

# New Years Novice News by Stephen Bennett

Some more great results from QCBC.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – QCBC Graded Pairs Novice section.

**1<sup>st</sup> Louise & Stephen Bennett**

**4<sup>th</sup> Peter Fredericks & Carolyn North**

**5<sup>th</sup> Chantelle Smalbil & Nigel Fellows**

Also, Chantelle & Nigel were the most improved pair from their ranking. And now they are reading The Principles of Card Play by Paul Marston watch out!!!!

Special mention to **Chris Rose & Kym James**. Great to see newer players competing in competitions, well done.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Toowoomba Novice Pairs.

**5<sup>th</sup> Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos**

And second in the B section, great result.

Fantastic to see QCBC pairs competing in events further afield.

Would you like to improve your defence?

If the answer is yes, give this book a go. David Bird gives 12 bridge lessons on defence. Each lesson starts with a number of hands to explain the concept he is teaching. At the end of each hand, there is a Points to remember section, so you get a nice little summary.

At the end of each chapter, he asks you 5 questions to see if you have understood the lesson and then there are 4 hands to try and figure out.

I really enjoyed the book. It is packed full of thoughts you should be having when you are defending a hand, but probably are not!!!!

This should not be the first bridge book you read on defence. David assumes you understand the basics of defence.

However, if you want to try and take your defence to the next level, this is a fantastic book.

*I've got a bit extra partner, have you?*

Nearly every time I play in a competition, I learn something new. At the recent QCBC Novice Grade I saw some fantastic bidding by the experienced pair of Carol Findlay & Jenny Thompson who were sitting East, West at the board below. North, South passed throughout.

The bidding began 1H, open the higher of two 5 card suits, 1S followed by 2D. Carol made the first of 2 brilliant bids, she bid 3C. This was not alerted and we were told it was a natural bid.

It would have been easy for Carol to have bid 3NT instead of her 3C, but that is where the bidding may well have finished, so she bid the 4<sup>th</sup> suit to keep the bidding going.

BOARD 28					
BD: 28		♠ 53	Dlr: W Vul: NS		
		♥ T975			
		♦ J643			
		♣ Q43			
♠ Q9			♠ AKJ64		
♥ AKQJ8			♥ 63		
♦ KQ975			♦ AT		
♣ 8			♣ A975		
		♠ T872			
		♥ 42			
		♦ 82			
		♣ KJT62			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N					
S					
E	3	7	7	7	7
W	3	7	7	7	7

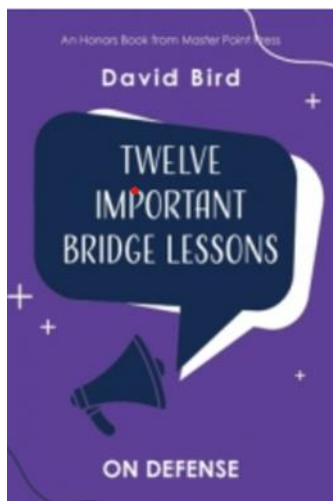
Jenny then made the sensible 3NT bid. So far both Jenny & Carol had shown opening hands, Jenny opened and Carol bid a new suit at the 3 level with her 3C bid which normally shows opening points too.

Both had extras, but not enough to go to slam if partner did not have a bit extra too. Remember to bid slam you want 33+ HCPs in No trumps.

Carol then made the brilliant bid of 4NT. This was saying **I've got a bit extra partner, have you?** If you do bid 6NT, if not pass. Well Jenny with her beautiful hand bid 6NT.

I love the **I've got a bit extra partner, have you?** 4NT. I will be looking for opportunities to use it in future, thanks Carol & Jenny.

Grand Slam bonanza at the Wednesday morning supervised sessions.



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However, if you want to try and take your defence to the next level, this is a fantastic book.

In the last couple of months there have been 5 grand slams bid and made, what is going on!!!!!!

Only one of the grand slams was in NTs, bid by **Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos**.

How would you bid this hand?

BOARD 23					
BD: 23		♠ 63	Dir: S		
		♥ T876542	Vul: ALL		
		♦ 73			
		♣ T2			
♠ T95			♠ AK		
♥ AKQ9			♥ J3		
♦ AKT4			♦ Q6		
♣ J4			♣ AK98653		
		♠ QJ8742			
		♥ J9852			
		♦ Q7			
		♣ Q7			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N					
S					
E	7	6	5	3	7
W	6	6	5	3	7

Let's assume south passes, although 2S makes it a trickier board to bid. West would open 1NT 15-17 HCPs. So, with the East hand what would you bid?

What do you know? Your partnership has 32-34 HCPs. You have that lovely 7 card suit and partner has at least 2 clubs. If the opponent's clubs split 2,2, East has 9 winners in their hand, 7 clubs and 2 spades.

Depending on what you play and how optimistic you are there are a few ways to bid to 7NT.

For the most optimistic amongst you, East could just bid straight to 7NT. You need partner to have the A in the red suits and the K diamonds plus a small diamond. That would allow you to make 2S, 1H, 3D and 7C's. That is only 11HCPs, they are promising at least 15!!!

A slightly less risky bid would be 4NT. This is not asking for aces, it is a quantitative bid, asking partner are they a minimum or maximum for their bid. If partner is a minimum they would pass, if a maximum they bid 6NT. Once West

bids 6NT, East knows they have 34 HCPs between them and feels more confident bidding 7NT.

If you play Gerber, 4C, asking for aces in NT's, you could bid that, finding you have all the aces. 5NT would ask for kings, you either show 2 or the first king up the line, 5D. Whichever you use, you should now be able to count 13 tricks, 4 in the red suits, either AKH and AKD or AH and AKQD. And can now bid 7NT with a degree of confidence.

I would have bid the middle option and stopped in 6NT. Perhaps that is why my name does not appear on the grand slam honour board!!!!

## Upcoming events

### **Andy Hung Workshop – Wednesday 14 February at NSBC**

Topic: How Experts Think on Defence

1.30pm – 3.30pm \$25 per player

Please contact NSBC - [www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org](http://www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org)

### **17<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> February – Gold Coast Congress**

All events, including Novice & Rookies, are **gold points**. Only the walk-ins are red master points.

The Early Bird discount finishes 5pm, Monday 12 February. \$20 off all entry fees.

#### **ROOKIE PAIRS – 0-10 masterpoints**

**Sunday 18th Feb**, 10.00 am (minimum 24 boards) finish approx. 1.45 pm

**Thursday 22nd Feb**, 10.00 am (min 24 boards) finish approx. 1.45 pm (2 separate events) \$90 per pair, per event however (\$50 if prepaid by 12/2)

## 0-50 MASTERPOINT PAIRS

**Tuesday 20th Feb** 10.00am & 2.30 pm finish 6.00 pm approx.

(must play both sessions)

**Wed 21st Feb,** 10:00am & 2.30 pm finish 6.00 pm approx.

(must play both sessions)

**Thur 22nd Feb,** 10.00 am & 2.30 pm finish 6.00 pm approx.

(must play both sessions)

\$140.00 per pair (\$100 if prepaid by 12/2) for each event

Small tea break will be held during sessions of 0-50 and 0-10 masterpoint sessions

**NOVICE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP** – 0-100 masterpoints 4 sessions - must play all Sun  
**18th Feb**, 10.00 am & 2.30 pm finish approx. 5.45pm - **Mon 19th Feb**, 10.00 am & 2.30 pm  
finish approx. 5.45pm \$290 PER PAIR (\$250 if prepaid by 12/2)

**NOVICE TEAMS** – 0-100 masterpoints - 12 matches

**Tue 20th Feb**, 10:00am & 2.30 pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx.

**Wed 21st Feb**, 10:00am & 2.30 pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx

**Thur 22nd Feb**, 10:00am & 2.30 pm (4 matches) finish 6.00 pm approx \$860 PER TEAM  
(\$780 if prepaid by 12/2)

Top 2 at the end of match 12 play in the finals at 10am Fri 23rd Feb – 4 x 12 board stanzas)

**IVY DAHLER NOVICE PAIRS** – 0-100 masterpoints Friday 23rd Feb, 10am & 2pm (2  
sessions) finish approx. 6.00 pm Saturday 24th Feb, 10 am (1 session) finish approx. 1.30  
pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> March – Toowong X-IMP Novice Pair**



# DECISION DYNAMICS

*A HANDS ON WORKSHOP WITH  
CELEBRITY TEACHER*

**PETER HOLLANDS**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17th, 2022**

**9.30am for a 10:00am start, conclusion 11.30am**



**GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB**

Proudly presents this workshop for players of all skill levels with YouTube sensation, former Australian Open Team Representative and 2022 Coffs Harbour and Barrier Reef Teams Champion Peter Hollands



**\$20 per player. Bookings essential. Book via MyABF  
Registration is essential and spaces are limited. Don't miss out,  
secure your spot today by booking on MyABF**

Email: [gcbbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:gcbbridgeclub@gmail.com)

Phone: 0407591676 (Carolyn Waters)

**LOCATION: GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB**

2883 Gold Coast Hwy, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217

**DUPLICATE IS PLAYED IN THE AFTERNOON**

**WHY NOT BRING YOUR LUNCH & MAKE IT A DAY**





# Gold Coast Congress

## Celebrity Speakers 2024



**Location: Upstairs opposite Administration**

**Min \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge (Free for Youth Players)**

**100 participants maximum – GCCEC Health and Safety Regulations**

**Sunday 18th**

**1.30-2.15pm**

**Liam Milne**

**Leading Thirds and Fifths**



Why do so many experts lead thirds and fifths against suit contracts, while intermediate players tend to prefer fourth best? And how do third and fifth leads work? Find out how to play this useful defense convention.

***Liam Milne** is a current member of the Australian Open team. As well as playing professionally, Liam also teaches and directs in Sydney. His recent national titles include the 2022 Gold Coast Teams, ANC Open Teams, Victor Champion Cup and Spring National Open Teams.*

**Monday 19th**

**1.30-2.15pm**

**William Jenner-O'Shea**

**Overcall more to be a Nuisance.**



Knowing when to overcall to spice up competitive auctions is where experts thrive, learn some tips and tricks from Will to be a more competitive player to help improve your game.

***Will Jenner-O'Shea** has represented Australia in several bridge events, including the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. Will has also built a successful career teaching.*

**Tuesday 20th**

**9.00am – 9.45am**

**Paul Dalley**

**Fresh bidding ideas for 2024**



Paul will take you on a journey of discovery with some fresh ideas from his workshop on latest bidding theory to help your partnership in 2024.

***Paul Dalley** has won the Gold Coast Open teams for the last two years. In 2022 he also won the Gold Coast Open Pairs. Paul has won numerous other national events in Australia and New Zealand and was a member of the Australian Open team in 2023.*

**Tuesday 20th**

**1.30-2.15pm**

**Andy Hung**

**How to Defend Against Common and Strange Conventions**



How do expert players deal against common conventions such as the Multi 2D, or the Unusual 2NT? Or what about those intimidating 2-opening bids which may have 6 different meanings? Come along and Andy will share the secrets with you.

***Andy Hung** is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia in Open competitions. He has won several Australian National titles and placed third in two previous US Nationals. When he's not competing in tournaments, you will find him teaching at the WABC in Perth, or running bridge holidays in Australia, or overseas - contact him for his holidays this year!*

**Wednesday 21st**

**9.00am – 9.45am**

**Paul Marston**

**Competitive bidding (when both sides have 18 – 22 HCP)**



The aim of this lesson is to give you a winning strategy when the opponents bid over you and the points are shared.

The strategy is not difficult or complicated, yet many people still find it hard to grasp. The reason is that it involves a change of thinking. During the lesson Paul will lay down the groundwork for that change of thinking.

***Paul Marston** has long been Australia's number one bridge teacher. His classes are very popular, both face-to-face and online. He has a special interest in teaching beginners where his retention rate is greater than 80% face-to-face and 95% online.*

**Thursday 22nd**

**1.30pm -2.15pm**

**Nick Jacob**

**Demystifying auctions after a takeout double**



Takeout doubles are one of the first and best competitive conventions we learn playing bridge. Despite this, everyone - from beginners to experts - struggles at times to work out what exactly we show when we respond to partner's takeout doubles. Join Nick to learn some skills for responding and rebidding after takeout doubles in a variety of common auctions.

***Nick Jacob** played in New Zealand youth and Open team events and has represented Victoria in the Australian National Championships. He has won numerous National Teams and Pairs events.*