

21st Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



5

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Two Matches to go

The team with a couple of Coutts is 20 VPs clear in the Open Teams.

So the answer to the question Team 56 keeps asking – "What did Coutts do?" is that they steamrolled the field.

BRYANT, the leaders in the Intermediate, are a Restricted Team. Can they hold on?

Teams after SIX matches

Open (60 teams)

1	COUTTS ()	107.39
2	SEBESFI (7)	87.42
3	KAPLAN (5)	83.13
4	MUNDELL (4)	82.25
5	KOZAKOS (2)	77.57
6	MALUISH (12)	73.53
7	MCGRATH (20)	73.37
8	FRAZER (11)	73.25
9	LISLE (18)	72.90
10	HANSON (25)	71.22

Intermediate (28 teams)

1	BRYANT (21)	84.32
2	BREWIS (12)	83.02
3	WILLIAMS (24)	79.57
4	GIBSON (20)	71.42
5	ROBINSON (6)	70.63
6	BURTON (9)	69.69
7	FAWCETT (13)	68.78
8	CUMMING (11)	68.48
9	KAPLAN (7)	68.30
10	WILLCOCKS (8)	66.04

On ♠A-another you play trumps then come down to

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

When diamonds don't break, you exit with the ♦9, then run South's club exit to dummy's queen. Well done to those who made it.

It's even trickier on a diamond lead to the ten and ace. After ♥A-Q puts North in, a second diamond lead gives declarer a chance.

Finish trumps, cross to the ♦K, then you have to lead dummy's ♣Q-K-A-6. (South rates to have the king) Now you can throw North in with the ♣J to score the ♠K.

Match 4, Bd 28

W/NS ♠ K 9 8 4
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 3 2
♣ Q 6 5 2

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Doecke		S Coutts	
3♣ !!	nb	4♥	end

Morrison	Williams	Langton	J Coutts
nb	nb	1♥	1♠
nb	3♠ mixed	nb	4♠

Aggressive bidding at both tables.

Repeated trump leads will shoot 4♠ but after two hearts and a trump switch, **James Coutts** was able to start a cross-ruff. Six trump tricks and three diamonds brought the trick total to nine and West was squeezed in the minors for +620.

Match 3, Bd 14

E/Nil ♠ K 2
♥ K 2
♦ K Q 10 2
♣ K J 10 6 2

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

After East opens 2♠ or 2♦, it's reasonable to bid slam. Seven Open pairs had a go. 6NT is best. One pair bid and made the hairy 6♦.

What of 6♣?

When the ♣9 holds and the ♥Q pops up, cashing the ♠Q can't hurt, though you still have to guess

West's shape. The appearance of the ♣8 on the second trump might swing it.

Anyway, the trump coup is appealing because it's more elegant than finding trumps 3-3. **George Bilski** is always elegant.

Match 5, Bd 13

N/Both ♠ A 5
♥ A Q 9 8 6 5
♦ A Q 3
♣ Q 4

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	1♠	2♥ !?
nb	4♥	end	

♠Q-4-K-A was a bad start for the defence. After ♥A, declarer can succeed by exiting the ♠5 but that's playing West for two singletons.

So declarer continued trumps. After cashing ♥KJ East easily found the ♣K switch to kill dummy, a **Merri-mac Coup**. (Look it up)

Match 6, Bd 22

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

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

West is playing 4♥ after North-South have bid and raised spades. A black suit lead looks fatal but five declarers went down on the ♠A or ♣J lead. It's not easy.

Match 3, Bd 8

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

Exactly half the Open field bid slam here. It's difficult to stay out.

In 6NT on a spade lead, you need to play a spade back before hoping for good news in diamonds, or North to switch to a heart.

The North-South pair who allowed 7NT to roll home are still having nightmares.

Match 4, Bd 15

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♣
nb	2♦	2♠	3♥
3♠	3NT	nb	?

Four Open declarers scored +1430 here. It would be good if 4♠ here is **Exclusion Blackwood**.

Match 6, Bd 18

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♥!	dbl
4♥!?	nb	nb	dbl
nb	4♠?	nb	nb
dbl	end		

This is **money for jam** in the modern game. East is dealer at favourable, West aims to give the opponents the last guess. We can see North should pass for +100 but the heat is on. -800 this time.

Match 4, Bd 16

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
nb	1♦	nb	1♥
nb	1NT	nb	4♥

A diamond lead shoots this but North had bid them so a spade it was. When East switches to a low diamond, it's normal to fly king because a lead from ♦Qxx is **most unattractive**, when looking at that dummy.

It would be different if it were clear to everyone that the defence needed two tricks on the trot. Then it's a guess. Not the case here.

Timetable

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

Sun **9 am** Teams 7 & 8
16 (Play will end at 12.30)
Prize-giving

Coffs Coast next year

10-15 August 2027.

More importantly, entries will probably open on **1st April** so don't be foolish and set your alarm clock now.

Good luck to our teams in the **World Championships** which are in Katowice in Poland.

20 Aug - 3 Sep

Territory Gold Bridge Festival
Darwin

26-30 August

Canberra in Bloom

2-5 October

Sydney Spring Nationals

Canterbury Racecourse

17-25 October

New Zealand Nationals

Palmerston North

7-14 November

Mariana:

I asked my friend what it's like to live in North Korea...
He says he can't complain.

