

Novice News – March 2023 by Stephen Bennett

QCBC had a sensational **Gold Coast Congress**, with over 50 novice pairs taking part, there were a number of wonderful results.

Bobby Richman Novice Pairs



Zac Ross & Kate MacDonald

Overall winners of Novice Pairs



Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee

1st in the B section



Liz Moran & Helen Klieve

2nd 0-50 MP Pairs


1st 0-50MP Butler Swiss Pairs

Thursday Rookie Pairs

4th **Christine Jensen & Sandra Lawrence.**

Novice Teams

Best Mixed Team (5th overall) **Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee, Louise & Stephen Bennett.**

 **Congratulations to all the QCBC pairs, make sure you enter early for this world class event as it does get booked up.**

QCBC sessions are open during Easter - Friday 10am, Saturday 1pm & Monday 10am

Monday PM is cancelled.

Coming events

Sunday 9 April	BBC Easter Graded Pairs
Monday 10 April	BBC Graded Teams
Sunday 23 April	Toowong Novice Pairs
Tuesday 25 April	QCBC Anzac Day Teams
Sunday 7 May	QBA Novice Pairs (Sunnybank)



Australia Wide Novice Pairs will be held at QCBC

Monday 7pm - May 29

Tuesday 10am - May 30

Can you pass your partner's takeout double?

Clearly the only time you would consider this is when you have length in the opponent's bid suit. But when is it correct to leave the double in and when should you bid something?


In the Bridge Bulletin at the Gold Coast Congress there was a great article that gave you some guidance.

1. Take the level of the contract.
2. Add the number of cards you hold in their trump suit.
3. Add the number of honours you hold in their trump suit.
4. If it comes to 9 or more you can leave the double in, otherwise bid something.
- 5.

There were a couple of hands in the Teams event where this guidance was useful. Louise & I were sitting North, South playing against **Louise Purdie & Kris Sullivan**.

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Board 27 ♠ AKJ983
Dealer S ♥ A5
Vul None ♦ AJ
 ♣ J92

♠ Q76542		♠ T
♥ Q643		♥ KJ82
♦ K4		♦ QT5
♣ 7		♣ KT853

♠
 ♥ T97
 ♦ 987632
 ♣ AQ64

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
18	N	2	3	-	2	2
7	S	2	3	-	2	2
	E	-	-	1	-	-
	W	-	-	1	-	-

After 2 passes, the bidding came to me. 18 HCPs and 6 spades, it is a straight forward 1 spade bid. Louise Purdie sitting East has support for the 3 unbid suits, has 4 hearts and just 1 spade. Yes, she only has 9 HCPs, but with some 10's and at non vul it was good to double. South can either pass or bid 1NT showing her 6 HCPs, what would you do? Luckily Louise decided to pass, if she had not I would have probably bid


3NT!!! Kris sitting West has a tricky decision here. Using the guidance from the article;

1. Level of contract = 1.
2. Number of spades = 6.
3. Honours in spades = 1.
4. Totals 8, so you should bid.

With 6 trumps it is understandable why she decided to leave the double in for penalties. Feeling fairly confident I could make 1 spade I passed. Louise & Kris defended well and I only made my contract.

Our partners Jacinta Lee & Debbie Carroll were sitting East West on this hand.

Board 23 ♠ KQJ6
Dealer S ♥ K9752
Vul Both ♦
 ♣ 9832

♠ AT4		♠ 9752
♥ A86		♥ QJT3
♦ QT872		♦ AJ
♣ 64		♣ AT7

♠ 83
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K96543
 ♣ KQJ5

	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	N	2	-	-	-
10	S	2	-	-	-
12	E	-	1	-	1
9	W	-	1	1	-

South opens the bidding, what would you do? There are 3 options that you may have considered, pass, 1D and 2D. You don't have opening points, you only have 9 HCPs and it does not satisfy the rule of 20, HCPs and 2 longest suits come to 19. However, you have a 6 loser hand and very nice clubs. A tough choice, South decided to bid 2D. Debbie sitting West passed as did North. Jacinta sitting East had an easy double to make which comes round to Debbie. So, using the guidance again;

1. Level of the contract = 2.
2. Cards in diamonds = 5.
3. Number of honours in diamonds = 2 (includes 10)
4. Totals 9, so pass.

Debbie passed and managed to restrict them to 5 tricks for 3 off doubled vulnerable. A great decision to leave the double in.

Perhaps this will give you the confidence to leave some takeout doubles in going forward!!!!!!!

Super Bennett's Bottom

When you are playing match points if you have a bad board the worst you can get is 0%. However, when you are playing IMPs, the scoring for teams, you can get really awful scores on a bad hand. Louise & I were playing North South against Debbie & Jacinta playing IMPs when we got a Super Bennett's Bottom!!!!!!! I think it is the worst board we have ever played. But there were a number of lessons to come out of the board, so it was not wasted.

Debbie opened the bidding with a pass and I followed with a pass. Jacinta sitting East bid 1H and Louise had to decide what to bid. What would you bid? Louise with 18 HCPs decided to double and then bid her suit, this shows a big hand. Debbie with 5 hearts bid straight to 4H, a weak bid to get in our way. I thought the double was for takeout and with 5 spades and nothing in hearts I bid 4S. Jacinta passed and Louise then bid her suit 5D. I was still thinking the double was for takeout and the 5D bid was a cue bid showing 1st or 2nd round control in diamonds and no control in clubs. So, with 2 losers in clubs, I bid 5S. With 4 spades, Debbie doubled for penalties. If I had played it perfectly, I would have gone 4 off, but I ended going 6 off for minus 1700. Where did it all go wrong?

<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> D 4 </div>	N lowto ♠ KQ974 ♥ 9 ♦ 854 ♣ Q976	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1♥	X	4♥	4♠	P	5♦	P	5♠	P	P	X	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
P	P	1♥	X																			
4♥	4♠	P	5♦																			
P	5♠	P	P																			
X	P	P	P																			
W Debbie59 ♠ J653 ♥ J10643 ♦ 2 ♣ 532	E cosilee ♠ A108 ♥ AQ8752 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 8																					
S LouBennett ♠ 2 ♥ K ♦ AK10763 ♣ AKJ104	5♠x N NS: 0 EW: 0																					

Clearly the double by Louise was the problem as I took it to mean one thing and Louise meant something else. Could Louise have bid something differently? With her hand 2NT would have been a more descriptive bid showing 5,5 in the 2 lowest unbid suits, clubs and diamonds here. After my 4S bid and Louise bids 5D I think I should have realised it was not a cue bid and she was just bidding her suit. With nothing in clubs why was she looking for slam? These are the hands that you remember for a long time!!!!!!!!!!



And Finally

Whenever I buy a new board game, I read the rules. Isn't it interesting that most of us have never read the rules of bridge!!!!

And that is why it is so important to call the Director when something happens that should not. A bid out of turn can result in a number of benefits for the non-offending pair.

I am often surprised by the Director's ruling. But remember they have read the rules and you have not. Perhaps it would be a good idea to read the rules one day!!!!