

Penang Bridge Congress 2020



July Update

I am writing to bring you up to date with the latest information on the Penang Bridge Congress.

As you know, we had planned to hold the Bridge Congress on the 21st and 22nd March. Then Malaysia went into lockdown on the 18th March forcing us to suddenly have to cancel the event. The Jazz Hotel had to close, all the staff were sent home, and it was not until the 15th May that we were able to meet up with the staff again to discuss the situation. When we did meet up we discussed the 24th and 25th October as possible dates and were told we could either use the Jazz Hotel (expected reopening 1st August) or the Voux Suites (from the same group) in George Town. They both have suitable facilities and they agreed that if any of you had booked accommodation at the Jazz, you could transfer your booking to the Voux Suites.

Everything looked as if running the congress in October would work out well, but then the Malaysian Government announced further restrictions on movements until the 31st August. What will happen after that date has yet to be announced, but it throws into question whether a Congress only 7 weeks later would be feasible.

All the score booklets have been printed, certificates prepared, boards prepared and prizes and other requirements purchased, so everything is ready. However, with airlines only just starting to fly again, it might be difficult for people to reschedule their previously travel arrangements. We still do not know whether players from outside Malaysia will be able to get here.

We are still totally committed to running the Congress and are considering November, perhaps the 21st and 22nd (avoiding Deepavali), or rescheduling completely to late January, maybe the 23rd and 24th avoiding Thaipusam. or even into the beginning of February, maybe the 6th and 7th, before Chinese New Year. We will keep you all informed as the position solidifies and we are able to make a final choice of date.

The Hotel group is now able to start refunding the money we paid them, so once we receive the final staged repayment we will be in a position to refund entry fees if requested. You can also let your entries stand towards the rescheduled event, which will protect you from any price increases we have to

recover at the rescheduled Congress. Entries are fully transferrable, so you can change participants, or pass your entry to a completely different team, as another option.

We now have several options for the Congress, either the Jazz Hotel as planned or the Voux Suites plus a choice of dates. It would help us with our planning if you could let us have answers to some questions, using the Form we have created on the website. Please remember that we can only refund money to the person who made the original payment.

Please feel free to Contact me, if I can be further assistance.

Richard M Brewer

President

Penang Contract Bridge Society