

2026 Central West Gold

Bulletin 4

After Play Sunday 12th April 2026

Winners Are Grinners

The **Open Pairs** winners were Jimmy Wallis & Kevin Steffensen. They are pictured here with Convenor Murray in the middle.



The **Restricted Pairs** winners were Bronwyn Neal & Simon Hunter.



The **Novice Pairs** winners were Kate McClymont & Penny Lysaght.

The **Intermediate Pairs** was won by Nerida Gillies and Sandy Carter.



Congratulations to all!



Open – Final

Rank	Names	Total
1	Kevin STEFFENSEN – James WALLIS	121.87
2	Sue LUSK – Bruce NEILL	117.67
3	Liz ADAMS – Peter GILL	115.60
4	Jane RENNIE – Justin MILL	113.93
5	Warren LAZER – Pauline GUMBY	113.65
6	Stephen FISCHER – George KOZAKOS	111.88
7	Bas BOLT – Rob HURST	111.09
8	Vanessa BROWN – Will JENNER-O'SHEA	108.58
9	Helena DAWSON – David WESTON	107.46
10	Maurits VAN DER VLUGT – Sebastian YUEN	106.53

Second Place in the Open pairs were Bruce Neill and Sue Lusk.



Jimmy & Kevin were leading for the entire event apart from dropping to third in the second round despite having two big wins. They only had one small loss, and convincingly won by 4 VPs.

The Best Local Pair in the Open was Sanjay Sinha & Steven Swan. They left before the prizegiving, but here is a photo from the Teams:



Intermediate – Final

Rank	Names	Total
1	Sandy CARTER – Nerida GILLIES	137.01
2	Trish BERRY – John SIMMONDS	115.18
3	Barbara WILLIAMS – Megan GRANT	110.16
4	David BURTON – Jane BISCOE	108.39
5	Tammy HUBBARD – Libby HEYWARD	104.92
6	Jens SKOVGAARD – Elaine MCRAE	104.21
7	Sachiko CATHCART – Annegrete KOLDING	103.23
8	Kevin GU – Gayle BAGG	101.72
9	Christine HANLEY – Craig MIETZKE	100.09
10	Felix SHTEYMAN – Susan FEENEY	96.43

The Intermediate Pairs Runners-Up were Trish Berry & John Simmonds.



The winners, Sandy & Nerida, won all 9 matches and had the highest VP tally from any division. They shared some stories which appear later in the Bulletin.

The best Local Pair in the Intermediate Pairs was Jens Skovgaard & Elaine McRae. Sadly I didn't get a photo of them at the prizegiving ceremony. Apologies. *You had better come back next year and win again!*



Restricted & Novice – Final

Rank	Names	Total
1	Bronwyn NEAL – Simon HUNTER	117.51
2	Kate MCCLYMONT – Penny LYSAGHT	114.85
3	Jen WOODHOUSE – Greg BRACKENREG	111.13
4	Neil MCMASTER – Jennifer BISSETT	110.79
5	Ann BERRY – Bev FURNER	110.37
6	Jennifer ALLISON – Debbie CAMBRIDGE	110.26
7	Mandy MACDONALD – Vibeke FAURBY	109.71
8	Cathie OPPENHEIM – Claire BONIC	108.90
9	David HANCOCK – Meera KUDVA	107.70
10	Wendy STAPLETON – Jane MITCHELL	103.41

Second Place Restricted Pair from the combined field was Jennifer Bissett & Neil McMaster.



The winners Bronwyn Neal & Simon Hunter started the event with two losses! They then won 7 matches in a row, including a big win in the last round to jump into first place when the music stopped!

Isn't Swiss Pairs fun!

The Best Local Pair was Helen Gillam & Micki Summers who left before the prizegiving.

The organisers will have a prize for you!



Novice – Final

Rank	Names	Total
2	Kate MCCLYMONT – Penny LYSAGHT	114.85
3	Jen WOODHOUSE – Greg BRACKENREG	111.13
6	Jennifer ALLISON – Debbie CAMBRIDGE	110.26
7	Mandy MACDONALD – Vibeke FAURBY	109.71
10	Wendy STAPLETON – Jane MITCHELL	103.41
12	Lyndall KENNEDY – Kate LATIMER	102.81
13	Anne-Marie STEVENSON – Ian HAMILTON	102.45
15	David RIESER – Michael GREEN	99.47
18	Keith HILL – Michelle HILL	98.66
21	Gloria GERRISH – Julie ELLIS	95.85

Here are the Novice only Pairs from the combined Restricted & Novice field. Impressively, there are five Novice Pairs in the Top 10!

Novice Pairs Runners-Up were Jen Woodhouse & Greg Brackenreg.



The Best Local Pair in the Novice Pairs were Jane Mitchell & Wendy Stapleton.



The Gill Rule Applied

In yesterday's Bulletin, we all learnt **The Gill Rule**, which was introduced to us in the Expert Panel on Saturday after play.

Obviously, a few players read the Bulletin, or attended the Expert Panel, because I heard whispers of "The Gill Rule" going around the room today.

Jillian Arnott & David Bavin from the Novice Pairs applied the Gill Rule on this hand.

Board 1

Dealer N

Vul None

♠ AT92
♥ JT8632
♦ A54
♣ -

♠ K
♥ K94
♦ QT63
♣ AK432



♠ Q7543
♥ Q
♦ J87
♣ JT65

♠ J86
♥ A75
♦ K92
♣ Q987

North opened 1♥, and got to 4♥, making.

Only 5 out of 31 pairs bid to game in the Restricted & Novice Pairs.

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.

In the Open Pairs, there were 16 North-South pairs who bid and made game, and 11 pairs in a partscore, missing a reasonably good game.

There were some other results mixed in as usual.

One pair who bid and made game in the Open was Peter Gill who held the North hand, and opened 1♥.

Note that North-South only have 19 combined points, but with a nine card fit, and a void, trying to make 4♥ is a good idea.

In the Intermediate Pairs, there was only one North-South pair in Game.

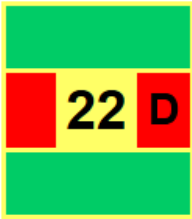
There were a lot of partscores, and some playing in Clubs or No-Trumps by East-West.

How to win the Intermediate Pairs

Nerida Gillies and Sandy Carter shared a few hands about how they gained IMPs on their way to winning the Intermediate Pairs.

This hand was from the last match.

Board 22 ♠ T95
Dealer E ♥ Q93
Vul E-W ♦ A82
 ♣ T762

♠ 7643 ♥ T85 ♦ 543 ♣ A54		♠ AQ82 ♥ AK62 ♦ 9 ♣ KQJ3
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♠ KJ
 ♥ J74
 ♦ KQJT76
 ♣ 98

The Auction was

W	<i>Sandy</i>	E	<i>Nerida</i>
--	--	1♣	1♦
P	P	X	2♦
P	P	P	

East opened 1♣, which is what I recommend with 18 or 19 points, with no long suit.

Some players commented that it is a 4-loser hand, quite powerful, and might have contemplated opening 2♣.

The problem is the shape of the hand, there is no long suit, and so the rebid will be awkward.

Despite the 4-losers, I strongly recommend opening 1♣, and planning to find a fit. You can jump later.

Partner won't pass 1♣ often, and even if partner does, either opponent might bid something and you can rebid.

Nerida overcalled 1♦ and West and North passed. East now Doubled (great choice).

Nerida could see that they were Not Vulnerable and immediately raised herself to 2♦.

West passed again, North passed again, and East passed. East pessimistically thought that partner might have nothing, and let South play in 2♦.

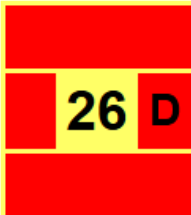
East should Double again.

East-West make 4♠, although no-one in the Intermediate field found the game.

Intermediate Pairs continued

On a later board from the same match, this hand came up.

Board 26 ♠ KQ87
 Dealer E ♥ AK9
 Vul Both ♦ Q85
 ♣ AQ7

♠ A964		♠ 52
♥ J4		♥ 862
♦ AKJ42		♦ 9763
♣ 98		♣ K532

♠ JT3
 ♥ QT753
 ♦ T
 ♣ JT64

W	Sandy	E	Nerida
--	--	P	P
1♦	X	2♦(!)	P
P	X	P	2♥
3♦	3♥	P	4♥

After two passes, West opened 1♦, and Sandy with 20 HCP was too strong for a 1NT overcall, so she Doubled. East raised Diamonds (cheeky) and South passed. Sandy Doubled again (good idea) and Nerida now bid Hearts. Sandy raised Hearts, but was aware that it might be a 4-3 fit. Nerida made a great call to bid 4♥, after partner doubled twice.

These two hands both show good competitive IMP strategies displayed by Sandy and Nerida.

On the first hand, they were the overcalling team, and competed aggressively while being Not Vulnerable. They talked their opponents out of playing.

On this hand, Sandy pushed hard to win the auction and find a fit with a good hand and Nerida correctly valued that she had a singleton in the opponent's suit, and that going for game must have been worth a shot.



Sandy (L) and Nerida (middle R) defend against Lynda Young's (far R) 3♣ contract, while Philip looks on as Dummy. 3♣ drifted one off. Maybe if Philip didn't have a void in trumps, Lynda would have had a better time!



All in the Family



Intermediate Pairs winner Sandy Carter from Peninsula Bridge Club in Sydney (left) has two siblings playing in this event. Terry Bodycote (centre) now plays at the Taree and Great Lakes bridge clubs, but is still a member of North Shore bridge club in Sydney. Their sister Coleen Street (right) is from Bathurst and plays at the Orange club sometimes.

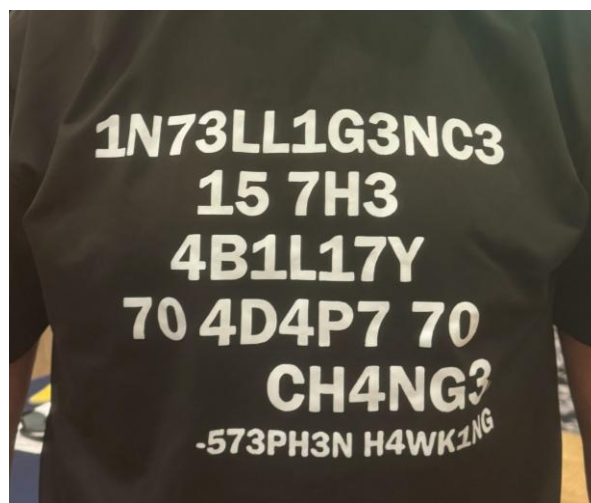
Sandy and Terry recently won the Long Jetty congress and the Port Macquarie Teams congress. They placed second in the Port Macquarie Pairs, behind Sandy's partner Nerida!

More T-Shirts

There have been some great shirts featured in these Bulletins. Philip Young from Melbourne was wearing another great one today.



It turns out the Chemical Symbol for Bromine, Iodine, Deuterium and Germanium spell the word Br I D Ge!



Mick McAuliffe was wearing this one. See if you can read it.

Conventions with Will

Through these Bulletins, we have looked a couple of possible uses of the lesser known Redouble.

There are probably a large proportion of players in this event who have never used a Redouble. There are probably a few players who wish that their partner had never used a Redouble!

Here is a summary of the three main situations where a Redouble could be used to your advantage.

The **Strength Showing Redouble:**

If partner opens with a suit bid, or a preempt, and the opponents make a Takeout Double, then a Redouble shows a strong hand. It typically shows around 10+ points if partner has opened at the one-level and about 15+ if partner has preempted. It usually denies a good fit for partner's suit, since raising the suit immediately is a better description of the hand.

As well as possibly being able to play in 1♠ XX, the opponents usually bid something. After a strength showing Redouble, the next Double by our team is for Penalties.

If we don't have a good fit in our first suit, then the opponents might not have a good fit either. If they bid a suit where one of us has four cards including a couple of winners, then our best score could be Doubling them for Penalties.

The **Redouble for rescue, or SOS Redouble:**

This only applies after we have been Doubled for Penalties, and we think that we might be in a terrible contract. Either of us can Redouble, usually at a low level, to suggest that we should run to a better contract. If you get Doubled at the one- or two-level it is often a sign that the trumps are breaking atrociously. Running to a different suit might be less bad, and you might avoid being Doubled, or the opponents might bid over you. You might run to an equally bad, or possibly worse contract, but you were in trouble, so running might improve things.

Using a Rescue Redouble can also be incorporated into a rescue system if our 1NT opening or overcall gets Doubled. You should not play Stayman and Transfers through a Double, and bidding suit should show a five-card suit with a weak hand. If you don't have a five-card suit, then you can Redouble to start a scramble to find the best spot to play.



Conventions continued

The Rosenkranz Redouble:

If partner overcalls a suit, and there is a Double, you can use the Rosenkranz Redouble to show that you have an honour and a doubleton in partner's suit. This allows you to compete higher in the bidding when the time is right, but also helps the defence.

A Rosenkranz Redouble typically shows an Ace or a King doubleton, but some players extend it to also show a Queen.

There is one other time that you might Redouble, which is to just increase the score from a Doubled contract. This is a rarely used Redouble, and can be quite risky. Firstly, you might go down in your contract with bad suit splits, or getting trumped. Secondly, making a Doubled contract will already be a great score, and if you Redouble, the opponents might get scared and run to a contract which isn't as good for you. Finally, if one of you thinks that the Redouble is to play, but it was actually for rescue, then the results can be astronomically bad.

We have seen some Orange Postcode scores in the previous Bulletins. +2800. You can only score that number if the contract is Redoubled.

The biggest score of this event was another postcode.

Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score
5♥ X	E	♠ A	2300

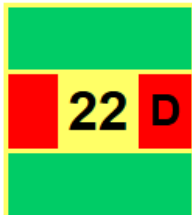
2300 is the postcode of Newcastle.



Restricted Pairs Success

Bronwyn Neal & Simon Hunter won the Restricted Pairs. They shared this hand from the final round.

Board 22 ♠ T95
 Dealer E ♥ Q93
 Vul E-W ♦ A82
 ♣ T762

♠ 7643		♠ AQ82
♥ T85		♥ AK62
♦ 543		♦ 9
♣ A54		♣ KQJ3
		♠ KJ
		♥ J74
		♦ KQJT76
		♣ 98

Simon	N	Bronwyn	S
--	--	2♣*	2♦
P	P	X	P
2♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Bronwyn did open the East hand 2♣ (this was discussed briefly on page 7). Despite being a 4-loser hand, the shape is not great.

After South found a 2♦ overcall, Simon passed, North passed, and Bronwyn Doubled.

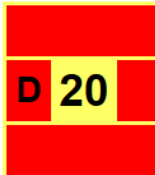
When Simon picked Spades, Bronwyn decided to bid him into 4♠, even though he might have been forced to bid, and might have had nothing.

A recurring theme in stories from winners is often that they took optimistic views and bid to games (and sometimes slams).



Ann Berry, Bronwyn Neal, Bev Furner, and Simon Hunter play Board 20 in the final round. Bronwyn and Simon bid to 3♠ and made 11 tricks. Great outcome for Bronwyn and Simon.

Board 20 ♠ J85
 Dealer W ♥ AKJ4
 Vul Both ♦ Q873
 ♣ JT

♠ T92		♠ KQ763
♥ 3		♥ T952
♦ AJ6		♦ T952
♣ AKQ975		♣ -
		♠ A4
		♥ Q876
		♦ K4
		♣ 86432



More Photos



Mary Brell took some of the photographs used throughout the Bulletins, as well so doing all sorts of other things behind the scenes.

Thanks very much Mary!



Day 4 begins!



Novice Pairs winners Kate McClymont (L) & Penny Lysaght (middle R), defend against Lyndall Kennedy's (far right) 2♦ contract, while Kate Latimer (middle left) looks on from Dummy.

In case you are wondering, 2♦ made for East-West. One IMP to Kate & Lyndall.



Even More Photos



The Organising Committee debriefing once play started on the final day. Thank you all for your hard work this week and all of the last year!



Ella Jacob has been shaking her colourful box helping fundraise for Youth bridge all week.

Thanks Ella for all that you do.



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

(photo: Tripadvisor)

See you in April 2027.

Entries open in October – it will sell out! Book and Pay early.





2027 CENTRAL WEST



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Sat 11 July	Sun 12 July	Mon 13 July	Tue 14 July	Wed 15 July	Thu 16 July
OPEN BUTLER STAGE 1		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 2		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 3	
RESTRICTED BUTLER		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 1		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 2	
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