



UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



UBC Annual Congress

SATURDAY PAIRS



1st Mimi Packer and Virginia Seward



2nd Stella Steer and James Steer



3rd (John Rigg) and Saurav Dutta

SUNDAY TEAMS



1st Mimi Packer , Virginia Seward, Linda Coli and Jonathan Free



2nd Dave Munro, Marie-France Merven, Nigel Dutton and David Schokman



3rd Vivian Zotti, Jan Bligh, Maura Rhodes and Mark Doust, t



Best Undercroft Pair:
Beata Bieganski and Tad Bieganski



Best <300 MPS:
Peter Peles and John Lees

Best Undercroft Team: Judy Havas, Chris Ross, Luba and Louis Klein



President Graham Milward with Convenor Connie Coltrona





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From Graham Milward

The year has seen substantial change at Undercroft and I am looking forward to consolidation of that change in 2018 and an enhanced level of enjoyment for all members. Some of the changes may not be to your liking, but PLEASE do your bit towards making our Club a wonderful place to enjoy a game, by being pleasant to your partner and opponents. NOBODY wants to hear you unpleasantly instructing your partner regarding what they should or should not do. Make our Directors earn their money by calling them, with a “please”, whenever there is doubt over something that has occurred. It is great to be very competitive and do well, but it is more important to play the game in the right spirit.

The Club's recent 2-day Congress was a fantastic success. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to this outcome, particularly Convenor Connie Coltrona, Director Bill Kemp and catering coordinator Lyn Mol. Our wonderful extended clubrooms were full on both days and the food was a sight to behold. Thanks to all members who generously donated eats for morning and afternoon teas.

It gave me great pride in our Club to hear glowing comments from visitors during the 2 days, and at the end of the event from BAWA President Nigel Dutton.

For many months, Connie Coltrona, ably assisted by Mark Cooper, has been working hard to develop a proposal for the upgrade of our kitchen facilities. Plans are now being finalised to seek approval from the City of Joondalup for work to proceed. New ovens will support the wonderful work being done by our red point catering team of Gloria James, Gwen Kremer, Lesley Smith and Helen Hyland, and a new dishwasher will allow consideration of the elimination of much waste, by the cessation of the use of disposable cups.

The extensive hole digging, occurring around Percy Doyle Reserve, is associated with a major upgrade of the power supply. Once completed, it is hoped we will be able to install solar cells on our clubrooms,

saving the Club money and doing a small bit towards caring for the planet.

Many, many thanks for their hard work throughout the year to Committee members and everyone else who has so willingly contributed to the smooth running of our Club. It has made the task of President rewarding and enjoyable.

Very happy Christmas to you all and may 2018 be everything you would like it to be. Happy bridging and take care. ■



BRIDGE RULES

Deviation from System and Psychic Action

Laws 40 C 1 and 2 deal with this issue.

The situation causes angst reasonably often. However:

A person **may bid outside the partnership system**, so long as their partner is just as unaware as the opponents, that this has occurred. If asked, the requirement of the partner is to explain their understanding of what the bid means, **according to their system**. If this happens to you, as an opponent, you may feel miffed if you have been disadvantaged, but you just have to grin and bear it. There is no ground for action against the psychic bidder. Sometimes such a bid will occur due to an error by the bidder, but the same Law applies.

If a player makes a habit of using the same psychic bid, it may be deemed “part of their system” and partner will need to explain accordingly.

TONY MARTIN

By David Cowell



I first met Tony when I joined the Undercroft Bridge club back in late 2003 and we started to play bridge together one evening a week at the club. Tony was very adventurous and wanted to expand his game, so we played in BAWA events which in those days took place on Monday and Thursday evenings. We were really just a couple of novices. Many top players and state players play in these events, so you can imagine we didn't do too well. I remember we played against a well-established State pair one evening and had a good result, as we walked away from the table, we overheard one of them say – “a couple of cowboys”. Tony and I weren't fazed at what they said or thought of us - in truth we were well out of our league, but we learnt and became respected by the 'better players'.

As well as BAWA events, Tony and I played at congresses together. Everyone in the WA bridge community knew Tony - he was competitive and popular. When Tony and I stopped playing on a regular basis, he went on to play with many other people: Max Havercroft, Joanna Tennyson, John Beyfus, Philip Oldershaw, Mary Lang, Jenny Dawson to name a few.

In 2004, Tony and I did the directors course together and he immediately became a director for the UBC. As well as directing for the club, Tony joined the committee doing several jobs culminating in being the President in 2009-2011. He also joined the BAWA Tournament committee. Tony always encouraged our members to play at BAWA events and congresses and these days most congresses have a good turnout of members from UBC. Another thing Tony wanted to do was to encourage the members who play on Saturday mornings at our lessons. To this end for a couple of years, Tony

sponsored a trophy for the most advanced player of the Saturday morning members at the lessons.

As well as bridge, Tony had other hobbies, his great love was music, in the days of hiring a DJ for parties, Tony told me he did a bit of that as a hobby. He had a vast music collection with music from the 1920's to the present day. He was also interested in stamps and had a small stamp collection. Tony also liked to play ten-pin bowling and I understand he was quite a proficient ten-pin bowler. Tony took a few lessons and started to play lawn bowls, but he didn't keep this up for long and when I asked him about it he said that before he continued with lawn bowls he would play bridge competitions at the weekends, until he had gathered enough master points to become a grand master. Sadly, Tony didn't quite make it, just 27 MP's short.

Tony liked to have a flutter on the horses now and then, and when he was playing bridge with John Beyfus (John also liked a flutter) they would discuss form and try and beat the bookie together. Usually they came out slightly ahead, but never enough to buy their own bridge club! Tony also had a small part share in a racehorse of which he was quite proud.

Have any of you ever been given a lift to a bridge event by Tony? I have. Quite an experience I can tell you – enough, except to say, he had a few speeding fines.

Tony was a very private man, he didn't talk about his family, children or grandchildren although I know he had some, he kept himself to himself. He was always willing to help you if you needed it. At the end Tony wanted us all to respect his privacy and sadly passed away alone. I have heard it said – it's quiet in the bridge club at the moment, Tony's booming voice cannot be heard anymore, but we know you are there Tony watching us play the game you loved. Rest in Peace Tony.

Your old bridge partner and friend David Cowell.

My Pal AI

By John Beddow

When you first play tournament bridge, one tip you should learn is that, 'More mistakes are made on the first board you play than any other board.' This of course is because a lot of players take a few hands to 'wake up' and put themselves into Bridge Mode. Sometimes, as can be seen, this can extend to 2 or 3 boards.

On the third board of the first round in the Men's Pairs, Green against Red, I was sitting West with the following hand:

♠ KT
♥ AK
♦ AQJ72
♣ K532

The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
			P
1C *	1S	X **	P
?			

*Precision bid showing 16+

** Systemically 5-7 HCP

Systemically partner's X shows 5-7 any shape and normally I would have just bid 3NT.

This is where My Pal AI (Zheimer) took over. For some unaccountable reason I believed

that X was 0-4, so instead of bidding 3NT as I should, I passed. Rightly or wrongly I thought that as Partner had less than 5 HCP only a part score, probably in Diamonds was on, therefore if 1SX went one off for 100, this would be better than 2D for +90. As you can imagine, there were some stunned looks around the table. After all, who leaves a 1SX in?

Now we come to North's nightmare. The full deal:

Dr: S ♠ A642
Vul: ♥ T76
 ♦ K543
 ♣ Q6

♠ KT ♠ QJ9853
♥ AK ♥ Q84
♦ AQJ72 ♦ 9
♣ K532 ♣ T74

♠ 7
♥ J9532
♦ T86
♣ AJ98

Opening lead: 9D taken by the A. A then KH showing a doubleton. QD showing interest in Clubs as well as a void in Hs, ruffed by East. QH on which I discarded a Diamond. Small club taken by the A. Spade to the A and the KD

ruffed by East. Club taken by my K. QD covered and ruffed. Small Spade taken by the K. 10S followed by the JD. East cleared trumps.

So, we won: 5 x Spades, 3 x Hearts, 2 x Diamonds, 1 x Club for 11 tricks or - 5 for N/S - 1100

o, on behalf myself and my pal Al, I apologise to my partner for forgetting the system and to North for giving him a caning he really didn't deserve. Although why he bid 1S is a mystery, although I assume he was just trying to disrupt a Precision sequence. ■



Brian and Carol's latest cruise from San Francisco to New York, via the Panama Canal.

By Carol Fensome

Don't ever let it be said we don't get our fair share of excitement on our cruising holidays. Tropical Storm Norma and the earthquake in Mexico and then doing our best to avoid Hurricane Maria on the last leg of our journey was a bit hair raising to say the least, so this last holiday was no exception!

We flew from Perth to Sydney, Sydney to San Francisco and spent one night there before we boarded the ship early the next day. As seems to be the case these days, there had been an outbreak of some virus or other (they told us it was influenza)

on the previous sailing. So, for the first few days everything we ate or drank had to be served by the ship's staff, which was ok for us, but I'm sure put a lot of extra stress on them. Our menus at dinner consisted of just one sheet of A four paper, which I assume they disposed of afterwards.

We sailed the Pacific Ocean for the first two days before arriving in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. There Brian and I did the Salsa/Salsa tour, which I must admit was one of the better trips. We were driven to a local restaurant and then left to

our own devices!! We sat at tables with all the ingredients for the perfect Salsa in front of us and then, with instructions from the staff, went to work creating our perfect dish. In all we made 3 different varieties of Salsa, plus had a go at making our own Margaritas, that is apart from the ones they served us when we arrived!! (I did mention it was a morning tour!!) So, we were all a bit merry when it came to the second part of the Salsa /Salsa, which was a lesson on how to “move those hips”.



Well after a few Margaritas, I was game, but Brian decided he'd just watch. It was so much fun, but I must admit my shins and not my hips, were aching for some reason after ten minutes of strenuous and sexy dance steps. Actually, the Port of Cabo San Lucas itself was really nice,

but what amazed us on our walk back from the coach to the ship was the amount of pharmacies all advertising the fact that we could buy prescribed drugs without a prescription!! Top of their list of drugs at every single store was (wait for it) Viagra. Ok there were a few very old men on the ship, so maybe they were hoping to cash in!!!! Sorry didn't take a photo of all their lists, but I can assure you Viagra was on the top of all of them!!!!

We then cruised the Pacific Ocean again and our next stop was meant to be Acapulco. However, the Captain's dulcet tones announced throughout our sea day that maybe we wouldn't get to Acapulco after all! Apparently, there was some hurricane or other in the area and he was obviously trying to avoid it. (Tropical Storm Norma). He announced that

even if we went into the port, we could not get off the ship anyway. Well, we have been to Acapulco before and have also seen the Cliff Divers, so we weren't too upset. However, for those people on board who hadn't been to Acapulco it was a bit of a let down. So, we had two

days, rather than one sailing the Pacific Ocean again!! Our next port of call was Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; nice countryside, but not a lot to say about the tour. Next stop, Corinto, Nicaragua where we did the Flora De Cana Rum Tour. Again, a very interesting day; we had the proverbial tasting at the end of the distillery tour and came back to the ship armed with a few bottles of the vintage stuff.



So, all in all a very nice trip and apparently, according to a young Aussie guy with us, the rum was very reasonably priced compared to the cost in Australia (he googled Dan Murphy Stores). Next, we docked at Puntarenas, Costa Rica, where we were meant to be doing “Tropical Train ride & Exotic Mangrove Glide” However, the Tropical Train had broken down, so we were taken by coach to the “so called” Exotic Mangrove!!! We were

meant to get glimpses of crocodiles and various birds, but I think either they were very good at camouflage or they just didn’t exist in the first place!! So, because we missed out on the Tropical Train, they took us to the local village where we watched a group of children performing their local dance, very sweet.



So back to cruising the Pacific Ocean once more and on our way to the Panama Canal. It was on that day we heard about the terrible earthquake in Mexico, so we could only think ourselves fortunate and at the same time, feel grief for the people it affected. We reached the Panama Canal on the 20th September and had a daylight transit, which was excellent. We have been through before, but they have now, or are still in the process of, making it even wider. This is to enable large

cruise and cargo ships to sail through. It really was one of the highlights of our journey through Central America. Our next stop was Cartagena, Colombia where our chosen tour was "Cartagena Shopping and Historical Sights". We did a walking tour of the local sights and shopping area and then were allowed time on our own to shop!! I don't know about any of you, but I just hate being bombarded with people trying to sell you their wares. I know, it is their only way of making a living, but once you show a bit of interest in one thing they are round you like flies, not enjoyable. I actually bought a few things in the hope they'd go away, but as I said above, you just get more of them in your face. At least the things for sale were made locally and not in China!!!! So, I was quite happy to get back to the ship. On the way back we passed one of their notorious prisons; our guide told us 90% of the inmates were drug dealers, which was obviously no surprise. He was a really good tour guide, very well educated and had us in stitches. However, I came away thinking how lucky we are to live in

Australia and was quite looking forward to home.

So now cruising the Caribbean Sea where our next port of call was meant to be Nassau, Bahamas. Hurricane Maria put a stop to that one. Again, our Captain, in the same dulcet tones, told us that although Hurricane Maria was about 200 nautical miles from us he had to take special precautions to stay away from it. I think it had already devastated Puerto Rico and was now heading for the Northeastern Caribbean. Well, all I can say is that I put my whole trust in the Captain, whereas Brian thought he was being overcautious! It was pretty rough going at some stages, but I didn't succumb to seasickness, which normally happens in my case, so I was pretty happy. So, another port of call missed, but at least we were safe.



All in all and apart from the natural disasters that seemed to be following in our wake, we arrived safely in New York, a day earlier than planned. We spent the night on the ship, had a morning tour of New York, then on to the airport happy to be flying back to Australia. We played bridge every day, bar two;

Brian and I had a couple of wins and not too many arguments, which is good. •



melbourne cup



RESULTS

Betty Connolly Individual Championship



1st Ross Blakey



2nd Alan Tolley



3rd Mei Huang

Gwen Johnson Teams of 4



1st Stella Steer, Jay Steer, Andrew Swider and Michael Kouwen



2nd Tad and Beata Bieganski, and Carol and Brian Fensome



3rd Lyn Errington, Joanna Tennyson, Chris Jenkins and Jenny Skinner

Open Swiss Pairs



1st Stella Steer and James Steer

2nd Tirza Cohen and Bruce Maguire

3rd Dave Munro and David Schokman

Most Improved Players for 2017

1. Han, Fiona
2. Wongphasukhot, Jay
3. Blakey, Ross
4. Bacon, Christine
5. Wheaton, David
6. Huang, Mei
7. Duly, Dawn
8. Broome, Martin
9. O'Grady, Carol
10. James, Debbie

Top 20 Players for 2017

		Total MPs	2017 MPs	
1	Steer, Stella	Grand	1,442.75	130.92
2	Steer, James	Grand	1,274.61	111.51
3	Schokman, David	Silver Grand	4,688.08	103.97
4	Bieganski, Beata	Grand	1,465.67	97.45
5	Cowell, David	Gold Life	979.63	91.12
6	Bieganski, Tad	Grand	1,367.22	84.81
7	Swider, Andrew	Grand	1,402.37	81.99
8	Hopfmueller, Ann	Silver Life	629.94	77.99
9	Jenkins, Christine	Silver Life	708.21	76.45
10	Sakashita, Noriko	Gold Life	799.53	70.81
11	Broome, Martin	Life	322.24	68.60
12	Skinner, Jennifer	Silver Life	588.73	64.70
13	Klein, Luba	Gold Life	1,013.76	62.64
14	Tennyson, Joanna	Silver Life	599.24	61.49
15	Burn, David	Silver Life	707.26	61.09
16	Havas, Judy	Silver Life	597.68	60.83
17	Han, Fiona	State	86.98	60.27
18	Broome, Valerie	*National	276.39	59.32
19	Havercroft, Max	Gold Life	925.94	55.55
20	Smith, Ken	Grand	1,035.55	52.66

CAN YOU HELP?

I'd like to dedicate some articles in our next newsletters about players who have events named in the honor. These players include:

Syd Noakes, Don Fraser, Jim and Irene Sanderson, Ossie Trigwell, Kath Brosnan, John Beyfus, Betty Connolly, Gwen Johnson.

I reach out to anyone who can contribute any stories, photos and information that will provide an interesting read about those players.

No matter how small the information may be, it all gets put together. Either e-mail, write it down or contact me at the bridge club:

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