

Novice News – September 2021 by Stephen Bennett

Last Saturday QCBC hosted the QBA Graded Pairs event.

The C Section was a very close competition, with many different pairs getting to sit on the top table for a round or two during the day. The eventual winners were Jane Tagney & Marge Henry, well played ladies. The best of the QCBC pairs were **Fenna Cooper & Sally Hall** who finished **6th**, closely followed by **Graeme King & Stephen Bennett** in **7th** and **Peter & Sue Green** in **8th**.

Congratulations to all the QCBC pairs who took part in this very enjoyable event.

A couple of weeks ago **Toowong** held a **Graded Teams** event.

In the C section, QCBC was well represented, **Jenny Thompson & Julie Navruk** played with Vanessa Brewis & Jenny McGowan finishing in **2nd** spot. **Chris Green & Stephen Bennett** played with **Joyanne Gissing & Jane Tagney** and they came **3rd**.

One of the most enjoyable parts of bridge is bidding and making a slam. Our opponents were able to do this, in both events!!! They were memorable, for different reasons. See if you would have bid them yourself.

The first board was from the team event. Chris & I were sitting North South and we were playing against Neil Strutton & Helen Chamberlin.

West was dealer, with their hand would you open? Yes, you should, it satisfies the rule of 20 (HCPs and 2 longest suits). Also, with a couple of 10's and 9's it is worth 12 points. So west bid 1D.

Now it is my turn, would you overcall 2C? In hindsight maybe I should have, but I did not. The bare Q and the hope of finding a heart fit kept me silent.....

So, east has an easy 1S bid, south passes and west bids 2C.

OK you are east, what do you bid? Most of you would bid 3S or 4S perhaps. But Helen sitting east bid 4NT, which was a brilliant bid.

BOARD 20						
BD: 20	♠ Q				Dir: W	
	♥ K963				Vul: ALL	
	♦ K87					
	♣ QJ864					
♠ 95					♠ AKJT763	
♥ J5					♥ AT	
♦ QJT53					♦ A6	
♣ AKT9					♣ 53	
	♠ 842					
	♥ Q8742					
	♦ 942					
	♣ 72					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	11
S	-	-	-	-	-	11 16
E	2	5	1	7	6	2
W	2	5	1	7	6	

Why was it so brilliant? Well with 7 great spades, Helen already knew they were playing in spades. By asking partner about their keycards (they were playing Roman Keycard) in clubs, last bid suit, Helen found out that Neil had the AK in clubs. With West having shown 5 diamonds it was reasonable to expect partner had the K and to hope the spade finesse worked. So, Helen bid 6S, making 12 tricks. Congratulations, it was a pleasure to watch such inspired bidding.

The second hand was last Saturday. Graeme & I were sitting North South, playing against **Chris Pohle & John Reed**. John began the bidding 1D, now what would you bid as East? Chris bid 4NT. Sitting north with 5 diamonds to the A, I thought this looks promising. Assuming they were going to play in diamonds. John showed 1 ace by bidding 5D. Chris then went 5NT and John bid 6D showing 1 king. I thought they were going to play in 6D and could not believe my luck. I even thought about doubling for penalties!!!!!!

BOARD 8						
BD: 8	♠854				Dir: W	
	♥96				Vul: None	
	♦AT843					
	♣JT5					
♠QJ32					♠AK9	
♥AJ2					♥KT3	
♦KQ97					♦J62	
♣86					♣AKQ3	
	♠T76					
	♥Q8754					
	♦5					
	♣9742					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	5
S	-	-	-	-	-	13 20
E	5	5	4	5	6	2
W	5	5	4	5	6	

But then Chris bid 6NT and all became clear. After finessing hearts correctly, Chris just lost to the ace of diamonds. Congratulations Chris & John you bid the slam really well and then made it.

Upcoming Events

12th September Kenmore Novice Pairs

19th September Sanctuary Cove Online Novice Pairs (using Stepbridge)

26th September QLD Teams of 3 at Northern Suburbs

And finally, the latest edition of the Australian Bridge Magazine, Novice Edition should have dropped in your mail box in the last couple of days. I have just read the article by Joan Butts entitled "What's my hand worth?". It is well worth a read, I would be surprised if you did not learn a thing or two, I know I did.