

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Monthly Newsletter

May 2026

April Club Session Winners

Members @ end of April = 174

Date	NS	EW
1	H Pitt & R Roark	B Johns & D Strachan
3	N Mclvor & K Potts	S & J Thorne
4	N Mclvor & K Potts	E Colley & D Strachan
6	L Power & J Leach	P Guthrie & N Williams
7		M & D Johnson
8	H Pitt & R Roark	D Johnson & K Taylor
10	J Parker & N Williams	H Chalk & J Stimpson
11	R Roark & S Dilosa	D McGuinness & M Hosie
13	L Power & J Leach	T Booth & J Boyle
14		D McGuinness & M Hosie
15	S Dilosa & D O'Meara	M Angus & H Rowsell
17	N Mclvor & K Potts	P Guthrie & W Polak
18	N Mclvor & K Potts	B Butler & R Levy
20	B Johns & R Aitken	C Jeffery & L Coates
21		J Watson & D Johnson
22	H Pitt & R Roark	M Angus & H Rowsell
24		T White & B Lidster
25	A Quinton & L Coates	T Cooper & C Tilley
27	R Roark & D O'Meara	E Colley & D Strachan
28		D Featherstone & N Mclvor
29	H Pitt & R Roark	B Johns & D Strachan

Bridge Development

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

Explore **BridgeNSW** website for free games and teaching online

Looking to celebrate 30th anniversary of clubhouse opening with a 'Festival week of Bridge'.

September 14th to 19th inclusive.

Looking for a sub committee to help organise this festival. Is that YOU ??

CONCENTRATION problem playing bridge
(see over on page 2 for help)

Monthly Quiz

- 1. What are the two longest rivers in the world**
- 2. What word describes a sentence containing all the letters of the alphabet ?**
- 3. Collective noun for a group of unicorns ?**
- 4. Before the Euro, what was the currency of Netherlands ?**
- 5. In Australian slang, what kind of food is a mystery bag ?**
- 6. What was the middle name of artist L. S. Lowry ?**

Results from Coffs Harbour bridge members playing 'away from home' in April 2026

Ballina X-Imp Swiss Pairs **18th April** **48 Pairs**
4th overall (1st in category B) **S Dilosa & R Roark**
23rd overall (7th in category B) **C & P Hocking**

For our clubhouse anniversary what about compiling a cookbook of individual recipes from our Bridge Club members that we could sell and donate the profits towards organisation(s) that are being overrun trying to feed and assist an increasing number of homeless people ?

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‘The more you concentrate, the less mistakes you’ll make’ – True or false?

Richard Levy’s thoughts on how to improve your concentration.

‘Inexperienced players tell me that the first round of a session is the hardest while others say that their performance in the final few boards ‘goes missing’ and their concentration falls off. Neither situation is unusual at whatever level you play.’

Before the start of the session and/or the final round

It’s OK to remind each other that you have this possible problem and to make a special effort. A simple reminder is often enough to get concentration back on track.

As declarer, - Maintain your tempo by not immediately playing a card – it gives you a few seconds to reconsider and may prevent the careless play of a wrong card.

Establish and stick to your routine:

- **What do you know about your opponents’ distribution and points?**
- **What does the opening lead tell you?**
- **Count your winners**
- **Count your losers**
- **Will there be problems maintaining control of this hand? For example, must an ace be knocked out before drawing trumps?**
- **Are there entry problems? Just looking at the cards with this question in mind can change your whole notion of the hand.**
- **Is this the right hand to cross ruff?**

As defender - Counting forces you to concentrate. Count declarer’s distribution, your partner’s distribution, points, trumps, everything. **A B C – Always Be Counting**. Eventually it will become automatic. If you don’t make a conscious effort to do it, it won’t happen.

Establish and stick to your routine:

- **Predict a logical line of play for declarer and anticipate the problems declarer may run into.**
- **Then, when your opponent leads, you have already decided whether to cover or duck a card. Don’t touch your cards until it is your turn. By playing smoothly, you are not giving away what cards you hold!**
- **When you have weak hand, remind yourself that most or all of the tricks for your side are going to come from your partner’s hand. **This is where you have to be especially vigilant about concentrating.** Can you help your partner with your discards? Can you guard any suits in which your partner is likely to be squeezed.**
- **If you don’t concentrate, it’ll probably be checkmate !**

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