

Novice News – January 2022 by Stephen Bennett

On the **11th December QCBC held their Novice Pairs Championships**. With 18 pairs taking part, it was a great turn out this year. With the Novice section playing one less board per round than the Open, there was plenty of time to plan your play.

The lead changed a number of times and with a very strong final round our champions for this year were **Chris De Jong & Jennifer Finigan**, congratulations. They were certainly the toughest pair we played and had a crafty knack of winning more tricks than they were entitled to win.

Second place went to **Stephen & Louise Bennett**, third spot was **Jamshid Vazirzadeh & Aflatoon Baghaei** and fourth, **Sandra Aring & Carolyn North**.

Special mention to the pairs who were competing in their first all day competition, well done. If you felt like your head was going to explode by the end, that's normal. It does get easier over time!!!!!! Please make sure that you all enter the **QCBC Graded Pairs with a Novice section on the 9th January 2022**.

On the 5th December 4 QCBC Novices **Debbie Carroll, Jacinta Lee, Stephen & Louise Bennett** decided to have a go in a "big boys" competition and took part in the **Redlands Open Teams**. With 3 wins and a draw from our 7 matches we were all pleasantly surprised to finish 12th out of the 22 teams. Could this be the start of a new Awesome Foursome!!!!



Events to put in your diary for 2022.

Here is my pick of the events for 2022.

9th January 2022 QCBC Graded Pairs with a Novice Section.

18th February – 26th February 2022 Gold Coast Congress. Lots of different events, including Rookie events for under 10MPs as well as Novice events. There is an event suitable for everyone here.

6th March - Toowong Novice IMP Pairs

17th April - Redlands Novice Teams

1st May – QBA Novice Pairs at Sunnybank

15th May – Toowong Novice Pairs

12th June – QCBC Graded Teams with a Novice Section

10th July – Redland Novice Pairs

23rd July – Under 50MP's Teams of 3. If you have not entered an event before, this is the best one to start with. It is only half a day, just like a session at the club.

21st August – QLD Graded Teams at Toowong

3rd September – QLD Graded Pairs at QCBC

11th September – Kenmore less than 50MPs and Novice section

25th September – QBA Teams of 3 at Northern Suburbs

10th December – QCBC Club Pairs Championships

There are loads of other great events too, these are just my favorites. There are 3 easy ways to find out about upcoming events;

1. Go to the QCBC website and click on the calendar tab up the top. This shows you all the events as well as any event taking place at QCBC.
2. Go to the Queensland Bridge Association website <https://qldbridge.com.au/> click on the events tab and select coming events.
3. And finally, you can read the monthly Novice News which has upcoming events for the next month.



Don't fall in love with your hand!!

I remember Robyn Clark explaining to me, on countless occasions, “you have fallen in love with your hand again Stephen”, as I overbid another hand. Well old habits die hard and I did it again on the last board of the club champs.

I was sitting North, Louise was South and we were playing **Carol Findlay and Maxine Collins**

BOARD 28									
BD: 28		♠K86 ♥KQT754 ♦AKT5 ♣				Dir: W Vul: N-S			
♠AT742 ♥A ♦J73 ♣9875		♠J953 ♥8632 ♦ ♣AKJ42				♠Q ♥J9 ♦Q98642 ♣QT63			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT			
N	1	-	4	3	4		15		
S	1	-	4	3	4		9	7	
E	-	1	-	-	-		9		
W	-	1	-	-	-				

The bidding began with a pass from west, I bid 1H and east passed. South now had a choice of 3 bids depending on your level of experience and how many gadgets you play. Option 1 is to bid 4H, you have a fit in hearts so you add 5 points for your void to your 9HCPs giving you 14TPs which is enough to bid game. Option 2 is to bid 2NT, this is Jacoby 2NT. This shows 4 card support and a hand good enough to make game. And option 3 is bidding 4D. This is a splinter bid which shows 4 card support, a shortage in diamonds, 1 or 0, and 13 to 15 TPs.

Option 1 makes it difficult to know whether partner has a good hand or a weak hand with 5+ hearts. So, generally the bidding will stop at 4H, very good on this particular hand.

Option 2 is a better bid. It tells partner you have a hand good enough for game and gives partner room to describe their hand further to see if slam is possible. The responses to 2NT are 3 of a suit showing shortage, 0 or 1, and 4 of a suit showing 5 cards in that suit too. You can also show how strong you are using 4H, 3NT and 3H showing increasingly stronger hands.

Option 3 is the best bid of all. It describes souths hand perfectly. North then has to decide whether their hand improves or gets worse knowing that south is short in diamonds. You do not want HCPs opposite a shortage, so in this case it is bad news and North should bid 4H.

Louise went with option 2, bidding 2NT, perfectly reasonable. Now this is where I needed to remember Robyn's words of wisdom. Instead, I went wow I have a 20 TP hand and partner has just told me they have a 12+TP hand, sounds like slam time to me.

What I needed to find out from partner was whether they had either Ace of spades or hearts, but I could not work out how to do this, so decided to hope for the best and bid 6H.

A better bid would have been 3C, showing shortage in clubs and then when partner bids 4H stopping.

But I was in love with my hand, there was no stopping me. The fact we were missing 2 aces and Carol & Maxine found their spade ruff, meant down 2 for another bottom!!!! When will I ever learn.....?



Promotions for November 2021 - Congratulations to all the players

McIver, Narelle	Life
Finigan, Jennifer	Bronze State
Anderson, Alan	Bronze State
Taylor, Paddy	State
Macdonald, Kate	Club
Ross, Zac	Club
Klieve, Helen	Club
Nanayakkara, Gemunu	Club
Webster-Mannison, Marci	Graduate

Top 50 Most Improved Players for 2021 Club 4-555 Queensland Contract Bridge Club

[ABF Masterpoints Centre](#)

If you have friends or family wanting to learn bridge, 2022 Beginners Lessons are on the website [Bridge Club Lessons \(qcbc.org.au\)](http://qcbc.org.au)

Merry Christmas everyone & Happy, Healthy, Safe 2022

