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WELCOME TO GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2016

The past year has been one of the most tumultuous in the history of the game that we gather here to celebrate.

The “outing” for cheating of the number one and two players in the world, Fantoni and Nunes together with three other pairs (at the time of writing) has been a very sad chapter in a game I have played for more than fifty years – am I really THAT old!

At the time that all of this surfaced I recall feeling an amazing mixture of emotions, starting with my disappointment at having attended so many championships which were not being played on a level playing field to the admiration I had for those who dedicated themselves so much to cleaning up the game. A band of players including Ishmael Del'Monte examined hands and watched thousands of hours of videos to crack the codes used and then to document their findings for the authorities.

So many players had committed so much time and effort to compete at the elite level of the game without realising that, in reality, their chances of achieving stardom and their talents being recognised were substantially and outrageously diminished.

I was fascinated on one level with the role that social media and crowd-sourcing had in bringing the culprits to justice, and equally the dangers this could have on people's reputations and livelihoods if it was used or abused for less noble purposes. I recall ticking a box to follow the comments being made on the sensationally great BridgeWinners website (highly recommended) and waking the next morning to 152 emails of comments on one of the cheating threads – my level of interest attested to, or perhaps the amount of spare time I have, by my taking the time to read each and every comment on all of the threads

On another level the publicity which bridge administrators had sought for the promotion of bridge was finally forthcoming, albeit with a less impressive impact than they may have wished for, but as they say any publicity is good publicity.

I should note at this point that there are several ongoing investigations and litigations taking place at the time of writing and that the end picture may look quite different.

The wider world however, had a larger impact on me. Terrorist attacks in Paris and other cities around the world were tragic in the extreme and only proved that the world is indeed at war but we just don't know what a 21st century war looks like. All this led to my New Year's resolution to better value my family and friends and keep them close and safe.

On a much more upbeat note it's time to take a nine day slice out of my life to enjoy the Gold Coast Congress which, by now, most people know is my favourite bridge event in the world. While this is easily said last year took me to Opatija in Croatia and Chennai in India and this year will see Salsamaggiore, Italy and Wroclaw, Poland on my agenda. While I love attending these tournaments be assured that not one of them and in fact all of them collectively won't give me the enjoyment of the Gold Coast Congress.

So sit back, let your worries go on hold and relax with your bridge friends, play a game that you no doubt love and enjoy – then add the sun, sand and dining experiences in the holiday capital of Australia. Happy Bridging!

David

**WELCOME FROM STEVEN CIOBO MP
Co-Patron 2016 Gold Coast Congress**



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Gold Coast for the 55th Annual Gold Coast Bridge Congress.

The Gold Coast Congress is one of the best bridge events in the world and it's not hard to see why.

Set against the backdrop of our vibrant city, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is a world-class venue and the event is highly anticipated each year.

Should you find yourself with some downtime during the week, especially if this is the first time you have visited the Gold Coast, be sure to check out some of our many attractions beachside, as well as the activities and spectacular views on offer in our beautiful hinterland.

A special thank you to the Tournament Organisers who I'm sure have been preparing for many months to bring you this wonderful event.

I wish you the very best of luck this week, whether you are competing for the first time or are a seasoned bridge player. Enjoy the 2016 Congress – meet new friends, take lots of tricks and make the most of your stay in our great city!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Ciobo'.

**The Hon Steven Ciobo MP
Federal Member for Moncrieff**

**WELCOME FROM JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Co-Patron 2016 Gold Coast Congress**



As the State Member for Surfers Paradise it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 55th Gold Coast Congress of 2016.

This annual congress organised by the Australian Bridge Federation in conjunction with the Queensland Bridge Association, attracts approximately 2,500 bridge players to the Gold Coast from across Australia as well as overseas.

With the combination of many wonderful attractions, perfect weather, world class entertainment and spectacular scenery for all of the Congress participants to enjoy, it is no wonder that this tournament is one of the largest annual bridge festivals in the Southern Hemisphere and one of the largest in the world.

I encourage all players to explore the beauty of the Gold Coast during your stay here whilst enjoying the camaraderie that develops when mingling with others who share your passion for Bridge.

I know many of you will make use of the first class accommodation around the Convention Centre and will dine in the wonderful cafes and restaurants in the area, boosting the economy of Broadbeach and surrounding suburbs.

Thank you for choosing the Gold Coast for the 55th Gold Coast Congress and I trust your stay will be an enjoyable and memorable one.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.P. Langbroek'.

**The Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Member for Surfers Paradise**

**WELCOME FROM TOM TATE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GOLD COAST**



As Mayor of the City of Gold Coast, it gives me great pleasure to welcome back members of the Queensland Bridge Association for the 55th Gold Coast Congress.

The City of Gold Coast is famous for sun, surf and sand, offering a vibrant mix of shopping, accommodation, theme parks, golf courses, restaurants, entertainment and an abundance of natural attractions for all to enjoy - including beaches and waterways to the East and stunning hinterland ranges and forests to the West.

Everything you'd want, we have it in spades!

With the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ just around the corner, the city is certainly on the move - still considered one of Australia's fastest growing cities, with an economy which has grown by 37 per cent over the last decade.

The City is committed to building new infrastructure, fostering innovation and developing our business and entertainment precincts. We are doing this through the establishment of a true CBD in Southport; developing a new Chinatown precinct; progressing with plans for a cruise ship terminal and integrated tourism resort in the Broadwater; and realising our vision for a Cultural Precinct.

During your stay you will see that the city is cementing its place on the world stage, continuing to grow a positive global reputation.

Whether you're returning to the Gold Coast or staying for the first time, I encourage you to explore and enjoy everything the city has to offer. And, unlike in Bridge, you're allowed to talk about our city to your heart's content after your stay.

I trust all participants, organisers and spectators have a productive Congress and an even more enjoyable stay here on the Gold Coast.

Tom Tate
Mayor, City of Gold Coast

**WELCOME FROM BRUCE NEILL
PRESIDENT AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION**



On behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation I welcome all players, from both Australia and overseas, to the 55th Gold Coast Congress. This event caters for all levels of players, from top internationals to rookies. It is steadily growing in stature and increasing in numbers each year. It is one of the most popular events of the bridge calendar and is recognised worldwide as a major bridge event.

Please help us ensure that everyone enjoys their time here by helping prevent bad behaviour. All players should firstly respect themselves, then their partners and extend the same courtesy to others at the table. And of course please display respect not only at the table but wherever you may be so that there is enjoyment for all.

I thank the sponsors who collectively ensure the success of this great tournament.

I particularly thank Therese Tully and her team for their great efforts. They will have left nothing to chance.

Bridge is a wonderful game bringing pleasure and mental stimulation to people of all walks of life.

Please enjoy!

Bruce Neill
President Australian Bridge Federation

WELCOME FROM KEITH MCDONALD PRESIDENT QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



As President of the Queensland Bridge Association it gives me great pleasure to welcome players to 55th staging of the Gold Coast Congress, an event that Queensland is extremely proud of staging.

This event draws players from all parts of Queensland, Australia as well as a significant number of overseas participants.

The Gold Coast Convention Centre and their staff provide an outstanding venue for an event of this size providing the comfort that we are sure all players enjoy.

Our former major sponsor Larry Norden (Cosmetics Plus) has passed the mantle to Siegfried Konig (LWP Technologies Ltd). We are grateful to both organisations and ask you to think of using our sponsors products and services and at the same time identify yourselves as bridge players.

I would like to express out deep appreciation to our generous sponsors who combine to provide the support necessary for an event of this magnitude:

- Hello Gold Coast
- LWP Technologies
- Myer Department Store - Pacific Fair
- Oasis on Broadbeach
- Paul Lavings Bridge Books
- Penline
- Pianola
- Powers Financial Group
- Schweppes
- Sounds of Life
- TBIB
- Two Men and a Truck

The GCC Tournament Organiser, Therese Tully this year introduces her understudy Tim Runting who is scheduled to replace Therese after 2018.

Rookie and Novice players are our life blood and I am pleased to see the increasing attendance by this group of players.

I wish all participants the very best for an enjoyable Congress.

**Keith McDonald – President Queensland Bridge Association
President Emeritus – Australian Bridge Federation**

WELCOME FROM THERESE TULLY GOLD COAST CONGRESS TOURNAMENT ORGANISER



Change is the Law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. So said John F Kennedy and I take his words to heart. I am both delighted and sad to announce that I will be stepping down as Tournament Organiser for the Gold Coast Congress with 2018 being both my swan song and an introduction to Tim Runting, my successor, as we will be joint Convenors that year.

I thought long and hard about to whom I should pass on the banner. It becomes very personal when you have been in a position for 14 years as I will have when I step down. Tim will bring a different set of skills to the GCC and as I have had the pleasure of working with him when he started The Kenmore Bridge Club (which has become the fastest growing Club in Australia) I know he will enhance and expand on what I have done. (And he is younger than me!!) There will be an in-depth interview with him later on in the bulletin. I am sure you will all get to know him as we work together over the next few years.

We are excited to welcome 3 World Champions to the GCC. Fiona Brown is a regular but it is the first time for Michael Klukowski and Justyna Zmuda. I am also delighted to see so many of our Youth playing and taking the opportunity to meet them (thanks to Friends of Youth for subsidising their accommodation)

This Year the Gold Coast Congress is promoting Zephyr Foundation which supports Women's refuges. Zephyr's object is keeping the children of those women in school by providing for their school needs. I would like to thank the many people who have contributed their time and services for this cause and I hope you will support the raffle and other fund raising activities.

Many thanks to all of our Sponsors who are the lifeblood of the tournament. You really should support them as most have a vested interest in the bridge community so you get personal service and great value for money – give them a go!!!

We have a wonderful collection of Celebrity Speakers – I would like to attend them all myself! Don't miss out as it is a great opportunity to listen to and meet such great teachers.

Play well, be kind to your partner and courteous to the opposition and may all your finesses work

**Therese Tully
Gold Coast Congress Tournament Organiser**

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT

PROBLEMS

Therese Tully 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 04-1206-4903 at any time during the congress or Therese on 04-0987-0324.

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.**

- Weekend Swiss Matchpoint Pairs (3 Sessions) \$210 per pair
- Open Seniors Intermediate Restricted or Novice Pairs \$300 per pair
- Monday Swiss Butler Pairs (2 Sessions) \$140 per pair
- Open Seniors Intermediate Restricted or Novice Teams \$720 per team
- Rookie Pairs (1 or 2 Sessions) \$50 per pair per session
- Under 50 Masterpoint Pairs \$50 per pair per single session
- Under 50 Masterpoint Pairs \$90 per pair per two session
- Seres-McMahon Mixed or Friday Teams \$280 per team
- Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs \$200 per pair
- Friday Novice Pairs \$130 per pair
- Holiday Walk-ins \$15 per session per player payable at the table before each session

CALENDAR

Fri 19 Feb	Sat 20 Feb	Sun 22 Feb	Mon 22 Feb	Tue 23 Feb	Wed 24 Feb	Thu 25 Feb	Fri 26 Feb	Sat 27 Feb
	Pairs Championship							
	Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs		Monday Butler Pairs					
		Rookie Novice Pairs				Rookie Novice Pairs		
No Frills Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in	Holiday Walk-in
				Teams Championship			Teams Finals	Open Teams Final
				Under 50MP Pairs	Under 50MP Pairs		Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs	
							Mixed Teams	
							Friday Teams	
							Friday Novice Pairs	
								Dinner Dance

LATE ENTRIES IVY DAHLER BUTLER PAIRS, FRIDAY & MIXED TEAMS & FRIDAY NOVICE PAIRS

Entries for the end-of-week events (Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs, Friday and Mixed Teams, and Friday Novice Pairs) close at **Noon Thursday 25th February**.

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 **Noon Thursday 25th February** for players wishing to enter and pay on-line by credit card.

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 however, **any changes will incur a \$10.00 administrative fee.**

So, avoid the queues, and enter on-line using your iPad, notebook or smartphone.

YOUTH, STUDENT & OTHER CONCESSIONAL ENTRY FEES—ADVISE WHEN ENTERING

- Courtesy of the Gold Coast Congress, all players born on or after 1st January 1996 are entitled to free entry.
- In accordance with Australian Bridge Federation policy, all players born between 1st January 1991 and 31st December 1995 inclusive are entitled to a 50% discount on entry fees.
- Courtesy of the Gold Coast Congress, all players born BEFORE 1st January 1916 are entitled to free entry.

PARKING

Parking will be available for \$10 per entry per day or \$50 for a weekly pass with unlimited entry from Saturday 20th February to Saturday 27th February inclusive.

The Bridge Administration Desk is the ONLY place you can obtain a weekly pass. It will be open on Friday 19th February from noon to 6.00pm (and from 9.00am on other days). Weekly passes can only be used from Saturday 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 \$10 on departure at the pay stations which are located at the lifts as you are exiting. Note that the \$10 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 \$10 parking fee.

EVENT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

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

MIXED TEAMS One of each gender playing in partnerships at all times

FRIDAY TEAMS Open entry to ALL players.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

ROOKIE Under 10 MPs as at 30-Sep-2015

UNDER 50 Under 50 MPs as at 30-Sep-2015

NOVICE Under 100 MPs as at 30-Sep-2015

RESTRICTED Under 300 MPs as at 30-Sep-2015

INTERMEDIATE Under 750 MPs as at 30-Sep-2015

SENIORS Must be born prior to 01-Jan-1958

NZ ELIGIBILITY

Less than NZ Certificate of Proficiency as at 01/01/2016

Less than NZ Club Master as at 01/01/2016

Less than NZ Local Master as at 01/01/2016

Less than NZ Master as at 01/01/2016

Less than NZ National Master as at 01/01/2016

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.

CLOSING OF ENTRIES

Butler Pairs	Thursday 12:00 noon 25 th February
Mixed Teams	Thursday 12:00 noon 25 th February
Friday Teams	Thursday 12:00 noon 25 th February
Novice Pairs	Thursday 12:00 noon 25 th February

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

SESSION TIMES

All session times are shown in the Daily Bulletin every day.

WEDNESDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAMS SESSIONS

Think Simple – Think Fancy - Think Wizard - Think Ireland
Think Anything Emerald

PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED GROUP IN THE EMERALD THEME



We encourage all players to dress in keeping with the Gold Coast Annual Theme for Wednesday Teams Sessions. The theme is "Emerald" – make of it what you will! Parade and photographs 2:30pm to 3:00pm Wednesday 24th February.

0-50, ROOKIE AND NOVICE EVENTS

Help will be on hand for 45 minutes 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.

WITHDRAWALS

Players are permitted to withdraw from all divisions of the Championship Pairs (Open, Senior, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice) Finals (Sunday 21st February and Monday 22nd 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.

MASTERPOINT AWARDS – WALK-IN PAIRS RED AND ALL OTHER EVENTS INCLUDING ROOKIES AND 0-50MPS ARE GOLD MASTERPOINT

Masterpoint Awards Are Subject to Field Size

Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs	0.40 gold masterpoints for each win
Monday Butler Swiss Pairs	0.28 gold masterpoints for each win
Open Teams	1.12 gold masterpoints for each win
Seniors Teams	0.84 gold masterpoints for each win
Intermediate Teams	±0.56 gold masterpoints for each win
Restricted Teams	±0.45 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
Mixed and Friday Teams	0.32 gold masterpoints for each win
Restricted Butler Swiss Pairs	±0.26 gold masterpoints for each win
Intermediate Butler Swiss Pairs	±0.32 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).

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.

STAFFING

Our Floor Managers, Kim and Amber are dressed with the white over-shirt. Our Caddies are in purple however they are only here to caddy – see Kim or Amber if further assistance is required. Our Directors led by Laurie Kelso have the blue shirts.

Our Scoring Staff are led by Matthew McManus and can be found wearing the Black Schweppes 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.

PENS

The pen which will be on the table at the beginning of the pairs and teams is the one you will use to bid and score throughout this congress. Please bring it to each session.

BULLETIN

David Stern, Barry Rigal and Brent Manley are the Bulletin co-editors. 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 almost ALWAYS one at the venue at any given time
- phone or SMS the number on the header of the Daily Bulletin (0411-111-655)
- send an email to the address on the header of the Daily Bulletin (gcb@thesterns.com.au)
- put a submission in the Bulletin Submission box opposite the Administration desk

ROOM SETUP - COLOUR CODING

For the whole event, the **Open Area** will be dressed up in light and dark blue, the **Intermediate** in yellow and dark yellow while the **Restricted** will be in green and dark green, the **Novice** in maroon, the **Seniors** in pink

and purple, **Rookies** in fuchsia and **0-50** in orange. **Weekend Swiss Pairs and Monday Butler** will be played on the tables with orange tablecloths. Coloured flags will identify your section, results and playing area.

BRIDGEMATES

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

PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE TEAMS USING BRIDGEMATE II

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 in order 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.

WEB RESULTS PAGE

On the 2016 GCC Results Page, <http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc/results2016.php>, there is an option, "Individual Player Results." Click on this and enter your surname or ABF number (or anyone else whose results you may be interested in). You will now see a list of every session in which you played at the 2016 GCC, your score, the number of masterpoints won, and a link to your scorecard for the session. (This page will be updated at the end of each day's play.)

IF YOU ARE "CONNECTED".....

The draw for the next round in the Teams and Swiss Pairs events will be published on the web at exactly 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. Alternatively download the Apple/Android App!! (see page 14)

BAR

Subject to patronage, the Bar, run by the Convention Centre, will be located outside the playing area and will be open 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the end of play in each session.

COFFEE AND TEA

As a service to participants the event will be operating a tea and coffee service. Coffee is made from freshly ground coffee beans with fresh milk and will cost \$3.50 a cup (additional \$2.50 for an extra shot) and cookies at \$3.00 each. The service will start around 30 minutes before play and continue until late into the last session for the day. Please understand that the service is run for the benefit of players by volunteers. Correct change is a blessing but not essential.

ON-SITE PERSONNEL

Attending the congress during the tournament will be:

John Wignall – First Vice President of the WBF and President Zone 7

Australian Bridge Federation

Bruce Neill – President (Teams)

Roy Nixon – Treasurer

Allison Stralow – Secretary (Teams)

Simon Hinge – Member Management Committee (Teams)

Jane Rasmussen – Secretariat

Keith McDonald – President Emeritus Australian Bridge Federation, President Queensland Bridge Association

Arie Geursen – Chairman New Zealand Bridge

Alister Stuck – Executive Secretary – New Zealand Bridge

Laurie Kelso - Joint National Event Coordinator and Secretary of WBF Laws Committee

Matthew McManus – Joint National Event Coordinator

David Stern – WBF Youth Committee Member

Barry Rigal – International Bridge Press Association Executive Committee Member

Brent Manley - International Bridge Press Association Executive Committee Member, WBF Bulletin Editor

Peter Buchen – WBF Scoring Committee Member.

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Tournament Organiser:	Therese Tully – 0409-870-324
Chief Tournament Director:	Laurie Kelso – 0412-559-171
Bulletin Editors:	David Stern – 0411-111-655, Barry Rigal and Brent Manley
Appeals Committee Convenor:	Michael Wilkinson
Appeals Committee:	Finalised at the venue
Appeals Scribes:	Brent Manley, Barry Rigal, David Stern and Sebastian Yuen
Chief Scorer:	Matthew McManus
Recorders:	John Brockwell, Julia Hoffman, Keith McDonald and Malcolm Smith
Appeals Advisers:	David Appleton, David Beauchamp and Neville Francis The Director will guide you to the appropriate adviser
0-50, Rookie & Novice Player Liaison:	Andy Hung, Mick Fawcett, Jan Peach, Tim Runting, Graham Rusher, Therese Tully and Richard Wallis

DINNER DANCE – NUMBERS ARE LIMITED SO - TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - DON'T DELAY

Entry forms are collected from the Dinner Dance Desk (in the main playing area) for tables of ten. Regrettably we are unable to make a table of more than ten people.

This year to eliminate any confusion, we are basing Dinner Entry cost on the total number of sessions played through the Congress according to the following table.

Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the foyer from 7.30, followed by dinner at 8pm. Doors will open at 7.50pm. No tickets will be issued this year.

Your table allocation will be posted on boards next to the dining hall doors.

Please advise us of any special dietary requirement when making your booking. We thank you for your cooperation in all of the Dinner Dance arrangements.

No. of sessions per event		Dinner Dance Cost Based On Sessions	
Championship Pairs	= 5 sessions	11 sessions or more	\$10
Championship Teams	= 6 sessions	10 sessions	\$20
Weekend Swiss	= 3 sessions	9 sessions	\$30
Monday Butler	= 2 sessions	8 sessions	\$40
2 Sessions 0-50 MPs	= 2 sessions	7 sessions	\$50
1 Session 0-50 MPs	= 1 session	6 sessions	\$60
Rookie – Each Session	= 1 session	5 sessions	\$70
Friday Teams	= 2 sessions	4 sessions	\$80
Seres-McMahon Mixed Teams	= 2 sessions	3 sessions	\$90
Friday Novice Pairs	= 2 sessions	2 sessions	\$90
Ivy Dahler Butler	= 3 sessions	0 or 1 session	\$100

PSST.....QUEENSLANDERS ONLY

Restricted Pairs at the Gold Coast Congress – Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Bridge Federation, a Prize of free entry for two pairs to be awarded to the best and second best Queensland Pair playing within the Restricted Pairs at this Gold Coast Congress to participate in the Restricted Pairs at the Australian National Championships in Brisbane. Eligibility for the ANC is based on both players in the partnership being under 300 masterpoints on 31st December 2015.

WINNERS – SPRING NATIONALS FREE ENTRY TO GCC

- The winners of the Team Entry to the GCC as a result of their win in the 2015 Spring Nationals Restricted Teams were Malcolm Clift, Kathy Clift, Sallie Quarries and Fran Campbell

- Winners of the Restricted Pairs Entry to the GCC as a result of their highest datum scores in the 2015 Spring Nationals Restricted Teams were Craig Mietzke - David Emmerson, Hamid Sadigh - Siamak Parsanejad and Michael Box - Maurice Ripley

If you are a restricted player then consider entering the 2016 Spring Nationals Restricted Teams for your opportunity to win free entries for the 2017 Gold Coast Congress.

CLUB AWARDS

The GCC recognises the support of bridge clubs by awarding the following:

- The Queensland club who supports the congress with the most entries by their home club members receives a free entry to the 2017 GCC Pairs event (2015 - Queensland Contract Bridge Club).
- The NON-Queensland club who supports the congress with the most entries by their home club members receives a free entry to the 2017 GCC Pairs event (2015 - Kings and Queens).
- Any club who supports the congress with the most entries by their home club members to the Rookies or 0-50 Pairs receives a free entry to the either Rookies or 0-50 in the 2017 GCC event (2015 - Kenmore).

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

- Additional one day 2-session event for 0-50 masterpoints players on Wednesday
- No-Frills Walk-in Friday 19th February while the room is being set up - staggered start from 6.30pm until 7:00pm
- Theme afternoon Wednesday - "Emerald", as it's our 55th birthday
- Intermediate section in Fri/Sat Ivy Dahler Swiss Butler Pairs
- Later 10:00am start for Monday Butler Pairs
- Half-hour earlier 10:00am start on Saturday
- Ivy Dahler Open Butler - back to separate NS/EW fields
- Mixed teams / Friday Teams - back to separate events

CORRECTING SCORES

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 outside the scoring room just inside the doors in the centre of the playing area.

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" outside the scoring room just inside the door in the centre of the playing area. 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.

TBIB INSURANCE

Come and Visit the TBIB Stand in the Foyer

From 09:30am Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss all your insurance needs and to answer any questions which you may have including renewing your ABF Travel Insurance Policy.

SCORE CORRECTION PERIODS

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

Pairs Championships

Qualifying One	Midnight Saturday
Qualifying Two	One hour after scores are posted
Final One	Midnight Sunday
Final Two	2:00pm Monday
Final Three	One hour after scores are posted

Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	11:30am Sunday
Matches 4-5	2:30pm Sunday
Matches 6-8	One hour after scores for Match 8 are posted

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-3	2:30pm Monday
Matches 4-7	One hour after scores for Match 7 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 Open and Restricted Butler Swiss Pairs

Matches 1-4	3:00pm Friday
Matches 5-7	Midday Saturday
Matches 8-10	One hour after scores for Match 10 are posted

Mixed Teams AND Friday Teams

Matches 1-3	3:00pm, Friday
Matches 4-7	One hour after scores for Match 7 are posted

All Other Sessions

Sessions Not Listed Above	20 minutes after scores for the session are posted
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SYSTEMS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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 WBF system cards.

GREEN, **BLUE** and **RED** systems as well as **BROWN Sticker** conventions may be used during the Open Pairs and Teams, Seniors Pairs and Teams, Intermediate Pairs and Teams, Mixed Teams, Friday Teams, Ivy Dahler Open Swiss Pairs, Ivy Dahler Intermediate Swiss Pairs, Weekend Matchpoint and Monday Butler Swiss Pairs, subject to protection. (Note: protection will not be available for the major final of the Open Pairs).

Only **GREEN** and **BLUE** systems may be used during the Restricted Pairs and Teams, Novice Pairs and Teams, Rookie Pairs, Friday Novice Pairs, Ivy Dahler Restricted Swiss Pairs and Under 50 Masterpoint Pairs.

YELLOW systems will only be permitted in the Open Teams from Round 3 onwards and not against teams with a current position in the lower two thirds of the field (decimals rounded up).

Teams proposing to use **YELLOW** systems must lodge an adequate copy of their system (including a bona fide suggested defence) with the CTD before 10:00am on Tuesday 23rd February 2016. Such systems will be made available for inspection.

BROWN STICKER

Some overcalls and 2-level openings attract a **BROWN sticker**. Weak 2-level openings without an anchor suit (RCO & Myxo Twos, etc.) are **BROWN sticker**. Pairs should attach **BROWN** spots to their cards. Also, multi one-level overcalls are **BROWN**, though gadgets used over 1NT or a strong 1♣ are not. Please also note that a Multi 2♦ (or 2♣) showing a Weak Two in either major is an exemption from the **BROWN Sticker** category.

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.

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, etc).

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
- 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 etc.*)

‘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.

Pianola Smart Tools For Bridge Clubs

At this year's congress we're uploading results to Pianola. This free service will give you:

- your results by email, straight after the session
- a breakdown of your score as declarer, defender - even dummy(!)
- quick links to your best, worst and most interesting boards



If you choose to login to the system, you will also be able to access Pianola Plus, which is being provided to you free of charge for the duration of the event. This will give you extra features and tools:

- analysis of your bidding compared to the best in field
- analysis of your card play compared to the best in field
- the ability replay any hand with card-by-card guidance

To get a login to the system or for any other player or club information please see James Ward on the Pianola stand at the venue or email james@pianola.net

OUR CHARITY FOR 2016 - ZEPHYR FOUNDATION



My name is Carmel Martin and I'm a bridge player and the treasurer of Zephyr Foundation.

In April 2013, my sister, Isabella, read an article in the Courier Mail highlighting the plight of mothers and their children arriving at domestic violence shelters, often with only the clothes on their backs. The article made a plea for essential school items for the children, such as school bags and shoes.

A drastic consequence of the upheaval in the lives of these children is that their education is often severely disrupted. This makes their transition to a new school in a new location far more difficult, firstly because without the proper clothing and equipment they stand out from the other children at a time when it is important for their self-confidence that they fit in. Secondly, without the

relevant text books etc. they will quickly fall behind in their schooling. They encounter many other problems, two examples of which are that without a hat they may run up against the 'no hat no play' rule or without proper school shoes they may not be allowed to play sport.

We decided to set up a charity focusing on supplying uniforms, shoes, text books, stationery and other school items. Isabella was the Manager of the BGS P&F Shop since 2006 so she is well suited to running this kind of charity. She retired in December last year.

Some schools require parents to pay a set fee for resources for particular years, which the school then provides. In these cases we will pay the fee if we have funds available. No one who assists Zephyr receives any remuneration for their work.

In 2015 Jonty Bush, Young Australian of the Year in 2009, agreed to become Zephyr Foundation's patron. Jonty is passionate about supporting children in domestic violence shelters and sees the long term benefit in assisting them to continue their education with as little disruption as possible.

Research shows that it is vital for the children's well-being that they get back to school as soon as possible and that they don't stand out from other children at their new school during this difficult time. Therefore, we respond to requests from shelters within 24 hours.

At the beginning of December 2015, we conducted a survey of all 16 shelters to determine what stock they held of basic school essentials such as shoes and socks, hats, lunch boxes, water bottles, school bags and other general school needs. We then supplied these shelters with any necessary top ups.

Since the start of January we have received requests from eight shelters to provide 35 school stationery packs and textbooks as well as provide funds for the purchase of school uniforms. All children will also be supplied with school shoes and socks, hats, school bags and other items. It took four willing volunteers 8 hours to put together and process these packs which are specific to the year level and school attended by each child. The wholesale cost of these packs is \$5,500. The feedback we receive from the shelters confirms that there is a genuine need for the assistance we provide.

Your Support: As a bridge player, I turned to the bridge community for donations when we realized that the size of the charity was going to go beyond the boundaries of our two families and close friends. The support from the bridge community has been overwhelming, humbling and gratefully received. Apart from the hugely generous financial support we've received, we've been spurred on by the massive endorsement of what we are trying to do. I know I'm talking in superlatives but there are no words to describe the support we are receiving.

Domestic violence has reached epidemic proportions in Australia and any help you can provide to help children affected by it to get on with their education would be much appreciated. All donations to Zephyr are tax deductible. Details for donations are as follows:

Zephyr Foundation BSB: 084-004 — Account number: 15-629-0526 — Ref: Your name

If you make a donation, please email your contact details to zephyrfoundation@hotmail.com so we can send you a receipt. You can find out more about Zephyr Foundation at www.zephyrfoundation.com.au









We will be collecting throughout the tournament and ask players to support this exceptionally worthy charity including a raffle - 1 ticket \$5 or 10 tickets for \$10.

The first prize will be one entry (two players) to the 2017 GCC Pairs Championship. The next ten tickets drawn will be to "win a game with an expert". At the discretion of the winning ticket holder, a hamper of goodies from Myer can be substituted for the club game.

Raffle will be drawn under the North sign in the Open Teams section following the 10.30 teams session on Thursday 25 February. In relation to the game with an expert : There will be 10 winners drawn with each winner (in order of being drawn), being given the option of choosing from the remaining pool of experts to play one club session of bridge with the expert at a mutually agreed time and place. Entry fees for both player and expert to be paid by the winning ticket holder. If you are present at the draw, you can choose your expert, otherwise one will be allocated.

ALL PROCEEDS TO ZEPHYR FOUNDATION HELPING KIDS AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GET BACK TO SCHOOL

GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2016 - CALENDAR OF CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

		Saturday 20th February	Sunday 21st February	Monday 22nd February	Tuesday 23rd February	Wednesday 24th February	Thursday 25th February	Friday 26th February
PAUL MARSTON	Double - How to make the most useful bid in bridge work for you	4:45pm to 5:30pm	<p>Paul Marston is one of Australia's all-time most successful bridge players with more than 50 National Open Titles to his credit. These include six international pairs events and two wins in the Cavendish Teams, the richest teams event in the world. His books have sold more than 500,000 copies and his annual lecture series in Noosa is routinely sold out with more than 200 people coming from all around the country.</p> <p>He is going to show you how to use double to help you decide how far to compete, with clear agreements to make with your partner.</p>					
DAVID BEAUCHAMP	Why We Play 2 Over 1		9:00am to 9:45am	<p>David is one of Australia's leading teachers. He has run workshops throughout Australia and has been a Celebrity Speaker at the Gold Coast Congress & The National Open Teams on numerous occasions.</p> <p>Recent Achievements include: 2015: Winner Grand National Open Teams; Runner-up Spring National Open Teams 2014: Winner Spring National Open Teams; Winner Grand National Open Teams; Representative NSW Open Team.</p>				
NICK JACOB	Picture The Dummy How to visualise the cards opposite you to get to the right contract		4:45pm to 5:30pm	<p>Nick Jacob played in the New Zealand open team in 2015 after being a frequent representative in the youth team. He also represented Victoria in the Open Teams at the 2014 Australian National Championships. He has won the 2015 Spring National Open Teams and the 2016 National Open Swiss Pairs while finishing second in the 2016 National Open Teams.</p>				
ISHMAEL DELMONTE	The Inside Track - come behind the scenes (or screens) with Ish as he candidly talks about the recent cheating scandals	Born in NZ, Ish started playing bridge with his father at 16. He has represented NZ and Australia in Youth & Open Bridge.		4:45pm to 5:30pm	<p>He lived in Sydney for 25 years, although playing bridge around the world. Ish has won numerous titles in Australia, NZ and USA as well as five times winner of most Masterpoints title. He lives in Las Vegas with his wife Lisa and is now, with his current partner Zia Mahmood, trialling to represent the USA. Ish is Vice-Chairman of the WBF High Level Players Commission which is targeting cheating at bridge at the top level. He is also on the masterpoint committee and has just been added to the newly formed ACBL task force which is also attempting to stop cheating at bridge.</p>			
HUGH GROSVENOR	Ethics and Etiquette	Hugh is a professional bridge player and teacher, who has lived and played in Australia, USA and Europe. He represented Australia in the Open Team 5 times between 1992 and 2012. Two Bermuda Bowls, one Olympiad, four PABF championships. He has won numerous Australian National and State titles.		9:30am to 10:15am		<p>Hugh is President of the Tasmanian Bridge Association and an Australian Bridge Federation Councillor.</p> <p>He is the main bridge teacher for the Tasmanian Bridge Association and is a State level bridge director.</p>		
JOAN BUTTS	When to Bid Over the Opponent's 1NT Openings AND When Not To	Joan Butts has represented Australia in world championships. She was 2nd in the 2015 TBIB National Swiss Pairs Championship. Her passion is bridge education. In 2011, she was appointed the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) National Teaching Coordinator. In this capacity she trains teachers and arranges professional development programmes. Joan is also involved with bridge online.			9:30am to 10:15am			
WILLIAM JENNER-O'SHEA	Opening Leads and Planning the Defence	Will Jenner-O'Shea has been teaching bridge full time in Sydney for 10 years. For the last two years he and Vanessa Brown have been running the Sydney Bridge Centre in Sydney's Inner West. Sydney Bridge Centre merged with the New South Wales Bridge Association in April this year. Will and Vanessa are the Joint CEOs with Will being the club's teacher across its three venues. Vanessa and Will have won the Mixed Teams in Canberra and Gold Coast. When not playing with Vanessa, Will mostly plays with Mike Doecke from Adelaide, and they have won several Junior tournaments, represented Australia, and won last years Autumn National Open Teams. Will also won this years National Mixed Teams Championship in Canberra for the second time.			2:15pm to 2:45pm			
PHIL GUE	Simple Ideas in Competitive Bidding		<p>Phil Gue has taught bridge for 30 years. For the past 25 years he has managed and taught at the Adelaide Bridge Centre. Phil has played for Australia at all the major World and Regional Championships.</p>				9:15am to 9:45am	

MINIMUM \$5 Contribution to the ABF Friends of Youth Bridge Fund - GREATER Contributions Greatly Appreciated By Our Youth Players





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EARN A CHOCOLATE FROG

Thanks to the generosity of Jay Faranda we will again be giving out chocolate frogs to any player who displays notable courtesy, ethics or equanimity as well as the person who nominates the recipient.

We are pleased to announce that the value of the frogs has been increased to \$200 this year.

The nominator of any recipient will also be awarded a chocolate frog for taking the time to make the nomination.

We would like to publish the nominations, so a short note to Kim Ellaway at the Bridge Administration Office would allow the Bulletin to make proper acknowledgement to the recipients.

To encourage more such acts your editor has undertaken to sponsor additional chocolate frogs should the proposed supply run out!!!

No responsibility for weight gains to those who receive multiple nomination – BUT MUCH ADMIRATION

AIR CONDITIONING AND PLAYERS COMFORT



Remember that 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;
- 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 trusted 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

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. You can further assist by returning any bulletins which you no longer require to the venue allowing us to recycle them, especially from the early days to those players who attend only for the teams.

BUILDING A BETTER MOUSETRAP

Barry Rigal - When Blackwood is not enough

Everyone knows that the ace-asking inquiry named after Easley Blackwood is usually initiated by a call of 4NT. We have all had disasters when we wish we had stopped at the four level because partner's inconvenient response has taken us beyond five of our trump suit. Just as surely, everyone has received a 5♦ response to key card with hearts as trumps and, not knowing whether partner holds the trump queen (and not being able to ask), been forced to guess. Conclusion: Every established partnership should consider ace-asking inquiries that don't depend on 4NT and build in a significant number of exceptions to using 4NT as the ace-asking call.

After 1NT and 2NT openings

One of these solutions comes thanks to John Gerber – a man whose convention is probably more frequently misused (on a percentage basis) than Blackwood's!

A direct call of 4♣ over 1NT or 2NT is Gerber, leaving 4NT to be a quantitative invitation. The traditional Gerber responses enumerate aces: 4♦ shows zero aces, 4♥ shows one, 4♠ shows two and 4NT shows three.

Over a Gerber response, 4NT – if not a response showing three aces – then becomes a sign-off, not Blackwood tell-me-again-how-many-aces-you-have ace asking. Remember, too: When responding to 4♣, don't use the Blackwood responses. If you think I'm kidding, I promise you I'm not. I've seen a response of 5♥ to 4♣ to show two aces more times than you would imagine possible.

Zia Mahmood discusses Pakistani Blackwood, where after a zero response, the next step asks you if you are sure. But we frown on this at our club.

Gerber can be enhanced with a qualitative feature. In response to 4♣ asking, you can use key card-like answers of 4♦ (one or four aces), 4♥ (zero or three aces), 4♠ (two with a minimum) and 4NT (two with a maximum).

After the response, whether you use the next step (rolling Gerber) or 5♣ to ask for kings numerically is up to you.

After Stayman

After Stayman finds a major-suit fit, you have a choice of what slam methods to use. There are two perfectly playable systems that allow responder to show slam interest. I will give you what I consider to be the best (slightly more complex) approach and suggest an alternative at the end of this section.

After Stayman gets a 2♦ response, 4♣ can be used as ace asking; there is no obvious other use for the call. 4♦ and 4♥ are transfers, suggesting 6–4 in the majors if you play regular Smolen so that 3♥/♠ over the 2♦ response show the 5-4 patterns. A subsequent 4NT becomes key card for the long major and a direct 4NT over 2♦ remains quantitative.

After a response of 2♥ or 2♠, 4NT remains quantitative. Three of the other major shows an unspecified splinter in support of partner's suit. Partner (the no-trump opener) relays with the next step and you bid singletons 'naturally': clubs, diamonds, 3NT being the other major after the 3♠ ask.

Over the 2♥/♠ response, a jump to 4♣ is key card Gerber; 4♦ is a balanced slam try with four of partner's major, and higher jumps are Exclusion Blackwood (discussed later in this series of articles).

West	East
♠ A J 6 5	♠ K Q 10 4
♥ K Q 2	♥ A J 9 8
♦ K Q 5	♦ A J 10
♣ J 8 2	♣ 10 3
1NT	2♣
2♠	4♦
4♠	

The West hand is an unexciting 16 count that doesn't become any more exciting when East invites slam by bidding 4♦ to show a balanced slam-try with four spades.

Imagine, instead, this layout:

West	East
♠ A J 6 5	♠ K Q 10 4
♥ K Q 2	♥ A J 9 8
♦ K Q 5	♦ A 10 4 3
♣ J 8 2	♣ 3
1NT	2♣
2♠	3♥ ¹
3♠ ²	4♣ ³

¹ Four spades, unspecified singleton.

² Relay.

³ Club shortness.

East shows a slam try with an unspecified singleton and when asked, admits to a singleton club. Now opener can take control – a relatively unusual event in theory -- and use keycard. Three key cards and the trump queen make slam easy to bid, whereas 6♠ has no play if West's minors are reversed.

An alternative approach is to play three of the other major as a balanced hand with at least slam invitational values, and new-suit jumps as splinters. A benefit of the first method is disguising – at least until after the opening lead – dummy's short suit, if opener is not interested in pursuing slam.

STRENGTHEN YOUR GAME

Getting the most from your conventions – Part 1
Brent Manley

I like to start this column each day with a funny story to remind you that bridge is supposed to be fun. Enjoy your game.

Harold Levitt is credited with this bon mot: "If you laid all bridge systems end to end there would be no end."

Besides being the most popular convention, Blackwood and all its iterations is one of the most abused.

For those who may not know, Blackwood is a bid of 4NT, asking responder to name the number of aces in his hand. Responder bids in steps: 5♣ shows all the aces or no aces (if the 4NT bidder can't tell which, he's abusing the convention), 5♦ shows two, etc.

Partnerships favouring Roman Key Card Blackwood agree that the response to 4NT shows the number of "key cards" (the aces and the king of trumps), starting with none or three, four or one, two without the trump queen and two with the trump queen.

Back to the original point: abuse of Blackwood.

A few months ago, I was playing at the local bridge club against an opponent who has been around the block, so to speak, quite a few times in the game of bridge.

I passed as dealer, and the player in question, looking at

♠ A Q J 9 4 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A ♣ K J 9 7 2

opened 1♠. So far, so good, but when my partner passed and opener's partner bid 2NT (game-forcing spade raise), opener bid 4NT (!). Do you agree with his bid? If so, go stand in the corner.

This is a common abuse of Blackwood among newer players – asking for aces or key cards with two or more quick losers in a side suit (note the two low hearts in opener's hand). The situation turned bizarre after responder bid 5♥ (two key cards missing the trump queen). I made a lead-directing double of 5♥ - and opener sailed into the slam anyway! Yikes!

Luckily for opener, dummy hit with

♠ K 8 6 5 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q 10 9 ♣ A Q 5 3.

My partner and I could take only one trick, so all was well, which means opener was left to think that his bid of 4NT was just right. Never mind that responder's hand could have been

♠ K 8 6 5 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ A Q 5 3.

Responder still would have bid 2NT. Some of you may have noticed that the correct response to the 1♠ opener is 4♥, a specialized bid that shows a singleton or void in hearts, four or more trumps and enough strength to go to game (4♣ and 4♦ would show the same in the respective suits). Opener, with the knowledge that he did not have two quick losers in hearts, would have been justified in asking for key cards via 4NT and the slam would have been reached the proper way.

Another poor use of Blackwood that I have seen more than a few times is bidding 4NT with a void in a side suit. Unless partner makes a bid that assures your side has all the key cards (which means all the aces), you won't know if partner's ace (or one of his aces) is facing your void, which makes it useless in many cases. You need partner's aces facing suits with high cards.

Tomorrow: Better slam bidding (yes, 4NT is included).

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BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

Dir N	♠ A Q 6		
N/S Vul	♥ 6 2		
	♦ K Q J 8 4		
	♣ J 8 3		
	♠ K J 8		
	♥ A K J 10 5 3		
	♦ 7 3		
	♣ 6 2		
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥ //

West leads the ♣K, followed by the ♣Q and the ♣7 to East's ♣A, which you ruff. Plan the play from here.

Solution: With eight trumps the percentage play is to take the heart finesse. With many combinations it is a good idea to cash a top trump first in case the Q is singleton. That does not apply to this trump combination. Play the S8 to the SQ and play a heart and finesse the jack if East plays low. If that wins, return to dummy via a spade to the ace and lead dummy's remaining heart, finessing the ten if East plays low.

If the hearts break 3-2, it makes no difference whether you play a top trump first or finesse first. The finesse gains when the suit splits 4-1 with East having the four trumps:

North
6 2

West
Q
9
8
7
4

East
9 8 7 4
Q 8 7 4
Q 9 7 4
Q 9 8 4
Q 9 8 7

South
A K J 10 5 3

There are five cases. If you play the ace first, you gain only when West has the singleton queen (one case). If you finesse the jack, winning, and return to dummy via another suit to finesse then ten, you win against the other four singletons with West.

Paul Lavings



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Magnus Moren
Managing Director

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Magnus has very generously provided the palms in the foyer. See Superior Scapes for a complete landscape service, including: design, construction, maintenance and environmental management.

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CALENDAR OF SOCIAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2016

NOVICE AND ROOKIE ACTIVITIES	Venue	Saturday 20th February	Sunday 21st February	Monday 22nd February	Tuesday 23rd February	Wednesday 24th February	Thursday 25th February	Friday 26th February	
GCC Novice Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	12:15pm to 12:45pm							
GCC Rookies Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuscina Tablecloths Main Playing Area	12:15pm to 12:45pm							
GCC 0-50 MP Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Orange Tablecloths Main Playing Area	9:45am to 10:15am							
GCC Novice Teams Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	9:45am to 10:15am							
GCC 0-50 MP Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Orange Tablecloths Main Playing Area	9:45am to 10:15am							
GCC Rookies Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Fuscina Tablecloths Main Playing Area	9:45am to 10:15am							
GCC Novice Pairs Welcome Assistance with System Cards and How it all Works etc	Maroon Tablecloths Main Playing Area	9:45am to 10:15am							
SOCIAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES									
Bridge Widows Gathering for Non-Bridge Playing Partners	Air on Broadbeach Apartment 3204	Afternoon Tea 2.00pm			Morning Tea 10:45am to 11:45am				
Bridge Widows Mt Tamborine Trip \$5.00pp	Bus Leaves From Lobby Air on Broadbeach	http://www.tamborinemtnc.org.au/things-to-do-on-tamborine-mountain/			12:00pm to 4:00pm				
Bridge Widows Springbrook Trip \$5.00pp	Bus Leaves From Lobby Air on Broadbeach	http://www.dancingwaterscafe.com			11:00pm to 2:30pm				
Bridge Widows Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley House Trip \$5.00pp	Bus Leaves From Lobby Air on Broadbeach	http://www.artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/theGallery			11:00 to 4:00				
Zephyr Foundation Charity In Support of This Years Charity Collections Before Play - All day at Admin	Doors Leading to Playing Venue	All Day			All Day Raffle Draw Under N Sign After Morning Session				
Bridge Vid Demonstration with Pete Hollands and Laura Ginnan See Bulletin for Details	Rooms 10, 11 and 12 Upstairs at the Convention Centre	 12:15pm to 12:45pm		Bridge Vid features video lessons, commentated play, Triple Dummy podcast, online live course promotions and much more.				1:15pm to 1:45pm	
Pianola Demonstration	Rooms 10, 11 and 12 Upstairs at the Convention Centre	2:00pm to 2:30pm							
Free Fashion Parade Meegs Boutique. Susie the Stylist discusses different bodysapes styles - informative, educatuonal & fun!	1st Floor Oasis Shopping Centre	 10:30am to 11:45am							
Trivia Night Teams of up to 8 Players Non-Bridge Players Welcome Jac and Bill Rossiter-Nuttal your hosts	Alto Cucina and Bar Oasis Shopping Centre Grd Floor Beach End	\$10 Entry Closes Admin 2:00pm Monday Dinner from 5:30pm Monday Trivia Commences 7:00pm							
Directors Get Together	With Jan Peach Rms 10/11/12 Upstairs	Starting 8:30am Finish 10:00							
Dress Up Day - Emerald	Come Dressed in Something EMERALD Lobby Outside Area	Dress-Up Parade 2:30pm to 3:00pm							
Bridgemates Meet Ron Bouwland Developer and Owner of Bridgemates	Paul Lavings Bridge Books Stand	09:30am to 10:00am							
Free Breakfast for Shoe Shoppers	"In Her Shoes Store" Ground Floor Oasis Shopping Centre	 local & imported shoes · bags · accessories					8:00am to 10:00am		

Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

The bus will run every 10-15 mins traffic permitting, commencing one hour before the start of play for each session (but not walk-ins), picking up passengers at the listed stops in numerical order.

Please hail the bus. They will have a sign Gold Coast Congress Bus in front left hand windscreen.

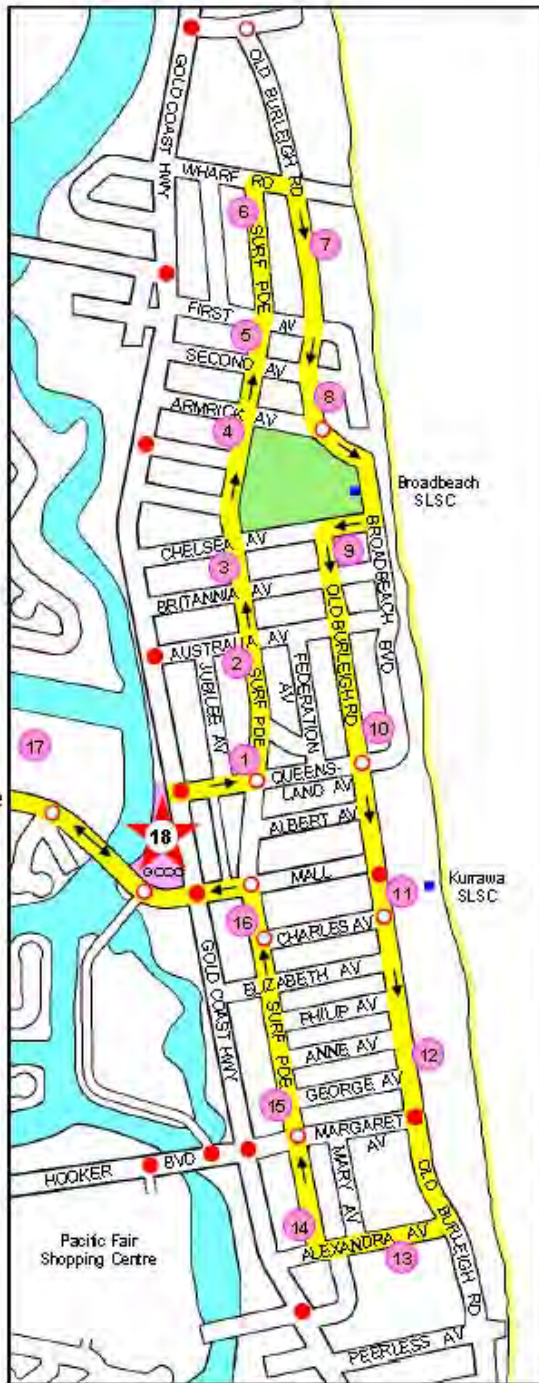
Buses will also be available to ferry people only to restaurants in Broadbeach during meal breaks, and for pickup in time for commencement of play. Please remember this is a courtesy bus, primarily for those less capable of walking over to the Mall area.

Buses will also be available at the end of each playing session, stopping again at indicated stops. Regrettably buses will not be available to take people to the dinner dance.

Courtesy Bus Stops & Route



- 1** 112 Surf Pde - Aruba Beach Resort
- 2** 130 Surf Pde - Markham Court
- 3** 140 Surf Pde - Leawarra
- 4** 166 Surf Pde - Linden Court
- 5** 176 Surf Pde - Rua Apartments
- 6** 210 Surf Pde - Surf Parade Resort
- 7** 60 Old Burleigh Rd - The Breakers
- 8** 100 Old Burleigh Rd - Oceana
- 9** 106 Old Burleigh Rd - Ocean Royale
- 10** 136 Old Burleigh Rd - King Tide
- 11** Old Burleigh Rd - Kurrawa SLSC
- 12** 177 Old Burleigh Rd
- Opposite Carmel By The Sea
- 13** 10-16 Alexandra Ave
- Breakfree Diamond Beach
- 14** 1-10 Surf Pde - Bel Air
- 15** 40 Surf Pde
- Broadbeach Travel Inn
- 16** 76 Surf Pde - Opposite Sofitel
- 17** 33 TE Peters Dr - Freshwater
- 18** G C Convention Centre



The Gold Coast Congress Bulletin will be delivered to the front desk each morning between 8.00am and 9.15am Monday to Saturday mornings. If you are staying nearby, you are welcome to drop into any of these establishments and collect a copy. Otherwise, they will be available at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. They may keep them under the desk or out of sight – if you can't see them there please ask.

- Air on the Broadbeach**
- Barbados**
- Coffee Club**
- Hi Ho Holiday Apartments**
- La Lavandou Holiday Apartments**
- Mantra Broadbeach on the Park**
- Markham Court**
- Starbucks**



MONDAY NIGHT 22ND FEBRUARY FROM 6:00PM

The Trivia night will be held at Alto Cucina & Bar – Shop 47, The Oasis Shopping Centre, Victoria Ave Broadbeach Mall - At the Beach End (07-5539 0377) commencing 5:30pm for a 7.00pm start

Once again our hosts will be Jac & Bill Rossiter-Nuttall who did such a good job last year.

The bridge menu is below and I hope all players will avail themselves of these specials and arrive at 5:30pm to give time to order their meal and drinks ready to start play at 7:00pm.

There will be a fee of \$10.00 per player with all proceeds going to Friends of Youth Bridge Fund but to be specifically used to facilitate youth attendance at the Gold Coast Congress with the objective of having apartments for the week where youth players can stay for free or minimal (+/- \$10) charge.

You can enter as teams of 6 to 8 people and may include friends who may not be bridge players. Numbers are limited so please register **AND PAY** at the Bridge Administration desk at the GCCC before 2:00pm Monday. If you do not have a full table there is no problem, simply write down your names and we will “marry” players to make up teams.

The members of the winning team will receive prizes including wine or chocolates

**USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY TYPE STRICTLY PROHIBITED
OFFENDER AND THEIR TEAM LIABLE TO DISQUALIFICATION**

\$20 Trivia Menu Selection

Spiced Calamari Served with fat chips & alto garden salad, citrus mayonnaise & lemon

Herb Crusted Baby Barramundi Fillets Tartare sauce, alto garden salad & fat chips

Chicken Schnitzel - Lightly crumbed chicken breast served with chips & alto garden salad

Spaghetti Bolognese - A traditional home-made meat sauce finished with parmesan cheese

Tortellini Boscaiola - Kassler bacon, wild mushrooms, garlic, onion, white wine cream sauce

Mushroom Risotto GF Arborio rice, field, oyster & champignon mushrooms

Caesar - Fresh baby cos lettuce, Caesar dressing, anchovies, crispy bacon, croutons, boiled egg & shaved Romano cheese

Pizza: Roma tomato, fresh basil, Napoli & mozzarella

Pizza: Double smoked ham, pineapple, Napoli & mozzarella

Pizza: Chicken, crispy bacon, spring onion, kick ass BBQ sauce, Napoli & mozzarella

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DIFFICULT CALCUDOKU

56x	189x		5-		7-	3-		24x
			60x	72x		21+		
16+		35+						18+
2÷				6x				8x
	18x		2-	80x		8+		
					7+		216x	
8-	12+		36x		15+			90x
				6-	8	4-		
1-		4÷			126x			

DIFFICULT SUDOKU

		6	3						4
		3	5		7				
							8	9	3
					3		1		6
					7		9		
5	9	4			6				
					6		8		5
2	4								
	1				2				3 9

Event	Date	Website / Contact / Venue
Autumn Nationals (ANOT)	Thursday 28 th April to Monday 2 nd May 2016	Entries: ANOT.organiser@gmail.com Jinny Fuss 0474-074-005 Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground
Australian National Championships and Butler Pairs Chermside, Brisbane	Saturday 25 th June to Thursday 7 th July	Entries: anc16@qldbridge.com Charles Page 0449-758-046 Venue: Kedron Wavell Services Club
Coffs Coast Gold Congress	Tuesday 9 th August to Sunday 14 th August	Entries: ian@australiawideconferences.com.au Ian Doland 02-6654-1104 Venue: Opal Cove Resort
Territory Gold Bridge Festival Pairs and Teams	Wednesday 31 st August to Sunday 4 th September	Entries: tgbf@abf.com.au Lisa Hambour 0419-801-461 Venue: Hilton by Doubletree Hotel Darwin
Spring Nationals Open Teams, Restricted Teams Dick Cummings Open Pairs Restricted and Novice Pairs Linda Stern Women's Teams Bobby Evans Seniors Teams	Wednesday October 19 th to Thursday October 27 th	Entries: sn@abf.com.au Marcia Scudder – NSWBA 02-9264-8111 Canterbury Park Racecourse, Sydney

DIRECTOR'S TIP - INSUFFICIENT BIDS

It is never in a player's interest to:-

- alter an insufficient bid before the Director has advised them of their options;
- announce to the table what they meant to write.

Many insufficient bids can be corrected without further redress once the Director has assessed the situation.

SERVICES

If you are in need of a doctor or medical assistance you can contact Kim Ellaway through the Administration Desk or alternatively contact the Broadbeach Medical Centre on 07-5531-6344, Suite GO1, 2681 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach. Their after-Hours is handled by Chevron After Hours Medical Service 07-5532-8666. Please note that they do not Bulk Bill.