

2025 Central West Gold

Bulletin 5

After Play Sunday 13th April 2025

Winners Are Grinners



Open Teams Winners – GUMBY

Sue Lusk, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer and Bruce Neill



Restricted Teams Winners – QUEREE

Melissa Ardern, Kathy Duke, Shannon Queree and Connie Szenczy



Intermediate Teams Winners – HAJELA

Deanna & John Stuart, Atul Hajela and Chris Tough



Novice Teams Winners – SAPPHIRE COAST

Jen Woodhouse, Miriam & Peter Dayhew and Greg Brackenreg

Open

Rank	Names	Win	Draw	Loss	IMPs	VPs
1	GUMBY	4	0	2	207	90.18
2	JENNER-O'SHEA	6	0	0	126	89.21
3	SOLOMON	5	0	1	106	84.05
4	ROBERTS	5	0	1	86	81.52
5	GEDDES	3	1	2	109	79.27
6	BLOOM	3	0	3	95	77.48
7	FRYDA	5	0	1	69	76.48
8	JACOB	3	0	3	89	74.68
9	VAN VUCHT	4	0	2	63	74.50
10	WILLIAMS	4	0	2	38	69.15



Open Teams Runners Up & Undefeated
– the Jenner-O'Shea team.

Sandra Richman, Will Jenner-O'Shea,
Vanessa Brown and Andrew Richman



Best Local Team – The Pearce Team

Intermediate

Rank	Names	Win	Draw	Loss	IMPs	VPs
1	HAJELA	5	0	1	78	79.55
2	MEYERS	4	1	1	65	76.69
3	PATERSON	4	0	2	47	71.49
4	CATHCART	3	0	3	44	68.41
5	MCKENZIE	3	1	2	63	68.17
6	TONKIN	3	0	3	58	67.19
7	JACKSON	4	1	1	10	64.16
8	MCNEE	3	0	3	8	61.91
9	BISCOE	2	0	4	4	56.68
10	HARDIMAN	2	1	3	-10	56.27



Intermediate Teams Runners Up –
The Meyers Team



Best Local Team – The Paterson Team.

Well done Murray, and thanks for
organising a wonderful event!

See you in 2026!

(April 9 – 12, Book early!)

Restricted

Rank	Names	Win	Draw	Loss	IMPs	VPs
1	QUEREE	5	0	1	107	84.22
2	ROGERS	5	0	1	56	74.79
3	BARKER	4	0	2	56	73.77
4	ROSETTA	3	0	3	53	70.42
5	SUMMERHILL	3	0	3	42	67.72
6	RIORDAN	4	0	2	31	66.32
7	BANNATYNE	4	0	2	14	63.96
8	STEVENS	3	0	3	10	60.89
9	WILLIAMS	4	0	2	-26	56.56
10	WOODSIDE	3	0	3	-34	55.92



Second place in the Restricted teams –
The Rogers Team



Best Local Team in the Restricted –
The Barker Team

Novice

Rank	Names	Win	Draw	Loss	IMPs	VPs
1	SAPPHIRE COAST	5	1	0	110	86.24
2	NEWYTURRACARL'S	4	1	1	113	86.03
3	CANBERRA	4	1	1	108	83.03
4	ILLAWARRA	4	0	2	18	66.23
5	PENINSULA & CO	2	1	3	88	61.86
6	ORANGE-KERRIGAN	3	1	2	15	61.55
7	SYDNEY BRIDGE CLUB	3	0	3	4	60.04
8	SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	2	0	4	-22	53.70
9	COWRA & DISTRICT	2	0	4	-70	46.33
10	NEWCASTLE	2	0	4	-66	45.34



Novice Teams Runners up – The NewyTurraCarl's Team



Best Local Team in the Novice Division – The Orange-Kerrigan Team

Doubled Game from the Final Round

This hand caused some big swings in the final round of the Teams.

Match 6:

Board 17

Dealer N

Vul None

♠ AQ9642

♥ QJ962

♦ 7

♣ 2

♠ 5

♥ AK74

♦ AQ98

♣ AKQ3



♠ 3

♥ T83

♦ JT53

♣ JT965

♠ KJT87

♥ 5

♦ K642

♣ 874

Intermediate Teams winners from the HAJELA team, Chris Tough and Atul Hajela had the auction:

W	N	E	S
	Chris		Atul
	1♠	P	4♠
X	P	P	P

North opened with only 9 HCP, but with a great 6/5 shape and having both Majors. South jumped to 4♠ with five-card support.

West's Double was clearly showing a good hand, and it is hard for East to respond to the Double at that level.

Despite getting Doubled in 4♠ with a combined 16 HCP and making 10 tricks for a great score of +590, the board turned out to be flat when the same thing happened at the other table.

In the Novice section, Robyn Rogers opened 1♠ and her partner Joan Lenehan replicated that auction, and also scored a flat board.

In fact, around the room, NS scoring +590 was far and away the most common outcome.

In the Open Teams match between first and second the board was also flat, but with both North-South pairs getting pushed to 5♠ (over a making 5♣) and getting doubled there and going for NS - 100.

Although 5♣ makes, it is very hard to bid to game after North-South have the auction 1♠ p 4♠.

Well done to all of the North players who choose to open 1♠ on this hand.

The power of shape!

Hard Game To Bid

This hand caused some difficulties in the final round of the teams. Match 6

Board 21

Dealer N

Vul N-S

♠ AT8632

♥ AJ7

♦ AKJT

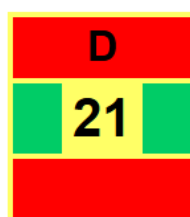
♣ -

♠ J754

♥ 942

♦ 94

♣ AQJ6



♠ Q

♥ K653

♦ 862

♣ K9874

♠ K9

♥ QT8

♦ Q753

♣ T532

The Intermediate teams runners up, Kit Meyers and Kerry Rymer had the following auction:

W	N	E	S
	<i>Kerry</i>		<i>Kit</i>
	1♠	P	1NT
P	3♠	P	??

North jumped to 3♠ on their rebid to show around 16+ points and six-Spades. Their hand is clearly very powerful, with the great Diamond side suit and the void in Clubs, however the Spade suit is not the best.

South chose to pass 3♠, and missed a game.

Fortunately the opposing North-South also played in 3♠.

In the Open Field, 20 Pairs bid and made game. 15 pairs missed game. Sadly 5 pairs bid to the wrong game or slam and went down.

It is a tough hand to bid.

I like the option of North jumping to 3♦ on their rebid. That implies 5+♠, 4+♦ and I recommend that a jump shift shows 18 – 19 points, both in no-Trumps, and when jumping rebidding a new suit.

It could easily be the case that the best game is Diamonds. Partner might have a singleton Spade and five Diamonds, and game is likely to make, even if they are minimum.

On the auction that Kit and Kerry had, I do have sympathy for South passing. They only have 7 points, which is relatively minimum, but the King of Spades is a great card, and I would probably raise to 4♠ and wish partner luck. This is the type of auction that game must have some chance of making, and playing in 3♠ is rarely a fun contract.

Amusing Michaels Auction

The last round also threw up this misfitting hand.

Board 22

Dealer E

Vul E-W

♠ 3

♥ J

♦ KT9765

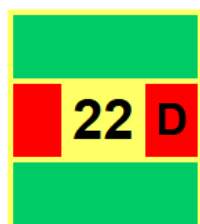
♣ KQT75

♠ KT9

♥ A9872

♦ Q43

♣ J2



♠ QJ42

♥ 63

♦ AJ2

♣ A863

♠ A8765

♥ KQT54

♦ 8

♣ 94

At many tables the auction began:

W	N	E	S
		1♣	2♣*

Where the 2♣ bid was a Michaels Cue bid showing 5/5+ in the Majors.

Note that a Michaels Cue bid is preferable to a Double, and can also be made on a weaker than opening hand.

First things first, West should not bid Hearts over the Michaels cue bid. Perhaps they should Double to show some points (around 10+ at the two-level), with the next Double by East-West being takeout of the suit that North-South bid to.

North has a terrible hand to be responding to a 2♣ Michaels, and many North's suspected that they were in a lot of trouble if they tried to play in 2♥ or 2♠. Some North's found an excellent alternative to bidding a major, which was to PASS in 2♣. While 2♣ might not be a fun contract, at least you aren't Doubled (yet).

When I saw this hand record, I made a mental bet with myself that of all the North-South scores in the room, someone would be playing in each of the trump suits.

I was right. North-South played in Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and No-Trumps.

Those who managed to stop at the two-level were mostly not Doubled. Those who continued bidding to the three-level were frequently Doubled.

In a misfit, stop low, and try to play in a suit contract.

What I hadn't appreciated right away looking at the hand records, was what East-West might do. They played in Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and No-Trumps, but never Spades.

Since East-West have significantly more HCP than North-South, they were rarely doubled, but ran into terrible breaks, so went down in most of the contracts they bid.

Open - Top 10 Datums

Rank	Names	Datum	Modified
1	Paul LAVINGS - Helen LAVINGS	118	133.60
2	Kevin STEFFENSEN - Carolyn MILLER	111	128.00
3	Warren LAZER - Pauline GUMBY	111	114.20
4	Vanessa BROWN - Will JENNER-O'SHEA	96	110.30
5	Sue LUSK - Bruce NEILL	112	102.90
6	Helena DAWSON - David WESTON	86	96.70
7	Tony NUNN - Martin BLOOM	79	87.80
8	John YOON - Stephen WILLIAMS	61	80.00
9	Maurits VAN DER VLUGT - Dagmar NEUMANN	82	77.20
10	Ian LINCOLN - Chris WILLIAMS	73	76.80

Pair datums are calculated by comparing your score to the Average score in the room.
The "Modified" Datum also takes into account the strength of your opponents.

Intermediate - Top 10 Datums

Rank	Names	Datum	Modified
1	Gail MCKENZIE - Peta DRAKE	105	90.90
2	Judith PARSONS - John RUSSELL	93	80.50
3	Deanna STUART - John STUART	66	71.00
4	Glenda MCNEE - Roger MCNEE	79	68.10
5	Jenny BARNES - Fiona FAWCETT	57	64.30
6	Karen IRVINE - Jay NOVAK	32	48.20
7	Atul HAJELA - Chris TOUGH	28	42.30
8	Kerry RYMER - Kit MEYERS	24	26.50
9	Jens SKOVGAARD - Elaine MCRAE	23	26.40
10	Ellen BORDA - Jane BISCOE	19	25.00

Restricted - Top 10 Datums

Rank	Names	Datum	Modified
1	Robyn STEVENS - Simon FLEMING	126	116.40
2	Anne-Marie STEVENSON - Jennette ROSETTA	74	91.20
3	Kathy DUKE - Shannon QUEREE	87	81.70
4	Lucy D'AMBROSIO - Jodie SUMMERHILL	81	78.60
5	Pam WARD - Phil DOUGLAS	70	74.20
6	Allan ADCROFT - Julie ELLIS	69	70.60
7	Jenny WALPOLE - Anne FLEMING	59	61.30
8	Peter MCCLYMONT - David WATKINS	69	59.60
9	Ann BERRY - Valerie COOK	43	52.90
10	Melissa ARDERN - Conny SZENCZY	31	39.00

Pair datums are calculated by comparing your score to the Average score in the room.
The "Modified" Datum also takes into account the strength of your opponents.

Novice - Top 10 Datums

Rank	Names	Datum	Modified
1	Peter DAYHEW - Miriam DAYHEW	74	91.30
2	David KENNY - Kathleen KENNY	83	90.60
3	Neil MCMASTER - Jennifer BISSETT	69	79.80
4	Simon ELDERFIELD - Kirsten HARTLEY	70	74.00
5	Jill JOHNSON - Jenny CLARKE	54	72.40
6	Jen WOODHOUSE - Greg BRACKENREG	58	59.10
7	Belinda MOSS - Jenny BELL	49	59.00
8	Don CLARK - Tom MALCHER	54	47.60
9	Mandy MACDONALD - Vibeke FAURBY	50	47.40
10	David RIESER - Michael GREEN	13	28.80

Conventions with Will

In all the 'other' versions of Stayman, apart from Simple Stayman, the Opener can show something extra about their hand. They can show a minimum or maximum hand. They can show or deny either or both of the majors. They can also possibly show five cards in a Major. You can start with Simple Stayman, and find a fit in either Major. You can also invite game if you want to know if partner is minimum or maximum.

Simple Stayman has other benefits, unique to Simple Stayman. Garbage Stayman is great. Showing a minor suit after Stayman is great. Knowing whether 4NT is Quantitative or Keycard is great.

There is however the issue of discovering if the 1NT Opener has a five-card Major in their 1NT.

First of all. I recommend opening 1NT with a five-card Major. It solves the rebidding problem, and describes the whole hand very well.

In one of my partnerships, I played for a very long time with no way of asking for a Five-Card Major. We put them in the 1NT, with no way to find them out later. I only remember one or two hands in about 5 years where I regretted not finding the Major suit fit.

There is an excellent compromise. You can have Simple Stayman and also have a way of finding a five-card Major.

The Expert solution to this problem is to play 2♣ over 1NT as Simple Stayman.

You can also use 3♣ as Puppet Stayman. For those of you who already know Puppet Stayman, I recommend making one or two small tweaks.

This version of Puppet Stayman is called Low Info Puppet Stayman, and it gives away as little information to the defenders as possible.

(Opener) (Responder)

1NT 3♣ Low Info Puppet

Opener bids a five-card Major if they have one.

Opener bids 3♦ otherwise, *which doesn't show or deny a four-card Major*.

If Responder was only interested in five-card Majors, then they simply now bid 3NT. Opener may or may not have a four-card Major and didn't tell the Defenders anything.

If Responder is also interested in four-card Majors, then they bid the suit that they don't have.

(Opener) (Responder)

1NT 3♣ Low Info Puppet

3♦ no 5 3♠ Shows 4 Hearts

Only Responder describes their hand, unless a fit is found. This makes the lead and subsequent defence harder.

I also recommend Simple Stayman over 2NT openings.

Simple Stayman

The Full Story!

Here is a Summary of Simple Stayman, and the subsequent follow-ups that I recommend you play.

A lot of these things can't be done using any other version of Stayman.

If Opener has No 4+ card Major:

(Opener)	(Responder)
1NT	2♣ Simple Stayman
2♦*	

Now

Pass: Garbage

2♥/♠: Weak hand (often implies 5+ in the suit bid)

2NT: Invite

3♥/♠: Game Forcing. Implies 5+♥/♠ and 4 of the other Major

3♣/♦: Game Forcing. Usually 5+ cards in that minor, unbalanced

3NT: To play

4NT: Quantitative

If Opener has 4(+) Hearts.

(Opener)	(Responder)
1NT	2♣ Simple Stayman
2♥*	

Now

Pass: Garbage

2♠: Invitational with 4 Spades

2NT: Invite (often not 4 Spades)

3♥: Invite with a Heart fit

3♠: Artificial. Agrees Hearts as trumps. 4NT later will be Keycard

3♣/♦: Game Forcing. Usually 5+ cards in that minor, unbalanced

3NT: To play

4♣/♦: Splinter

4NT: Quantitative

The Spades example is basically the same. 1NT-2♣-2♠-3♥ is the artificial Suit Setting bid.

Is there a misprinted Ace of Spades?

In a traditional deck of cards, the Ace of Spades often has a larger picture of a Spade. This goes back to the 18th century, when tax was paid on playing cards, and the top card (usually the Ace of Spades) was stamped to show that the duty had been paid.



If your Ace of Spades, or any other card with a clear “up or down” direction on it is in play, then people could possibly use the card to “point” and cheat. Some top players have been caught doing that sort of thing, and banned from bridge.

*Note the “split” Spade and Heart symbols.
And the peculiar four-leaf Club in the middle of the Five.*

A traditional Seven of Diamonds has the middle pip in the top half of the card causing it to be non-symmetrical.

Now you know!

Apart from a few of our excellent directors, no-one needs to actually know all of the details of the laws of bridge.

The first Law is actually the same as beginners lesson 1.

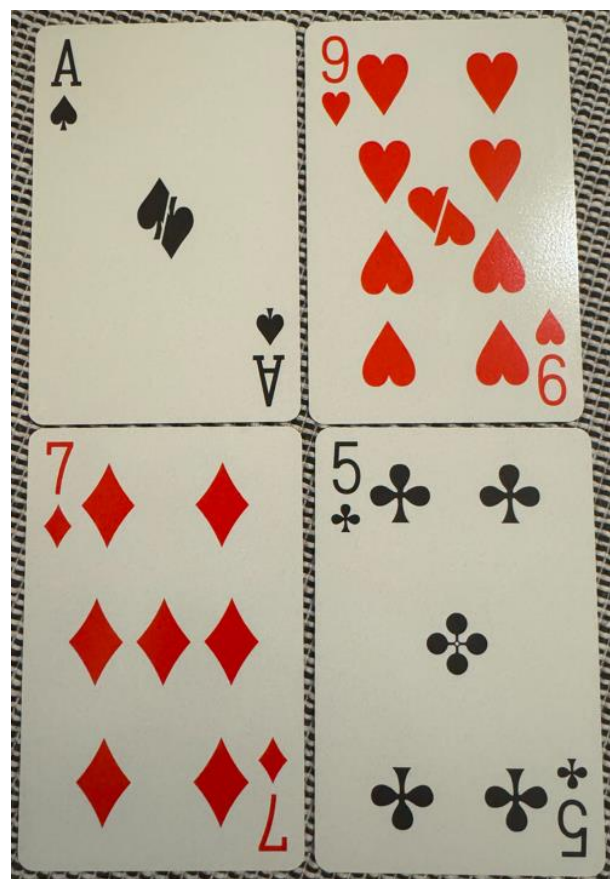
Law 1A)

Aces are high, then Kings, Queens, Jacks, 10, 9, ... 3, 2

The suits are Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs.

The second part of the law talks about how the cards look.

Law 1B says, that the regulating authority may require Symmetrical cards. Increasingly, you will see modern cards with no “up or down”. Get used to seeing these. Not a misprint:



The King who Shaved & The King who grew a Moustache

In a previous Bulletin, I wrote an article about the King of Hearts having a moustache originally, but then over the years, he lost his moustache due to drawing errors.

I mentioned that there some cards being used in Europe where the King of Hearts has regrown his Moustache.

During the Teams I found a deck of cards with a King of Hearts sporting a very fresh curly mo.



I also mentioned that in some other decks of cards the King of Clubs has lost his moustache.

I also found a King of Clubs with a modern almost clean shaven upper lip.



I think this is called a Fu Manchu moustache, but it looks like he is only one small slip of the razor away from being clean shaven.

This is a long way from a 'traditional' King of Clubs.



More Photos



GUMBY vs JENNER-O'SHEA in the last round. Jenner-O'Shea won the match, but Gumby won the event.



Novice Teams Barker (NS) and Rogers (EW) take time out from the bidding to pose for the camera. Looks like they were having a fun match!



All packed up. Ready to go for the next congress!



The other table in the Rogers v Barker match were also having a great time. Rogers finished second and Barker moved into third with a win in the last round.

Even More Photos



Intermediate Teams Cathcart v Biscoe in the final round.



Trophies, medals, cash for the winners, and bottles of local wine as prizes. Ready for the prize giving ceremony.



Steve Weil from TBIB Insurance has been a great supporter bridge over the last few years. He is attending a few more congresses but is retiring after that. I hear that he will take up playing bridge in his retirement! See you at the table Steve.



As the sun sets over the vineyards in Orange, we say goodbye for this year.

(photo: Tripadvisor)

See you in April 2026.



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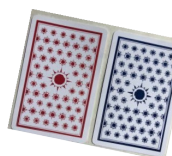
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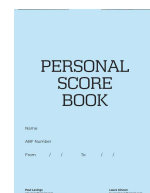
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