

2025 Central West Gold

Bulletin 2

Thursday April 10th, 2025

Swiss Pairs

The Swiss Pairs began today, with a full capacity crowd. **Book early to avoid disappointment next year!**

In the Open there are 68 pairs, and it is great to see such good sized fields in the lower masterpoint category events. The Intermediate (U750 MPs) and Restricted (U300 MPs) fields both have 32 pairs. There are 28 pairs in the Novice Pairs (U100 MPs).

The day started with a welcome and introduction from various officials and organisers.



(L-R) President of the Central West Bridge Association Murray Paterson, ABF Executive Office David Fryda, Bridge NSW Chair Catherine Chaffey and Orange Mayor Tony Mileto open the inaugural Central West Festival

Everyone played the same format event within their division, six rounds of 9 boards in a Swiss format. Every division is also playing the same cards.

The provided lunch was an excellent fresh sandwich and salad buffet and had everyone fueled up for the afternoon session. After play there was a discussion of the day's hands from a panel of experts. There is a writeup of some of the discussion later in the bulletin.

Running Scores

Open - After 6 of 12 matches

Rank	Names	Total
1	Paul LAVINGS - Helen LAVINGS	90.55
2	Maurits VAN DER VLUGT - Dagmar NEUMANN	84.10
3	Andrew PEAKE - Giselle MUNDELL	82.25
4	Michele TREDINNICK - Marelle IRVINE	78.46
5	Paul WEAVER - Terry BODYCOTE	76.99
6	Di COATS - Jan CLARKE	76.14
7	Sue LUSK - Bruce NEILL	75.22
8	Helen MILWARD - Gary BARWICK	75.05
9	Denis KRISTANDA - Manda LABUSCHAGNE	74.69
10	Peter GILL - Tony LEIBOWITZ	73.54

Intermediate - After 6 of 12 matches

Rank	Names	Total
1	Brian GLOVER - Jim STROUD	89.06
2	Ado HARDY - Derek TYMS	84.84
3	Glenda MCNEE - Roger MCNEE	78.81
4	Karen IRVINE - Jay NOVAK	70.39
5	Jenny BARNES - Fiona FAWCETT	70.29
6	Gail MCKENZIE - Peta DRAKE	69.33
7	Renate LA MARRA - Stuart CUTSFORTH	68.56
8	Christine HANLEY - Craig MIETZKE	67.53
9	Deanna STUART - John STUART	67.32
10	Pam BRADFORD - Murray PATERSON	66.38

Restricted - After 6 of 12 matches

Rank	Names	Total
1	Phil CUMMINGS - Dick ELLIS	83.92
2	Allan ADCROFT - Julie ELLIS	83.85
3	Kathy DUKE - Shannon QUEREE	76.13
4	Helen GILLAM - Micki SUMMERS	73.94
5	Lidy SEYSENER - Susan JENSEN	72.95
6	Jane STEPHENS - Colin KLEINIG	72.67
7	Pam WARD - Phil DOUGLAS	68.87
8	Michael JACKSON - Claire BONIC	68.68
9	Lucy D'AMBROSIO - Jodie GUDAITIS	67.85
10	Gayle CALVERT - Steve ENGLISH	66.36

Novice - After 6 of 12 matches

Rank	Names	Total
1	Denise REID - Judy KING	85.76
2	Annette UDALL - Eugene MARAIS	80.75
3	David RIESER - Michael GREEN	79.57
4	Niki GEORGALLIS - Anne VERSCHUER	77.61
5	Kathy REDFERN - Judith ATALLAH	73.78
6	Jill JOHNSON - Jenny CLARKE	70.01
7	David KENNY - Kathleen KENNY	69.97
8	Jen WOODHOUSE - Greg BRACKENREG	66.95
9	Julie ROLLINSON - Ngaire MEEHAN	66.71
10	Elaine HARRIS - MaryAnne LOVERIDGE	66.06

Welcome to the Australian Bridge Community from Orange City Council

After a successful Australian National Championships in July 2024 the Australian Bridge community were welcomed back by Orange City Council Mayor Tony Mileto and Councilor Gerard Power at the inaugural 2025 Central West Gold at the Ex-Services Club .

In August 2024 the Orange City Council hosted an Annual Community Appreciation Day where OCC Mayor at the time Phil Donato presented to Orange Bridge Club via two of our ANC Organisers Murray Paterson and Anne Tonna.

The thoughtful document acknowledged the ABF, NSWBA, Orange Bridge Club and the organising committee Anne Tonna, Murray Paterson, Rob Ward and their extensive Directing and organising team .



*Murray Paterson, Previous Mayor Phil Donato, Anne Tonna
You can view the certificate of appreciation on the next page.*



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT

Delivered by Member for Orange, Mr Philip Donato MP
Legislative Assembly - Parliament of New South Wales

7th August 2024

"I wish to congratulate members of the Orange Bridge Club who worked with the Australian Bridge Federation and Bridge NSW to bring the game's Australian National Championships to Orange during July.

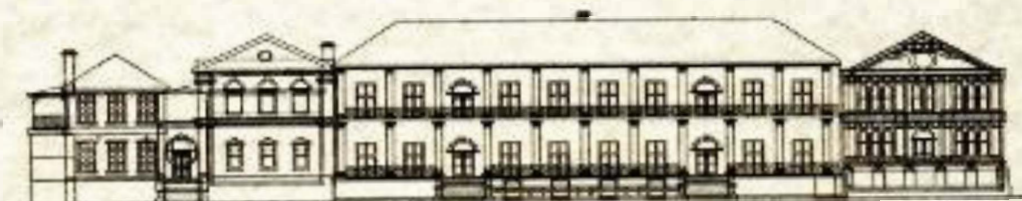
This is a significant moment for our bridge club and its parent body, as this was the first time a national championship was staged outside a capital city. To reiterate, it's taken 84 years for a region to be chosen to host this event and it was great that Orange, with its great food and wine culture, was given the nod. During the two weeks of bridge played at Orange Ex-Services Club, more than 700 players squared off with up to 400 competing on any single day.

It was a major task for a small regional club to organise a national event but with the leadership of Robert Ward and assistance from NSW Bridge and the Australian board, it was able to ensure the Orange tournament will be remembered.

I congratulate Orange Bridge Club on doing its bit to advance bridge's popularity and for showing we can match the capital cities when it comes to hosting a great tournament."

Philip Donato MP

MEMBER FOR ORANGE



Conventions with Will

Simple Stayman is an incredibly powerful and versatile convention.

You can use it in many different ways to find your best contract.

One use of Simple Stayman that I recommend is to use Stayman on all hands with 5/4 in both Majors. Here is an example.

Your partner opens 1NT. For this usage of Stayman, it doesn't matter what your 1NT point range is. This is your hand.

(You)

♠ Q9864

♥ AJ92

♦ 7

♣ A83

You could Transfer to Spades, by bidding 2♥, and then offer the Hearts by bidding 3♥, but you will take at least 5 bids to get to your final contract. You also tell the defenders all about the shape of your hand before you arrive in game.

Here is how the auction could go if you choose to begin with Stayman instead.

You bid 2♣ Stayman over partner's 1NT.

If partner bids 2♥ or 2♠ then you have found your fit, and can bid to game. The opponents are none the wiser about your second suit, and you have kept the auction much simpler.

I suppose I should mention what happens when partner denies a Major, by bidding 2♦. You still want to be in game, so you can now bid 3♠ to show

that you have 5 Spades and are looking for a game.

There is a convention called Smolen that you can add here. You can bid 3 HEARTS to show five SPADES. This means that the 1NT Opener always becomes the Declarer. The Responder never bids a suit that they might end up playing in.

When you don't find a fit immediately, you end up using the same amount of bids, and giving the same information as starting with a Transfer.

Using Stayman with 5/4 in the Majors has another couple of benefits though. In the Example auction discussed earlier:

(Opener) (Responder)

1NT

2♥* Transfer to Spades

2♠

3♥ Shows Hearts

This sequence of bidding no longer shows Five Spades and Four Hearts, since you would have used Stayman with that shape. This auction now promises at least a 5/5 shaped hand.

There is one other great advantage to using Stayman with 5/4 in the Majors, which is that you can use a variation of Garbage Stayman. Imagine the hand on the left, but with only 3 HCP. Start with Stayman. If your partner chooses a Major, then you can pass.

If your partner has no Major and bids 2♦, then you can bid Two-of-your-five card suit, and play in a 5-2 or 5-3 fit.

This is slightly better than Transferring since you sometimes play a 4-4 Heart fit instead of a 5-2 Spade fit.

Experts Question and Answer Session

After play finished at the end of the day, a Panel of experts discussed some of their favourite hands and more importantly fielded questions from any players who wanted to ask anything about the interesting and challenging bidding from the day.

Here are a couple of the questions that the Panel was asked and discussed.

One question, with no real answer, was which suit to open on this hand:

Pairs Match 3, Board 25

♠ --

♥ A8765

♦ KJ9765

♣ KJ

With a six-card minor, and a five-card Major, which suit to open first.

Peter Gill suggested that he tends to usually open the Major, while Paul Lavings was a big believer in opening the longer suit first (1♦). I suggested that I open 1♥ first with a minimum hand (say 11 – 13 points) to prevent missing a Major suit fit. With a stronger hand open 1♦, and then bid Hearts later, and perhaps again.

One thing that came out of this discussion was that there is no definitively correct solution!

Another hand that caused some discussion was Board 14 from Match 2.

Your hand is:

♠ K8

♥ KT74

♦ AKQJ75

♣ 9

After three passes, you open the bidding with 1♦ and your partner responds 1♠, now what?

Although it seems like partner has skipped over the Hearts, Bidding 2♥ here as a reverse is the experts' choice.

Since Hearts is your second suit, it might not promise a five-card suit (the odds of a 6/5 are low, but the previous had was exactly that shape!).

Reversing into Hearts shows 16+ points, 5+♦ and 4♥. You also show an unbalanced hand, and partner should be warned that you might be weak in Clubs or Spades.

After a Reverse, the simplest continuation is that if your partner bids 3♦ or 3♥ that is passable. An excellent convention that experts use is called Blackout. There are different versions, but most people play that if the Responder bids 2NT after a Reverse, it shows less than 8 points and a hand that might want to stop out of game.

All other bids are Game forcing.

It is worth you and partner agreeing on what happens next after a Reverse.

Expert Questions continued

There were two more hands that cropped in the discussion.

One is the following North-South hands and was the very last hand of the day.

Board 27 from match 6.

(North)

♠ KQT32

♥ J7

♦ A84

♣ Q95

(South)

♠ A7

♥ KT54

♦ KQJ6

♣ T42

The auction begins with South the dealer:

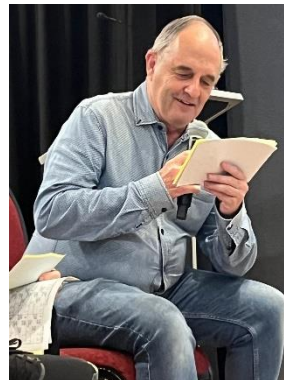
W	N	E	S
--	--	--	1♦
P	1♠	2♥	??

South should pass. Suggesting a balanced minimum hand, with no Spade fit.

West passes, and North should Double. This Double is still for takeout, and shows about 10+ points, and confirms that North-South have more than half the high-card points. A 2♠ bid by North might be weaker than that.

South should pass the Double with four Hearts including 2 likely winners.

The Expert Panel.



Peter Gill



Paul Lavings



Ella Jacob & Will Jenner-O'Shea

Another Expert Question Session will be held on Saturday right after the afternoon session finishes.

The last hand of interest was Board 1 or match 1. You are West and have this hand.

(West)
 ♠ AKQJT852
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ --
 ♣ A64

W	N	E	S
--	--	1♣	2♥
2♠	P	3♣	P
??			

Your partner opens 1♣, and you immediately start thinking about bidding a slam. South overcalls 2♥, which possibly means that you have two Heart losers.

You bid 2♠, and partner rebids 3♣. You probably have plenty of Club and Spade winners, and can trump Diamonds, you just need to find out if partner has a Heart Control.

I found an unusual solution to this problem. I bid 3♥ to ask for a Heart stopper. When partner bid 3NT, I guessed that she had the Ace or King of Hearts, and therefore we weren't losing the top two Hearts.

So I bid 6♠. Here are both hands.

(West)	(East)
♠ AKQJT852	♠ 3
♥ Q8	♥ A96
♦ --	♦ K63
♣ A64	♣ KJ8532

Comfortably making all 13 tricks with the Clubs behaving nicely.



Will Jenner-O'Shea explaining his outrageous leap to slam.

Another solution to this problem is a great agreement, although extremely rare.

In a contested auction, if you jump to 5-of-your-Major (here, 5♠) it shows a very strong hand, like the West hand above, and just asks partner if they can prevent losing 2 tricks in the opponent's suit.

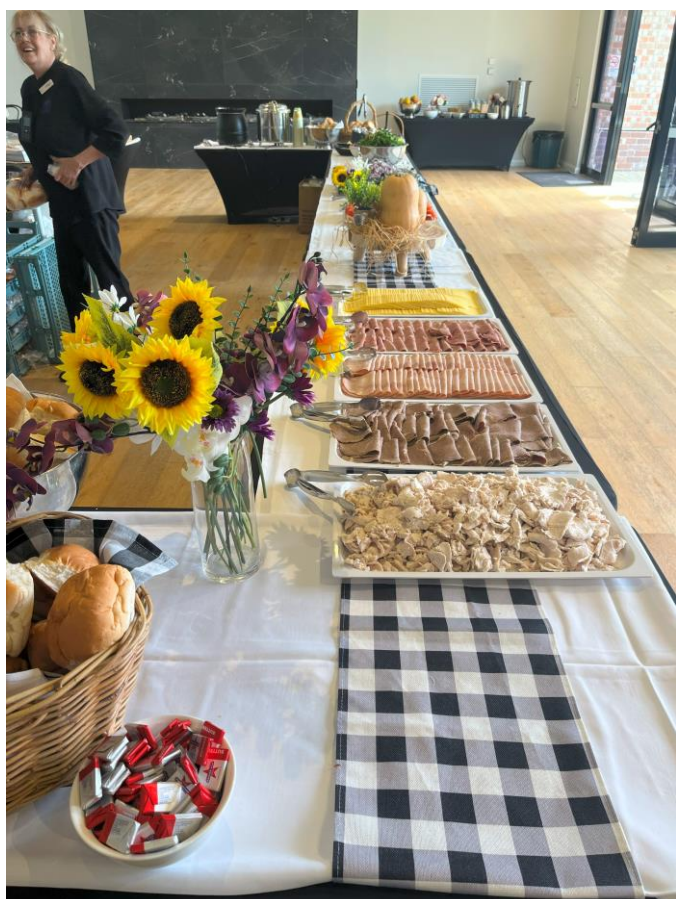
Miscellaneous Extras!



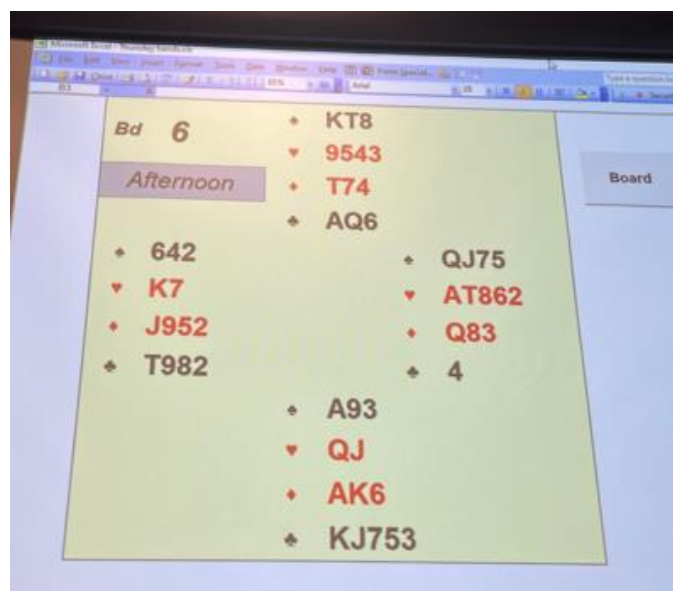
The Playing Room, before the bridge players descend!



Co-organiser Rob Ward making sure that everything is running smoothly.



The lunch Buffet had a huge variety of meats, bread, rolls, and salad items. The venue also provided tea, coffee and fruit.



Expert Director Matthew McManus created a hand viewer for the Expert Panel.

What should South bid over a 2♥ opening by East (5♥, 4+another)?

The expert's view was that nothing was perfect. Double was perhaps the best bid, or a hopeful 2NT overcall. No-one likes bidding a dubious five-card minor suit at the three-level.



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- ***Home and Contents* and **Motor Vehicle Insurance****
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