

Gold Coast Update

By now I hope you all know that the 2007 Gold Coast Congress has a change of venue and will be held at the Convention Centre 17th to 24th February. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few issues for you.

ENTRIES

The entry form is now available from your club or you are able to enter on line at www.qldbridge.com/gcc (or follow the links to the GC website from the ABF or QBA home page). Gerald Schaaf is taking entries & can be contacted at, goldcoastentry@optusnet.com.au, or phone 07 54426682.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide range of accommodation available very close to the Convention Centre. For people who are concerned about crossing the highway, Jupiter's Casino has a covered walkway direct to the Convention Centre. Freshwater Point Resort Apartments also has a good deal for bridge players & they are located on the canal side of the GCCC. On our website we have a whole page detailing some of the more popular choices. Connie Schoutrop (07 33782171 or 0402851103, schoutrop@bigpond.com) is our Accommodation Liaison Officer and is very happy to assist you with any queries.

TRANSPORT

We will be running the same bus we had last year and intend to have pick up points from designated spots across the highway before and after each session. (Including Jupiter's). We will review this according to demand and weather forecasts but we feel people will be agreeably surprised to see how accessible the Convention Centre really is. The council buses run every 30 minutes before midnight and hourly after midnight and the bus stop is right outside the Convention Centre.

The Mono Rail runs from the Oasis Shopping Centre across the highway to Jupiter's where it links up with the covered walkway which runs across to the Convention Centre. This service runs approximately every 20 minutes and is at a cost of \$2.00 per trip. I would prefer if anyone who had reservations about entering due to transport restrictions contacted Kim Ellaway or I to discuss alternatives.

PARKING

There will be a charge for parking – we are negotiating at present for a flat weekly rate of \$20.00

DINNER DANCE

We have committed to 500 people minimum attending. This cost will be free to those who enter all events including the Swiss Pairs. It will be \$20.00 to those who play in 2 of the 3 events, \$40.00 if one of the 3 & \$60.00 if a non player. We have budgeted for limited alcohol per table. We will be reviewing this after we have a better idea of actual table numbers.

COFFEE

We will be supplying "continuous coffee" with disposable cups at a charge of \$2.00 per cup largely on the honour system. You will be able to buy your upmarket coffee outside the playing area. This is largely a trial arrangement on the basis of "use it or lose it" (and pay for it).

PARTNERSHIPS

Anyone looking for a partner or team mates can register on line on our website (<http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc>). You can also contact Toni Bardon on 07 33764183 or tmbardon@hotmail.com or for the Restricted Connie Schoutrop 07 33782171 schoutrop@bigpond.com

SWISS PAIRS

This is a new event commencing Friday 1.30pm & finishing by 2pm on Saturday. There will be an open and a restricted section & I would encourage you all to enter. You will receive gold points for every match you win and as play progresses you will play against people of your own standard.

RESTRICTED EVENTS

These events are open to players who have not attended Life Master status as at 30.09.06. We aim to hold a meeting prior to the start of play for any players who would like a run down on procedures or protocol. Our aim is to make these events a very "non threatening" experience and I would encourage you all to give it a go.

COSTS

Our main aim in 2007 is to try and break even. The rent alone has gone up considerably and does not include cleaning, security, water etc or any other of the services we are used to in a hotel environment. We have put up our prices but it has been 4 years since the last increase and they were due to increase last year. We are banking everything on getting an increase of tables from last year with a high attendance in all 3 events. The more money we receive the more we will put back into the congress by way of increasing our hospitality etc. We want to make 2007 the best congress ever and we hope you will be part of it.

Please feel free to contact Kim Ellaway manager@qldbridge.com 0733518602, 0412064903 or myself gtully@bigpond.net.au 0409870324 if you require any further information. I look forward to seeing you all in February.

Cheers

Theresa Tully