit an entry to any event. International players may submit their entries via Pele Rankin - gccentries@qldbridge.com.au

New Zealand players will need an ABF number before you can sign up. Please email masterpoints@abf.com.au with your gender, NZB number and date of birth. If you already have an ABF number but don't remember it, you may search for it [here](#) - [ABF Masterpoint Centre](#).

To sign up to [MyABF](#), please follow these instructions. It only takes a couple of minutes:

Sign up at this site <https://www.myabf.com.au/view>

Click on 'SIGN UP', which will take you to this link <https://www.myabf.com.au/accounts/register> where you will need to enter **ABF number, Name, Email address and a password** that's easy to remember to avoid having to reset password.

You will be sent an email to activate your account. Check spam for the activation email if you haven't received it.

Once you have activated your account, it will take you to a site with your profile. Include your mobile phone number and select the box for notifications if you would like to receive your results via text message. Please enter your date of birth.

For information on registering - [MyABF resources and how to sign up](#)

MyABF REFUNDS

Should you withdraw from the event prior to publication of the draw, and you would like a refund of your entry fees, please refer to these instructions:

[MyABF How to Withdraw and Entry and Request a Refund](#)

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

NEW ZEALAND MASTERPOINT CONVERSION

CATEGORY	NZ ELIGIBILITY
Rookie	Novice as at 30/09/2023
Under 50	Certificate of Proficiency or lower as at 30/09/2023
NOVICE	Club Master or lower as at 30/09/2023
RESTRICTED	Provincial or lower as at 30/09/2023
INTERMEDIATE	Master or lower as at 30/09/2023
Under 1500	Life Master or lower as at 30/09/2023
Youth	Born after or on 01/01/1999

NIGHT PLAY

No night bridge apart from No Frills Walk In

NO FRILLS WALK-IN PAIRS

Saturday 17th February – 1 Session: 6.00pm

NOVICE ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have not attained 100 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

NOVICE AND ROOKIE ACTIVITIES

NOVICE & ROOKIE ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE/TIME
GCC Bobby Richman Novice Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Sunday 18 th Help from 9.30am
GCC Rookie Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuchsia Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Sunday 18 th Help from 9.15am
GCC 0-50 MP Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuchsia Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Tuesday 20 th Help from 9.15am
GCC Novice Teams Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Tuesday 20 th Help from 9.30am
GCC 0-50 MP Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuchsia Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Wednesday 21 st Help from 9.15am
GCC Rookie Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuchsia Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Thursday 22 nd Help from 9.15am
GCC 0-50 MP Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuchsia Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Thursday 22 nd Help from 9.15am
GCC Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	Friday 23 rd Help from 9.30am

[Gold Coast Congress Novice Handy Guide](#) is highly recommended reading for first time participants.

NOVICE EVENTS

ROOKIE PAIRS – under 10 masterpoints (2 separate events)

Sunday 18th Feb 10.00am (min 24 boards) finish approx. 1.45pm

Thursday 22nd Feb 10.00am (min 24 boards) finish approx. 1.45pm

\$90 per pair (\$50 if prepaid by 12/2)

0-50 MASTERPOINT PAIRS

Tuesday 20th Feb - 2 session event 10:00am & 2.30pm finish 5.45pm approx.

(must play both sessions) \$110.00 (\$90 if paid by 12/2) per pair

Wednesday 21st Feb - 2 session event 10:00am & 2.30pm finish 5.45pm approx.

(must play both sessions) \$140.00 (\$100 if paid by 12/2) per pair

0-50 BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

Thursday 22nd Feb - 2 session event 10:00am & 2.30pm finish 5.45pm approx.

(must play both sessions) \$140.00 (\$100 if paid by 12/2) per pair

Small tea break will be held during sessions of 0-50 and 0-10 masterpoint sessions

FRIDAY IVY DAHLER NOVICE PAIRS – under 100 masterpoints

Friday 23rd Feb 10am & 2pm; Saturday 24th 10am (3 sessions). Finish approx. 1.15pm Saturday

\$230 per pair (\$190 if prepaid by 12/2)

NOVICE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP – under 100 masterpoints

4 sessions must play all

Sun 18th Feb 10.00am & 2.30pm finish approx. 5.45pm

Mon 19th Feb 10.00am & 2.30pm finish approx. 5.45pm

\$290 PER PAIR (\$250 if prepaid by 12/2)

NOVICE TEAMS – under 100 masterpoints - 12 matches

Tue 20th Feb, 10:00am & 2.30pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx.

Wed 21st Feb, 10:00am & 2.30pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx.

Thu 22nd Feb, 10:00am & 2.30pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx.

\$860 PER TEAM (\$780 if prepaid by 12/2)

(Top 2 at the end of match 12 play the finals at 10am Fri 23rd Feb – 4 x 12 board stanzas)

NOVICE HELP BEFORE PLAY

Help will be on hand one hour before the start of play for all 0-50, Rookie and half an hour before play for Novice players. Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat & working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. We can also assist with any queries regarding alerting or anything else you might like to know, but also refer to the timetable of activities. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow, fluorescent jackets.

Novice Bobby Richman Pairs Sun 18th Feb play starts 10am – help from 9.30am

Novice Teams Tue 20th Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.30am

Novice Ivy Dahler Pairs Fri 23rd Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.30am

[Gold Coast Congress Novice Handy Guide](#) is highly recommended reading for first time participants.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

ONLINE ENTRIES

Enter online via MyABF <https://www.myabf.com.au/>. Online entries close 48 hours prior to event. Phone entries may be accepted up to 24 hours prior to play starting, however for events on Friday 23rd February, entries will be accepted until 6.00pm on Thursday 22nd February.

ONSITE PERSONNEL

Attending the congress during the tournament will be:

World Bridge Federation:

Jan Kamras – President
Ben Thomson – Vice President

Australian Bridge Federation:

Alison Stralow – President
Stephen Fischer – Secretary
Rob Ward – Treasurer
Peter Cox – Head of Marketing
Dr Laurie Kelso - Joint National Event Coordinator and Secretary of WBF Laws Committee
Matthew McManus – Joint National Event Coordinator
Peter Reynolds – Chairman ABF Tournament Committee
Jane Rasmussen – ABF Secretariat

New Zealand Bridge Federation:

Chairperson – Alan Morris
Board Member – Sue Brown
Board Member - Anna Kalma
Board Member – Kate Terry

Queensland Bridge Association:

Richard Ward – QBA President and ABF Board Member

IBPA

Barry Rigal – President of the International Bridge Press Association
David Stern – Executive Vice President of the International Press Association
Liam Milne – Executive member of the International Bridge Press Association, Bulletin Editor
Geo Tislevol - Executive member of the International Bridge Press Association, Bulletin Editor
Brad Coles - Editor

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

OPEN PAIRS and TEAMS PLAYOFF POINTS

https://www.abfevents.com.au/events/pqp/standings/2023/2023_PQP_Table.html

BR Open Pairs Championship carries ABF Open Playoff Points. Swiss Pairs Events do not carry playoff points. PQP's awarded are:

1st = 36, 2nd = 28, 3rd = 20, 4th = 12, 5th = 6

Open Teams Championship carries ABF Open Playoff Points. PQP's awarded are:

1st = 48, 2nd = 24, 3rd = 18, 4th = 12, 5th 8, 6th 4

Australian Playoff Points are allocated to Open and Mixed events. Australian players entering the Gold Coast Congress Open Teams will be eligible for Open PQPs, irrespective of the category for which their team nominates. There is no finals play-off on Friday for Women's and Seniors' teams.

OVERSEAS ELIGIBILITY

New Zealand eligibility is publicised. Players from other countries will need to contact the Convenor.

ROOKIE 0-10 MP's: Novice as at 30/09/2023

0 – 50 MP's: Certificate of Proficiency as at 30/09/2023

NOVICE: Club Master or lower as at 30/09/2023

RESTRICTED: Provincial or lower as at 30/09/2023

0 – 500 MP's: Master or lower as at 30/09/2023

INTERMEDIATE under 750 MP's: Master or lower as at 30/09/2023

Under 1500: Life Master or lower as at 30/09/2023

Youth: Must be born after 01/01/1999

PARKING

Parking will be available for \$15 per entry per day or \$63 for a weekly pass with unlimited entry from Sunday 18th February to Saturday 24th February inclusive.

The Bridge Administration Desk is the ONLY place you can obtain a weekly pass. It will be open on Saturday 17th February from 12.00pm until 6pm then from Sunday one hour before play to half an hour after play finishes. Weekly passes can only be used from Sunday to Saturday inclusive.

For those requiring casual day parking, a one entry one exit ticket will be available from the machine upon entry. Those parking will need to pay \$15 on departure at the pay stations which are located at the centre lifts as you are exiting. Note that the \$15 ticket is a one entry and one exit ticket so if you intend to leave between sessions you will be required to pay a second \$15 parking fee.

PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

You may put in a partnership request with Toni Bardon 0401 082 054 or tmbardon@hotmail.com

PAYING AN ENTRY THAT'S ALREADY BEEN LODGED

A detailed "How to" guide illustrating this is on the My ABF Resources website [here](#):

PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY

When players come to the admin desk for their prize, they will be asked for Bank Account Details for one member of the winning pair or team. Prize money can be paid with bridge credits if requested. Overseas winners will need to discuss with Administration Staff.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Direct Deposit BSB: 484-799 Acc No: 452338505 Name: QBA
2. Cheques payable to: "Queensland Bridge Association". Post to Pele Rankin
3. Credit Card (complete details below)

Please charge my credit card the amount of \$ _____

Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Card holder's Name: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____

Card holders signature: _____

Mail entries to Pele Rankin, 38 Kirkdale Rd Chapel Hill Qld 4069

ONLINE ENTRANTS: If you enter on-line and promise payment by cheque or mailed credit card details, you **need to provide your name and event** along with the cheque or credit card details. No need to complete other parts of the form.

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.

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.

PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS USING BRIDGEMATE II

See [BRIDGE MATES II – PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS](#)

PLAYER QUALIFYING POINTS

Please refer to [PQPs – PLAYER QUALIFYING POINTS](#)

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

POLICY BRIDGE COMPANIONS ATTENDEES

Conditions of participation in Bridge Companion excursions: The GCC has strict guidelines regarding participation in any excursions. If an attendee has any health concerns that may impact their ability to participate in the excursion, please advise Sue (m) 0424 830 158 gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au. You may be barred from joining some of the excursions.

POLICY DINNER DANCE

Conditions of Entry to the Dinner Dance: The GCCEC has strict guidelines regarding its liquor licence and the Responsible Service of Alcohol. Under no circumstances can alcohol be brought onto the premises for consumption at the dinner dance, nor can any alcohol purchased at the GCC Dinner be taken from the venue during or after the event. No alcohol will be served to those under 18, or to anybody deemed to be drunk and/or disorderly.

POLICY PHOTOS

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.

POLICY REFUNDS

Late refunds are issued at the Gold Coast Congress Management's discretion, ideally before the draw for the event is published. Gold Coast Congress Management reserve the right to charge an administration fee of 25% of the entry fee.

POLICY TEAM CATEGORY

Special category prizes (awarded to the highest placed team not qualifying for the finals series. Teams must nominate a single category for which they wish to contend prior to the category nomination closing time specified by the TO. There must be at least 6 teams within a category for a prize to be awarded. If there are fewer than 6 teams in a category at the close of entries, such teams will be moved to a different category.

POLICY YOUTH DISCOUNT

Courtesy of the Gold Coast Congress, all players born after 1 January 2006 are entitled to free entry. If free-entry Youth wins a cash prize, half the value of entry fee to be deducted before payment.

In accordance with Australian Bridge Federation policy, all players born on or after 1 January 1999 are entitled to a 50% discount on entry fees. Please advise DOB when entering (ABF Policy).

PQPs – PLAYER QUALIFYING POINTS

PQP's are earned as per table below:

https://www.abfevents.com.au/events/pqp/standings/2023/2023_PQP_Table.html

EVENT	TYPE	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH
Gold Coast Pairs	MP Pairs	36	28	20	12	6	
Gold Coast Teams	Teams	48	24	18	12	8	4

Australian players entering the Gold Coast Congress BR Open Pairs and Open Teams will be eligible for Open PQPs, irrespective of the category for which their team nominates. There is no longer a final play-off on Friday for Women's and Seniors' teams at the Gold Coast Congress.

PRIZES

Link with the list of prizes is published on the GCC website after 1 January 2024.

Please see the prize board near the office. Qualifying Rounds – the bridge admin office will decide on how many within the section receives pens. It depends on the end number of sessions.

House players are eligible to win prizes.

Youth players who had free entry to an event and win a prize, will have half the entry fee deducted from their prize should the prize money exceed \$150.

PRIZE MONEY – 2024

			<u>PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP</u>		
<u>OPEN</u> (8 sect)			<u>INTER</u> (5 sect)	<u>REST</u> (5 sect)	<u>NOVICE</u> (3 sect)
		<u>PLATE</u>			
1 st	\$1,800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$400.00
2 nd	\$ 800.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$350.00
3 rd	\$ 600.00				

Best Women's Pair (Open) - \$200.00

Best Queensland Pair in each category \$200.00(v)

Qualifying – decision as to how many, will be made by Bridge Admin after event starts – pens to be awarded. It is assumed as at 29/8 that it will be 11 in the Open, 6 in the Restricted, 6 in the Intermediate and 3 in the Novice.

Finals – winners in each section in each session to be awarded pens.

Other Sections

1 st	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$300.00
2 nd	\$300.00 (C\$200 V\$100)	\$300.00 (C\$200 V\$100)	\$300.00 (C\$200 V\$100)	\$250.00 (C\$150 V\$100)

Prize of Vouchers will be for Bridge Supplies at Paul Lavings Book Shop situated in Convention Centre.

SUNDAY, MONDAY & FRIDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

0-500 Field only applies to the Sunday and Monday events.

One field only

OPEN

1st	\$300.00
2nd	\$200.00
3rd	\$150.00 (C\$50 & V\$100)

0-500

1st	\$200.00
2nd	\$150.00

No 3rd Prize for Friday Butler

Vouchers will be for Bridge Supplies at Paul Lavings Book Shop situated in Convention Centre.

Sessional winners will receive pens.

ROOKIE PAIRS

1st	\$80.00 for both North-South and East-West
2nd	\$60.00 for both North-South and East-West – (Vouchers)

UNDER 50 PAIRS – 2 SESSIONS

1st	\$160.00
2nd	\$120.00 (Vouchers)
3rd	\$100.00 (Vouchers)

Vouchers will be for Bridge Supplies at Paul Lavings Book Shop situated in Convention Centre Foyer.

IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

		<u>Open (2 fields)</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Novice</u>
1st	NS/EW	\$400.00 x2	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
2nd	NS/EW	\$300.00 x2	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

WALK IN PAIRS

\$50/\$60 Restaurant or Clothing vouchers for North/South and East/West Daily Winners when more than 10 ½ tables. One prize only if 10 tables or less.

No Frills Walk Ins – Sectional and Directional Winners to receive WINE and PEN

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Under 1500</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Novice</u>
1st	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
2nd	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
3rd	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 700.00
3rd	\$1,500.00				
5th	\$1,000.00				
5th	\$1,000.00				

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Team Categories

1 st	\$400.00 (C & V)	\$400.00(C&V)	\$400.00(C&V)	\$400.00(C&V)	\$400.00(C&V)
	4 categories	3 categories	3 categories	3 categories	3 categories

C & V = \$100 in Vouchers and \$300 in Direct Deposit in all categories. Vouchers will be for Bridge Supplies at Paul Lavings Book Shop situated in Convention Centre.

Wine to be distributed to spot prizes throughout the event.

PRIZES – PAYMENT

When players come to the admin desk for their prize, they will be asked for Bank Account Details for one member of the winning pair or team. Prizes in bridge credits can be organised. Overseas winners will need to discuss with Administration Staff.

PRIZES – RESTRICTED PAIRS

The top two Qld pairs in the Gold Coast Restricted Pairs will be awarded the airfare and entry to the ANC Restricted Pairs held in Orange, NSW. To qualify for the prize, the pairs must meet the ABF Eligibility criteria for the ANC Restricted Pairs which is under 300 Masterpoints on 31 December 2023.

PRIZES – YOUTH

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.

PROBLEMS

Tim Runting is the Convenor and Kim Ellaway the Manager. If you experience any problems with the events, see either of them. Kim can be contacted on 0412 064 903 at any time during the congress, or Tim on 0458 448 765.

PROTECTED PAIRS

Pairs playing a **GREEN** system can apply for an Orange sticker if both are below Life Master or one is below State Master.

This affords protection from **BROWN STICKER** conventions in all events where they are permitted with the exception of the major Final of the Open Pairs.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

PROGRAM

Sat 17 Feb	Walk-In Pairs – 1 session	6.00pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table
Sun – Mon 18-19 Feb	Bobby Richman Pairs Championship 4 sessions (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 Sunday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm 2 finals sessions (10 Table sections) Monday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45 pm Open Pairs Championship will be playing for the Bobby Richman Trophy - sponsored by Penline. 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 be sponsored by twitch.tv/v8mama. Novice Pairs Championship will be playing for the Tony Jackman Shield.
Sun 18 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 18 Feb	Rookie Pairs Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	10.00am finishing approx 1.30pm. Single session Matchpoint pairs for players under 10 MPs – 24 boards minimum. Sponsored by Annette Maluish 10.00am and 2.30pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table
Mon 19 Feb	Monday Butler Swiss Pairs - 2 sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open 0-500 Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	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 10.00am and 2.30pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table.
Tue to Thu 20-22 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 – Prize money is partially sponsored by Jim 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 (No Women's or Seniors' final): Fri-Sat - see below
Tue 20 Feb	0-50 MP Pairs Sessions 1 & 2 Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	Two-session matchpointed pairs for players with fewer than 50 MPs - 10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Wed 21 Feb	0-50 MP Pairs Sessions 1 & 2 Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	Two-session matchpointed pairs for players with fewer than 50 MPs - 10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table
Thu 22 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. Sponsored by Annette Maluish. 10.00am and 2.30pm. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table 10.00am and 2.30pm. Two-sessions with 6 x 8 board matches for players with fewer than 50 MPs
Fri and Sat 23-24 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. Drop-ins from team round of four will be permitted
Fri and Sat 23-24 Feb	Teams Finals	Open Round-of-Four for 3rd to 6th places Friday 9.00am 2x12-board matches. Drop-ins to Ivy Dahler Pairs will be permitted. Open Semi-Finals for 1st and 2nd and two winners from Round-of-four Friday 2.00pm 3x12-board matches Open Finals for 2 Semi-finals winners Saturday 9.00am 4x12board matches. Under 1500, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Finals for top 2 at the end of Match 12 Friday 10.00am 4x12-board matches
Fri 23 Feb	Friday Butler Swiss Pairs Open - 2 Sessions	10.00am and 2.00pm. Comprises 6 x 8 board matches over 2 sessions.
	Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	10.00am and 2.00pm. 2 separate sessions. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table.
Sat 24 Feb	Walk-in Pairs - 1 Session Dinner Dance – 7.30pm	Starts 10.00am. No registration necessary. Entry fee \$15 per player collected at the table. All players will need to pay \$20 with non-players paying \$50. Please book at the venue prior to Wednesday 21 st February to ensure you place is secured.

RECORDERS

The ABF is keen to ensure events are played in the spirit of sportsmanship, and that players have an enjoyable experience at events run under the auspices of the ABF. The recorders at this event fulfil an important role in supporting this objective.

Recorders may receive oral or written communication from players at the end of each session regarding issues that have arisen during the event relating to player ethics or behaviour. Please feel free to consult with them about any concerns you might have.

The recorders for this event are Richard Ward, Jodi Tutty, Bob Sebesfi and Liam Milne.

The Director will guide you to the appropriate adviser.

REFUNDS

Should you withdraw from an event prior to the draw is done, and you would like a refund of your entry fees, please refer to these instructions from MyABF.

[How to Withdraw an Entry/Request a Refund](#)

REFUNDS POLICY

Late refunds are issued at the Gold Coast Congress Management's discretion, ideally before the draw for the event is published. Gold Coast Congress Management reserve the right to charge an administration fee of 25% of the entry fee.

RESTRICTED ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have less than 300 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

RESTRICTED PAIRS PRIZE

The top two Qld pairs in the Gold Coast Restricted Pairs will be awarded the airfare and entry to the ANC Restricted Pairs held in Orange, NSW. To qualify for the prize, the pairs must meet the ABF Eligibility criteria for the ANC Restricted Pairs which is under 300 Masterpoints on 31 December 2023.

REVIEWERS

Sheila Bird, Nick Hughes, Peter Reynolds

REVIEW CONSULTANTS

David Appleton, Jonathan Free, Shane Harrison

ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE LIAISON OFFICERS

Mick Fawcett, Lyn Tracey, Richard Fox, Kathy Males, Warren Males, Jim Evans, Pamela Evans, Phil Hale, Sameer Pandya, Michelle Radke, Rachel Langdon, Andrew Sharp, and Susan Sharp

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE COLOURS

- **0-50** in fuchsia
- **Rookies** in fuchsia
- **Novice** in Maroon

ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50 AND NOVICE EVENTS

Please refer to [NOVICE EVENTS](#)

ROOKIE (0-10), 0-50, AND NOVICE HELP

Help will be available as follows:

Rookies	Sunday 18 th February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am onwards Thursday 22 nd February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am onwards
Under 50s	Tuesday 20 th February play starts 10.00am help from 9.15am Wednesday 21 st February play starts 10.00 help from 9.15am Thursday 22 nd February play starts 10.00 help from 9.15am
Novices	Sunday 18 th February Novice Pairs start 10.00am help from 9.30am Tuesday 20 th February Novice Teams start 10.00am help from 9.30am Friday 23 rd February Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs 10am help from 9.30am

Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat & working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. We can also assist with any queries regarding alerting or anything else you might like to know, but also refer to the timetable of activities. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow fluorescent jackets.

[Gold Coast Congress Novice Handy Guide](#) is highly recommended reading for first time participants.

Our thanks to our helpers: Mick Fawcett, Lyn Tracey, Richard Fox, Kathy Males, Warren Males, Jim Evans, Pamela Evans, Phil Hale, Sameer Pandya, Michelle Radke, Rachel Langdon, Andrew Sharp, and Susan Sharp

ROOKIE (0-10) ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have not attained 10 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

ROOKIE (0-10) HELP BEFORE PLAY

Help will be on hand before the start of play for all 0-50, Rookie and Novice players. Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat & working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. We can also assist with any queries regarding alerting or anything else you might like to know, but also refer to the timetable of activities. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow fluorescent jackets.

Sun 18th Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.15am

Thu 22nd Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.15am

[Gold Coast Congress Novice Handy Guide](#) is highly recommended reading for first time participants.

ROOM SET UP – COLOUR CODING

Coloured flags will identify your section, results and playing areas. For the whole event, the room tablecloth colours will be:

Open — Light and Dark Blue

Under 1500, Seres McMahon - Orange

Intermediate — Light and Dark Yellow

Restricted — Light and Dark Green

Novice Pairs/Teams & Friday Novice Ivy Dahler — Maroon

Rookies/0-50/Walk-Ins Events — Fuchsia

Sunday Butler Open, Monday Butler Open — Orange

Sunday Butler 0-500, Monday Butler 0-500 — Purple

SCORE BOOKLETS

Scoring booklets are provided at the start of each event. Should you require another one, please ask a caddy, and if available, another will be supplied.

SCORING ISSUES

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.

SCORING CORRECTION PERIODS

See also [CORRECTION OF SCORES](#)

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

Pairs Championships

Qualifying One	3.00pm Sunday
Qualifying Two	One hour after scores are posted
Final One	3.00pm Monday
Final Two	One hour after scores are posted

Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	3.00pm Sunday
Matches 4-6	One hour after scores for Match 6 are posted

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	3.00pm Monday
Matches 4-6	One hour after scores for Match 6 are posted

Teams Championships

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

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	3:00pm Friday
Matches 4-7	11.00am Saturday
Matches 8-10	One hour after scores for Match 10 are posted

Friday Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	3:00pm, Friday
Matches 4-6	One hour after scores for Match 6 are posted

All Other Sessions

Sessions Not Listed Above 20 minutes after scores for the session are posted

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. They may also affect draws for Teams and Swiss Pairs events, Masterpoints, Playoff Qualifying Points.

SEATING

Seating for Pairs and Teams Championships are available on the GCC website 24 hours prior to the event.

SERVICES

During session time, if you need a doctor or medical assistance you can contact Kim Ellaway through the Administration Desk. Kim will direct you to the inhouse Doctor.

Outside of session time, contact the Broadbeach Medical Centre on 07-5531-6344, Suite GO1, 2681 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach. Please note they do not bulk bill. After-hours service: National Home Doctors Service on 137425 who do bulk bill.

SESSION TIMES

All session times are shown in the online Daily Bulletin each day.

Pairs Championship – Open, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice

Sunday 10.00am, 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm
 Monday 10.00am, 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm

Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs

Sunday 10.00am – 1.15pm and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs

Monday 10.00am – 1.15pm and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm

Under 50 Masterpoint Pairs – 2 sessions

Tuesday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm
 Wednesday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm
 Thursday 10.00am and 2.30pm finishing 5.45pm

Rookie Pairs – two separate events

Sunday 10.00am – 1.15pm Short coffee break during session
 Thursday 10.00am – 1.15pm Short coffee break during session

Teams Championship

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10.00am – 1.30pm and 2.30pm – 6.00pm

NOTE – The top 2 from each field of Under 1500, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice teams will play in finals beginning at 10.00am on Friday. The top 6 in the Open Field will play finals on Friday and then the top 2 on Saturday. No longer Seniors'/Women's teams finals.

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs

Friday 10.00am – 1.30pm; 2.00 pm – 6.00pm (Approx finish times)
 Saturday 10.00am – finished by 1.30pm

Friday Butler Swiss Pairs

Friday 10.00am – 1.15pm and 2.00pm finishing 5.15pm

Walk In Pairs

Saturday 17th 6.00pm
 Sunday 18th 10.00am and 2.30pm
 Monday 19th 10.00am and 2.30pm
 Tuesday 20th 10.00am and 2.30pm
 Wednesday 21st 10.00am and 2.30pm
 Thursday 22nd 10.00am and 2.30pm
 Friday 23rd 10.00am and 2.00pm
 Saturday 25th 10.00am (finish time 1.30pm)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Refer also to [Bridge Companion's Program](#)

19 th – 24 th			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 Foyer GCCEC
18 th	Sunday	8.30am	Directors Get Together - Hosted by Chris Snook 0413136435 chris@snook.id.au - Upstairs Room 10
18 th	Sunday	6.00pm	ABF Online Bridge Discussions Hosted by Jenny Thompson & Mark Guthrie Upstairs Rooms 10, 11 and 12
19 th	Monday	1.15pm-2.00pm	MyABF Update Hosted by Julian Foster - short presentation about the latest developments with MyABF Upstairs Rooms 10, 11 and 13
19 th	Monday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Fashion Parade Change Alley Oasis Shopping Centre Lvl 1 outside A Little Oasis Cafe
21 st	Wednesday	2.00pm-2.15pm	Sports Day Theme Parade - Foyer GCCEC
23 rd	Friday	8.15am	Champagne and Nibbles for Shoe shoppers inherSHOES Gnd Flr, Oasis Shopping Centre

SPRING NATIONALS PRIZES

Best Qld Novice Team in the GCC Novice Teams will receive free entry into the Restricted Teams and 2 x pairs entries at the 2024 Spring Nationals in Sydney.

Best Under 1500 Qld Team in the GCC Under 1500 Teams will receive free entry into the Open Teams and 2 x pairs entries at the 2024 Spring Nationals in Sydney.

SPONSORS – (MINOR)

Voucher Sponsors are entitled to free advertisements. A \$50 voucher is entitled to an advertisement equivalent to the size of 1/6th of a page. \$500 of vouchers will provide a daily advertisement of the same size.

SPONSORS

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

ANNETTE MALUISH: Annette has a passion for encouraging new people to take up bridge to share her love of the game. She provides the prize money for both Rookie Days and the Friday Novice Pairs.

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE: Australia's national bridge magazine now comes in two different editions, Regular and Novice, so players of all levels will find something of interest. You can subscribe to either magazine at Paul Lavings' book stall or visit www.australianbridge.com.

DAVID STERN: in memory of his late mother Gerda Stern – the best Women's Pair in the Open Pairs will receive prize money and trophy donated by David Stern in Gerda's memory.

JIM EVANS: In memory of his late wife Pauline Evans – The Restricted Teams trophy will be dedicated to Pauline's Memory. Prize Money has also been donated by Jim.

PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS AND SUPPLIES: Paul has been a stalwart supporter of this event for well over 20 years and all third placed pairs win vouchers for items from his stall. Best way you can support Paul is by checking out his shop in the foyer, you will be surprised by his range of items and reasonable prices. www.bridgegear.com

SPRING NATIONALS – NSWBA: the Spring Nationals offer free entry to a Queensland Team and 2 Queensland Pairs to their event. This is done on a reciprocal basis as we give two free entries to the Gold Coast Congress.

STEPBRIDGE: StepBridge Australia is an Online Australian Bridge Club that offers Novice, Restricted and Open bridge sessions daily, in a friendly and controlled environment. For new players joining StepBridge, 5 free introductory games are provided. StepBridge has a Virtual Club facility that allows face-to-face bridge clubs to organise their own club sessions and congresses. For Youth Players we offer additional introductory free games, no membership fees, and match Participation Point purchases to provide half price table fees. For further information, visit www.stepbridge.com.au or email support@stepbridge.com.au

TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS: TBIB pay \$5000.00 in sponsorship plus the Prize Wheel. Take the opportunity to speak to them at the Congress – it is cost free to ask and you may well be pleasantly surprised <https://www.tbib.com.au/abf/>

TWO MEN AND A TRUCK: www.twomen.com.au They are amazing! Since 2010 they have done a fantastic job moving all our gear from Brisbane to the Gold Coast Convention Centre and back. This is worth a fortune to us. They are cheerful, willing, flexible and efficient. They also sponsor the Intermediate Teams Event. If you have just one item to move or a whole unit, house or office, make sure to give them a call.

TO THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS: We have a few of these and we can only say thank you. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE SURROUNDING BRIDGE CLUBS.**

VOLUNTEERS: to all those players, friends and family members who donate their hours to make this event the success it is.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU MENTIONED ABOVE.

Tim Runting and Kim Ellaway

STAFF PHOTOS

Staff photos are taken every second year.

STAFFING

Our Floor Managers, Kim, Amber, and Jessie 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. Also, 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

[Supplementary regulations](#) are published on the GCC website at this [link](#).

SYSTEM REGULATIONS

[System regulations](#) are published on the MyABF GCC website after 1 January 2024.

[Supplementary regulations](#) are published on the website after 1 February 2024.

STARTING TIMES

Sat 17 Feb	No Frills Walk-in Pairs - 1 Session	6.00pm
Sun to Mon 18-19 Feb	Pairs Championship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open ▪ Intermediate (under 750 MPs) ▪ Restricted (under 300 MPs) ▪ Novice (under 100 MPs) 	2 qualifying sessions Sunday 10.00am and 2.30pm 2 finals sessions (10 Table sections) Monday 10.00am and 2.30pm
Sun 18 Feb	Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs – 2 sessions	Sunday 10.00am and 2.30pm
Sun 18 Feb	Rookie Pairs - 1 session Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	10.00am 10.00am and 2.30pm
Mon 19 Feb	Monday Butler Swiss Pairs – 2 sessions Walk-in Pairs - 2 Sessions	10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm
Tue to Thu 20-22 Feb	Teams Championship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open ▪ Under 1500 ▪ Intermediate (under 750 MPs) ▪ Restricted (under 300 MPs) ▪ Novice (under 100 MPs) 	10.00am and 2.30pm
Tue 20 Feb	0-50 Masterpoint Pairs – 2 sessions Walk-in Pairs – 2 sessions	10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm
Wed 21 Feb	0-50 Masterpoint Pairs – 2 sessions Walk-in Pairs – 2 sessions	10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm
Thu 22 Feb	Rookie Pairs - 1 session Walk-in Pairs – 2 sessions 0-50 MPs Swiss Butler Pairs – 2 sessions	10.00am 10.00am and 2.30pm 10.00am and 2.30pm
Fri and Sat 23-24 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) 	3 sessions Friday 10.00am and 2.00pm Match 1-7 Saturday 10.00am Match 8-10
Fri and Sat 23-24 Feb	Teams Finals	Open Round-of-Four for 3rd to 6th places Friday 9am Open Semi-Finals for 1st and 2nd and two winners from Round-of-four Friday 2pm Open Finals for 2 Semi-finals winners Saturday 9am No Seniors'/Women's Finals Novice, Restricted and Intermediate Finals for top 2 at the end of Match 12 Friday 10am
Fri 23 Feb	Friday Butler Swiss Pairs – 2 sessions Walk-in Pairs – 2 sessions	10.00am and 2.00pm 10.00am and 2.00pm
Sat 24 Feb	Walk-in Pairs - 1 Session Dinner Dance	10.00am 7.00pm for 7.30pm

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM CARDS

System regulations are published on the GCC MyABF website after 1 January 2024.

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 February 5, 2024.

SUBSTITUTES

If you do not feel well and require a substitute, see Toni Bardon at the Scoring Desk. Please use this service only when essential.

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.

Please understand that the service is run for the benefit of players by volunteers. There will be \$20 vouchers and \$40 vouchers available for purchase from the Bridge Office. \$20 entitles you to 5 coffees without handling any money apart from payment. \$40 entitles you to 11 coffees. As we are not allowed to run the free water service in the playing area this year we will be selling bottles of water at \$2.00 from the coffee shop. These can be purchased via voucher in lots of 2's. We cannot under any circumstance give free – a cup of hot water so please don't request – it is a public liability issue. We will not be doing double shots this year. **VOUCHERS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE BRIDGE OFFICE VIA EFTPOS OR CASH.** No refunds once a voucher has been purchased. Coffee, Tea and Water can be individually purchased via EFTPOS.

TEACHING

Any Celebrity Teaching Session held will be publicized in the Bulletin so look for details in the daily bulletin. Refer to [Celebrity Speakers](#)

TEAM CATEGORIES

All teams should have nominated their categories when submitting their entry. The lists of categories received will be published at various points around the Convention Centre. Please check to see you are entered correctly into the various categories as once winners are announced no correspondence will be entered into.

TEAM CATEGORY PRIZE POLICY

Special category prizes (awarded to the highest placed team not qualifying for the finals series. Teams must nominate a single category for which they wish to contend prior to the category nomination closing time specified by the TO. There must be at least 6 teams within a category for a prize to be awarded. If there are fewer than 6 teams in a category at the close of entries, such teams will be moved to a different category.

THEME

We encourage all players to Coast Annual Theme for Session. The theme is “**SPORTS**” year and wear your sporty gear.



when play finishes and the parade from 2:00pm to 2:15pm Wednesday 21st February. Prizes will be available for some combination of groups, pairs or individuals.

dress in keeping with the Gold Wednesday afternoon Teams **DAY**. Please celebrate our 62nd The photography will commence

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Tournament Organiser:	Tim Runting - 0458 448 765
Chief Tournament Director:	Dr Laurie Kelso – 0412 559 171
Bulletin Editor:	Stephen Lester sleksix@gmail.com Ph or SMS – 0468 459 351
Chief Scorer:	Matthew McManus
Reviewers:	Sheila Bird, Nick Hughes, Peter Reynolds
Review Consultants:	David Appleton, Jonathan Free, Shane Harrison
Recorders:	Richard Ward, Liam Milne, Jodi Tutty and Bob Sebesfi
ABF on site representatives:	Peter Reynolds (Teams) Warren Lazer (Pairs)

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

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 \$55-\$65 depending on time of arrival

Public Transport information may be found at [Gold Coast Airport website](#)
[Con-X-ion](#) Shuttle service and [Link Transfers](#) offer Door to Door service

TROPHIES and SPONSORSHIP

at 29th August 2023

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OR DONATING TO THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS,
PLEASE CONTACT TOURNAMENT ORGANISER – TIM RUNTING**

EVENT	TROPHY DEDICATION / SPONSOR / NAME OF TROPHY
Open Pairs Championship	Trophy is in the memory of Bobby Richman.
Open Pairs Championship – Women's	Trophy is in the memory of Gerda Stern. Prize money is donated by David Stern.
Intermediate Pairs Championship	Trophy
Restricted Pairs Championship	Trophy
Novice Pairs Championship	Shield is in the memory of Tony Jackman.
Open Teams	StepBridge Trophy – Prize money is partially sponsored by StepBridge.
Under 1500 Teams	Trophy
Intermediate Teams	Two Men and a Truck
Restricted Teams	Trophy is in the memory of Pauline Evans. Prize money is partially sponsored by Jim Evans.
Novice Teams	Therese Tully Trophy
Open Butler Pairs/Intermediate/Restricted/Novice	Ivy Dahler Shield – dedicated to the memory of Ivy Dahler
Sunday/Monday/Friday Butler – Open	No Trophy
0-50 Events	No Trophy
Rookie Events	No Trophy – Prize money donated by Annette Maluish
Reg Busch Trophy	Overall from Sunday/Monday/Friday Butler

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

UNDER 1500S ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have not attained 1500 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

UNDER 50S ELIGIBILITY

Open to players who have not attained 50 MP's as at 30 September 2023.

UNDER 50s HELP BEFORE PLAY

Help will be on hand one hour before the start of play for all 0-50 and Rookie players; and half an hour before start of play for Novice players. Assistance will be available for filling out system cards, helping you find your seat & working out where you go, where the boards move and using Bridgemates etc. We can also assist with any queries regarding alerting or anything else you might like to know, but also refer to the timetable of activities. Helpers can be identified by their bright yellow, fluorescent jackets.

Tue 20th Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.15am

Wed 21st Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.15am

Thursday 22nd Feb play starts 10.00am - help from 9.15am

[Gold Coast Congress Novice Handy Guide](#) is highly recommended reading for first time participants.

UNIFORMS

Administrative Staff - Shirt with Gold Coast Logo or Black Admin Jacket

Floor Managers – Light Blue Jacket

Directing –Blue shirts Navy Directors Jackets

Scoring – Black shirts with Gold Coast Logo

Caddies – Purple shirts with Gold Coast Logo

WALK-IN PAIRS AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Walk In events mean you do not have to pre-register. You turn up with your partner and pay at the tables designated for walk ins. Walk ins are master pointed with redpoints.

Youth Walk-Ins - Unless you have the appropriate token, there will be no free places at the Walk Ins. Tokens can only be obtained from the Scoring Liaison Officer, Toni Bardon or Kim Ellaway. Youth can only claim half price regardless of date of birth. Youth definition for Walk-ins is born on or after 01/01/1999.

All walk in pairs sessions are sponsored by Broadbeach Restaurants and Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies.

Cost is \$15.00 per player – pay at the table. Voucher Prizes for each Session Winner.

Saturday 17th February 6.00pm No Frills Walk In Pairs – BYO water

Sunday 18th February 10.00am and 2.30pm

Monday 19th February 10.00am and 2.30pm

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Tuesday 20 th February	10.00am and 2.30pm
Wednesday 21 st February	10.00am and 2.30pm
Thursday 22 nd February	10.00am and 2.30pm
Friday 23 rd February	10.00am and 2.00pm
Saturday 24 th February	10.00am

***No Frills Walk Ins – 6.00pm – No Frills means exactly that. No Outlets opened, no coffee, no water, no food.

WEB DRAW FOR NEXT ROUND PAGE

The draw for the next round in the Teams and Swiss Pairs events will be published on the web at the same time it is displayed on the projector screens at the venue. So, if you are “[connected](#)” you can check your standings and the draw online.

WEBSITE

The Gold Coast Congress website is on MyABF.

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/780>

WITHDRAWALS

Players are permitted to withdraw from all divisions of the Championship Pairs (Open, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice) Finals (Monday 19th February) at the end of the qualifying rounds, provided that they notify the Chief Director or Bridge Administration Desk within **ONE HOUR** of the qualifying scores being posted. No portion of the entry fees will be refunded. All refunds of the one hour of the qualifying scores is at the discretion of the GCC Management.

YOUTH ELEGIBILITY

Must be born on or after 1 January 1999

YOUTH & OTHER CONCESSIONAL ENTRY FEES

ADVISE DOB WHEN ENTERING

Courtesy of the Gold Coast Congress, players born on or after 1 January 2006 are entitled to free entry. In accordance with Australian Bridge Federation policy, all players born on or after 1 January 1999 (under 25) are entitled to a 50% discount on entry fees.

Courtesy of the Gold Coast Congress, all players born before 1 January 1924 are entitled to free entry except for Walk-Ins.

Youth Walk-Ins - Unless you have the appropriate token, there will be no free places at the Walk Ins. Tokens can only be obtained from the Scoring Liaison Officer, Toni Bardon or Kim Ellaway. Youth can only claim half price regardless of date of birth. Youth definition for Walk-ins is born on or after 01/01/1999.

YOUTH PLAYERS ACCOMMODATION

Regretfully, we will no longer be offering subsidised youth accommodation.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

YOUTH - PRIZES

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.

ZEPHYR FOUNDATION (2024 GCC Charity)

My name is Carmel Martin, a co-founder of Zephyr Education and its treasurer. 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.

We provide (mostly) children in Domestic Violence shelters, Family Service organisations and outreach services 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 and often pay directly to the school. 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, hats; swimwear; lunchbox and water bottle; resource fees, iPads and laptops - an expensive, yet indispensable learning tool.

Our aim is solely to have that child, the saddest and most vulnerable victims 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 and in the hope that they can resume their education successfully.

Our strong belief is that education is the only way through this scourge of violence that touches so many. My friend, Bill Morgan said that Zephyr resonated with him because it brought to mind his grandfather's words that you owed your children two things – a good upbringing and an education – the rest was up to them. Zephyr can't do much about their upbringing, but we can certainly make the possibility of being educated, a reality for the children who come into Zephyr's orbit - from those tiny preppies to big kids needing size 12 shoes.

This is the tenth year Zephyr has been in operation and the bridge community has been right beside us from the very beginning starting with my home club QCBC. The wider bridge community continues to support Zephyr with club charity days and individual donations. The QBA again has Zephyr as its charity at the 2023 Gold Coast Congress. The value of this exposure is incalculable, and I can't begin to thank you for the support you give us.

When my sister Isabella – Zephyr's president, promised to stop registering shelters once we reached the magic number of 25, she lied!

We now support 128 in QLD, 12 in Tasmania, 24 in WA, 5 in NSW, 1 in Darwin and three in the ACT – that's 170 domestic and family violence shelters and outreach organisations.

Last financial year we spent \$560,000 providing support. This represented an increase of 19% on the previous year. For the 6 weeks from 1 December 2022 we had spent \$190,000 - \$87,000 of which was on uniforms, and we distributed over 100 laptops in that period. We know that Zephyr now supports more than 3000 children each year. We receive no government funding and yet Zephyr has become an acknowledged game changer in the sector.

We don't meet the children we help nor their mothers, but from the emails received from the managers of the organisations we support, it's plain that Zephyr's role is vital, and, often enough, life changing. One wrote:

'Thank you so much Zephyr for the work that you do... It is an absolute privilege to be able to give a Zephyr laptop to this young person who has had such a tough few years, it will truly make her Christmas and it's all because of the work you do.'

I hope you know what a massive impact your work has on the families we support. Giving young people the uniforms and supplies they need to attend school enables them to have a level playing field, build their confidence, self-esteem and opportunity to receive an education and create friendships that can be life changing. Our mums are truly grateful that they do not have to worry that their children are starting school with obvious deficits and they can focus on rebuilding their ruptured relationships... I am witnessing it and it's fantastic...thank you!'

And another:

'As always, I am so grateful for the support you provide our families! You should have seen this little boy on his first day of school with his uniform and books ready to go. Instead of being stressed his mum was able to relax and enjoy watching her baby start school. Your support has a huge impact on the lives of women and children and we can't thank you enough!'

Another said this to us:

'Just a brief line Isabella to thank you so much for meeting our request this morning and so promptly too. We are left breathless by the abilities and generosity of Zephyr. Please thank your team.'

'I often wonder what alternative options our families would have if it was not for Zephyr Education as there is very limited support available. As a service that works with the most vulnerable families, we are extremely grateful to be in a position where we can advocate (not have to beg) on behalf of our clients.'

And this:

Thanks Barb, for everything. Kelsey, Isabella and yourself have been amazing. Myself and the family have been very grateful. Wish you could have been there to see the smile of the youngest girl when she tried on her uniforms. I hope you could feel it though, I'm sure it beamed all around the world.'

As they say, praise is worth more coming from others and these quotes provide an insight into exactly what you are helping to achieve.

Our focus is, and always has been, on the children and their education. We assist the carers of all children who fall within our scope, including Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, foster carers and guardians.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS INFORMATION MANUAL

Zephyr continues to be supported by a growing number, (over 40), talented and dedicated volunteers. We are ALL Volunteers. No one receives any remuneration or allowances for their work. We operate from rent free premises and last year our unavoidable expenses, such as insurance, amounted to 1.9% of donations making virtually all of your tax deductible donation work for our cause.

We weren't looking for something to do – we stumbled on the need and thought we could do something. You've all got behind us and huge numbers of children have felt less alone and a little more loved.

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.

Lastly, 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

Treasurer

Zephyr Education Inc

PO Box 6096 Fairfield Gardens Qld 4103

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admin@zephyreducation.com.au www.zephyreducation.com.au

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