

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Monthly Newsletter

February 2026

January Club Session Winners

Members @ end of Jan = 179

Date	NS	EW
2	C & P Hocking	M Spears & P Quinlan
3	R Roark & S Dilosa	M Angus & H Rowsell
5	P Jonutz & H Eyer	B Butler & T Booth
6	D Featherstone & N McIvor	
7	H Pitt & R Roark	G Keenan & G Buganey
9	I Doland & S Dilosa	C Brown & J Burrows
10	N Williams & P Guthrie	M Angus & H Rowsell
12	B Herring & C Tolley	V Gayford & P Quinlan
13	D Featherstone & N McIvor	
14	R Bingham & A Fisher	S & A Fox
16	B Johns & R Aitken	C & L Coupe
17	C Tolley & B Herring	W Rogers & B Haagsma
19A	J Bryant & J Burrows	E Colley & D Strachan
19B	T Cooper & D Hickie	B Butler & M Pailthorpe
20	D & M Johnson	
21	H Pitt & R Roark	H Chalk & J Stimpson
23	C Denny & J Buganey	G Battershell & J Stimpson
24	R Roark & S Dilosa	V Gayford & P Haigh
26	E Colley & D Strachan & C Hocking & P Hocking	
27	D Featherstone & N McIvor	
28	L Power & M Rogers	R Rutter & J Bryant
30	C & P Hocking	J Buganey & C Denny
31	R Roark & S Dilosa	R Rutter & C Tilley

Club committee is planning an anniversary event on Tuesday Sept 15th 2026 to celebrate 30 years in our clubhouse. Coffs Mayor has agreed to attend

Bridge Development

Agenda for medium level development lessons by Colin Tolley in 2026 on noticeboard

Explore BridgeNSW website for free games and teaching online

DIRECTORS required.

Improve your bridge by becoming a director. CHBC will help your path to becoming a director which in turn will assist your understanding of our great game.

Interested ?

Talk to David Johnson, any other director or committee member

Monthly Quiz Answers from January Newsletter

1. 4 2. Mercury 3. Tudor 4. Zeus 5. 71

February Quiz.....Know these ?

- 1 Which country has the 'markka' as its basic unit of currency?
- 2 Which of the 7 Wonders of the World was built on Rhodes ?
- 3 Who is famous author Samuel Langhorne Clemens best known as ?
- 4 10th year wedding anniversary usually denoted by ?
5. What is the star sign of somebody born on bonfire night ?

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club hosted a Club BridgeNSW Presidents meeting on Sunday 25 January. Presented by Glenda Parmenter who is BridgeNSW Chair Clubs and Community Committee. Attendees included members of Port Macquarie, Nambucca Valley, Urunga and Coffs Harbour Bridge Clubs.

BridgeNSW as an organisation is approximately one year old and their development of their website was explained and discussed. I think everybody at the meeting was impressed by the depth of this website. Included was strategy for engagement and communication between clubs. There is significant assistance for both teachers and player development with free online instructions and games. There was also marketing lessons and resource pages for growing your club. Also use of this website to advertise your club.

Finally the future Bridge challenges such as directors shortage and attracting new people into the clubs were discussed. It was recognised that BridgeNSW had made a significant impact with their work so far but everyone was aware that there is still a lot of work to do

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Why is defending harder than declaring – thoughts from Richard Levy

Nearly every session I hear this complaint: **'We didn't do so well because North/South had all the good cards but we were East/West!'**

Is this a cop-out for a poor result? The answer is a resounding 'YES'. The main reason we do badly is because we don't make the most of what we've got **and remember**, it's not unusual to be defending because we defend roughly half of all bridge deals!

Why is defending difficult?

- **Limited information** - The declarer can see both their own hand and the dummy, controlling 26 cards simultaneously. Defenders, however, cannot see each other's cards, forcing them to work out the best line of defence without full information.
- **Defence is a team effort** – it requires two players to act in sync. Each must often deduce what their partner wants, whereas declarers make all decisions themselves.
- **Deciphering the contract** - Defenders must interpret the auction and the opening lead to understand which suit to work on.
- **Defenders must know when to take their tricks** - immediately (active defence) and when to wait (passive defence) – achieving this balance is harder to master than the straightforward goal of fulfilling a contract as declarer.
- **Defenders must use signals to share information about their hands** - which can be misread or, when not used correctly, can result in lost tricks.

Defence is important because:

- Strong defences can defeat roughly 50% of opponents' contracts, making them the most effective ways of turning losing scores into winning ones.
- Defence is not just about beating the contract - in duplicate bridge it is also about preventing **unnecessary** overtricks.

Some key defensive mistakes include:

Poor opening leads, discarding errors, ignoring partner's signals/suit, failure to cover honours.

Combined with poor communication between partners, these form the basis of most common defensive frustrations at the bridge table.

My advice – Your results will improve if you stop blaming the cards, take responsibility for defending better and learn from your mistakes.

If there are other items you might like to see on a monthly / periodic newsletter then please email me with your thoughts to barrybutler45@gmail.com