

21st Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



2

Thursday 13 August 2026

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Pairs at half way

A good start to the week for Joan Butts and Michael Courtney, who were first North-South in the Tuesday walk-in, and lead the Open Pairs after four rounds. They play last year's winners – Justin and Magnus – first up today.

Catch Joan's **Workshop on Competitive Bidding** on Friday at 10.30, Here's one of Michael's hands from the walk-in.

Tuesday night Bd 26

E/Both	♠ Q J 7		
	♥ A 10 8 7 4		
	♦ K 7 5		
	♣ A 7		
♠ 3 2		♠ 9 6 5	
♥ 9 6 3		♥ K Q J 5	
♦ Q J 8 6		♦ A 10 9	
♣ K J 9 3		♣ Q 6 5	
	♠ A K 10 8 4		
	♥ 2		
	♦ 4 3 2		
	♣ 10 8 4 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Courtney		Butts
		1♣	1♠
nb	3NT!	end	

West led the ♥K-Q and pressed on when Courtney contributed ♥87.

Three heart tricks, five spades and the ♣A meant nine tricks!

Pairs 4, Bd 18

E/NS	♠ —		
	♥ 10 8 7 5		
	♦ J 5		
	♣ A Q 7 6 5 4 2		
♠ K Q 10 9 5		♠ J 8 6 3	
♥ J 9 2		♥ A K Q 6 4	
♦ A 7 6		♦ 9	
♣ 10 8		♣ J 9 3	
	♠ A 7 4 2		
	♥ 3		
	♦ K Q 10 8 4 3 2		
	♣ K		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
dbl	end	1♥	5♦

10 open pairs played 5♦, some of them doubled. Half made it, mostly on the ♠K lead. West has to lead a red card to shoot it. (+500 is possible but West might be worried about dummy's clubs running.)

Pairs 4, Bd 19

S/EW	♠ K Q 7 3		
	♥ J 5 4 2		
	♦ 8 6 3		
	♣ 10 6		
♠ A 8		♠ 10 9 6	
♥ 7 6 3		♥ A K 10	
♦ A K J 10 9 5		♦ 4	
♣ A K		♣ 8 7 5 4 3 2	
	♠ J 5 4 2		
	♥ Q 9 8		
	♦ Q 7 2		
	♣ Q J 9		

Timetable

Swiss Pairs (8 x 14 bds)

Thu 13	9.30	Pairs 5 & 6
		Buffet lunch
	2.15pm	Pairs 7 & 8
		Prize-giving

Friday morning forums

Fri 14	9.30	Directors' forum with Laurie Kelso
	10.30	Workshop with Joan Butts

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

Fri 14	2 pm	Teams 1 & 2
Sat 15	9.30	Teams 3 & 4
		Buffet lunch
	2.15pm	Teams 5 & 6
Sun 16	9 am	Teams 7 & 8
		(Play will end at 12.30)
		Prize-giving

Two Open pairs bid and made 6♣. A spade lead makes it exciting. Go ask Mindy or Nigel about it.

Pairs 3, Bd 13

N/Both	♠ 8 4		
	♥ A 10 8 7 4 3		
	♦ A 9 8 3		
	♣ 8		
♠ A Q J 10 9 7		♠ K 6	
♥ —		♥ J 6	
♦ 4 2		♦ K Q 10 7 5	
♣ A K J 8 3		♣ Q 7 6 2	
	♠ 5 3 2		
	♥ K Q 9 5 2		
	♦ J 6		
	♣ 10 9 4		

Does North have weak two? Or is it too good with 6-4 and two aces?

Top 10 Open Pairs at half way (116 pairs)

1	Michael Courtney / Joan Butts (8)	66.36
2	Magnus Moren / Justin Mill (1)	66.00
3	Sam Coutts / Justin Williams (3)	61.94
4	Andrew Peake / Giselle Mundell (9)	61.35
5	Andrew Mill / Annette Maluish (22)	59.43
6	Nicoleta Giura / Nick Hughes (15)	58.88
7	Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison (11)	58.35
8	Paul Hooykaas / Andrew Braithwaite (12)	57.10
9	Bob Sebesfi / Richard Douglas (18)	56.90
10	Jenny Michael / Val Holbrook (56)	56.82

Top 10 Intermediate (64 pairs)

1	Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis (23)	68.56
2	Will Polak / Brendan Quach (50)	64.49
3	Eric Baker / Brian Glover (8)	64.40
4	Vincia Martin / Giles Martin (28)	60.53
5	Chris Lamb / Serita Mudford (43)	55.99
6	Kerry Rymer / Kit Meyers (19)	53.87
7	Don Robertson / Margaret Robertson (2)	53.58
8	Jenny Barnes / Fiona Fawcett (22)	53.44
9	Kim Lee / Kevin Gu (35)	52.13
10	Wendy Smith / Jim Smith (20)	51.94

If it goes 2♥ : 4♥, West's 4♠ is likely to end the auction. There were 10 black suit slams bid in the Open.

Pairs 2, Bd 20

W/Both ♠ 8 5 4
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 10 9 3

♠ K 7 6 ♠ Q 10 9
♥ K 9 7 6 5 ♥ Q
♦ K J 10 8 ♦ A 9 7
♣ A ♣ Q J 8 7 6 2

♠ A J 3 2
♥ J 10 2
♦ 6 3 2
♣ K 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	nb	2♣	nb
2♦	nb	3♣	nb
3NT	end		

When North leads the ♠8, South must resist the temptation to play the jack on dummy's ♠9.

If you err by doing that, declarer gets the extra entry needed to establish and cash the clubs.

When South ducks, declarer has to forget about clubs. With the ♥JT_x falling, declarer can make four diamonds, two hearts, two spades and just **one** club for +600.

If declarer unblocks the ♣A then leads the ♦8 towards dummy's nine, North can thwart this by playing the ♦Q! (The Brilliancy Prize is in the mail)



Drop in at the desk for a chat and the chance to win prizes

Restaurant Recommendations:

Coffs Harbour

Indian:	Taste of North India, Jetty	6651 1668
Chinese:	Phoenwong, Park Avenue	6652 3246
	Creasian, Coffs Harbour Mall	6652 4368
Thai:	Tahruah, Jetty	6651 5992
	Suban Thai, Gordon Street	5606 1448
Italian:	Fiasco, Jetty	6651 2006
Australian:	Shearwater, Promenade	6651 6053
	Latitude 30, Coffs Marina	6651 6888

Sawtell: Split, Sawtell High Street 6658 3026
Treeo, Sawtell High Street 0417 933 104
Taste, Sawtell High Street 6658 3583

Cinemas

Birch Carrol and Coyle www.eventcinemas.com.au
Majestic Cinema (Sawtell) www.majesticcinemas.com.au

Check out Moonee Beach – 15 minutes North of us

Tuesday night welcome Pairs – 29 tables

North-South

1st	Michael Courtney - Joan Butts	64.18 %
2nd	George Bilski - Jennifer Rothwell	63.42 %
3rd	Andrew Slutzkin - John Adams	62.74 %

East-West

1st	Patricia Powis - Sue Robinson	62.89 %
2nd	Nikolas Moore - Larry Moses	57.27 %
3rd	Leanne Sellick - Philip Sellick	56.58 %

Organiser

Brian Salisbury – 0427 719 172
chbsccpres@gmail.com

Convener - Helen Blewitt
helenblewitt@gmail.com

Accommodation

Jon Doland – 0407 904 600

Opal Cove - 02 6651 0553

Directors

Laurie Kelso, Peter Hume
Ronnie Ng, Jan Peach

Reviewer - Nick Hughes

(who can be asked to check that the Directors have followed the correct **procedure**)

Review Consultants

Hugh Grosvenor, Kim Morrison
(Speak to one of them if you think the directors might have made an **incorrect ruling** at your table)

Recorders

Kim Frazer and Bob Sebesfi
(If you have concerns about **behaviour** and other events at the table)

Pairs 2, Bd 23

S/Both ♠ 9 2
♥ Q 6 4 3
♦ K Q 9 8 6
♣ K 6

♠ J 7 4 ♠ 10 6 3
♥ A 9 ♥ J 10 2
♦ A J 10 7 5 ♦ 4 3 2
♣ A 10 5 ♣ J 8 7 3

♠ A K Q 8 5
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ —
♣ Q 9 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦	nb	nb	1♠
end			dbl

Did you commit a 2♦ overcall here? Vulnerability and a balanced hand suggest passing.

-800 is deserved. (1100 is possible if South switches to a club at trick two.) At least North-South make 4♥.

Perhaps some Souths were frightened to double with a void.