

Easter 2024 Novice News by Stephen Bennett

Here are the latest QCBC Novice results, well done everyone.

3rd March – Toowong X-Imp Pairs

2nd - Debbie Carroll & Jacinta Lee

10th - Chris Ferguson & Eve Sirigos

23rd March – Surfers Paradise Novice Pairs

11th – Christine Jensen & Sandra Lawrence

31st March – BBC Graded Pairs

Congratulations to Anna Oprysa & Anna De Borah for having a go in this tough event.

28th April – Qld State Novice Pairs – Sunnybank

7th Eve Sirigos & Chris Ferguson

8th Tom Langdon Macmillian & Zac Ross

13th Lois Munro & Helen Klieve

New books in the library.

Whilst at the Gold Coast congress I bought some more books for the library. Make sure you check them out.

The Principals of Card Play	Marston, Paul
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Combining your chances	Roth, Danny
Take all your chances at bridge	Kantar, E
Planning the Defence	Seagram & Bird
Planning the Defence The next level	Seagram & Bird
Playing suit contracts, Step by Step	Berthe & Lebelly
Playing notrump contracts, Step by Step	Berthe & Lebelly
Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Defence	Bird, David
Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Declarer play	Bird, David
Barbara's bridge tips	Seagram, Barbara

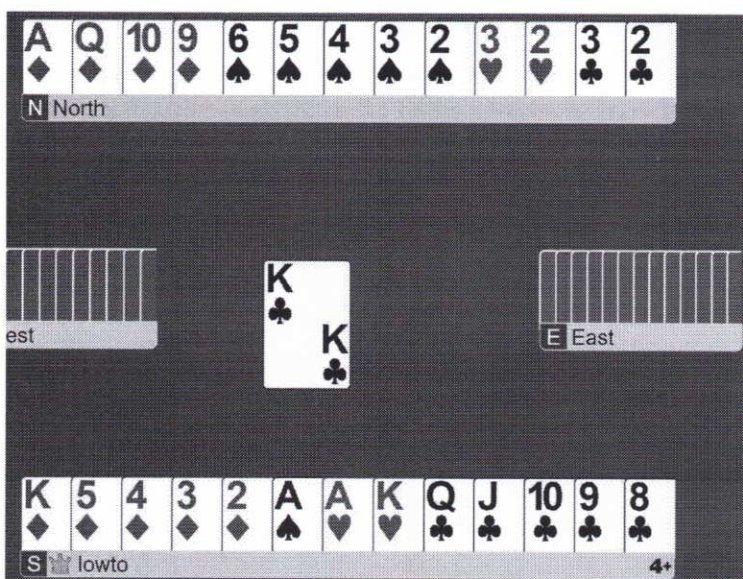
Most I have read and can highly recommend.

It looks like magic to me.

I was playing a Bridge Master hand the other day on Bridge Base Online (BBO)., here is the bidding;

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

You are always declarer and have to try and work out a way of making your contract. And here is your hand and dummy. West has led the KC. What are your thoughts?



At first glance you probably think this is easy. Lose 2 clubs and win the rest. But when west plays a 3rd round of clubs how high can you ruff in north and how are you going to play the trumps?

What if I told you the split of diamonds, would that help? Of course, you would know what to do. Well as it happens if you think really carefully, you can work out the diamond split.

So, west plays the A & K of clubs and everyone follows, what do we know.

OK, firstly we have 23 HCPs, so the opponent's have 17HCPs between them. They both managed to make a bid, so must both have minimum hands.

Have a look at the bidding again there may be some clues there. West opened 1C, so they have 3+ clubs and importantly they don't have a 5 card major. If they did, they would have bid it. East responded 1S, showing 4+ spades.

Brace yourself, what you are about to read is magic, at least I thought so.

You have 4 hearts, so the opponents have 9, but did not bid them. We have already said that west does not have 5 of a major. So, if east has 5 hearts why did they not bid them? Well, what do you bid if you have two 5 card suits, yes you bid the higher ranking one.

Ok, so east has 5,5 in the majors. But couldn't east have 6 spades? No, then east would have no diamonds. It would also mean west has 4 diamonds and as the maximum number of clubs they could have is 4, they would have opened a diamond.

Is your head hurting, this little table may help;

	Total	West	East
Spades	7	2	5
Hearts	9	4	5
Diamonds	4	3	1
Clubs	6	4	2

So, the diamonds are splitting 3,1. That means we can ruff high when west plays the 3rd club. Play the 9 to the K of diamonds. If east had JD single happy days, otherwise play low to the 10D finessing west for their known J.

I just thought it was magical that you could work out the hand shapes of both your opponents after 2 rounds of cards had been played.

If you would like to have another look, it was board B-27 Level 3.

Everyone loves freebies

If you are anything like me you love freebies. There is a lot of free bridge help that I recommend you take advantage of. In no particular order;

Websites

Bridge Bears website – fantastic website. Goes through the basics really clearly.

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

Larry Cohen website – masses of content for the improving player.

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center>

Youtube

Bridge is for Everyone. A great series of videos that takes you through the basics of bridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMstbPBO1p4>

Bridge Base Online

You have to register to join, but it is free.

Bridge Master is a wonderful collection of hands to practice your declarer skills on.

There is a Weekly Free Tournament which you can do and then watch Pete Hollands play the same boards.

Upcoming Event

3rd May – ABF Barrier Reef Congress Mackay (4days)

24th May - < 50MP Red Point @ QCBC

27th May – 7pm Australia Wide Novice Pairs @ QCBC

28th May – 10am Australia Wide Novice Pairs @ QCBC