

## **Novice News**

### **The Gold Coast Congress Edition March 2022**

**by Stephen Bennett**

What a fantastic event, the best congress in the World. Well, the easiest for QCBC members to get to!! About 50 QCBC novices competed in the various events with some outstanding results. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Gold Coast Congress, it was great fun.

Here is the list of place getters for QCBC in the Novice events.

#### **Sunday Rookie Pairs**

**1<sup>st</sup> EW Helen Klieve & Elizabeth Moran**

**3<sup>rd</sup> EW Lois Munro & Jane Bell**

#### **Tuesday 0-50 MP Pairs**

**1<sup>st</sup> NS Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee**

**1<sup>st</sup> EW Stephen & Louise Bennett**

**3<sup>rd</sup> NS Helen Klieve & Elizabeth Moran**

#### **Thursday 0-50 MP Butler Swiss Pairs**

**1<sup>st</sup> Stephen & Louise Bennett**

#### **Novice Teams**

**1<sup>st</sup> Wendy Cuthbert** teamed up with Lilly Jia, Jenny McGowan and Vanessa Brewis

Special mention to Joyanne who was playing up again!!!

## Restricted Teams

2<sup>nd</sup> Joyanne Gissing teamed up with Raelene Clark, Sally Hall and Rosemary Thomson

## Bridge is like waiting for a bus !

There is a saying, "You wait ages for a bus and then two come along at once." In the afternoon session of the Butler Swiss Pairs Louise & I managed to bid and make not 1, not 2, but 3 slams!!! See how many you would have got.

We were sitting East West for the first session after lunch.

<b>Board 2</b>	♠ 76532	
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥	
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ T73	
	♣ KQT52	
♠ AQT94		♠ KJ8
♥ Q9		♥ AKJ6542
♦ K642		♦ AJ
♣ A3		♣ 7

♠

♥ T873

♦ Q985

♣ J9864

5  
15      17  
3

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	-	-	-
S	3	-	-	-	-
E	-	2	7	6	7
W	-	2	6	7	7

Louise began the bidding 1H and I respond 1S. All pretty easy so far. What is your next bid as East? Is it 2H? If so, you have probably just missed slam. Louise bid 3H which shows 6+ hearts and 16+HCPs. At this point as west, you should start thinking about slam. You have a

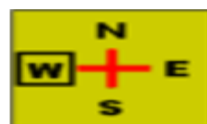
fit in hearts and with 17 total points to go with partners 16+ you are certainly in the slam zone. I opted to bid 4NT and when partner showed 3 keycards, AD and AKH, with all the keycards it was easy to bid 6H making 13 tricks. Four out of the twelve tables bid and made this slam.

Two boards later we were off again. What would you bid as west? With 21 HCPs and a 3 loser hand, I went 2C. North, South passed throughout, as east what would you bid? Some people play a waiting 2D, but we play if you have a good 5 card suit and 8+ HCPs you bid your suit. So, imagine my surprise when Louise bid 2S. I am sitting there with AKQ in spades wondering what is going on. However, this is a brilliant bid that shows wonderful judgement.

**Board 4**  
*Dealer W*  
*Vul Both*

♠ AKQ5  
 ♥ QT98  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ AQT8

♠ J97  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ JT8543  
 ♣ K95



♠ T8643  
 ♥ A7643  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣ 3

♠ 2  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ Q762  
 ♣ J7642

21      6  
       6      7

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	2	-	6	6	5
W	2	-	6	6	6

I like spades and bid 3S, no need to rush we are in a game forcing auction. Louise is not satisfied with game and now shows her other suit bidding 4H. I think she must have 5 spades and 4 good hearts with the AK. If that is so, slam looks pretty likely in spades or hearts, so I bid 4NT. Louise shows 1 keycard, so we are missing the A or K in hearts. For her initial 2S bid she must have either K of diamonds or clubs. So, slam still looks promising and I bid 6H. After careful play in the hearts, low to the Q and then cash the A and ruffing 3 club losers Louise made 12 tricks just losing a trick to the KH. Only two of the twelve tables found this slam. Note that I could have made partners life easier by bidding 6S at the end, sorry partner.

In the next session we were sitting North South. I opened 1NT, we bid this even with a 5 card major. Louise responds 2D and I transfer to 2H. What bid would you make next? Louise wants to keep the bidding going, she is looking for another slam, so makes a sensible 3D bid. This makes me bid again, and Louise can find out a bit more about my hand. I can now show support for her hearts and bid 3H. Louise knows we need to explore slam with her 20 total points and my 15+ points. She bids 4NT and when I respond 5S, 2 keycards with the QH, Louise bids 6H. The key to bringing this slam home is ruffing a diamond loser or 2 in dummy.

### Board 13

Dealer N

Vul Both

♠ K9863

♥ 64

♦ J5

♣ T753

♠ AT754

♥ Q82

♦ AK

♣ Q86



♠ Q2

♥ T97

♦ Q943

♣ J942

♠ J

♥ AKJ53

♦ T8762

♣ AK

Makeable contracts

15  
4 5  
16

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	5	7	4	5
S	3	5	7	4	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Only two out of the twelve tables bid and made this slam.

And finally, the one that got away. After 3 passes I opened 2C and partner bid 2S. I remember thinking we should be in slam, but I was concerned about a

heart lead through my K and chickened out. I bid 4S and the bidding stopped there. Louise, spotting the need to throw a heart loser on my extra club winner, made 12 tricks. I believe I was suffering from the rare condition of slam bidding fatigue. Just for the record, if I had not been suffering from this rare condition, I should bid 3S. This is using the principal of fast arrival, where 3S is a stronger bid than 4S. This gives Louise a chance to bid her suit controls, we play 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round control. So, Louise would bid 4H this shows no control in clubs or diamonds and AH as I have the KH. I should bid 4NT and when Louise shows 2 keycards without the QS, I bid 6S.

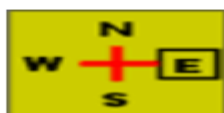
### Board 10

Dealer E

Vul Both

♠ 93  
♥ Q95  
♦ J854  
♣ 8753

♠ KQJ8  
♥ KT32  
♦ KQ  
♣ AKQ



♠ AT762  
♥ A86  
♦ T32  
♣ 42

♠ 54  
♥ J74  
♦ A976  
♣ JT96

23  
3 6  
8

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	3	5	6	5
S	2	3	5	6	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Three tables bid and made this slam.

So, what are the lessons from these boards? Don't be afraid to bid slams. Also, we should use a positive response more often after partner opens 2C. Don't just wait for the perfect hand, 2 of the top 3 honours in a 5 card suit and 8 plus HCPs. Use your judgement instead, a 5 card suit and a couple of winners seems to do the trick. And remember bidding and making slam is lots of fun, give it a go.

### Upcoming Events

**6<sup>th</sup> March – Toowong Novice Matchpoint Pairs**

**26<sup>th</sup> March – Surfers Paradise Novice Matchpoint Pairs**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April – Redland Novice Teams**

**And finally bidding is a conversation – make sure you are speaking the same language.**

Bidding comes down to partnership agreement, not just your personal preference!!! Both of you must understand what your bids mean. See if you agree with your partner in the following bidding situations;

1. Repeating a suit, does it promise 6+? E.g. 1H / 1S / 2H. Has partner always got 6 hearts? What about in the minors? 1D / 1S / 2D, is that showing 6 diamonds?
2. 1NT opening, can it include a 5 card major?
3. When opener responds 1NT is it a balanced hand? E.g. 1D / 1S / 1NT.
4. Opener's response, will you support partners 1 major with 3 card support? E.g. 1D / 1S / 2S. Is partner promising 4 card or 3 card support?

There are no right or wrong answers, it comes down to partnership agreement. Why is this so important? Because, you will learn to trust and understand partner's bidding and get into the right contract more often. And if you are really lucky, it may help you bid and make a slam.



Helen Klieve & Liz Moran

Sunday Rookie Pairs - 1<sup>st</sup> EW



**Louise & Stephen - Winners of 0-50 Tuesday Pairs (EW)**



**Jacinta & Debbie - Winners of 0-50 Tuesday Pairs (NS)**



**Winners of the 0-50 MP Butler Swiss Pairs:**  
Louise Bennet – Stephen Bennett

**Note: Stephen's winning shirt!**



**2022 RUNNERS UP  
RESTRICTED GCC TEAMS**



**Rosemary Thomson, Joyanne Gissing, Sally Hall, Raelene Clark**

**2022 WINNERS  
NOVICE GCC TEAMS**



**Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Wendy Cuthbert, Lilly Jia**