

Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



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Tuesday 18 August

Editor: Nick Hughes

Welcome back everyone! It's easy to see why this super congress continues to grow:

Bridge is booming on the North Coast; Opal Cove is great resort; good format, playing conditions and organisation; midway between Sydney & Brisbane; gold points; generous cash prizes

Golden Super

Those in the hunt for masterpoints should do well this week. Each 14 board match you win in the open events will earn you 0.42 gold points, plus outright points if you finish in the top third of the field.

Gold points are needed to reach the upper echelons. Your MP total needs to include 30 gold points to become a Life Master, 200 to become a Grand Master.

If that doesn't interest you, how about a major prize pool of \$15,750?

Cash prizes

	1st	2nd	3rd
149er Pairs	400	200	100
299er Pairs	400	200	100
449er Pairs	400	200	100
Swiss Pairs	1800	900	450
149er Teams	800	400	200
299er Teams	800	400	200
449er Teams	800	400	200
Swiss Teams	3600	1800	900

(MP status as at 30-6-09)

Brown Sticker Conventions

2-level openings without an anchor suit (like RCO Twos) are Brown Sticker, though the typical Multi 2♦ is not. You can play Brown Sticker in all events. However, if you are playing BS in the Restricted – why would you? – then protected Pairs can ask you to ditch them for that match. Protected pairs are those where both are below National Master or one is below Local Master.

Pre-alerts

List your unusual and complex methods in the pre-alerts section of the system card.

For instance: RCO 2s, Bergen raises, DONT, unusual carding (leading low from doubletons). You should also draw your opponents' attention to these at the start of a match. The idea is to give them a chance to devise a defence.

Alerts

Don't alert any doubles, or bids beyond 3NT, or bids in suits bid or shown by an opponent, or any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening.

Alert other conventional calls and unusual treatments. Included here are negative free bids, transfers, Bergen bids, a 1♣ opening that could be a doubleton, inverted minors.

Not bridge

Wednesday and Thursday nights are totally free, while Friday is a quiet day. What to do when you are not at the bridge table?

For dinner, some will return to villas or apartments for a home-cooked meal. Fair enough!

However, **Horizons Restaurant and Bar at Opal Cove** is perfect for a relaxed dining experience. The restaurant features modern Australian cuisine menus with creative flair, changing seasonally to take full advantage of the region's freshest produce and seafood. With views overlooking the swimming pool and beyond to the Pacific Ocean, guests are able to dine al fresco on the terrace or in air conditioned comfort. There is a 2-course set menu for \$36.50.



Timetable

Tue 6pm Cocktails
7pm Welcome Pairs

Swiss Pairs (8 x 14 bds)

Wed 10am Pairs 1 & 2
2.30 Pairs 3 & 4

Thu 10am Pairs 5 & 6
2.30 Pairs 7 & 8
Prize-giving

Fri 9am Directors' forum
10.30 Workshop
2.30 walk-in pairs

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

7.30 Teams 1 & 2

Sat 10am Teams 3 & 4
2.30 Teams 5 & 6
7.30 Congress dinner

Sun 10am Teams 7 & 8
Prize-giving
Finish at 2pm

Lunch is 11.30 - 2.30 with most meals from \$12 - \$19.

Horizons Bar has an extensive wine list and fabulous cocktails on offer with Happy Hour daily from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. Hmm.

That's where your editors plan to be at the end of play, to hear all your bridge stories.

Further afield

A short 4km drive into town and some fine restaurants. Last year, we dined at **Tequila Mexican** restaurant 224 High St, 6652 1279, which was great.

Phil Houlton – one of the organisers – has plenty to recommend. These first four are on the "Jetty Strip":

Watermark Brasserie 66518221
Expensive, good quality

Tandoori Oven 66522279
Good quality Indian food

Maria's Italian cuisine 66513000
Good pizza

Hogs Breath Café 66525646
Good steak

The Shearwater 66516053
(further along the Promenade)

Excellent quality general cuisine.
In Coffs Town Centre:

Phoenwong Chinese 66523246
Considered the best Chinese in
town (Park Avenue)

Suban Thai 66512009
The best Thai in town (Gordon St)

SSS BBQ Barn 66519166
Good steak and ribs. At the Cinema
complex cnr Bray St & Pacific Hwy

*There are 486 food outlets in Coffs
Harbour (including 13 Thai
restaurants), so this list is not
exhaustive, but simply my
recommendations. - Phil*

Out and about on Friday

Friday is a fee day of sorts, between
the Swiss Pairs and Teams. While
there are bridge activities during the
day — directors' forum, a workshop
with David Beauchamp & Ted
Chadwick, plus walk-in pairs in the
afternoon — you may like to take the
day off and be home for an early din-
ner, followed by the first teams
match at 7.30.

The energetic can go to the Opal
Cove desk for externally operated
tours such as white water rafting,
skydiving, surf lessons, diving and
snorkelling, deep sea fishing, whale
watching, rainforest walks and much
more. On site, there is a 9 hole golf
course, heated swimming pool, Spa,
Gymnasium and Sauna and 4 flood-
lit tennis courts.

Here are some quieter suggestions
from various tourist websites:

Big Banana

Australia's first and most famous
"Big" icon. This giant structure lo-
cated just north of Coffs Harbour &
South of Opal Cove on the Pacific
Highway, is probably the most well
known "Big Thing" in Australia. Over
the last 40 years the Big Banana has
grown into one of the Coffs Coasts
most recognised tourist attractions
with fun rides, educational tours and
shows, recreational facilities and a

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club

Recent Winners & Table Numbers

	07	08	09
Swiss Pairs	75	44	53
Restricted Pairs		30	30+
Teams	86	62	82
Restricted Teams		30	26
	161	166	191

2008

Swiss Pairs	D Beauchamp & M Watts
Restricted	K Frazer & K French
Teams	G Bilski, T Brown, K Christiansen, E Otvosi
Restricted	B Kassam, B Assaee, D Barnes, P Barnes

2007

Swiss Pairs	D Beauchamp, M Watts
Teams	G Bilski, C Boylson, I Del'Monte, M Prescott

Tournament Officials

Organisers	Robyn Bingham – 6651 7845 Phil Houlton – 6651 1686
Senior Directors	Tony Howes & Laurie Kelso
Recorder	David Beauchamp
Appeals Convener	Phil Houlton
Appeals Consultant	Neville Francis

Entry fees

Pairs: \$250, Teams: \$460, Saturday dinner: \$50

fantastic selection of food and gift
products.

*(When we drove here from Sydney,
we could have passed 7 other big
things, as described in Wikipedia.
Do you know them?)*

Pet Porpoise Pool

Orlando Street, 6659 1900

Ever had the desire to cuddle a sea
lion, shake hands with a dolphin, or
just be overwhelmed by the many
talents our close marine relatives
have?

The dolphins pop up from the water
to tail walk, somersault, dive through
hoops, play football, as well as a
number of special feats, also taking
small fish from the more adventur-
ous tourists. Shows times vary
through out the year, please ring
6659 1900 for current show times.
Presentations at 10am & 1pm.

Botanical Gardens

Hardacre Street. The Garden is
open every day from 9.00 am to 5
pm. There is no entry charge, how-
ever donations are very welcome,

and all money goes towards garden
improvements. The Information Of-
fice and Shop are staffed by volun-
teer members of the Friends
between the hours of 11 am and 3
pm during weekdays.

Butterfly House

Maze and Tearooms 5 Strouds
Road, Bonville, 66534766

Be surrounded by these fascinating
and beautiful creatures in the only
exhibit of its kind in NSW, as you ex-
perience the butterfly and be edu-
cated. Witness the amazing
metamorphosis from egg to butterfly
as our guides are available to edu-
cate you and answer any of your
questions. South of Coffs.

Bulletins will be available most
mornings before play:

- #1 Tuesday welcome
- #2 Thursday
- #3 Friday/Saturday
- #4 Sunday
- #5 Final, on the net.

You can ring Nick & Nicoleta on
0414 601 175.