



UPDATE 2008 GOLD COAST CONGRESS 4/11/2007

It is that time again – time to enter for the 2008 Gold Coast Congress at our great new venue of The Gold Coast Convention Centre in Broadbeach from 23/02/08 to 1/03/08. If you enjoyed yourself last year then 2008 should be even better. In response to your feedback the areas for improvement we have focused on in particular are how we display our data, how to create a more relaxed environment especially around the bar area and providing a wider variety of events with more flexibility re choice of playing times.

NOVICES

We now have separate events for novices – all people with less than 100 Master Points as at 30/09/07. International players must be eligible to play in Novice events in their home country. I believe New Zealand players should have a “Junior” grading and less than 100 MP. If you qualify for a Novice this does not preclude you entering in the Restricted or even the Open if that is what you would prefer to do.

We aim to promote NO FEAR Bridge – come along and play against your peers but still feel part of the action. We will have experienced staff on hand for upto 2 hours before the start of play to help you find your places, run through the format, fill out your system cards, buy you a stiff brandy (just kidding) and generally help you feel relaxed and ready to go.

The two events you may play in are as follows.

Novice Pairs: Sunday 24th Feb 11am to Tuesday 26th finishing around 5pm – 5 sessions

Novice Teams: Tuesday 26th 7.30pm to Thursday 28th finishing around 7pm – also 5 sessions

RESTRICTED

This follows the same format as last year and is still for players with less than 300 Master Points as at 30/09/2007. International Players must be eligible to play in restricted events in their home country. New Zealand players must have less than 300 (A+B) points - any New Zealand player below the Rank of Provincial Master and Intermediate Grading can play for the Restricted.

STRATIFIED PAIRS

This starts on Saturday 1/3/07 at 10.30 am and there is no need to pre-enter however we certainly would prefer you to pre-enter to stop the queuing on the day. This will be matchpoint pairs – approx 27 boards with an estimated finishing time of 2 pm. There will be an overall winner for the best % - 2nd will be the next best % in the opposite direction. These have cash prizes. There will be other prizes awarded according to your Master point ranking which will be worked out automatically. Your grade will

be based on the person with the most MP's in your pair – eg a novice playing with a Grand Master will be graded as the Grand Master. If we have sufficient entries we aim to give prizes to best over 1000 MPs, best 700-999 MP's, 500 – 699 MP's, Best 300 - 499 MP'S, Best 100-299 MP'S and Best 0 – 99 MP's. (MP's calculated as at 30/12/07). We would also like to give prizes to The Best Womens, Best Mens, Best Mixed, Best Gold Coast pair, Best International once again based on the size of entries.

TEAM CATEGORIES

Don't forget you must nominate for a team category at the time of entering. You can choose from Womens, Mixed, Mens, Country (all must live outside a capital city and within Australia). There is place to do so on the entry form and also on the on-line form. There is a prize of \$300.00 for first and \$150.00 for second in each category. If you have entered already without nominating and wish to do so please advise us asap.

DINNER DANCE

Once again this is free if you play in 3 of the following events

- 1/ Barometer Pairs
- 2/ Teams
- 3/ Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs OR Mixed Teams.

If you play in 2 of the above it will cost you \$20.00 – if one of the above \$40.00 and none of the above then \$60.00. The Stratified Pairs does not count as an event as regards the Dinner Dance. At this stage we are planning on scrapping the pre dinner drinks but significantly increasing our bar tab for the dinner that will more than compensate. We will also be addressing the problem we had with the microphone.

ACCOMMODATION

If you look at our website you will see a link on our accommodation page to “Howzats” – a booking centre that specializes in Gold Coast Reservations. They have offered us a 2.5% return on all bookings made via their website or through their toll free number of 1800422364 or for Internationals +61756681684 and advise them it is for the bridge. Jutta is our main contact name but anyone can take your booking. You can use the drop down menu to peruse the Broadbeach locations .This money comes off their profit – it is not added on to your cost! Howzat has guaranteed their prices will be at least as good if not better than the advertised rates of the hotels/units. It is still worth your while to check around for bargains but I would urge you to always compare prices with what Howzats has to offer and if possible book through them. You can use them for any booking – not just for the GCC – why not use them for the ANC or PABF? We have not committed to any number of rooms that must be booked so this is no heavy sell story... It is just a wonderful offer that is up to us to make the most of... Connie Schoutrop is still our Accommodation Officer and is always there to help. She can be contacted on +61 7 33782171 or schoutrop@bigpond.com She would certainly like to hear any feedback on how you found the Accommodation site and suggestions how we can improve it.

BUSES

We will be running two (2) buses again this year but we will NOT be going to Surfers. Our proposed bus route is as follows.

1. Aruba Beach Resort, Surf Parade
2. Markham Court Apartments, Surf Parade
3. Leawarra Apartments, Surf Parade
4. Elton Court, opposite Broadbeach Bowls Club, Surf Parade
5. Rua Apartments, Surf Parade
6. Linden Court, Surf Parade
7. Surf Parade Resort, Surf Parade
8. The Breakers, Old Burleigh Road
9. Oceania Apartments, Old Burleigh Road
10. Ocean Royale Holiday Apartments, Old Burleigh Road
11. King Tide Apartments, Old Burleigh Road
12. Loading Zone in front of Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club
13. Opposite Carmel by the Sea, Old Burleigh Road
14. Breakfree, Diamond Beach Resort, Alexandra Avenue
15. Bel Air, Surf Parade
16. Best Western Travel Inn, Surf Parade
17. Bus Stop opposite Sofitel, Surf Parade.
18. Jupiters Casino
19. Freshwater Point

We will provide a more detailed programme close to the event.

PARKING

Once again we have negotiated a \$20.00 parking fee for the week or a daily rate of \$5.00. This year the vouchers will be available earlier and can be purchased in advance through Kim Ellaway or at the Bridge Information Desk as from Saturday 8.00 am

ENTRIES

We like to see these entries coming in as soon as possible especially if they are fully paid!! We need to make a series of advance payments to the GCCEC so to encourage you to enter and pay early we will have two (2) random draws.

- 1st Random Draw on 30.11.07 from all fully paid entries one person will get a 50% reduction of all events entered
- 2nd Random Draw 30/12/07 (from all paid entries to date) one person will receive a refund of 25% of all events entered.

I hasten to add these discounts apply only to the individual – it does not apply to partners or team-mates even if the one person paid it all! The winner of these draws will be advised personally within 7 days and will also be published in the next list of FAQ'S.

RAFFLES

The lucky winners will have their choice of

1/ A 206 x 72 cm diptych outback painting by Annabelle Tully valued at \$2800.
Her work can be viewed on her website at www.annabelletully.com

2/ An Opal and stone pendant from DEPAZZI – Qld winner of Small Business awards 2007 (Jewellery). Please drop in and visit Bruce at his shop at the Adelaide Street entrance to the Brisbane Arcade or visit his website at www.depazzi.com.au

3/ Basket of Premium Wines donated by Robert and Greer Tucker.. There will be at least 3 draws for this prize – we will keep you posted!

Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. We have had raffle tickets printed – 20 per book and we hope to sell them through the clubs. Annabelle's painting is currently on display at QCBC and we hope to move it around other clubs between now and the Gold Coast Congress to gain greater exposure. I would also hope to sell these tickets outside of the bridge circle to family and friends and work mates so please if you are prepared to take a book or 2 to sell on our behalf please contact Kim or myself – we would be very grateful. There will be a booksellers prize of a basket of our GC labelled wines to whoever sells the winning ticket – to be drawn at the dinner dance.

Annabelle is my niece and Bruce from Depazzi is my cousin. I am very proud to be related to such talented people and very grateful for their generosity. However I cannot keep prevailing on my relations so I would ask you all to keep your eye open for suitable prizes for our raffle for 2009. Please drop Kim or me an email with any brainwaves.

Website: <http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc/index.php>

Many thanks to Peter Busch for updating our Website – take a look for yourselves. It is full of information and is the first place we publish any new facts as they come to hand. You should review the list of entries to confirm you are in.

Therese Tully
Convenor