

## **CONGRESS CONVENOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **May 5, 2023**

My apologies for the tardiness of this report, but I have been in SA for the last month and only arrived back this week. Following is an overview of Congresses over the last 12 months.

Three Congresses were scheduled as follows:

Novice & Restricted Congress – 27 & 28 August 2022  
Summer Teams Congress - 11 December 2022  
Super Congress – 18 & 19 March 2023

The Summer Teams Congress did not go ahead due to lack of entries, possibly due to the date (December), I'd recommend that if the Summer Teams Congress were to be held in the future, it should be in October or November. It could not be held in those months in 2023 because of the State Teams event being held in November.

As can be seen from the table below, there has been a slight increase in numbers, but a decline in the number of CCBC members entering.

	<b>Pairs # players</b>	<b># CCBC members</b>	<b>Teams # players</b>	<b># CCBC members</b>
Novice & Restricted 2022	64	<b>20</b> (31%)	52	<b>16</b> (30%)
Super Congress 2023	104	<b>22</b> (21%)	112	<b>31</b> (28%)

### **Pricing**

The N&R Price of \$40 per player was increased to \$45 per player for the Super Congress. I would recommend maintaining the \$45 for next year until we have solidified our position in the marketplace and at this stage our position is too fluid.

The 50% discount for those under 26 was introduced over the last 2 congresses, but is rarely requested, and it's recommended to continue with this encouragement for younger players.

### **Prize Money**

To date, the actual prize amounts have been advertised, and was reduced for both congresses due to lack of numbers. Perhaps in the future, a generic statement e.g. "monetary prizes will be awarded" should be considered.

### **Venue**

The August event was held at the CCBC hall, and the Super Congress was held off-site at the Long Jetty Over 50's Club. The logistics of an off-site congress are problematic and given the number of entries received, it would be my recommendation to refrain from an off-site venue for the time being.

## **Catering**

The standard of catering at these events has been elevated slightly and has been positively received. This level of catering could not have been achieved without the involvement of a crew of volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes.

## **Budget**

For each Congress a budget has been set and the actual income and expenses were recorded to give a complete view of the costs of running a congress.

## **Convenor's Role**

The role of the Convenor needs to be clarified, specifically as to what decisions can be made by the convenor and what decisions must be referred to the Committee. To date, I have not seen any clear guidelines with regard to expectations.

## **Overall**

I have held this role for the last 3 years and therefore feel that I can make the following observations.

CCBC is a not-for-profit organisation, this doesn't mean that a profit should not be made, however, it is unrealistic to place on volunteers the responsibility for achieving a **specific** profit. It would be reasonable to have this expectation of employees, but not volunteers. And in my experience, treating volunteers as employees results in lack of interest in volunteering. The CCBC volunteers who have assisted with the events have been fiscally responsible, in fact, much of the catering was donated by the volunteers, which resulted in both events realising a tidy profit. Without the goodwill of the CCBC members, it would have been a different story.

CCBC's membership, session attendance and members' congress engagement has been in flux over the past 3 years and (from my observations) there is no sign of this being stabilised. The current premises are sufficient for congresses for at least the next 2 years at which time events could once again be held off-site to accommodate higher numbers. At this point in time, another 8 tables (proposed with the upgrade) would be hard to fill at a congress.

I currently have a good working relationship with the current Executive members of the Committee. The position of Convenor is however quite stressful and time consuming, so, at this stage, I will defer my decision to commit to the next 12 months as Convenor.

Regards  
Marilyn Scott  
05/05/2023