



# It's Time for a Change! Convention Centre for 07



From Convener Therese Tully:

"Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better." So said Jerry Frankhauser and I think he sums up my emotions pretty well.

I alternate between petrified at the thought of being taken out of my comfort zone & familiar routines (& old maxims like "If it is not broken why fix it") to being hopeful that the new venue will solve so many of our existing problems like **space** and **split venues** - to the realisation that this is the most exciting opportunity to create the greatest bridge congress in the world whilst still retaining our special *Gold Coast* holiday atmosphere.

## We had to move

As you can see we are bursting at the seams. After contemplating restricting numbers and incorporating a third venue we realised it was "time for a change".

It seems like fate because not long after we decided to move, *Holiday Inn* bought the ANA and part of their renovation plans include turning the 4th floor ballroom into a series of smaller offices and rooms. We are forever grateful to them they are not doing this until after the 2006 GC Congress.

## The Convention Centre

is situated at **Broadbeach** which is quite a trendy area. It is a bit like a younger and fresher version of Surfers Paradise with plenty of accommodation (all sorts), lovely eating places & coffee shops etc, but is still close to the beach. It is right next door to **Jupiters Casino**.

In fact there is a covered walkway that runs between Jupiters and the Convention Centre. It is about a 3-5

minute walk.

It is on the other side of the highway to the beach which initially gave me some concern but no longer. I dragged Tony Jackman along with me when I first visited it to see if it was a suitable venue. We started out from the main door to the CC, walked to the lights, crossed the highway, walked around the block on the far side - beautiful cafes, coffee shops & restaurants in that street, with the accommodation mostly extending from there back to the beach - continued round the front of the block - bottle shop, newsagent, convenience store, McDonald's - back to the lights & crossed.

I then made Tony re-cross again in case we fluked a quick light change, back again & back up to the Convention centre & this took us around 15 - 20 minutes and I can assure you we were casually taking in the sights.

*We have tried to supply as much information as we can in this bulletin - not only about things like accommodation and bus trips but about the bridge and our plans for the future. We are open to change and ready to listen to all your suggestions as to how we can make this an even greater success.*

*We hope to raise questions and allow for open debate.*

## Dates

**Sat 17/2/07 to 24/2/07.** These are non negotiable - we have paid the deposit and are committed, so you can start looking for accommodation now. We have a list of hotels with phone numbers on page 3 to help you get started. That list will also be posted on the QBA website and updated regularly. Other bits in this bulletin are open to debate!

We always hold our congress in the last full week in February and are committed to for the next three years. We have no intention of changing but an opportunity may arise such that we could swap times with Adelaide Autumn Teams, held in May. Rather than predict your opinion & reject it out of hand this seems to be an opportunity to ask for your views .. I have been surprised before!

## Parking

There is plenty of parking (1400 places) at the Convention Centre - free at the moment though we cannot guarantee it will always be! There is also free parking at Jupiters.

## Why not have a look?

The Convention Centre and Jupiters are 40 minutes walk South of here, a bit of a grind. However ...

**Diana and her bus** (remember!) will conduct guided tours of the new area every morning next week, except Thursday. This Sunday is also a possibility. These tours will involve walking through the Convention Centre (though the CC won't be open to us on Wednesday or Friday) as well as touring around Broadbeach, pointing out the proximity of possible eateries and/or accommodation!

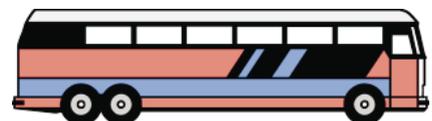
**Holiday Inn - Boarding 9.20**

**Departing 9.30 each day**

**GCI - Boarding 10.20**

**Departing 10.30**

(To be confirmed)





## The Monorail

runs every 8 minutes so if you just miss one, it will be back in 8 minutes. It runs from 9.00 am to midnight every day of the year. It runs from outside the Sofitel – beachside of GC Highway – to the start of the covered walkway linking Jupiters to the Convention Centre.

## Funding

We have applied for funding from the Queensland Development Board but will not know the outcome for a few months. This money would be spent in promoting the game & attracting new players to come to the Gold Coast.

## Finance

Yes, the Convention Centre will be more expensive. We save some of the extra \$50K venue costs by being in one venue – for instance we need fewer directors and staff – but we gain others that we previously took for granted: cleaning, security, etc. Entry fees will rise.

In the past, entry fees were increased every three years (that increase was due in 2006) but we have deliberately held it over until 2007.

Rest assured we have no intention of pricing ourselves out of the market - we are looking in all directions to cut costs & raise revenue .. any bright ideas welcome! Even donations :)

## Tablecloths

I want brand new tablecloths for 2007. Connie Schoutrop will be conducting a feasibility study re costs, best material, best shapes etc & more importantly anyone prepared to sew! Please contact Connie on (07)33782171 or any of our management team if you have anything to contribute – be it experience, ideas or sewing ability!. We are still hoping for a sponsor but we need to cover all options.

I had a vision – Open, Senior & Restricted all under one roof. Sounds awkward but anyone could walk in & find their place easily due to this wonderful colour coordinated table cloth system. I have since discovered it is not quite that simple! What is the best way to make this happen?

## Sponsors

We are actively seeking sponsors to make up the shortfall of \$50k due to increased venue hire. We are confident we will succeed as we have a great product to offer the market in



terms of advertising & exposure. We welcome ABN AMRO Morgans involvement this year & we hope you remember the old adage : We support those who support us!! Log on to their website & have a look what they have to offer. (log in & password both qlbridge)

We are in talks with two other possible sponsors. If any of you have any suggestions about a possible sponsor, please give us a tip and we will follow through. We are after both major & minor Sponsors.

We are quite prepared to follow ABN AMRO Morgans lead of sponsoring a team category & put the other sections up for auction .. anyone (or any organisation) prepared to donate the prizes for the best men's, women's, mixed, or country team?

## Early Bird Incentives

We have to finalise payment of the venue hire before entries close which causes a cash flow problem, so we need an early bird incentives to get you all to enter and **pay** early. Suggestions please.

First we have to get our entry form out early. We are also investigating the possibility of paying by EFTPos. We still need to do our costings but are thinking of offering some incentives. How about this: All entries paid before a certain date go in random draw & one lucky pair/team is refunded in full! Winning the next date random draw gets you 50% off. Or just *All entries before a certain date get a discount.*

## Partnership Desk

How can we do this better? We aim to make better use of the website so that people looking for partners or team mates can place an ad! Or at least list their name, MP Status, Contact No & what they want to play in such you can make contact.

## International Hosts

We have appointed Toni Bardon & Jimmy Wallis to this newly created role due to our ever increasing numbers of international visitors. We are always looking to ways we can improve our service & figured it would be good to have a central point of contact for all these Extra Queries eg partners, accommodation, arrival times, best beer etc.

All entries would go through the normal channels & any administrative problems (eg visas) still through Kim. We like to get to know our international guests so please talk to Jim & Toni & make yourself known even if you don't have a problem!.

Jimmy has his office on the 2nd floor of the Holiday Inn (the bar :>)& Toni is around everywhere.



Jim at work

## Computer Scoring

From the Bulletin Editor: In the Pairs – Australia's last decent matchpoint event – I'd like to see individual score easily available for every pairs in every session. I'd like to see accumulated scores in percentages, not matchpoints. I'd also like to see board results posted along the lines of "Bd 22 in Final. +110 NS = 45%"

It hasn't happened because this is one matchpoint ABF event, drowned by a dozen IMP events. Sigh.



The CC is HUGE

## Accommodation - 07

See also [www.qldbridge.com](http://www.qldbridge.com) & [www.verygc.com](http://www.verygc.com)

VeryGOLD COAST  
VeryGC

### Bel Air Units

2 blocks away from venue

New resort complex offering the highest standard in apartment facilities, right opposite Pacific Fair, Jupiters Casino and Gold Coast Convention Centre.

33 Alexandra Avenue

1 bed \$152 per night (1-2 Pax)

2 bed \$211 per night (1-4 Pax)

Ph: 1300 553 800

This is the number of the Gold Coast Booking Centre facility which offers the latest accommodation deals at a range of well located 3 to 5 star resort apartments.

### Breakfree Resorts

Operating Break Free Resorts, a management company owning management rights to twenty eight current and developing resorts.

10% discount if booked via <http://qldbridge.breakfree.com.au> many units available.

### Conrad Jupiters Hotel

Take the covered walkway ....

Standard Room \$190 per night

Ph 55928100

Toll Free 1800074344

See the back page as well.

### Phoenician Units

(closest Units to Gold Coast Convention Centre)

Situated in the heart of cosmopolitan Broadbeach and just 100 mtrs from the beach.

24-26 Queensland Avenue

1 bed \$172 (1-2 pax)

2 bed \$230 (1-4 pax)

1300 553 800 (Gold Coast Booking Centre)

### Sofitel Gold Coast

300 metres monorail to Casino

Located in the heart of Broadbeach, the spectacular Sofitel Gold Coast is located directly opposite the Convention Centre and also has a monorail link to Conrad Jupiters.

All rooms have been extensively renovated and feature contemporary furnishings and fittings, LCD televisions, digital telephones and the latest IT communication services, making your stay at the Sofitel an unforgettable experience.

\$229.00 per room per night - Single/Twin/Double - including full buffet breakfast (up to 2 persons) or

\$210.00 per room per night - Single/Twin/Double - room only

Phone (07) 5592 2250

### Gold Coast International

5 km away but QBA Service will be offered

Corner Gold Coast Highway and Staghorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise

\$155.00 per room per night - Accommodation only.

Phone 5584 1200

Toll Free 1800074020

### Holiday Inn Surfers

5 km away but QBA Bus Service will be offered

22 View Avenue - Surfers Paradise

Phone: (07) 5579 1000

Toll Free 1800007697

\$160.00 per room per night - Accommodation only.

[www.VeryGC.com](http://www.VeryGC.com) offers a variety of Apartments in walking distance from the Gold Coast Convention Centre.

Some apartments are listed below. Keep an eye on the QBA website [www.qldbridge.com](http://www.qldbridge.com) for specials at the next Gold Coast Congress organised by the Gold Coast Committee.

All units listed below are within 4 kilometres of the Gold Coast Convention Centre:

### Arc Resort

Phone 5579 4700

### Aruba Beach Resort Apartments

Phone 5504 4745

### Aruba Sands

5538 8155

### Beach Haven at Broadbeach

5570 3888

### Breakfree Diamond Beach Resort

5665 4163

### Breakfree Neptune Resort

5665 4163

### Breakfree Savannah Resort

5665 4163

### Carmel by the Sea

5570 2799

### La Grande Residence

5592 5350

### Markham Court Apartments

5592 3111

### Oceana on Broadbeach

5584 3333

### South Pacific Plaza

5538 3911



The red spots are hotels near the Convention Centre

# Dice with Heaven in 07?



## Pairs & Teams formats

by Laurie Kelso

The Convener has asked me to write (as Chief Tournament Director) a few words about the effects of a new larger venue for the 2007 GCC. Any potential change in format is of course a complex topic.

Firstly let me say that I see no reason to vary the Pairs at all, however I believe that the general prestige of the Teams would be increased if the Open Teams returned to a single field for the Swiss. The relative field size of the Open verses the number of rounds might now however become an issue (some will argue that the larger size requires more rounds). This is a truly debatable point, which would also be dependent upon the number of Teams we would wish to withdraw for the Finals.

Another factor is that ideally; we would wish to run the Senior and Restricted Swisses parallel to the Open (i.e. the same number of rounds). Unfortunately the current size of these smaller fields would not really support the extra rounds. Additional rounds of Swiss would also mean an extra day in the schedule - that would probably mean starting the Pairs on Saturday afternoon instead of Sunday.

My initial (starting point) suggestion is therefore to play the current 10 (12) round format in all three Teams events and just take the top 4 teams for the Open Finals. Taking more teams requires more time and this won't mesh well with what we do with the main field and the other events.

These of course are just my initial musings, but as you can see there are a multitude of issues. The major objective in any mooted change should of course be to retain (or improve) the integrity of the Congress whilst still accommodating the wishes of the majority of players.

## Get Close to the Venue!

Conrad Jupiters Gold Coast Hotel. The Casino open 24 hours a day, providing over 100 gaming tables including blackjack, roulette, baccarat, craps, big 6, sic bo, 2 up, keno and video slot machines, plus VIP Club lounge and private gaming rooms.

The property has six hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens and a Monorail to Oasis Shopping Centre.



Jupiters has six restaurants catering for varying tastes, plus a Pool Bar, Sumptuous pool side BBQ complemented by refreshing cocktails in lush tropical gardens.

There is also a Health Centre equipped with a pool, spa, and a gymnasium.

Jupiters Theatre shines the spotlight on some of the finest international

acts ever seen in Australia, in live stage spectaculars.



## Broadbeach attractions

There are many, such as ...

### Dracula's Cabaret Restaurant

Thrill with Excitement! Scream with fear! Experience an unforgettable evening that will leave you breathless. Enter via Dracula's ghost train ride into the Theatre of the Vampire, where weird waiters and talented performers sink their teeth into a night of comedy, rock, puppetry and amazing horror FX.

### Pacific Fair Shopping Centre

is an Australian shopping icon. Home to many big name stores and with over 300 specialty stores and services, you won't want to miss it! Where else on the Coast will you find all of your favourite fashion labels in one place?

And once you've shopped, why not relax at one of the alfresco restaurants and cafes or take in a movie at the Cinemas.



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*If you are free and interested,  
Stevie Nicks is at the Convention Centre this Wednesday night!*

