

Gold Coast Congress 2024 Novice News by Stephen Bennett

It was fantastic to see so many QCBC Novice players at the Gold Coast Congress.

Some of the highlights were;

Helen Klieve & Jenny Thompson

2nd Bobby Richman Novice Pairs

Jacinta Lee, Debbie Carroll, Louise & Stephen Bennett

2nd Novice Teams Championships

Carol Findlay & Jenny Thompson

4th Ivy Dahler Novice Butler Swiss Pairs

Chantelle Smalbil & Nigel Fellows

3rd EW Rookie Pairs Sunday.

Leonie Swann & Kathy Van Geest

5th NS Rookie Pairs Sunday.

Karen Johnston & Suzanne Adams

2nd NS Rookie Pairs Thursday.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the best bridge Congress in the World.

****Note from the Secretary:**

Stephen & Louise Bennett, Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee were in the Novice Teams Final.

Below is yet another photo of this team that do so well!



Debbie, Jacinta, Louise & Stephen

During the Novice Teams Final I made 3 “rookie” mistakes all of which are commonly made by Novice players. Hopefully this will help you avoid these pitfalls in future.

Bidding paralysis

This happens when you know you should bid, but you cannot work out what to bid, so you end up passing. This is rarely the right thing to do, bid something it may be right!!!!

Louise was sitting East and I was West. North and South passed throughout. East opened 1S and I bid 2C, we play 2 over 1, so this is game forcing. Louise then bid 2S and I bid 3C. With stoppers in the unbid suits Louise then bid 3NT. What should West bid next?

Board 22

Dealer E

Vul E-W

♠ 8654

♥ Q7

♦ J942

♣ 732

♠ A

♥ K5

♦ 863

♣ AKQJT86



♠ QJT9732

♥ AJ

♦ A5

♣ 54

♠ K

♥ T986432

♦ KQT7

♣ 9

Click on the table number to display the match results

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
1	3NT	E	♥10	-720	12
2	6♠	E	♥10	-1460	-12

3
17 12
8

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	7	1	-	7	7
W	7	1	-	7	7

What did I know about partners hand? She has an opening hand, probably 12+ HCPs. She has 6+ spades and has suggested 3NT as a place to play.

I could not decide between 6NT, 6S and 6C. And I kept coming back to my heart and diamond holdings. After thinking for a long time, I passed, clearly wrong!!!!

What I should have thought is, partner has 0 HCPs in clubs, up to 6 HCPs in spades. Therefore, she could easily have AD and QH for her 12 HCPs. Therefore, 6NT is the right bid and passing is wrong.

Play each board on its merits

I allowed my bidding to be affected by a previous board. Let me show you what I mean. Here is the first board. Louise & I were sitting East, West. The bidding went as follows 2 passes round to 1C by me pass 1S by Louise. What do you think West should bid?

Board 6

Dealer E

Vul E-W

♠ A6

♥ Q975

♦ KJ65

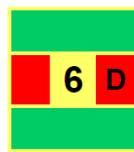
♣ A73

♠ Q7

♥ AK

♦ AT97

♣ KJT94



♠ T984

♥ J832

♦ 32

♣ 862

♠ KJ532

♥ T64

♦ Q84

♣ Q5

Makeable contracts

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

14
17 8
1

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

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
1	2♦	W	♠A	-110	0
2	2♦	W	♥5	-110	0

Partner had shown 6+ HCPs and 4+ spades. My Q in partners suit is good, 5 clubs makes my hand worth 18HCPs and a double stopper in hearts, I thought we should be in 3NT. But I decided to take it slowly by bidding 2D. That is a reverse showing 16+ HCPs and 5+ clubs and 4+ diamonds. I also thought it was forcing. I had given partner a tricky decision, there is no obvious bid for Louise to make and so she passed. I was annoyed at myself for not making partners life easy and bidding 3NT. As it happens 3NT can be defeated.

2 boards later we played this board. The bidding went 1C pass 1S double 2C pass 2H pass. As West what would you bid?

Board 8
 Dealer W
 Vul None

♠ J973
 ♥ A7
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ JT643

♠ 62
 ♥ K
 ♦ T763
 ♣ AKQ985



♠ KQ854
 ♥ QJT63
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 2

♠ AT
 ♥ 98542
 ♦ AKJ84
 ♣ 7

Click on the table number to display the match results

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
1	3NT	W	♦Q	150	2
2	2♦	S	♥K	90	-2

8
 12 8
 12

Makeable contracts

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

What do you know about partners hand? She has 5+ spades, 4+ hearts and probably 6-10 HCPs. If she had more HCPs her second bid would be 3H. We clearly have a misfit and in this situation you want to keep the bidding as low as you can. With 2 spades support for partners 5+ I should have bid 2S.

But, I thought back to the other board where I felt we had missed out on a game contract. Suddenly my hand improved, I had 6 winners in clubs (only 3 actually) and was sure partner would have the AH, so my KH was a winner (not the case). I only needed a couple of tricks from partner and I could make 3NT, so I bid it!!!!

After the opponents took their 5 diamonds and AH and AS, I managed to make the last 6 tricks!!!!

Show no mercy

Your job is to inflict as much pain and discomfort as you possibly can on your opponents through your bridge play. Do not feel sorry for your opponents. Louise & I were still East West. After North & East passed, South bid 1H pass and 1NT from north. After East passed, South bid 2H pass and then North bid 4H, pass pass, round to me.

Board 21

Dealer N

Vul N-S

♠ -

♥ 92

♦ KQT654

♣ A7643

♠ T972

♥ KT85

♦ AJ

♣ KJT

♠ K86543

♥ Q

♦ 732

♣ 952

♠ AQJ

♥ AJ7643

♦ 98

♣ Q8

Click on the table number to display the match results

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
1	4♥	S	♠10	-200	-3
2	4♥	S	♠10	-100	3



Makeable contracts

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

9
12 5
14

I checked to make sure that the 1NT bid was 6-9HCPs, it was. I felt they had messed up their bidding and felt sorry for them. So, I decided not to double!!!!!! Using the rule of 9, their contract, 4, cards in their suit, 4 and honours, 2 (10 counts as I have another honour) gives me 10, so I should have doubled every day of the week. We managed to get them 2 off which would have been a much better result doubled.

Good players don't make these "Rookie" mistakes. If you want to become a good player one day cut these errors out of your game, Stephen!!!!!!

Best bid I saw at the Gold Coast Congress

Let me show you one of the best bids I have seen. Unfortunately, it was by our opponents. Louise & I were sitting North South. With no interference by East West, it is fairly straightforward to find 6NT. South would bid 2NT, North 3C,

asking for a 4 card major, 3D by South, I don't have one and 6NT by North.

Board 14 ♠ KQ95
 Dealer E ♥ A
 Vul None ♦ K874
 ♣ JT54

♠ JT3 [Green] ♠ 842
 ♥ J2 [Green] ♥ T987543
 ♦ QT9532 [Green] 14 D ♦ J
 ♣ 63 [Green] ♣ Q9

♠ A76
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ A6
 ♣ AK872

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	7	4	3	7	7
S	7	4	3	7	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

13
 4 3
 20

However East did bid, he opened 3H. What do you think of that bid? Does not have any of the top honours or any points for that matter, what a great bid. Why do I say that? On average each of the remaining players will have about 12 HCPs, so North South is likely to have a game on. You are green so the penalty would not be too high if you are left in the contract and go off. Most importantly it gets in their way and is likely to cause mistakes.

After the 3H bid, Louise doubled and I bid 4S. Louise was concerned that we may only have a 7 card fit and so she passed. We missed out on a slam because of a pesky pre-empt. Please note this type of bidding is not for everyone and it only works in certain situations.

And Finally

Pete Hollands has released a series of videos looking at defensive problems. As always, they are brilliant and gets you thinking about the right things. This one is titled **How a Bridge Professional Thinks on Defence**, give a try.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN0ILGjhkik&list=RDCMUcOaZnFbFH10IbhVm25z4rLQ&index=4>

Upcoming Events

Mar 17 2024 [Sunshine Coast Graded Teams](#) [Entry form](#)

Mar 31 2024 [BBC Graded Pairs \(31\) and Teams \(1\) – Easter](#) [Entry form](#)

Apr 14 2024 [QLD Graded Teams – Toowong](#) [Entry form](#)

Apr 28 2024 [QLD Novice Pairs – Sunnybank](#) [Entry form](#)

Congratulations to all our novice players who had a ‘go’ at the GCC 2024. Hope you all enjoyed the experience.

Donna Shepherd, Viv Van Rooyen, Mary Ann James, Virginia Prowse, Jeremy Lin, Grace Gissing, Sharon & Michael Salu, Eve Sirigos, Chris Ferguson, Marguerite Manifold, Louise Dartnell, Gail Wainwright, Rowan Ward, Beth Petersen, Karen Beveridge, Karen Collier, Chris Rose, Stuart Crockett, Richard Huysman, Chris Pohle, Peter & Sue Green, Helen Klieve, Liz Moran, Tim Prowse, Paul Davis, Julie Navruk, Marg Lane, Jenny Thompson, Simon Byrne, Carol Findlay, Peter Fredericks, Sandra Lawrence, Anna Oprys, Sandra Aring, Mike Martin, Anna de Borah, Lois Munro.

