



Novice News – December 2022 by Stephen Bennett

Last Saturday in the **QCBC Novice Pairs Championship** 14 pairs battled it out for the ultimate prize. 1st was **Jenny & Carol Findlay**, 2nd **Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee** and 3rd **Chris Green & Graeme King**. And a special encouragement award went to **Kathy Van Geest & Leonie Swann**. Congratulations to you all.



At the **Toowong Graded Pairs** on the **27th November** **Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee** showed amazing determination to come from last place after 3 rounds to finish up 3rd out of 22 pairs in the C section. Fantastic performance.

There have been many events since the last Novice News. There is not enough room to go through all the QCBC success stories, but I will just mention a couple that caught my eye.

The **QBA Single Session Teams of 3**, QCBC won all three sections. Congratulations to all the winners;

Section A – Helen Klieve, Mike Martin, Graeme King and Richard Fox

Section B – Zorica Sipka, Valeri Barakin, Simon Byrne and Ross Murtagh

Section C – Gustavo Sauchez, Jill McTaggart, Nari Blackett and Robyn Clark

In the **QLD Teams of 3**, QCBC came 2nd in the A section and won the B section.

Section A – Michael Martin, Jennifer Finigan, Jamshid Vazirzadeh and Jan Peach

Section B – Kris Sullivan, Carol Findlay, Jenny Thompson and Richard Fox

Congratulations, it is wonderful to see so many QCBC Novices doing well.

Bennett's Bottoms

In bridge **you win or you learn**. And when you get a bottom, there is normally a lot to learn. Here is a board from the **QCBC Novice Pairs Championships**. Louise and I were playing East, West and North, South were **Carol Findlay and Jenny Thompson**. West passed and then North bid an adventurous 2S which East doubled. South, then bid 3S, interesting. I was sitting West and had to decide what to do. What would you do? Remember that partner has doubled so is showing an opening hand, normally 4 hearts and shortage in spades. I think that there are 4 bids available;

1. Double, telling partner that although you don't have an opening hand, you are at the top end of your point range, 0-11 HCPs and you don't have 4 hearts.
2. Bid 4 clubs. Assume that partner has the perfect hand to double, which is 1 spade and 4 in the other suits. You are then playing in a 9 card club fit which may be the best place to play. You are also helping your partner here, if you double, they have a tough bidding decision.
3. Bid 3NT. That is a brave bid as you don't know partner has 16 HCPs.
4. Pass. The points may be split fairly evenly and it could be a good contract to lose.

BOARD 24					
BD: 24	♠ Q98543				Dir: W
	♥ JT86				Vul: Nil
	♦ 9				
	♣ Q6				
♠ A62					♠ J7
♥ Q74					♥ AK95
♦ T7					♦ AK3
♣ KT952					♣ J874
	♠ KT				
	♥ 32				
	♦ QJ86542				
	♣ A3				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N		1			5
S		1			9 16
E	5		4	1	5 10
W	5		4	1	5

So, which one did you decide upon?

If you went for option 1 or 2 you are in the company of the expert's that I asked.

If you went for option 3 you were successful this time, but I don't think it will pay off in the long run.

And finally, if you went for option 4, you were with me and will get a bottom!!!!

The opponents made it tough for us, but I did not help my partner by letting her know I did have some points.

Having thought about it I think bidding 4C is the best option, just ahead of doubling.

This was a slightly different bottom. We were playing North South and **George Collings & Phil Kay** were playing East West.

Sometimes your opponents find the perfect defence and pose you a difficult problem to solve.

The bidding went 1C by South an overcall of 1S by West, which may seem a bit frisky, but is crucial. North bids 2H followed by pass and 3D from South. Louise had told me about 9 cards in her hand, but my hearts were solid, so I bid 4H.

East on lead has an easy choice because of partner's 1S overcall. KS is the opening lead and after west encourages the 8S is played to the AS. Now, West has to decide what to do. What would you do? What does he know? He knows the layout of the spades, he has 5, dummy has 4, partner 2 and declarer 2. So, both declarer and partner are out of spades. If he switches to hearts or clubs, declarer makes 11 tricks, a switch to diamonds means 10 tricks. West however plays another spade which gives me a tricky decision to make. Do I ruff high or play the 9? I decided to play west for the 10, playing the 9. East over ruffed and cashed the AD for 1 off.

Perhaps 3NT would have been better, perhaps I should have ruffed high or perhaps our opponents defence was perfect.

BOARD 19					
BD: 19	♠ T2				Dir: S
	♥ AKQJ96				Vul: EW
	♦ Q3				
	♣ J82				
♠ AJ653				♠ K8	
♥ 8742				♥ T53	
♦ 76				♦ AJT85	
♣ 93				♣ T54	
	♠ Q974				
	♥				
	♦ K942				
	♣ AKQ76				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	1	4	2	3
S	4	1	4	2	3
E					
W					
					13
				5	8
					14

And Finally

Since the last Novice News there have been 3 novice pairs who have bid and made a **Grand Slam**. Congratulations to **Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee, Julie Navruk & Marg Lane** and

Andrew Trowse & Mary McLeigh. Let's look at the Grand Slam Andrew & Mary bid and made sitting East West. When East opens 1S, West should be thinking slam and would bid 2C. Now East bids 2D. What should West bid now? A bid that works rather well is 4NT. Yes, you don't want to play in diamonds, but the information you get from partner is gold. So if you play Roman Keycard, East would bid 5S (AH, KD and QD). So long as clubs behave you can count 13 tricks, 7 clubs, 3 diamonds, 2 hearts and 1 spade. So West can now bid 7C with confidence. 7NT also makes with the same 13 tricks.

BOARD 30						
BD: 30		♠ 84				Dir: E
		♥ QJ74				Vul: Nil
		♦ 87652				
		♣ 65				
♠ A2			♠ Q9653			
♥ K98			♥ A2			
♦ A			♦ KQJ93			
♣ AKQT974			♣ J			
		♠ KJT7				
		♥ T653				
		♦ T4				
		♣ 832				
	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	3
S	-	-	-	-	-	20 13
E	7	7	3	5	7	4
W	7	7	3	4	7	

COMING EVENTS

***New Years Eve Teams** - Saturday 31 December - 7.15pm - great night - prior enter and if you need help finding teammates, contact - Cheryl – 0407 172 287

***January 7** **Advancing Bridge Lesson with Paul Gosney**

Paul is a Brisbane local & represented Australia in open competitions since 2007 & member of Australian Open Team 2023

10am to 12.30 - \$20 per person

***January 15** **QCBC Graded Pairs incorporating a Novice Grade**

***Beginners Lessons** Monday 7pm - 23 January &

Wednesday 10am - 25 January

Enquiries & bookings contact Christine – 0412 427 748

For more information and to enter any of the coming events- www.qcbc.org.au or qcbc1@optusnet.com.au



Some ideas for Christmas

You may find that you are missing your favourite game over the Christmas period. Fear not, there are plenty of ways to get your bridge fix.

Borrow a book from the library

There are hundreds of wonderful books available in the bridge library at QCBC, with books for the complete beginner and beyond.

Play on BBO

BBO has some great resources available, one that I love is Bridge Master. This is a series of bridge problems that you have to try and solve. It is wonderful for developing your card play, and there are around 500 hands from Beginner right up to World Class. Each hand has a solution, so if you are stumped by one, just read it and see what you missed.

Listen to Sorry Partner

There is a podcast called “Sorry Partner” where you get to hear from some of the best bridge players in the World. They always provide a tip for developing players which are often very interesting.

Watch Pete Hollands weekly bridge videos

Pete Hollands plays the weekly free tournament that is on BBO and posts a video on YouTube. You can just watch the video, or better still play the hands before and see where you differed from Pete. He explains his play and thought process really well, so it is worth a try.

Larry Cohen website

Larry Cohen has a wonderful website, with a fantastic Learning Centre. The quizzes are particularly good and highly recommended. The website is

<https://www.larryco.com/>

Barbara Seagram website

Another wonderful site to visit, the article section is particularly useful. The website is

<https://www.barbaraseagram.com/>



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 2023**