

21st Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



Timetable

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

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

4 Saturday 15 August 2026

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Match 1, Bd 11

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

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

Or West might make a slam try, swiftly declined.

To do well at bridge it's important to play in the suit that breaks 3-2, not the one that breaks 4-1. The 20 Open declarers in 4♠ had an easy ride but 19 of the 29 in 4♥ went off.

Should they have made it?

After the normal club lead to dummy's ace, cashing one top trump is okay. Then you need to cater for 4-1 trumps.

You can lead a diamond and play along cross ruff lines. Also fine is to lead a **low** trump of dummy at trick three. What you **can't do** is play a second top trump. Tough hand!

Match 2, Bd 15

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	nb	2♥	1♣
end			3♣

This sensible auction was rare. Plenty played 5♣, mostly failing on a red suit lead.

There were a few Norths making 3NT when East trusted partner's overcall. I bet there were some who opened 1♥ on the South cards.

Pairs 6, Bd 23

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

North should open 4♠ and probably buy it. This will make 10 or 11 tricks, unless you foolishly cross to the ♣A to take a trump finesse, as I did.

It was some consolation that East-West make 11 tricks in a red suit. Some Wests would have opened a Muiderberg 2♥.
(Look it up)

Teams after TWO matches

Open (60 teams)

1	LIU (9)	36.70
2	KOZAKOS (2)	36.38
3	COUTTS (3)	35.31
4	HARDIMAN (52)	33.37
5	KAPLAN (5)	32.94
6	MOSES (13)	32.68
7	SEBESFI (7)	29.59
8	POWELL (21)	29.35
9	HUDSON (17)	29.06
10	MILL (1)	28.37

Intermediate (28 teams)

1	BREWIS (12)	32.70
2	GIBBARDS (1)	32.43
3	CUMMING (11)	30.34
4	BW & B (19)	30.16
5	WILLCOCKS (8)	28.88
6	ROBINSON (6)	28.43
7	HOLLINGWORTH (3)	26.74
8	ROGERS (15)	26.32
9	BURTON (9)	26.04
10	GIBSON (20)	23.57

Friday Directors' forum

There was a talk on the importance of choosing the right movement, particularly for a small number of tables.

If your session is dwindling or you are trying to get a new session going, make an effort to keep the loyal players happy.

For instance, how do you run 6½ tables? For a 24-board game, best is a **Hesitation Mitchell** which has all pairs playing all the boards and shortens the sit-out.

David Farmer raised the following Laws question:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	2♥ ^A	2♦	??

Without asking, East bid 2♦ over North's alerted 2♥.

We would take away East to ask what was going on. Perhaps they didn't see the opening bid, or misread it, or intended to bid something else, maybe 3♦.

Next South can accept 2♦. Does South get to know what East may have been thinking?



Here are two redoubling hands from Joan's Friday Workshop on competitive bidding

The Redouble

When an opponent opens and your partner doubles, if the next bid heard is redouble (XX), your side could be in serious trouble. The redouble sends the message to opener that the hand belongs to their side – 10 or more points and no primary fit – and that they have the majority of points. They will be looking to make a penalty double if your side can't find a fit.

What should the fourth hand do in this situation? The guideline is:

If you have a definite preference to play in a suit, then bid it. But if not, pass, and it will come around to partner who will bid their best four card suit. This may be doubled for penalty by the opening side, but what can you do?

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	X
XX	2♣ !	P	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
3NT	AP		

It's important for North to show South what they would like to play in regardless of points. (Note that if North passes, South might bid 2♦, which would be a disaster)

If it had been in EW's interests to double 2♣ for penalty, they would have. However on this hand, EW will score better in 3NT. When there has been a redouble, the opener should bid at their next turn only if weak with a 6-card or longer suit, or a two-suiter. The stronger they are, the more they should PASS!

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	X
XX	P	P	2♣/♥
X	AP		

South's takeout double is normal, showing support for the unbid suits and an opening hand. When West redoubles, showing 10+ points and no fit, the message is sent that EW have the majority of strength. If West had passed North would have to bid something.

As North has no real preference for a suit to play in, it's best to pass. East should also pass, awaiting developments. South does not want to defend 1♠ redoubled (XX), so bids a four card suit, either 2♣ or 2♥. West, having redoubled, can now make a penalty double of whichever suit South chooses. The penalty of 1100 will be more than any score EW would receive for making game.

joanbuttsbridge.com

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Mariana:

I ordered and paid for the book "How to Scam People" over six months ago and it still hasn't arrived

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club

A bit of local history

In 1978 a small group of local residents with the help of George Vermont started playing bridge in small venues in Coffs Harbour. Taught by George the group quickly out grew to 3 or 4 venues. A Bridge Club was needed and so it began. A loan from the Coffs City Council was acquired, and building started in May 1996 and was completed in July. The first game in new premises was on 1st August 1996.

Membership continued to grow and a committee was formed to hold a congress in Coffs Harbour to meet the needs of our regional Players. Sponsorship was secured from the local shopping centre and one of the local resorts. So the decision was made and the Committee and members got to work preparing for our first congress.

This was held at Nautilus Resort and we had 40 tables (fold up tables) tablecloths (made by a member) our members helped and volunteered to do whatever was needed. (including caddying, dealing boards for next days sessions, etc)

Prize money totalled \$10,000, everyone enjoyed the congress and a lot of participants were coming the following year and bringing friends from their club.

The following year we had 60 tables, which was maximum for our venue, and we had to break our 3 year contract with Nautilus to find a bigger venue. That's when we moved to **Opal Cove Resort** where we continued to grow, topping at 116 tables which meant extra room hire, Directors, caddies etc, so it was decided to limit it to around 90 tables for everyone's comfort. Our members continue to support and volunteer, which is the key to our success.

