

# GLBC 2026 Congress Report

The GLBC 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress took place across two days: February 28, 2026, and March 1, 2026.

The Swiss Pairs event on Saturday featured sixty-eight pairs competing in a single field, with novice and restricted categories as indicated on MyABF.

On Sunday, the Swiss Teams event included thirty-three teams plus a house team, also competing in one field, with novice and restricted categories in accordance with the information on MyABF.

Congress entries were administrated via MYABF. As an administrator, I found MyABF easy to use and appreciate its ongoing improvements. The payment cutoff a week prior worked well. Gross entries totalled \$13,400, with over 95% paid through MyABF. The 1.85% fee on gross entries seems reasonable.

Ronnie Ng, Congress Director, ensured smooth operations throughout both days. Despite occasional noise from the large turnout, we managed the heat, maintaining a cool club environment, accommodated competitors with disabilities, and received positive feedback on the atmosphere.

Kitchen volunteers worked under Anne McKay's skilled direction, feeding the masses throughout both days and managed to cater for a variety of dietary requirements.

Raffles were held on both days, and not only were they a financial success, but most players also enjoyed the light-hearted break away from the bridge table.

A misunderstanding about a pair's category arose after the event but was resolved to the satisfaction of both the Club and the pair in the week following Congress.

During the Congress, we received highly positive verbal feedback from players. Following the event, we distributed a survey prepared by BridgeNSW to assess players enjoyment, willingness to return in 2027, views on organisation, directing, and refreshments. The responses were favourable, with only a couple of negative replies. We welcome all feedback and assume positive intent.

We thank everyone who generously volunteered their time to make the Congress a success.

Before the event, members—often with help from their families—contributed in many ways:

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- Organising and managing the Congress boards, as well as printing hand records (a major effort that starts months in advance)
- Designing and printing scoresheets
  
- Creating the Congress flyer
- Cooking
- Cleaning the clubhouse, arranging tables, and washing tablecloths
- Providing ongoing publicity for our website
- Donating raffle prizes, or sourcing donations from local businesses
- Sharing flowers from their gardens for beautiful floral arrangements
- Writing thank you notes and preparing table numbers.

During the Congress, volunteers continued to help:

- Our catering team
- Members greeting players and selling raffle tickets.
- Our caddies
- The generous donation of a trailer for rubbish and help from our volunteer removalist.
- The house team and reserves who kept both days free in case they were needed to play.

Thank you all for your incredible support. While the Congress is not primarily a fundraiser, it was financially successful, netting \$4,459.57.

We have applied to hold the Congress again next year on the last weekend in February. If this date is approved, the director can be confirmed, and we will begin preparations anew. Please let me know if you are interested in taking on a key role.

Denise Marr

Congress Organiser