



**REAL
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BRIDGE**

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2023 CONGRESS BULLETIN: EDITION 1, JULY 27th, PRE-EVENT

*A message from
Tournament Organiser*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ Laura Ginnan ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

I'm so proud to be at the helm of our first Congress!

We're certainly hitting the ground running with some big ideas.

I'm most excited about the billeting program which will match metro players with spare room(s) up with regional players who would love somewhere to stay. Not only will this be one less thing to worry about for regional participants but I'm looking forward to seeing the social side of the game flourish.

The carefully curated program for the event also offers something for everyone; During Saturday morning's graded pairs where each pair will compete against nine other partnerships who are all of a similar standard. This will give the sharks a chance to vie for top honours in a great field and also mean that less experienced players don't have to meet them. Friday's Under 20 MP Swiss pairs is also the perfect opportunity for newer players to dip their toes in the Congress scene.

I know that our games won't be the only big THING on Saturday. After the graded pairs, the venue Village Green Hotel is also the perfect place to watch the grand final with fellow bridge players. It's licensed and has TVs everywhere! If you're like me and footy isn't your thing, don't worry, there is more bridge to be played!

We are pleased to be hosting the event at 'The Village' which is less than 30 minutes from the city and just off the Monash Freeway. It has plenty of parking and some great places to mingle.

I can't wait for the event and hope that we will see you there whether this is your first Congress or your 100th!

Congress Schedule:

Thursday September 28th

Development workshops (see page 3)

10.00 am - 4.15 pm

\$65 per player

Friday September 29th

Swiss Pairs

Open or Under 20 Masterpoint division

10.00 am – 5.15 pm

(presentations conclude by 5.30)

\$55 per player including lunch

- *Please stay after play to discuss hands with expert players*

Saturday September 30th

Graded Pairs

10.00 am – 1.30 pm

(Then stay for more bridge, watch the AFL Grand Final at the Village Green or, if you can't get out of your other Grand Final Party, head somewhere else).

\$30 per player (lunch not included)

Hand analysis provided

Relaxed Pairs

2.30 am – 5.15 pm

\$15 per player

Have some fun, the big game will be on silent in the background.

Sunday October 1st

Swiss Teams

10.00 am – 5.15 pm

(presentations conclude by 5.30)

\$55 per player including lunch





Do you live in metro Melbourne and have a guest room(s)?

Our Billeting Program is a great chance to get to know the wider bridge community by hosting a player or players from regional areas. To find out more or offer a stay, email laura@realdealbridge.com

Congress Venue: The Village Green Hotel (Cabaret Room)

The Cabaret Room in 'The Village' will turn into our bridge players den for 4 exciting days. This venue ticks so many boxes; great location, HEAPS of parking right at the door, break out spaces, café to purchase from, and the sports bar is a great place to watch the footy. It's also a gaming venue which presents a couple of small hurdles. When you arrive, the only entrance to the building that you will be able to come through is the one directly at our playing area (where you would want to come in anyway). The playing area is around the back, essentially diagonally opposite the intersection of Springvale and Ferntree Gully Roads (but at the rear). The more challenging hurdle is coffee! Don't panic, instant coffee is available all day, every day and barista made coffee is available after 10am. If you can't handle starting the day without an espresso, please make sure that you grab one before you get to the venue.



Swiss Pairs: Under 20 Masterpoint division!

Congresses are for everyone! If you have played a duplicate before, you're ready to take on a Congress!

Player development and support is a big priority at Real Deal Bridge. We are pleased to provide one of the rare opportunities for newer players to compete in a Congress and contend only within their own section, these opportunities are (currently) few and far between.

A good time is to be had by all and if you are a newer player thinking about joining in the event please know that you will be in very good hands and have a fantastic time; don't let this opportunity pass!

After play concludes on Friday, it's the perfect opportunity to stay around at the venue and mingle with expert players who would love to discuss some hands with you!



GIFTWARE STALL

Throughout the Congress we will have a number of bridge giftware items available for sale as well as bridge supplies such as bidding pads.



Thursday development workshops

Laura Ginnan, Mary Elson and Peter Hollands join forces on Thursday September 28th to present a series of workshops, seminars and Q & A about all things Congress.

Pete has represented Australia in the open division and will let you in on his tricks of the trade to elevate your scores to the next level.

As a nationally accredited director (and representative player) Laura Ginnan will be on hand to talk about Congress scoring and some common director situations (and how to make the most out of them if you are a player).

Mary Elson is a household name as a renowned Victorian teacher and the first ever recipient of Victorian Teacher of the Year. This powerhouse team line up together to deliver an eye opening day for players of all skill levels.

RAFFLE: EACH DAY OF THE CONGRESS WILL INCLUDE A RAFFLE. BRING SOME CASH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY TICKETS

Congress Staff:

Tournament Organiser

Laura Ginnan: laura@realdealbridge.com

0411 694 248 (email preferred)

Assistant Tournament Organiser

Adi Smith: adi@realdealbridge.com

0411 257 072 (email preferred)

Chief Tournament Director:

Laura Ginnan (National Level 2)

Tournament Director (numbers permitting)

Bill Jacobs

Recorder: TBA

Appeals committee: TBA

General enquiries:

events@realdealbridge.com

Catering*

Instant coffee, tea and biscuits are available throughout play.

Lunch Thursday and Sunday:

Soup (2 choices) and sandwich

Lunch Friday:

Soup (2 choices) and wrap

Please advise of any dietary requirements 21 days prior to the event by emailing events@realdealbridge.com

*subject to change



♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ **Congress Payments** ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

We'd really appreciate if you could pay in advance by direct transfer to assist with the smooth running of the event on the day. If you need to cancel, don't worry, a full refund will be provided.

Account details	Payment amounts
Real Deal Bridge Pty Ltd BSB: 063159 Account number: 10738772 Commonwealth Bank of Australia Please use your name and phone number as a reference	Thu Workshops: \$65pp Fri Swiss Pairs: \$55 pp Sat Graded Pairs: \$30 pp Sat Relaxed Pairs: \$15 pp Sun Teams: \$55pp (please contact us for rates if you have more than 4 people in your team)

Cash on the day is also fine.

Credit card on the day is ok however there will be a \$2 surcharge per credit card payment.

Graded Pairs (Saturday morning)

We hope you can make it along for this one because it's something special.

The field will be seeded based on Masterpoints and Director's judgement.

Entries will then be divided into 10 pair (5 table) segments. You will then challenge the other 9 pairs to vie for top place in your division.

At the top end of the field, the event offers prestige competing to be the best of the best. As the divisions move to less experienced segments, players can feel at home competing against players of a similar level.

This event will be conducted as a barometer (all pairs in your section play the same boards at the same time) and live scores will be available after each round. If you have ever played the Gold Coast Pairs Finals, it will be a similar progression.

Hands from the graded pairs will also be written up with expert analysis to take home and enjoy.

Don't waste away the morning just because it's Grand Final Day, come enjoy the Graded Pairs! The event will conclude with plenty of time to watch the big game (or to play more bridge :D)

FRIDAY NIGHT MINGLING!

Friday night presents a great opportunity to meet and mingle after play and we'd especially like to welcome regional players and players from the under 20 Masterpoint Swiss Pairs to enjoy the chance to talk all things bridge with expert players on the night.

Please save the date to join us. At this stage, the gathering will be informal however we are seeking sponsorship to provide hospitality for the event.

Sponsorship:

We are seeking sponsors. If you would like to contribute to the event's success and the enjoyment of bridge players please get in touch. All contributions big and small are appreciated and contribute towards prizes, raffle prizes and events such as Friday mingling. Goods or services might also be appropriate for event prizes.

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