

Novice News – November 2021 by Stephen Bennett

Last Sunday **Joyanne Gissing & Raelene Clark** came 3rd in the B Grade at the **Caloundra Graded Pairs**. What an excellent result.

On the 20th October at the **Noosa Novice Pairs**, **Chris Green** played with his partner from Caloundra BC and finished above their seeding, well done.

QCBC had 3 teams in the **BBC Novice Matchpoint Pairs** on the 17th October. **Carol Findlay & Jenny Thompson, Jamshid Vazirzadeh & Afi Baghaei and Mike Martin & Graeme King** all played well.

At the beginning of the month the **QLD Open was held at QCBC**. There were a few novice players brave enough to play with the big boys. In the **Pairs event**, **Jacinta Lee** teamed up with her mother and **Joyanne Gissing & Lou Stanley** played together, all doing really well. And in the **Team event**, **Joyanne Gissing** was part of the winning team in their section. Another fantastic result.

New books in the library.

QCBC have bought a number of new books recently. I have been lucky enough to read a couple of them, here are my thoughts.

Do you get your car serviced on a regular basis? Most people do, to make sure that it is running smoothly and there are no problems. Well, the latest book by **Barbara Seagram, Barbara's Bridge Tips** is like putting your bridge game in for a service. By reading this book you get to realise all the things you don't know or thought you knew. As with all her books, it is easy to read and packed full of great tips. The book is split into three parts, bidding, declarer play and defence. At the end of each part there is a quiz to see if you have taken the tips on board. I highly recommend this book to all Novice players.

"Learn from the mistakes of others, you can never live long enough to make them all yourself." Wise words from Groucho Marx. The next book **Winning at the Club by Matthew Thomson** goes through over 100 boards that club players made mistakes on. It is fascinating to see the common errors club players make, and even more interesting to see how many you would have made!!! Matthew goes through the boards in detail explaining the key issues and the thought process you should have adopted. The boards are in date order, but there is a thematic index at the back, which is very useful. What did I learn? Quite a few

things, but I won't spoil it for you. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to Novice players that had been playing for a few years.

Warning, what you are about to see should never be tried at a bridge table!!!!!!

As my partner and I improve, we have been getting fewer bottom boards than we used to. So, I took it upon myself to invent some new ways to get a bottom.

BOARD 13									
BD: 13			♠ AT5			Dir: N			
			♥ A3			Vul: ALL			
			♦ Q862						
			♣ AQ98						
♠ K86						♠ 4			
♥ KQ954						♥ J62			
♦ J54						♦ AKT			
♣ J7						♣ KT6543			
			♠ QJ9732						
			♥ T87						
			♦ 973						
			♣ 2						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT				
N	-	1	-	2	-	16			
S	-	1	-	2	-	10		11	
E	2	-	3	-	2	3			
W	2	-	3	-	2				

Louise and I were sitting North South, playing against Deanne Gaskill and Oliver Goodman. All straight forward to start with, I opened 1NT and Deanne bid 2C. I asked what that meant and was told it was natural. Louise bid 2H, which is a transfer to spades. Now I forgot that we play system on where possible, so took it as a natural bid. I thought Louise had 10+ points and 5+ hearts. So, after pass from Oliver, I jumped to 3NT. I was then asked what the heart bid meant and said natural. Oliver then doubled and all passes. When dummy came down, Oliver called the director. Richard Fox asked me what our system was over interference, eventually I remembered. I had transgressed and broken Law No 20 regarding Explanation of Calls. As luck would have it, we got such a bad score that no additional penalty was needed. The lesson for me is to know your system really well, sorry partner.

Not content with that blunder, I managed to crank up the stupidity on this next board. My poor partner Louise and I were sitting East West this time.

D 12

N Letona 3+
 ♠ AK
 ♥ K652
 ♦ K63
 ♣ Q1097

W lowto 4
 ♠ QJ1085
 ♥ 7
 ♦ QJ10
 ♣ K843

E LouBennett 3+
 ♠ 432
 ♥ QJ93
 ♦ A9
 ♣ AJ62

S A Laurich 4
 ♠ 976
 ♥ A1084
 ♦ 87542
 ♣ 5

Bids:
 W: Pass
 N: 1NT
 E: Pass
 S: 2♥ (highlighted)
 W: 2♥ (highlighted)
 N: Pass
 E: Pass
 S: Pass

Score:
 0 0
 2♥ West

So again, all starts normally, North opens 1NT, Louise passes and South bids 2C. They must have played garbage Stayman. So, I remembered that we play system on over interference and bid 2H transfer to spades. Can you see the problem here? Unfortunately, it was not partner who had opened 1NT, it was the opponents!!!! Should have gone to Specsavers!!! Well North and South couldn't pass fast enough and poor old partner thought we had a 9 card fit. 3 off for another bottom. "Experience is the name we give our mistakes" Oscar Wilde. Well, the way I am going I will be very experienced soon. Here's to gaining loads of experience.

Upcoming Events

November 14th Toowoomba Novice Teams.

November 28th Toowong Graded Matchpoint Pairs.

December 11th QCBC Club Pairs Championships. We only need to get 8 Novice Pairs to have our own separate section.

And for those of you who went along to the wonderful Balancing lesson Richard gave last week, don't forget there are two more coming your way this month on the 13th November, Bidding over 1NT and 20th November on Reverse Bids.

OCTOBER PROMOTIONS

Langdon, Rachel	Silver Life
Gibson, Wendy	Bronze Life
Bennett, Stephen	Silver Local
De Borah, Anna	Silver Local
Bolger, Christine	Silver Local
Martin, Mike	Bronze Local
Carroll, Debbie	Bronze Local
Lee, Jacinta	Local
Baghaei, Aflatoon	Club
King, Graeme	Club
Harkin, John	Club
Prowse, Tim	Club
Jensen, Christine	Graduate
Moloney, Nicky	Graduate

SEPTEMBER PROMOTIONS

Williams, Jenny	Gold Life
Bennett, Louise	Bronze Local
Leggo, Peter	Local
Leggo, Daphne	Local
Stanley, John	Club
Munro, Lois	Club
Lock, Ian	Graduate
Ellerby, Peter	Graduate

AUGUST PROMOTIONS

Bensted, Frances	Bronze Regional
Gissing, Joyanne	Silver Local
Morgan-Pertus Thais	Silver Local
Navruk, Julie	Silver Local
Stanley, Lou	Silver Local
Fredericks, Peter	Local
Neuss, Jenny	Club
Baghaei, Aflatoon	Graduate
Bell, Jane	Graduate
Davis, Paul	Graduate
Kay, Phil	Graduate

JULY PROMOTIONS

North, Carolyn	Regional
MacGregor, Leonie	Club
Harkin, John	Graduate
Oprysa, Anna	Graduate