

## Novice News – August 2021 by Stephen Bennett

Over this masked period there have been a couple of Novice events to report on.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July the Redlands Novice Pairs were held with 2 QCBC pairs taking part. Both pairs finished higher than their starting rank. Well done to **Jane Bell & John Harkin** and **Sean Quinn & Thais Morgan-Peters**.

The following Sunday the BBC Graded Teams took place. Now this is not technically a novice event, but a number of QCBC novice players were brave enough to take part, and did well in a tough C section. Congratulations to **Sally Hall, Jeanne Welch, Jenny Thompson and Carol Findlay and Jane Bell, John Harkin, Peter & Sue Green**.

For the eagle eyed amongst you, you will notice that **Jane Bell & John Harkin** competed in both events. As one of our newer pairs it is wonderful to see them gaining so much experience in competition. Watch out for this pair in the Rookie event at the Gold Coast Congress in 2022!!!

A couple of days ago I received an electronic copy of the Australian Bridge Novice Magazine for July. We are fortunate that QCBC pay for us all to get this by-monthly magazine. If you have not received your copy, please contact Toni Bardon and she will make sure you are on the list.

There are lots of wonderful articles in this magazine, but one caught my eye. It talks about the **Keller convention**, the most important partnership agreement and by far the most difficult convention to play.

Before you stop reading, this is very different to your normal convention.

**The Keller convention:** There is **no** discussion of hands or agreements during the session. There is no reason to show adverse emotion. There is no reason to make partner feel anything except the same unified desire to win that you both share.

Wow how simple is that? I for one find this a challenge. But I am getting better at remembering the **Keller convention**.

If you cannot hold your comments in, go to the bathroom, have your rant in front of the mirror, and then return to the table, calm and ready to continue playing.

Louise and I will be putting this on our system cards!!!! I will be interested to see how many novices adopt this wonderful convention. Oh, did I mention that according to the article it will improve your post-game sex life!!!!!!!

You can read the full article, along with many other interesting articles in this great magazine.

Why do you play bridge at QCBC?

I play at QCBC to learn from some of the most amazing players in the world. Well, my world at least. I played the following board over a month ago and I still think it is absolutely brilliant.

Louise and I were playing EW against the formidable duo of Jenny Williams (North) and Joan Jenkins (South). The board is shown on the next page.

Jenny to bid first, as a Novice I would expect most of you to pass. Maybe some of you bold (crazy) bidders might try 3H, interesting. Well Jenny using her judgement bid 2H instead. She had weak hearts, but had 7 instead of the usual 6 and nothing in spades.

Louise (East) has 3 possible bids, 2S, double or pass. Using her judgement she passed.

Now Joan (South) thought for a while and then thought some more. She eventually bid 3NT. How many rules that we novices use does that bid break? How does she expect to cash her heart winners in north with only a single heart? Is JTxx really a stopper in diamonds? But as it happens it is an inspired bid.

After 3 passes I was on lead. Normally you may consider AH, but not after Jenny has bid 2H. All that will do is set up their long heart winners. In this situation I like to lead a major as Joan is more likely to have bid a strong major over the weak 2 bid. I was hoping partner had 5 spades, which she did. My lead was the 7S.

Louise now has a very difficult decision. Is my lead top of nothing or 4<sup>th</sup> best or even 3<sup>rd</sup> from an honour. Most players would play QS here, and now the contract makes.

Joan takes the diamond finesse which Louise wins with the K and when the club finesse works has 4S,3D and 2C.

**BOARD 21**

**BD: 21**      ♠ 5      **Dlr: N**  
 ♥ T876432      **Vul: NS**  
 ♦ AQ2  
 ♣ 42

♠ 76 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ 874 ♣ J983	♠ Q9832 ♥ Q ♦ K93 ♣ K765
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	♠ AKJT4	
	♥ 5	
	♦ JT65	
	♣ AQT	

  

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	3	3	2	2	6
S	-	3	3	2	2	9    10
E	-	-	-	-	-	15
W	-	-	-	-	-	

Some of you may have noticed that 3NT was not makeable if we defended perfectly. So where did it all go wrong? If you are like me and were not sure, there is a great tool to help with this, Bridge

Solver. On the QCBC website if you click on a board you have played, just below the hand record (printed above) it says Replay with Bridge Solver. Click on it and this is what appears.

**Bridge Solver Online**  
Close this browser window to return to Session Results

<p><b>Optimum:</b> NS 1H+2; +140</p> <p>LoTT: 15-16 = -1</p>	<p>♠ 5</p> <p>♥ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ A Q 2</p> <p>♣ 4 2</p>	<p><b>Contract: 2NT by S</b></p> <p>NS Tricks: 0 EW Tricks: 0</p>																																							
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Click on the contract you want to play. In this case it is NT by South, click on the 2 in the bottom right table.

With west on lead, it shows you how many tricks you can make if you lead each card in your hand. My 7S lead meant we could still make 5 tricks. You are then able to play the cards and see where you went wrong. As I now play the **Keller convention** my lips are sealed!!!!

Bridge Solver is very useful to show you the best way to play a board. Give it a go.

Don't think I have enjoyed getting a bottom so much. It was a pleasure to see such amazing judgement, thank you ladies.

**Upcoming events**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August** QLD Graded Teams at Toowong

**4<sup>th</sup> September** QLD Graded Matchpoint Pairs at QCBC

Both of these events have an under 150MPs section.

**12<sup>th</sup> September** Kenmore Graded Novice Pairs

This has an under 50MPs as well as under 100MP section.

