

CONGRESSES AND OTHER EVENTS		OCTOBER 2011		
Name of Event	Code	Club	Points	Mth/Yr
NSW MIXED TEAMS	2XT	2-001	RED	OCT/11
QLD MASTER TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP	4MT	4-501	RED	OCT/11
QLD OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP	4OP	4-501	RED	OCT/11
SA STATE TEAMS PHASE 2	5OT	5-700	RED	OCT/11
BAWA GNP REGIONAL FINAL	6GP	6-751	GOLD	OCT/11
TASMANIAN GNOT	7GN	7-801	GOLD	OCT/11
TASMANIAN SENIORS PAIRS	7SP	7-801	RED	OCT/11
NT MIXED PAIRS	8XP	8-901	RED	OCT/11
SPRING NATIONALS: RESTRICTED TEAMS	9RN	9-911	GOLD	OCT/11
SPRING NATIONALS: OPEN TEAMS	9RO	9-911	GOLD	OCT/11
SPRING NATIONALS: DICK CUMMINGS PAIRS	9RP	9-911	GOLD	OCT/11
SPRING NATIONALS: BOBBY EVANS SENIORS TEAMS	9RS	9-911	GOLD	OCT/11
SPRING NATIONALS: WOMENS TEAMS	9RW	9-911	GOLD	OCT/11
ALBURY SUPER CONGRESS	AYU	2-005	RED	OCT/11
BALLINA SENIORS GNP HEAT	B2P	2-018	GOLD	SEP/11
LYNDROCH CONGRESS	B9C	5-708	RED	OCT/11
BALLINA GNP HEAT	BCI	2-016	GOLD	SEP/11
BAIRNSDALE GNP HEAT	BIP	3-308	GOLD	AUG/11
BRIDGE @ THE BAY GNP HEAT	BPN	2-244	GOLD	SEP/11
BRIDGE AWAY: ANCHORAGE HOLIDAY	BTA	2-228	RED	SEP/11
BRIDGE AWAY: DORMIE HOUSE HOLIDAY	BTD	2-228	RED	MAY/11
BRIDGE AWAY: BANNISTERS HOLIDAY	BTI	2-228	RED	MAR/11
BRIDGE AWAY: BANNISTERS HOLIDAY	BTI	2-228	RED	JUN/11
BRIDGE AWAY: LILIANFELS HOLIDAY	BTL	2-228	RED	NOV/10
BRIDGE AWAY: NOOSA HOLIDAY	BTN	2-228	RED	MAY/11
BRIDGE AWAY: MIRAGE HOLIDAY	BTS	2-228	RED	JUL/11
BRIDGE IN THE CITY CONGRESS	C4B	5-710	RED	OCT/11
CALOUNDRA NOVICE PAIRS	CAN	4-592	RED	OCT/11
CLEVELAND BAY TEAMS	CBT	4-522	RED	OCT/11
CAIRNS PAIRS	CSP	4-590	RED	OCT/11
DALBY CONGRESS	DAC	4-598	RED	OCT/11
DOUBLE BAY IMP PAIRS	DOI	2-061	RED	OCT/11
FINESSE PHUKET HOLIDAY	FEK	2-067	RED	AUG/11
GOLD COAST OCTOBER CONGRESS	GCO	4-620	RED	OCT/11
GEELONG GNOT HEAT II	GEG	3-360	GOLD	SEP/11
GLEN PAIRS	GLP	2-070	RED	SEP/11
GYMPIE TEAMS	GYT	4-625	RED	OCT/11
HAWKS NEST GNP HEAT	HWK	2-092	GOLD	AUG/11
MARGARET RIVER CONGRESS	M6C	6-781	RED	OCT/11
MEREWETHER SOUTH GNP HEAT II	MBH	2-142	GOLD	AUG/11
MOLLYMOOK CONGRESS	MMC	2-146	RED	SEP/11
MACKAY TEAMS	MYT	4-640	RED	OCT/11
NEDLANDS OCTOBER CONGRESS	NEO	6-785	RED	OCT/11
PENNANT HILLS TEAMS	PHT	2-213	RED	OCT/11
BRISBANE ZONE GNOT FINAL	QDB	4-501	GOLD	OCT/11
DARLING DOWNS ZONE GNOT FINAL	QDG	4-501	GOLD	OCT/11
QLD NORTHERN REGIONAL GNP FINAL	QGN	4-501	GOLD	OCT/11
SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GNP FINAL	QGS	4-501	GOLD	OCT/11
WHITSUNDAY GNP REGIONAL FINAL	QGW	4-501	GOLD	OCT/11
UNDERCROFT CONGRESS	RUC	6-792	RED	OCT/11
SURFERS GNP HEAT II	SFP	4-682	GOLD	OCT/11
SAPPHIRE COAST CONGRESS	SJC	2-234	RED	SEP/11
TRARALGON GNP HEAT	TXP	3-477	GOLD	SEP/11
NSWBA METROPOLITAN PAIRS	YYM	2-001	RED	SEP/11
CENTRAL NORTHERN GNOT REGIONAL FINAL	ZGE	9-914	GOLD	OCT/11
SW NSW GNOT REGIONAL FINAL	ZGF	9-914	GOLD	OCT/11
MOUNTAINS GNOT REGIONAL FINAL	ZGU	9-914	GOLD	OCT/11
WA GREAT SOUTHERN GNP REGIONAL FINAL	ZJG	6-751	GOLD	SEP/11
NORTHERN RIVERS GNP REGIONAL FINAL	ZJI	2-260	GOLD	AUG/11

TOTAL: 59 Club Membership Total=33548 (corresponding total last year: 33457)
 By State: ACT=806; NSW=13523; VIC=5020, QLD=7422; SA=1650; WA=4180; TAS=780; NT=167



NEWSLETTER

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NEW ABF MASTERPOINT CENTRE SYSTEM

The Masterpoint Centre database and web site are being updated, and the changeover is scheduled for early January 2012.

Masterpoints for the month of December 2011 will be processed in the usual way, and then early in January 2012, visitors to the Masterpoint Centre web site will be taken to the new site.

All the existing web site functionality will be there, but the new site will be easier to navigate, with one menu of options showing on all pages, a Site Map, and plenty of help.

Players will also notice some great new features like:

- Masterpoints will be visible on your account as soon as they have been up-

loaded by your club or state masterpoint secretary. They will be labeled as “future points” but won’t be used to calculate your rank until the month-end process has been performed by the Masterpoint Centre.

- Reports like Top 50 Masterpoint Earners Current Year and All Time, and the McCutcheons, can be run on screen at the National, State and Club level.

There are some significant changes ahead for Clubs Masterpoint Secretaries. Clubs will be issued with a user name and password (emailed and sent by post early January 2012). This will enable clubs to:

- upload their masterpoint award file (instead of emailing them), with masterpoints immediately visible on member accounts;

NEXT MONTHLY DEADLINE

The submission deadline for November is:

**Wednesday 30th November
at Midnight local time.**

- edit player details (amend, transfer in, reactivate etc) – changes are immediately visible on the web site;
- add new players, with the new ABF number being assigned immediately, and the player then being visible on the web site;
- enter awards individually via the traditional CPAR and Sundry pages (same as at present)
- manage your club details, alternate members and annual cancellations (same as at present).

Any change that affects the database (player add/edit, award uploading etc) will also result in a confirmation email being sent to the club.

The whole process is completely automatic and the database is updated immediately – the Masterpoint Centre won't need to be involved in any of these processes, except for approving masterpoint batches prior to the month-end close.

From January, we hope that all communication with the Masterpoint Centre can be done my email. This means that we will be emailing your quarterly reports instead of using regular mail. To ensure our details are up to date, the first time a club logs onto the new site, they will be asked to confirm all their club details, including the preferred email address.

So watch out for this exciting event in January 2012. Until then, you can visit

the test site at www.abfmpe.bridgeaustralia.org . This address is used for testing only, so the data isn't accurate or up to date.

The Centre would be pleased to receive your feedback – positive or negative – so feel free to email us with your comments.

BENEFITS OF ABF MEMBERSHIP

The following is an extract from an email by the ABF treasurer:

“There is a lot of misunderstanding at club level about the benefits of being an ABF member through an affiliated bridge club but I want to make one important point first - the choice about joining the ABF is exercised both by individuals and by clubs but while individuals may choose to join a non-affiliated bridge club, once a club chooses ABF affiliation there is a 100% rule that ALL of its members must pay the relevant capitation to the ABF and its relevant state body....

....let me explain a few benefits of being affiliated to the ABF for both individuals and clubs. First, it is not simply about earning masterpoints. The ABF spends a significant amount of money each year providing blanket insurance cover for all its clubs to cover public liability and more recently management and professional indemnity insurance. This insurance cover provides great comfort for players and club committees that they can seek compensation in many common situations plus protection from litigation where their deci-

sions and actions may adversely impact another person in some material way (e.g. denial of membership rights). Some clubs/state bodies already had insurance to cover these potential claims but were able to cancel them saving in some cases thousands of dollars and at the same time getting often improved coverage.

The ABF also spends money to provide its clubs with a high quality newsletter six times a year [*Ed: No, not this one!*] The feedback we get from this publication is unerringly positive. The ABF also subsidises the provision of a copy of Australian Bridge to every affiliated club in Australia. The ABF gives generous grants to all state and territory bodies for the promotion of bridge in its clubs. All of this money finds its way to clubs who put in proposals for assistance and quite commonly clubs have used these funds to buy things like electronic table top scorers, library books, have bridge teachers come and give lessons - these all enrich the bridge playing experience of players at club level.

Another ABF service often overlooked is the activity of the James O'Sullivan Trust which makes available loans at low interest to affiliated clubs and state bodies of up to \$30,000 over 30 years to assist with major capital works such as purchase or building of premises, upgrade of existing premises etc. Many clubs have availed themselves of this service.

In 2011 appointed national coordinators to cover marketing and teaching. Funds have been provided to assist clubs improve their own marketing efforts to get more members in. For teaching, the ABF has funded teacher training events in four different states which should improve the overall quality of bridge teaching at club level which as you know is usually where new players first enter the world of competitive bridge.

Finally, the ABF as the national body affiliated to the World Bridge Federation and as such selects national teams to play in international events. This inevitably takes up a major part of the ABF budget and would not be possible without a small contribution from all our members through the annual capitation fee. I recognise that bridge at this elite level is far removed from the experience of the majority of club players but a significant proportion of our players do like to follow the fortunes of our national teams overseas and to share in their success when we have some. Our website [*Ed: The ABF's, not the Centre's*] is a terrific service in helping our members follow our national teams and to track results of all our major domestic events.

....I hope this has improved your understanding of what the ABF does.”

ABCD DIRECTORY

With the discontinuation of the ABCD Directory when the new system and web site go live in 2012, I have disabled the link on the current web page to request any changes to this document.