

Novice News – August 2023 by Stephen Bennett

It is great to see QCBC members competing in so many events over the last month, well done.

BBC Graded Teams – Sunday 30th July

14th Carol Findlay, Jenny Thompson, Eve Sirigos & Chris Ferguson

Gold Coast Novice Pairs – Sunday 13th August

11th Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos

QLD Graded Teams – Toowong Sunday 20th August

2nd Louise Bennett, Debbie Carroll, Jacinta Lee & Stephen Bennett

QLD Graded Pairs – QCBC Saturday 2nd September



2nd in C Grade

Lois Munro & Anna de Borah

Kenmore <50mp & Novice Pairs

3rd <100mp Carol Findlay & Simon Byrne

The QLD Graded Teams & Pairs

These events are both open to players with up to 150 MPs. However, in both events the top 2 places were filled by Novice players. So, put these events in your diary for next year.

Extra mentoring

Janeen Solomon will be at the club 2nd & 4th Wednesday nights about 6pm for mentoring.

If you have a hand or convention you would like to discuss, email Janeen earlier and she is happy to discuss bidding with you on Wednesday nights.

Janeen is also running **coaching sessions** to improve partnerships.

Choose the topic, find 8 and set a date. These sessions are for partners that want to improve their game, learning more about bidding, conventions, constructive and competitive auctions. These sessions would suit 4 or 8 players of similar standard. You can choose the topic and work out a day and time with Janeen. Lessons are 2 hours and include instruction and play. The cost: 4 people \$20 a head 8 people \$15 a head.

Janeen's email address: chess_bridge@hotmail.com

2023 American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year

Advancing Beginner – Step by Step : Playing Suit Contracts by Robert Berthe & Norbert Lebely.



I wrote a glowing review of this book in the June edition of Novice News. One of the key ideas it uses is counting your winners, even in suit contracts. Why is that so important? This board shows quite well what can go wrong when you don't count your winners!!!!

BOARD 17						
BD: 17		♠ Q4	Dir: N			
		♥ KQ8	Vul: Nil			
		♦ AT4				
		♣ J7642				
♠ T976			♠ AKJ3			
♥ A93			♥ T762			
♦ KQJ962			♦			
♣			♣ AK983			
		♠ 852				
		♥ J54				
		♦ 8753				
		♣ QT5				
	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT		
N					12	
S					10 15	
E	3	6	5	7	4	3
W	3	6	5	7	4	

Louise & I sitting East, West managed to get to 4 spades west. So, counting losers I could see 1 in spades, so long as the trumps are 3-2, 2 in hearts and 1 in diamonds. After the K hearts was led, which I won with my A, I decided to take a finesse in spades if that won clear trumps and throw my losing hearts on the AK of clubs, easy. Can you see the mistake I made? I had not established my diamonds and with only one entry I could not get to them once they were established!!!!

If instead of counting losers, I had counted winners, I may have avoided this mess up. I would hope for a 3,2 trump split and count 4 tricks in spades, AK and the last spade in each hand wins a trick. A heart and AK of clubs and QJ of diamonds, once established, making 9 tricks. Once the spade finesse works you can see your 10 tricks, remembering to establish the diamond tricks early on.

There is a copy of this book in the library, along with the equally good no trump edition.

Perhaps they would be good as a late Father's Day present.

Bridge is a beautiful game.

Occasionally when you and partner are in perfect sync, bridge is a beautiful game to play. The other day at the club there was an example of what I mean.

We were sitting East, West.

BOARD 18					
BD: 18		♠ K9872		Dir: E	
		♥ 74		Vul: NS	
		♦ J6			
		♣ 9753			
♠ 3				♠ AQJ54	
♥ KJ32				♥ T986	
♦ KQT52				♦ 84	
♣ J62				♣ Q4	
		♠ T6			
		♥ AQ5			
		♦ A973			
		♣ AKT8			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1				4
S	2				10 9
E		1	3	1	1
W		1	3	1	1
				17	

The bidding started fairly straight forwardly, pass from Louise, 1NT by south, pass by me and now it is north to bid. Most people would transfer to spades, but at our table north passed. If it was passed out, that is a better contract than 2S, one off instead of 2. But Louise was never going to pass. We play 2C means 5,4 in the majors, which Louise bid. I alerted that bid, but did not explain what it meant, I was not asked. Worth noting, you only explain alerted bids when you are asked. South passed and I bid 2H, just saying hearts are better for me. North now bid 2S. East and South passed. With the 2S bid by North it would have been easy to assume that partner had 5 hearts and 4 spades and bid 3 hearts. But I decided to leave the decision to partner and doubled. With 5 lovely spades partner could not pass quickly enough. So, the final contract was 2SX by north. Making only 6 tricks for 500 points and a top for us. Bridge really is a beautiful game.

Upcoming Events

17th September Redlands Graded Pairs

17th September Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs

24th September QLD Teams of 3 at Northern Suburbs

A great way to pick up some tips whilst enjoying playing bridge.

1st October Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs

7&8 October Qld Festival of Bridge Teams

8&9 October Qld Festival of Bridge Pairs

(this event is not graded but there are prizes for best restricted & best novice pair & teams.)

And Finally

The Bridge World Championships have just finished. To win the Championship you needed to play bridge for 14 days running!!!!!!

Am I trying to put you off dreaming big? No far from it. Now I will go out on a limb and say none of us will have this issue, but you may play in the Gold Coast Novice Teams event. That is a 3 day event.

So how do you keep your levels of concentration for that period.

Firstly, relax when you can. If you are dummy relax. Don't try and follow the play, what is the point, you can't do anything about it.

Secondly, know your system really well. Do you play systems on or off when the pesky opponents interfere. Write your system down so that you are both playing the same system.

Thirdly, pace yourself over the period. You should try to be playing as well at the end as the beginning. Maybe this means having some mints in the afternoon, or a lighter lunch so you don't feel like having a nap.

ABF Rank Promotions for QCBC - July 2023

Rebecca Birdsall Local Master

Peter Fredericks Silver Local

Ryan Stevens Silver Local

Mike Martin Regional

Fenna Cooper State

Greg Kerswell Bronze State

Jamshid Vazirzadeh National

Promotions August 2023

Lech Kaszubski	Grand Master
Sarah Strickland	Silver Life
Kathy Males	Bronze Life
Lauren Morgan	State
Oliver McCarthy	State
Sue Green	Bronze Local
Gemunu Nanayakkara	Local
Brian Weigel	Graduate

This is a link for the Novice & Rookie events at the 2024 GCC.

[NOVICE EVENTS AT CONGRESS.pdf \(myabf.com.au\)](#)