

EXCITING NEWS! MYABF IS HERE! -

By Alison Orr (with a little help from Jane Walker)

The ABF is developing their new online system so that, within about two years, it will be capable of handling every aspect of organised Club and Tournament Bridge. That means the **MyABF** “app” will provide most of the services players need to organise their bridge AND almost everything a Club or State body needs to run their bridge operations. As Club affiliation fees will pay for the **MyABF** service it effectively will be free to all affiliated clubs and their members.

South Perth Bridge Club supports this innovation and will be using it in the future, beginning with our next Congress in August.

An early release is available and BAWA has decided that all their congresses should be available through the new application. The ABF is implementing each step of the application in stages; each is being carefully tested before release but it may not yet have all the intended functionality. This applies to the new Congress pages.

If you want to see what BAWA are offering, or want to enter BAWA events, you need to register on **MyABF**. When you enter an event, you will usually pay in advance. Some players have already done this, and wondered why some Eastern States congresses are included as well. That’s because work is still being done on filter, calendar and search functions. These should all be functional later this year.

To see information about what’s currently available, click on this link:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/dashboard/help>

To watch Video instructions on how to use the application, click on the “Where can I get more information” link (bottom left menu item within the page displayed by the link above) and follow the instructions.

To set yourself up on **MyABF**, either go to the ABF page or search “**MyABF**” in any browser. If you choose the ABF page, look for the **MyABF** logo and click on it (far Right Hand side of the top menu bar). Register yourself with your ABF number (the one you use on the Bridgemates). This number will be your login. Remember to keep a record of your password in a safe place, preferably electronic and secure.

Then you can explore the site and discover what is already there. The ANC is found on the Congresses page. Scroll down to July 2021 and then look for Australian National Championships. You can register yourself and partners for events for which you’re eligible. Credit Card payment is secure. You can also pay by Direct Debit, but that makes more work for organisers. If you attended major congresses like the Canberra Summer of Bridge, you’ll already be familiar with the improved format. This **MyABF** application gives Conveners a much better overview of the congresses they’re organising.

If you don’t have internet access or the ability to register yourself for a congress on line, you can ask another member to enter you and reimburse them the entry fee.

Let the developers know you appreciate their efforts. Be kind; this is far from a finished application with many more functions to be added, and there may be the odd hiccup.

In case you’re wondering – our club has an ad hoc IT committee with a wide range of IT skills busy reviewing and planning for all our future IT needs. Its members are Tony McKinnon, Mark O’Connor, Alfred Leung and Alison Orr, author of this article.

Alison originally started work as a Computer Programmer at 17. She is now an experienced IT project manager, business analyst and a senior member of the ACS (Australian Computer Society) and she’s genuinely excited by MyABF.