



Bumper Christmas Novice News by Stephen Bennett

I do believe that QCBC is the best place in the country to be a Novice Bridge player. After the recent results, it appears that I may be right!!!!



12th November – Brisbane Interclub Teams held @ QCBC

This is a wonderful event that pits all the Brisbane clubs against each other. There are 3 sections Open, Restricted and Novice.

QCBC was represented in the Novice section by;

1st Debbie Carroll, Jacinta Lee, Louise & Stephen Bennett

4th House Team of Helen Klieve, Phil Kay, Carol Findlay and Simon Byrne.

QCBC won the combined prize too, well done QCBC.

26th November Toowong Graded Matchpoint Pairs – C Grade

9th = Carol Findlay and Jenny Thompson

Playing against a number of more experienced pairs, well done.

3rd December Redland Open Pairs

Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos did a great job playing against the big boys in this event.

12th December Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout Finals

QCBC won the Novice section of this National online event that was played over 6 months of tough competition.

QCBC were represented by **Jacinta Lee, Debbie Carroll, Louise & Stephen Bennett.**

A really well run event, that is lots of fun. There is an under 50 MP section too. Perhaps we can win both sections next year!!!!

16th December Christmas Pairs at QCBC

7 QCBC Novice pairs took part in this new exciting event. A total of 56 pairs entered this Open event. Special mention goes to;

5th in C section (29th overall) Lois Munro & Anna De Borah

8th (38th overall) Sue & Peter Green

10th (42nd overall) Clive Terry & Richard Huysmans

And an honourable mention to;

**Carol Findlay & Jenny Thompson, Marguerite Manifold & Christine Jensen,
Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos and Sandra Lawrence & Anna Oprysa.**

Well done everyone, it looked like lots of fun.



Three different blunders, just another word for bottoms.

In the final of the Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout, I made 3 different kinds of blunders, they get increasing more stupid.

Here is the first one. Louise and I were sitting East West. After South passed, what do you think west should do?

I hope you think this is a straight forward 2D bid showing 6 diamonds and 6-10 HCPs. That is what Louise did.

After a pass from north it came to me. What do you fancy? I think there are 3 potential options, 2H, 2NT and 3NT.

As it happens 2H would get you to the best 4H contract.

If I had bid 2NT, we play Ogust with responses of 3C 1 top card and minimum, 3D 2 top cards minimum, 3H 1 top card and max, 3S 2 top cards and max.

Partner would reply 3D and I could have gone 3H and we may have found 4H.

Board 15Dealer S
Vul N-S

♠ Q754

♥ K9

♦ A83

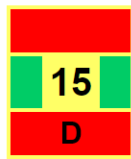
♣ J873

♠ 98

♥ J75

♦ KQT975

♣ 42



♠ 632

♥ QT4

♦ J6

♣ KT965

♠ AKJT

♥ A8632

♦ 42

♣ AQ

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	-	1
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	4	2	-
W	-	4	3	2	-

10
6 18
6

[Click on the table number to display the match results](#)

[Click on the contract to display the movie where available](#)

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
1	4♥	E	♣10	-450	-11
2	3NT	E	♣6	50	11

However, I looked at my hand saw 4 certain winners outside diamonds and 5 if they lead a black suit. With 2 diamonds I thought we could get 5 tricks there and so went 3NT. I really did not think much of my hearts, so did not consider that 4H may be the best contract.

After a club lead, north holding up his A diamonds until the 3rd round and then playing back a club I knew I was in trouble. This was confirmed when I could not use JH as my entry to west's diamond winners. I managed to make 8 tricks for down 1.

I did have a chance to make my contract, can you see how?

If after winning the Q of clubs at trick 1, I played low to the KD, low spade to the J, low to the QD and north needs to hold up their A here. I can then play low to the 10 in spades and cash my AKS, AH and AC. Teams is all about making your contract. When things look bleak you need to try and find a play that gives you a chance.

However, our opponents found the 4 heart contract. They did this by not bidding 2D by west and then east opens 1H and they get to 4H.

The next blunder was defending. Here is the hand;

The opponents bidding is pretty interesting. I like the 1NT from East, yes it has 6 clubs and 2 doubles, but the spade double has a stopper. I would do the same.

West's transfer looks fine even with those ratty spades, there are 5 of them. West then invites showing 8-9 HCPs and East hopes that his long clubs come in and goes to 3NT.

	N Stephen Bennett#1 ♠ A8 ♥ Q852 ♦ J10654 ♣ 104	W N E S P P 1NT P 2♥ P 2♠ P 2NT P 3NT P P P
	W Rae#Duffy ♠ 76543 ♥ AKJ ♦ 82 ♣ 763	E David Lardner#14 ♠ KQ ♥ 1074 ♦ K3 ♣ AK9852
	S Louise Bennett#1 ♠ J1092 ♥ 963 ♦ AQ97 ♣ QJ	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

Louise is on lead, what would you do?

You have a lovely sequence in spades but west has told you they have 5. You could lead a heart, passive. A diamond lead does not look good, you want north to lead towards your diamonds. Clubs does not look good either.

Well Louise made the best lead which was..... the JS. It comes round to me, what do I know? I am placing Louise with 4 spades, east with a double, probably KQ. The opponents have about 25HCPs, I have 7, so partner has 8. They must be in the minors.

OK, so on trick 1 what are you going to do? Win the A or play low? The right thing to do is rise with the AS and switch to diamonds. You can then take the first 6 tricks for 2 off.

In teams you can be more aggressive in your defence than you would be in pairs. Remember you are trying to get them off their contract, you don't mind so much if they make an overtrick.

I decided to duck the first round, which they won. After cashing 6 clubs and 2 hearts they were rather relieved to make their contract.

One of the first things you learn when defending is “Third hand high”. Perhaps I need to revisit the basics of defence.

Our partners found the much safer 2C contract, making 10 tricks.



As promised, I have left the best, or worst, till last.

One of the key requirements in a bridge partnership is that both you and partner know your system and play your system on every single board.

Unfortunately, in the heat of battle one of us forgot we play 4 suit transfers!!!

Here is the board;

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">22</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 12px;">D</div>	N	Bob Jones#8963	W	N	E	S
	♠ K1097			1NT	P	
♥ KQ654			2NT	P	3NT	P
♦ J2			P	P		
♣ Q9						
W		Louise Bennett#1	E		Stephen Bennett	
♠ A6			♠	J832		
♥ 7			♥	A109		
♦ Q97654			♦	A10		
♣ 10765			♣	AK82		
	S	Susan Jones#89				
♠ Q54						
♥ J832						
♦ K83						
♣ J43						
			3NT	E	NS: 0	EW: 0

A straightforward 1NT bid by me, and Louise responds 2NT.

Under our system we play 4 suit transfers, so that shows 6+ diamonds and asks me to transfer to diamonds. Great bid partner.

I forgot and took it as an invite showing 8-9 HCPs. In teams you always want to try and bid game, especially when you are vulnerable, they are worth more. So, I bid 3NT.

I realised my mistake when dummy came down. OK is there a play where I could make this contract? Yes, with a little help from the opponents.

South lead 2H to partners K. If I duck and then North plays the QH and South plays the 3, they have blocked the hearts. North would be left with 654 in hearts and cannot regain the lead in hearts opposite J8.

If I were to play the diamonds carefully, play the 10 first hoping that South puts up the K. If they do, they would make 3 hearts and a diamond. But I would make the rest.

However, I was still disappointed with my mistake and played the hand poorly for 4 down.

Good players don't do this, they make the best of the situation they find themselves in.

For novice players moving on quickly from mistakes is a necessary skill to acquire.

You may wonder with all my blunders how we won the final?

Well, Debbie, Jacinta and Louise all played brilliantly. Thank you team, it is always a pleasure playing with you.

The Magic of Defense by Barbara Seagram with Caroline Sydor

Review by Joan Jenkins

Baron Barclay bridge supply 2023. 308 pages

This book provides clear straightforward coverage of the basics of defence. It caters for developing players. The language is informal and easy to follow. It would be a useful reminder and reinforcement for all players.

The presentation includes details on procedures such as leads, signaling, count, unblocking, and ruffing. Chapters are listed in the Table of Contents allowing

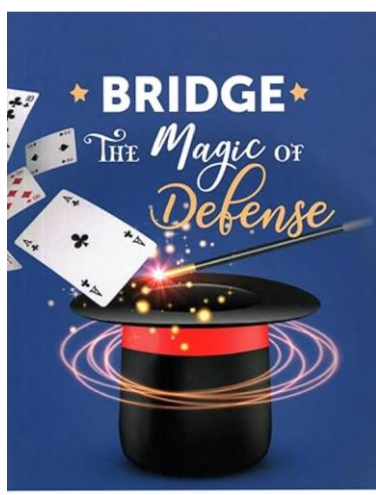
quick access to the topic of interest. The text is supported by examples of situations which occur frequently. Quizzes and summaries support the explanations.

Headings within chapters alert the reader to exceptions and partner agreements. Advice about delaying taking on board more complicated aspects is included.

I found it very helpful.

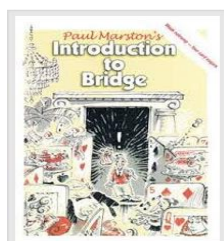
Thanks Joan, for that wonderful review, hopefully there will be more in the future.

And Toni has a few copies of this wonderful book available, if you want to buy it for Christmas for yourself or your partner!!!!



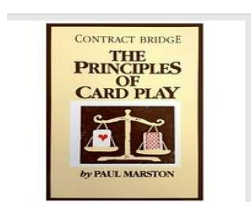
First 5 bridge books to read and buy for Christmas!

1. Introduction to Bridge by Paul Marston



You should have received a copy of this book when you had beginner lessons at QCBC. Make sure you understand this book completely.

2. The Principles of Card Play by Paul Marston



This is an easy read. It goes through the basics of card play from a declarer point of view and starts looking at defensive card play too.

3. The language of bidding by Paul Marston



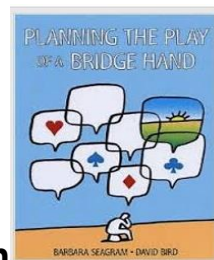
This should be your go to book when you have a bidding issue. Do not try to read this from cover to cover. Read the chapters as the need arises.

4. Planning the

I wish I had read this book earlier. It makes planning the play of a bridge hand simple. It is a really important habit to get into as soon as you can. Everyone should read this book.

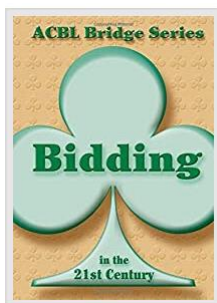
Barbara

Play of a Bridge hand by



Seagram

5. Bidding in the 21st Century: ACBL Bridge Series by Audrey Grant



This is the first in a series of books which go through the basics of bridge in a clear and understandable way. This book is mainly about bidding.

All I want for Christmas is.....

Are you looking for a gift for a bridge playing friend, or do you just want to buy something for yourself? Here are few ideas;

1. One or more of the bridge books mentioned above.
2. A subscription to Australian Bridge (Club Edition), this is for Novice players and has some great articles in.
3. A Joan Butts Bridge subscription.
4. A Bernard McGee subscription. Warning he is English and plays ACOL, but is brilliant.



Upcoming Events

14th January - QCBC Graded Pairs Incorporating a Novice Grade.

17th – 24th February - Gold Coast Congress

Events for everyone from beginner upwards.

3rd March – Toowong X-IMP Novice Pairs

And Finally.....

Why do I love playing bridge, especially at QCBC?

Because it keeps you humble.

Fresh from our National victory Louise & I went into the Saturday afternoon session. Toni made an announcement about our success. People were very complimentary.

They proceeded to give us a bit of a thrashing. Clearly there is still a lot to learn from this wonderful game.

Keep learning and keep playing at QCBC.

Winning Team – Debbie, Jacinta, Louise & Stephen





Behaviours we want to encourage / discourage.

- 1. Greeting your opponents when you sit down / they come to the table.** Great if you can remember their names, if not and you are sitting north, look at your bridgemate to help you.
- 2. Thank your opponents at the end of your boards with them.**
- 3. Don't comment / discuss the boards during the session.** Why not?
 - Other people have to play the board and may overhear your comments.
 - It can slow the play down.
 - It may be rude towards the opposition or your partner. E.g. "We got a top on that board partner." So guess how your opponents did on that board? It is a form of gloating. "Oh partner everyone else made that contract." Partner probably knows they stuffed up, now they feel even worse, probably not the best way to get partner to play their best for the rest of the session.
- 4. Compliment people on good bidding / play.**
- 5. Thank partner when they put down dummy** - even if it is a load of rubbish!!!!
- 6. Don't try and rush people when they are thinking, it is a thinking game.**
 - Looking at your watch is rude, don't do it.
 - Strumming your fingers is annoying.
 - Loud sighing is not nice.
- 7. Have fun and enjoy your bridge.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL &
A HEALTHY, HAPPY 2024**