

2026 Central West Gold

Bulletin 3

Saturday April 11th, 2026

The Swiss Pairs this year is being played in three sections: Open, Intermediate, and Restricted & Novice playing in a combined field, but with prizes to the top Novice Pairs within the combined field.

The format is 9 rounds of 9 boards, and today we played the first six rounds.

There are three more rounds tomorrow, starting at 9:30am.

There will be a prize giving immediately after play finishes tomorrow.

Lunch will be provided, and you will have the option of taking lunch away with you.

In the Open Pairs, the leaders are Kevin Steffensen and Jimmy Wallis from Queensland. They just suffered their first loss, but are leading by 2 VPs.

Sandy Carter and Nerida Gillies from Sydney bid a Grand Slam on Board 24 (see page 8), and are currently undefeated in the Intermediate Pairs. Keep it up!



Here is the room full of bridge players.

In the Restricted & Novice Pairs the field is combined. The leaders are Kate Latimer and Lyndall Kennedy from Canberra. They are actually in the Novice section, but leading overall. They are also undefeated, but second is only 1.5 VPs behind.

There are still three rounds to go.
Good luck to everyone!



Open (After 6 out of 9 Matches)

Rank	Names	Total
1	Kevin STEFFENSEN – James WALLIS	87.19
2	Stephen FISCHER – George KOZAKOS	85.12
3	Liz ADAMS – Peter GILL	84.52
4	Bas BOLT – Rob HURST	81.45
5	Jane RENNIE – Justin MILL	79.67
6	Sue LUSK – Bruce NEILL	79.40
7	George BILSKI – Nicky STRASSER	77.75
8	Maurits VAN DER VLUGT – Sebastian YUEN	76.50
9	Andrew MILL – Annette MALUISH	76.18
10	Mick MCAULIFFE – Wing ROBERTS	75.75

Intermediate (After 6 out of 9 Matches)

Rank	Names	Total
1	Sandy CARTER – Nerida GILLIES	89.77
2	Trish BERRY – John SIMMONDS	79.80
3	Barbara WILLIAMS – Megan GRANT	76.60
4	Sachiko CATHCART – Annegrete KOLDING	73.24
5	Pauline CAUST – Alan BUSTANY	73.09
6	Gail MCKENZIE – Peta DRAKE	72.31
7	Ralph EDWARDS – Jean HYDLEMAN	67.58
8	Lynda YOUNG – Philip YOUNG	66.76
9	Felix SHTEYMAN – Susan FEENEY	65.80
10	Jens SKOVGAARD – Elaine MCRAE	65.29



Restricted & Novice (After 6 out of 9 Matches)

Rank	Names	Total
1	Lyndall KENNEDY – Kate LATIMER	85.64
2	Jen WOODHOUSE – Greg BRACKENREG	84.01
3	Ann BERRY – Bev FURNER	78.96
4	Kate MCCLYMONT – Penny LYSAGHT	78.74
5	David KENNY – Kathleen KENNY	77.37
6	Bronwyn NEAL – Simon HUNTER	75.03
7	David RIESER – Michael GREEN	74.25
8	Anne-Marie STEVENSON – Ian HAMILTON	73.98
9	Jennifer ALLISON – Debbie CAMBRIDGE	72.60
10	John ALDERSLEY – Marcelle GOSLIN	72.52

The Novice Pairs are playing in a combined Restricted & Novice Pairs section. Remarkably, the top 6 Novice Pairs are in the Top 10 of the combined field.

Novice (After 6 out of 9 Matches)

Rank	Names	Total
1	Lyndall KENNEDY – Kate LATIMER	85.64
2	Jen WOODHOUSE – Greg BRACKENREG	84.01
4	Kate MCCLYMONT – Penny LYSAGHT	78.74
7	David RIESER – Michael GREEN	74.25
8	Anne-Marie STEVENSON – Ian HAMILTON	73.98
9	Jennifer ALLISON – Debbie CAMBRIDGE	72.60
17	Keith HILL – Michelle HILL	67.58
20	Allan KERRIGAN – Julie KERRIGAN	66.32
21	Mandy MACDONALD – Vibeke FAURBY	66.11
22	Gloria GERRISH – Julie ELLIS	65.85

Conventions with Will

To further our discussion on the use of Redouble, let's look at how a Redouble for rescue works, and when you might use it.

First of all, you don't use a rescue Redouble until your team has actually been doubled for Penalties.

Here is an example:

Your opponent opens 1♦, and your partner overcalls 1♠. Your next opponent Doubles (Negative Double, usually looking for Hearts). You have this hand:

Example 1 – Your hand

♠ -
♥ QJ76
♦ 432
♣ JT8763

You know that playing in 1♠ could be a disaster. However, the Double was not for Penalties. You don't need to worry too much (yet). Just pass, and hope that the Opener bids something.

However, if the Opener does Pass the Double, then your partner should take care.

After Opener passes the Double, it is converted into Penalties. Your partner has this hand:

Example 1 – Partner's hand

♠ KJ763
♥ 952
♦ A7
♣ Q52

They should think to themselves that their hand isn't great, and their Spades are not great. There could easily be a better contract than 1♠ X. Partner knows that our team probably is in a terrible contract. Partner should Redouble for rescue!

If they do Redouble for rescue, you will bid 2♣ and that might not be fun, but it will be a lot better than 1♠ X.

Quite often the opponents give up on Doubling you and go on and bid their own contract.

Conventions Continued

Here is another example.

Your partner opens 2♥, a Weak Two. Your opponent passes, and this is your hand:

Example 1 – Your hand

♠ J873

♥ --

♦ QT874

♣ K654

You can't rescue partner from 2♥, and if you did bid a new suit, I would recommend that was forcing.

You pass. Your opponent Doubles, which is takeout. Your partner passes, and your other opponent passes the Double. Oh no! The Takeout double has been left in.

Partner is very likely to be in huge trouble if the opponent who passed the Double has quite a few good Hearts.

Playing in 2♥ X will be a disaster. Although everything else could also be bad, you could try a Redouble for rescue. Partner will bid their longest side suit. If they have a four+ card side suit then you will be in a fit, and might escape getting Doubled again. Sometimes the opponents shrug and bid to their game, instead of Doubling you. If partner only has a three-card side suit, then you might still be trouble, but a bottom is a bottom.

If you choose to play Redouble for Rescue, and rarely 'to play', make sure that you and partner get it right.

Here was an exciting hand, played in a Youth Teams Match a few years ago.

♠ 1082

♥ QJ73

♦ Q7432

♣ 6

♠ KQ654

♥ 108

♦ AK86

♣ 82

♠ 97

♥ 92

♦ 109

♣ AKQ10543

♠ AJ3

♥ AK654

♦ J5

♣ J97

The Auction was

W	N	E	S
--	--	--	1NT
P	2♣*	X	P**
P	XX*	P	P(!)

North bid 2♣ as "Garbage Stayman", planning to pass any response.

East Doubled, showing Clubs.

South passed. A common treatment when your Stayman is Doubled is that answering promises a stopper, and passing denies one.

North hoped that Redouble was asking partner to answer Stayman.

South thought it might be to play.

When the dust settled, North-South were -2800 – the dreaded **Orange Postcode!**

Expert Panel

After play today, an expert Panel of players took to the stage to answer questions about the hands that we all played. This was a great opportunity to hear some stories, and tips about some interesting bidding and play problems that everyone faced.

This hand from match 4 was interesting, and there is no “nice and clean” answer.

Board 3

Dealer S

Vul E-W

♠ QT92

♥ QJ853

♦ Q76

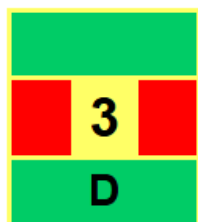
♣ 5

♠ A85

♥ AKT

♦ 3

♣ KQT642



♠ J764

♥ 6

♦ KJ98

♣ AJ73

♠ K3

♥ 9742

♦ AT542

♣ 98

East opens 1♣. Assuming North passes for now, East responds 1♠. What should West rebid.

The options might include raising Spades, despite only having three of them (2♠ or 3♠), or rebidding the Clubs (3♣) and maybe missing a Spade fit, or possibly something else.

Having six cards in your suit, and precisely three cards in partner’s suit is a tricky hand to rebid.

If you are a minimum opening hand (11-14 points), then you could either rebid 2♣ or rebid 2♠ (if you sometimes raise on only three card support). Whichever you choose is fine. If partner is also minimum, then there is no game.

If partner is strong, they can untangle the best contract later.

If you have six cards in your suit, three cards in partner’s suit, and 15-18 points there is no good bid. This hand type has sometimes been called the “death hand” by bidding theorists.

Some of the panel thought that 3♣ would be ok, and hope to find the best contract that way.

The unusual answer was to bid 2♥, a Reverse, a forcing bid. This usually shows four Hearts, but as they noted, partner won’t have four Hearts, unless they also have five+ Spades.

The plan after 2♥ (showing the power of the hand) was to bid Spades later (showing just three cards in Spades).

A creative solution to a well known tricky bidding problem.

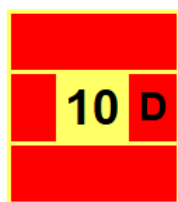
More Expert Panel

This hand had a few interesting discussion points. From Match 5:

Board 10
Dealer E
Vul Both

♠ A8542
♥ 8
♦ AKQ95
♣ Q7

♠ KJT6
♥ 53
♦ J84
♣ T986



♠ 9
♥ QJT97642
♦ T
♣ AK2

♠ Q73
♥ AK
♦ 7632
♣ J543

W	N	E	S
--	--	4♥	P
P	??		

East opens 4♥, South passes, West passes.

The questions are: Should North act at all? And if so, should they double, bid 4♠ or something else?

The accepted wisdom was that North's hand is potentially too good to just pass 4♥.

North has a decent amount of points, and a singleton in the Opener's suit.

The Panel was split. Some choosing to Double, which works best here with partner having good Hearts and no great fit.

Others thought bidding 4♠ was better. They all ruled out bidding Diamonds, or using 4NT to show two suits. The only choices were Double or 4♠.

Paul Lavings made an interesting observation.

The North hand opposite this South hand sadly doesn't make 4♠ (losing two Clubs and two or more Spades. The South hand seems good with 10 HCP.

However, if North was actually partnering with West, with only 5 HCP, but a great Spade fit, they would probably make 4♠! Losing two Clubs and a Heart, but winning 10 tricks in the Spades and Diamonds.

♠ A8542
♥ 8
♦ AKQ95
♣ Q7

♠ KJT6
♥ 53
♦ J84
♣ T986

North & West would make 4♠, despite having fewer points than North & South.

Even More Expert Panel

This hand from the last match of the day had a wide range of results.

Board 24 ♠ KQT943
 Dealer W ♥ J3
 Vul None ♦ AQ3
 ♣ AK

♠ J862		♠ 5
♥ K94		♥ QT8765
♦ KJ762		♦ T954
♣ 2		♣ 63

♠ A7
 ♥ A2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ QJT98754

It is no surprise that the Lazer Team won the Open Teams event yesterday. In today's pairs event, both of the Lazer Teams pairs were North-South and both bid and made a Grand Slam on this hand. In the Open Pairs, there were 8 pairs in Grand Slam (though one in 7♠ lost a trump trick and was down by one), 8 pairs making small slam, and 6 pairs going down in small slam.

At table that had an uncontested auction the bidding often started something like:

W	N	E	S
--	1♠	P	2♣
P	3♠	P	??

South might commit to Spades, or might insist on Clubs.

If Clubs are trumps, South can Keycard and find that partner has ♦A, ♣AK and a little bit more.

Getting to Grand Slam would be a great effort!

One final comment. Almost all of the Panel were sure that East should pre-empt over North's 1♠ Opening. Partner is a passed hand, and East only has 2 HCP. North-South must have at least 28 points and if you let them have an uncontested auction, they might work out to find the best contract. If East overcalls 3♥, it takes away a lot of bidding space.



(L-R) Justin Mill, Ella Jacob, Paul Lavings, and host Peter Gill gave us some great tips.



The "Gill Rule"

Peter Gill has developed his own rule for how to decide what to open with very shapely hands that might be a pre-empt, but are a bit more shapely, and have more power than a normal pre-empt.

The Gill Rule:

Add your HCP, and add +5 for a void, +3 for a singleton and +1 for a doubleton.

If this sums to 14+ then don't open a two-or three-level pre-empt.

Instead, either open at the one-level, or the four- or five-level.

This reduces the problem of having a powerful pre-empt, and your partner having a normal opening hand of 12 or 13 points and missing a game.

If you are less than the 14 "Gill Points", then you typically do the traditional pre-empt.

As always, there are a couple of additional hand evaluation factors. If you have many Queens and Jacks, the hand is worse, and should be downgraded.

Here are some example hands:

Example 1)

♠ Q 2
♥ —
♦ A Q J 10 9 8 4 2
♣ 9 7 6

9 HCP + 5 (void) + 1 (doubleton).

15 Gill points.

Peter suggests 4♦. I think some might open 5♦. *Don't open 3♦.*

Example 2)

♠ K Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 4
♦ —
♣ Q J 10 5 4

8 HCP + 5 (void) + 3 (singleton)

16 Gill points

Open 4♠. Some might open at the one-level. *Don't open 3♠.*

Example 3)

♠ A 8 7 5 4 3 2
♥ —
♦ 9 8
♣ A 9 7 3

8 HCP + 5 (void) + 1 (doubleton)

14 Gill points.

Peter suggests opening 1♠. *Don't open 3♠.*

Missed Opportunity

This hand is an example where North-South were both on the edge of their point ranges for a 'normal' auction, and many pairs missed game.

Board 9

Dealer N

Vul E-W

♠ A8

♥ Q93

♦ AT763

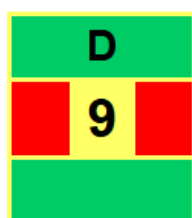
♣ AT5

♠ QJ53

♥ T7

♦ K82

♣ 9632



♠ K92

♥ AJ654

♦ 5

♣ J874

♠ T764

♥ K82

♦ QJ94

♣ KQ

If North opens 1♦, and South bids 1♠, then North will probably rebid 1NT showing 11-14 points. South might choose not to invite.

East might have overcalled Hearts, and then South might have Doubled (to show Spades) or bid Spades. Somehow, many North-South pairs ended in a Diamond partscore.

In the Open Pairs, half the pairs bid and made game.

In the Intermediate Pairs, only 3 out of 15 pairs bid to game.

In the Restricted & Novice Pairs, 7 pairs bid and made game (two more bid game and went down), and 22 pairs played in partscore.

The easiest way to find this game is for North to upgrade their hand by a point for the nice quality five-card suit. North will then open 1NT (15-17). South can Stayman but will bid 3NT next.

If North does open 1♦ and rebid 1NT, then South should invite game. North will accept the invitation. If South is slightly conservative and doesn't invite, while North has an excellent maximum, then a 25 point game will be missed.

If North opens 1♦, East might overcall Hearts. South will show Spades somehow, and North should call their ♥Q93 a stopper, even though it is not perfect.

South should invite, partly because they have a second Heart stopper.

More Miscellany



Phil Young has another great Bridge T-Shirt



The last boards being dealt for this year! Then it all gets packed away for next year!



Looking down the top row of tables.



Jasmine Skeate and Ella Jacob with Murray Patterson.



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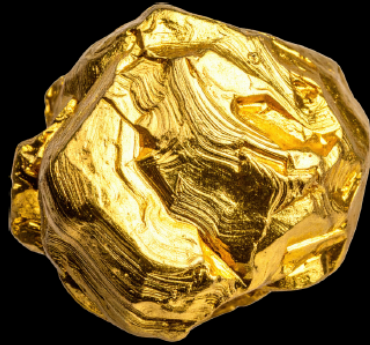
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