

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Monthly Newsletter

August 2026

July Club Session Winners

Members @ end of July = 174

Date	NS	EW
1	H Pitt & R Roark	J Reid & B Haagsma
3	E Colley & D O'Meara	T White & B Lidster
4	M & D Johnson	E Colley & D Strachan
6	R Roark & D O'Meara	B Butler & M Pailthorpe
7	D Featherstone & N Mclvor	
8	S Dilosa & D O'Meara	B Johns & L Wade
10	E Colley & D O'Meara	B Butler & M Pailthorpe
11	GNOT 1st N Mclvor, K Potts, R Roark & S Dilosa	
13	R Irwin & M Cotsell	B Butler & M Pailthorpe
14	M Hosie & D McGuiness	
15	G Stubbington & J Hunt	C Everson & J Michael
17	I Doland & S Dilosa	V Gayford & R Rutter
18A	H Murray & L Wade	V Gayford & R Rutter
18B	N Mclvor & K Potts	E Colley & D Strachan
20	R Roark & D O'Meara	V Gayford & R Smith
21	D Featherstone & N Mclvor	
22	G Keenan & G Buganey	B Johns & D Strachan
24	I Doland & S Dilosa	N Mclvor & K Potts
25	N Mclvor & K Potts	T Cooper & H Eysers
27A	P Griffin & C Tolley	E Colley & D Strachan
27B	B Edwards & B Salisbury	L Edsall & R Levy
28	D Johnson & J Watson	
29	H Pitt & R Roark	E Colley & D Strachan N
31	Mclvor & K Potts	N Dumont & H Chalk

Bridge Development

Agenda for medium level bridge development by Colin Tolley on going. See noticeboard.

Learn to Play Bridge is again being presented at Camp Creative in Bellingen next January. See website for details and entry

See page 2 for comments from Rod Roark 'Game Tries in Competition' via his Bridge Bum website

Next month- do you understand the difference between the two main scoring systems – Matchpoints and IMPS (International Matchpoints) ?

Results to July quiz

1. 11 2. 17 3. China 4. Batavia 5. Fear of Doctors

August Quiz.....Know these ?

- 1. Zealand is an island belonging to which Country ?**
- 2. What is a group of sharks called ?**
- 3. What was the first language of British King George 1st**
- 4. What spirit is the base for Pimm's ?**
- 5. What does the term Sudoka mean in Japanese ?**

Understand simple probabilities and you can plan your play without guessing.

Why do the good players know how to assess how the remaining cards, in a suit are likely to be divided between their opposition? **They know the probabilities of card distribution.**

When you and dummy hold a combined number of cards in a suit, the remaining cards are divided between the two opponents and here are the most common splits and their odds:

Missing cards	Most likely split	Probability	Next likely split	Probability
2	1-1	52%	2-0	48%
3	2-1	78%	3-0	22%
4	3-1	50%	2-2	41%
5	3-2	68%	4-1	28%
6	4-2	48%	3-3	36%

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Game Tries in Competition

Thanks to Rod Roark

Here's an important principle that I don't see discussed very much in the literature but is common among top players.

Suppose you open 1♥ and the auction is 1♥ - (2♣) - 2♥ - (3♣). You have some extra values and want to invite game in hearts. The way to do this is to bid 3♦. In this way you also have the options of bidding 3♥ just to compete (typically with minimum values and a sixth heart), or doubling for penalty. Your 3♦ says nothing about diamonds, it just happens to be the only suit available for this.

Next, suppose it goes 1♥ - (2♦) - 2♥ - (3♦). Now there is no intermediate suit bid available for a game try. In this case we use the double as a game try, giving up on a penalty double, and 3♥ is still just competing. This is called a "Maximal Double" and is further described here:

https://www.bridgebum.com/maximal_double.php

Now consider 1♠ - (2♣) - 2♠ - (3♣). Here there are two intermediate suits that you can use as a game try, and I suggest picking the one that most closely matches your game tries without competition -- perhaps a suit where you have length or something of value.

This same principle applies when yours is the overcalling side. For example you overcall 1♥ in this auction: (1♣) - 1♥ - (2♣) - 2♥ - (3♣). 3♦ is the game try and other choices are natural as above.

The "Bridge Bum" site is a great resource for details of many common conventions. For more about game tries in general see:

https://www.bridgebum.com/help_suit_game_try.php

Other Newsletter entries please email me with your thoughts to barrybutler45@gmail.com