

Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



Timetable

Tue 6pm Cocktails
7pm Welcome Pairs

Swiss Pairs (8 x 14 bds)

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

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

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

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

Fri 7.30 Teams 1 & 2

Sat 8am vote?
10am Teams 3 & 4
Buffet lunch
2.30 Teams 5 & 6
7.30 Congress dinner

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

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Wednesday 18 August

Editor: Nick Hughes

Welcome back everyone!

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

Ready to vote?

We play bridge all day Saturday, so you will need to get up early, or make other arrangements.

We out-of-towners should be able to vote on Friday in the City. The Showground is at 123 Pacific Hwy. Look for the Norm Jordan Pavillion.

On Saturday morning, head West along Finlays Rd to Korora School.

Or you can risk a fine ...

Australia's compulsory, preferential voting is nearly unique in the world. Wikipedia lists these countries that enforce compulsory voting:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Nauru, Peru, Singapore, Turkey, Uruguay.

The following have a form of preferential single-candidate voting:

Australia, Ireland, Malta, Nauru

All that glitters

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 30-6-10)

Last year

Pairs winners were Sartaj Hans & Tony Nunn, oft regarded as Australia's top pair. Here is one of their pickups.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Hans		Nunn
No	No	1♠	X
2♠	2NT*	4♠	No
No	X	End	

4♠ looks an okay spot, probably on ♦A onside. Nunn led ♥3, ruffed. Back came a ♣9-3-T-4. This meant South had three entries to give North three more heart ruffs for +800.

East might have saved a relatively meaningless trick by playing ♣J at trick 2. Then North might not risk a second underlead.

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.

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

Recent Winners & Table Numbers

	07	08	09	10
Swiss Pairs	75	44	54	57+
Restricted Pairs		30	31	37+
Teams	86	62	82	76
Restricted Teams		30	26	32
	161	166	193	202

2009

Swiss Pairs	S Hans & T Nunn
Restricted	C Whiddon & M Allison
Teams	E Otvosi, N Edgtton, P Gosney, K Christiansen
Restricted	J Rae, K Rooney, J Mills, E Miller

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 Helen Blewitt – 6651 1686
Senior Directors	Tony Howes & Laurie Kelso
Recorder	David Beauchamp
Appeals Convener	Phil Houlton
Appeals Consultant	Neville Francis

Entry fees

Pairs: \$270, Teams: \$500, Saturday dinner: \$60

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 free day of sorts, between the Swiss Pairs and Teams. While there are bridge activities during the day — directors' forum, a workshop with Nick & Nicoleta, plus walk-in



pairs in the afternoon — you may like to take the day off and be home for an early dinner, 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 floodlit tennis courts.

Bulletins will be available most mornings before play:

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

You can ring Nick & Nicoleta on 0414 601 175.