



UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



Thank You



Committees come and committees go
some are industrious, others go with the flow.

At the end of the day though and when all's said and done,
being on the committee isn't always fun.

Personalities come into the equation
and I'd say on more than one occasion,

backs go up, people rave and shout,
but working for our club is what it's all about

Buying biscuits and tea for the members to brew,
making sure there's enough paper in the loo,

plenty of milk and booze in the fridge
when we all come along for a game of bridge.

Competitions to organise, parties to run,
all part of the work that has to be done.

Besides the committee, there are those too
behind the scenes, with a lot to do.

Counting the money and dealing those boards
that we all come along to play, in our hoards.

Every now and again you see your name in print,
Just another willing person doing their stint.

Those Master Points that we all like to get,

be a few moans if we didn't get them, I bet
Making sure there are books for you all to read
organising the newsletter, is another good deed
Last, but not least there's Robin Hood and his band
who teach our beginners to play a hand.

Just hope I've mentioned all the crew
as I wouldn't want anyone feeling blue

I'd like to go on, but I'm out of time,
Besides, I'm running out of words that rhyme.

So, my friends, the purpose of this ditty,
is to thank all those helpers and the committee;

and also, those helpers from past committees
who have helped this club and me with my ditties'

So, cheers to the committee and as a member of the club
I wish you all a Merry Christmas and please enjoy the grub!

Carol Fensome



President's Report

From John Bayly

Over the last few months the club has enjoyed bridge of a high standard and it was pleasing to see that the talent is widespread. The quality of the bridge players who participated in and achieved success in the Gwen Johnson Teams of Four and the Annual Congress was a credit to the players and the club. The success of these events reflects the hard work of our dedicated Committee members Connie Controna, Debbie James, Des Warner and Sharon Dyball.

Over the year members have always contributed suggestions in ways that can improve the club. With the support of your committee and Des Werner support this has resulted in the recent introduction of Thursday morning bridge. Members are using this competition to improve their skills and eventually move into other competitions.

With the enthusiasm of Sharon Dyball Friday sundowner has become a happy session when members can relax, talk bridge, talk politics and anything else

with good humour in a relaxing environment.

Visitors to the club have commented on the friendliness and support of our members. This is very gratifying as the Undercroft Bridge Club has always endorsed the policy that we are very competitive and yet are always willing to support members and ensure that a high standard of acceptable conduct is practiced by all members.

All of the success of the club would not be possible without the contribution of the committee who devote a lot of time to ensure that the club members have the best facilities and competition possible.

As President I have enjoyed the progress of the UBC in 2019 and wish all members a happy Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. ●



From Nick Jakowyna

As a recent member to this wonderful bridge club I am continually amazed by the manner in which committee members contribute to the successful running of the club. I would like to include in some items in every magazine to acknowledge some of the behind the scenes activities which various members contribute to our enjoyment at the Undercroft. I am happy to receive any contributions from any member at any time.

1. Red Point Catering Team Morning Tea

The red point catering team were thanked with a morning tea on Friday 1 November provided by Debbie James and Connie Coltrona.

We wanted to convey the club's appreciation for the magnificent food the team has provided for our competitive events over the past several years.

Helen Hyland has done an amazing job with the coordination of the team, so each of our monthly competitions had a generous supply of mainly home cooked food which of course was extremely popular with

members. Thank you to our team members Ingrid Fredericks, Chris Ross, Marie Outram, Margaret Grenville, Bev King our barman Brian Walton and of course Helen Hyland. Helen is taking a well-deserved rest from the role and travelling to the east coast for several months.

Next year Chris Ross has generously offered to take over coordination of the team. I am sure the team will be able to continue smoothly next year and Chris will have full support. We hope to add a few more members to the team to enable this transition.

N.B. If any Undercroft members who enjoy cooking and have a little time to help out, please contact Debbie James on 0400420339 or rdtc@bigpond.com.

2. Sharon Dyball has been live wire around the club.

When she notes that something is not working or can be improved or a member mentions that some thing is

amiss in the club then Sharon does something about improving that situation. For example, recently the club held a weekend Congress competition where other club members were visiting our club. A club member made reference that the front of the club house looked "tired". Sharon volunteered to assist in weeding the area, planting some new plants and co-opting her husband to provide fresh mulch over the garden bed, as a result many visitors and members made comment on the attractive entrance to the clubhouse.

3. With the approaching Melbourne Cup event Graham Milward checked to see that the projector and the computing setup was working. He subsequently found that he needed to replace the setup box and ensured that on the day the Cup was televised on both screens.

4. Handyman

A man of great talent who has saved the club countless dollars by repairing the cupboards, replacing plumbing, installing required towels rails, identifying electrical problems and preparing solutions and

keeping an eye on the wear and tear of the building. Who is this extra ordinary man - your committee man George Bellin.



Melbourne Cup

The annual Melbourne Cup bridge event was held at the Undercroft Bridge Club with about fifty regular members attending. The event was successful because of the efforts of hard working Sharon Dyball, the support by Graham Milward, Ron Kremer, Brian Wenton , Alan Tolley (barman extraordinaire), Rob Audas and many other people who jumped in to assist when they recognised the need; such as Bruce Penhey who ensured the race was broadcast on both TVs.

The winners and place getters of the 8 sweeps were:

- 1st Vow & Declare,
- 2nd Prince of Arran
- 3rd Il Paradiso

| Sweep | Winner (\$30) | Second (\$10) | Third (\$8) |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | A Suddall | V Hollaway | N Jakowyna |
| 2. | J Pope | S Butler | V Nicholson |
| 3. | C Price | N Fraser | J Pope |
| 4. | L McGlove | B King | G Kremer |
| 5. | N Watkins | N Watkins | F Snelling |
| 6. | K Parry | A Tolley | V Nicholson |
| 7. | N Watkins | A Williamson | P Coulter |
| 8. | H Swanson | I Susich | H Swanson |

Once again thanks to all members who provided plates of food that was incredible in quality and quantity. Many ladies contributed to ensure that the delightful food was enticingly presented and as result there were no hungry bridge players.

Prizes were awarded to the most elegant hat which was won by Katrina Will who my judges commented on the perfect match of the fascinator and the dress. The runner up, Margaret Szymakowski, according to the judges, had a beautiful classical hat which would have been in place in Ascot.

To provide a contrast, the mens most interesting hat was won by a classical international designed hat and cape outfit worn by Brian Welton.

Congratulations to all the members who achieved such creditable results in the Australian wide competition.



Undercroft Annual Congress

From Connie Coltrona - Convenor

The annual congress was held over the weekend of 26th and 27th October 2019.

On Saturday 34 tables played Match point Pairs and Sunday 28 Tables played Teams matches.

Congratulations to Gill & Ross Blakey for the best Undercroft pair not winning a major prize.



And Debbie James, Domenico DeGasperis, Nerilyn Mack, Robyn Rose for best Undercroft Team not winning a major prize.



The success of the Congress is the culmination of many persons working together.

The generosity of UBC members bringing in food to share—what a spread shared by all.

The timeless effort of the ladies in the kitchen, many thanks Sharon Dyball, Lyn Mol, Sunny Phegan, Margaret Grenville, and Bev King.

The administration staff Ann Hopfmueller, Beata Bieganski, Rupert Dodd, Debbie James.

The beautiful floral arrangement by Helen Larsen.

The all-important Bar Persons Allan Tolley, Brian Welton, Lorraine Rea.

The very capable director Dave Parham assisted by Bruce Penhey and Gwen Kremer.



RESULTS

THE UNDERCROFT ANNUAL CONGRESS

26th/ 27th October 2019

On Saturday 26th October the Undercroft Bridge Club held its annual Congress Pairs Competition with competitors filling 34 tables. On Sunday 27th there 28 tables competing.

The many complementary statements by local and visiting bridge players reflect the enormous planning undertaken by Connie Controla. The hard work by Connie and her team ensured all players had a high level of bridge in a first class facility complemented by quality catering.

As indicated in the results sheets there was some outstanding bridge played.

Saturday Pairs **Qualifying**

N/S: Noriko Sakashita, Ted Sakashita

E/W: Dave Munro, Fiona Han

Pairs FINAL



1st Phil Bapty, Gwyneira Brahma

2nd Dave Munro, Fiona Han

3rd Mark Doust, Belinda Taranto

Pairs PLATE



1st Marnie Leybourne, Nick Cantatore

2nd Meredith Goodlet, Marcey Spilsbury

3r Domenic DeGasperis, Debbie Fames

Pairs CONSOLATION



NS

1st Deana Wilson , Sue Gammon

2nd Maria Pirajno, Joan Schneider



EW

1st Christine Ross, Marilyn Atkins

2nd Satish Bedekar, Peter McCann

Sunday TEAMS



1st Viv Wood, Gerry Daly, Trevor Fuller, Don Allen



2nd Nigel Dutton, Marie-France Merven, Jessica Chew, Rez Karim

3rd Gwyniera Brahma, Phil Bapty, Doreen Jones, Jan Blight

AUSTRALIA - WIDE RESTRICTED PAIRS

| | | <i>Results</i> | <i>National</i> | | <i>Local</i> | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | | | Pos | Score | Pos | Score |
| 1 | Anne De Souza & Helen Larsen | 22 | 64.2 | 1 | 64.2 | |
| 2 | Jennifer Pope & Anneta Doktorovich | 76 | 60.1 | 2 | 60.1 | |
| 3 | Gill Blakey & Ross Blakey | 85 | 59.8 | 3 | 59.8 | |

GWEN JOHNSON TEAMS

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Tad Bieganski, Andrew Swider, Beata Bieganski & Lilia Male |
| 2 | John Beddow, Chris Bagley, David Burn & Lynne Milne |
| 3 | Ken Smith, Judy Havas, Joe Peci & Anthony Eardley |



Graduates - November 2019



HOUSE SWAPS AND AIRBNB – A GOOD OPTION FOR SENIOR TRAVEL?

From Carol Kelly

Travelling to France has been one of our favourite pastimes for many years.

Put it down to the fresh food, good cheap wine, spectacular scenery and the opportunity of an ex French teacher to brush up on his language skills. It's also the chance to catch up with our English relatives.

So in 2017 we decided to explore a different way to be able to spend a month or two in Europe without breaking the bank! House swapping and using Airbnb.

We joined two well-known home swap sites which now operate under one site - <https://www.aussiehouseswap.com.au>. They work on the premise that members arrange between themselves a 'swap' of homes (and sometimes cars if agreed) - at times and dates they wish.

Given the joining price was around \$120 for two years and we'd had a good look at the homes and locations on the sites

beforehand, we thought it was a good investment even if we didn't end up using it.

We found many members wanted to visit Australia and you could narrow it down to those seeking an exchange to Perth in particular and on dates you wanted. Some had 'second' homes and were able to offer you use of these homes too.

We put up the details of our home and places we were hoping to visit and started our search. Our first use of someone's home was a beautiful beach house in Palm Cove in Queensland. The owner gave us free use for a week as it was their holiday home! Although we offered a return week in Perth, they are still to take it up.

Our second swap was with a couple whose home in France was available during a period we needed – July and August 2018. Peak summer in Europe when accommodation is most expensive. They were university teachers of English who work in

the UK each summer and who wanted to come to Perth in our summer! We made contact through the site and spoke through messenger /Skype and they offered us their three-bedroom home in a small village called Coustaussa for six weeks in July / August. They also offered us use of their car which we accepted. We were only able to offer them our place for four weeks in January 2019 but that was fine for them. (a side trip to Vietnam called for!!).

We told them we would have family from the UK visiting and staying with us – which was no problem given the home had space for six. We arranged to arrive two days before they left so that we could meet and get an introduction to the home, garden and best places to shop/visit/ eat etc.

The pros ...

- We had six weeks 'free' accommodation in the height of the European summer in a beautiful part of France which we would probably not have thought of visiting ... a great location for walking, cycling, and local markets selling fresh food and locally made wines.

- Substantial savings on car hire. No real outgoings except food, drink and petrol.
- We got to know the neighbours, the village and the places sometimes only known to locals (like the best markets, swimming spots, walks etc). They even threw a street party in our honour!
- We learnt about the €1 buses and trains throughout the L'aude region and used them extensively (eg a two-hour scenic bus trip to Perpignan which ran daily).
- We had constant help and communication with the owners through What's app and messenger plus several contacts in the village who we could call on if needed.

And cons

- We did end up with some issues in the older house .. the wifi stopped working (not critical as we used the town hall one next door) but biggest issue was the drains got blocked ! Turned out the whole village was progressing over to mains

drainage from septic tanks and ours was yet to be linked up! We certainly learnt some new French terms like 'fosse septique' and how long it takes to get workmen in to repair things.

- The village didn't have shops or cafes you could walk to. You did have to drive to these –or walk to them in about 30 mins.

So, here's Michael's report about life in Coustaussa (our home swap village)

You probably haven't heard about Coustaussa, near Couiza, 20 km's from the famous old city of Carcassonne in the south east of France. You may remember (if you're a keen cyclist) that one of the a Tour de

France 's stages in 2019 featured Couiza with its ancient chateaus and smooth flowing river and colourful surroundings .as riders sped through at over 60 km / hr!

We visited the region in both 2018 and 2019 and stayed in a stone cottage built well over 100 years ago as part of a home exchange. The house address was "El Palmeral, a cote de la Marie, Cousteau's" ...basically the house next to the town hall! No house number, no street name but apparently, we couldn't miss it.

Fortunately, our hosts picked us up on our first visit and were able to give us a three-day induction to our new home away from home. It was a three-bedroom two storey house which had retained many of its original features fireplace, shuttered windows, narrow stairs, hallway, outside sink ... but it had a kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, and a large dining room at the rear overlooking corn fields. This is one of the views. One





one occasion a lone vulture was catching the breeze high above the paddock – reminiscent of a Van Gogh cornfield painting!

We quickly found ourselves in a very handy location to be able to swim at the many local lakes, swimming pools and rivers. One favourite was at Alet-les-Bains where the swimming pool was filled with thermally heated water which was discovered by the Romans over two thousand years ago.. The locals also collected their drinking water here at troughs constantly filling with spring water.

We discovered the '€1 bus and train

routes' which took us to Quillan (a historic stopping point on the ancient and winding road between Carcassonne and Perpignan), Limoux (famous for its Blanquette de Limoux), and of course Perpignan and Carcassonne. These are towns steeped in

history – think the Cathars Huguenots, Romans ..including the skull of 'Tautavel Man' dating from about 450,000 years BC. Carcassonne (another stops on the Tour de France) became Latin in 30 BC with the creation of many grain farms which led to peace and a strong economy. It's medieval fortress is stunning – it was featured in



the Kevin Costner erosion of Robin Hood – and is a popular tourist attraction near the canal du midi.

We were able to catch up with family and friends from the UK – including our daughter who was a great fan of the sunflowers. Driving through the French countryside seeing them in their thousands does take your breath away ...just make sure



you go at the right time of year (June/July)

And one last word of advice – men ... don't forget to pack your speedos! Most of the French swimming pools still don't let men swim in board shorts. You can however drown your sorrows in wine or beer that still only cost half the price of its equivalent in Oz! ●

Playing in No Trumps

From the book "Step-by-Step: Card Play in No Trumps" by Robert Berthe and Norbert Lebelly

Deal No. 8

Dealer: NORTH | Vul: EW

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| ♠ | 1095 | |
| ♥ | A8743 | |
| ♦ | 95 | |
| ♣ | Q109 | |
| ♠ | N | ♠ |
| ♥ | W | ♥ |
| ♦ | E | ♦ |
| ♣ | S | ♣ |
| ♠ | A84 | |
| 6 | ♥ 52 | |
| 18 | ♦ KQJ106 | |
| | ♣ AKJ | |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT * |
| Pass | 2♣ ** | Pass | 2NT *** |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

(*) 15-18

(**)- Crowhurst (asking for opener's shape and strength)

(***) Maximum, without 3-card heart support

Lead ♠6 (4th best)

Plan your play

Solution on page 19

Fascinating Card Facts

Sat 22 Nov 2008 11.01 AEDT

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2008/nov/22/card-games-facts>

“Without cards, there would be no sarnies. You're probably aware the sandwich was named after the 18th-century earl. But do you know why John Montagu dreamed up his eponymous snack? Because he didn't want to leave the cribbage table to go to dinner.

Many individual cards have picked up nicknames over the years. For example, the four of clubs is often known as Ned Stokes, the Devil's four-poster, or the Curse of Mexico; the queen of clubs, Queen Bess; the nine of diamonds, the curse of Scotland; the king of hearts, the suicide king (because he appears to be stabbing himself through the head); the king of diamonds, the man with the axe; the ace of clubs, the horseshoe; the ace of spades, old frizzle.

The king of hearts is the only without a moustache - but not because of superior personal hygiene. He originally had one, but it was lost in the reproduction of the original

design. A similar mistake caused his axe to become a sword.

Ever wondered why the ace of spades' spade is larger and more ornate than the others? It's a tax thing. The first systematic duty was imposed on cards in 1711, and in order to indicate that the fee had been paid, a tax stamp was placed on the top card, which was usually the ace of spades. In 1828 it was decided instead that the Stamp Office would print an official ace of spades with the royal coat of arms to signal that the tax had been paid.

Chemistry lessons would be a lot harder if it weren't for cards. For it was while playing his beloved patience that Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev had his brainwave about the organisation of the elements - and thus was born the periodic table.

Gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok, who was shot dead at the poker table in 1876, is not the only

famous person to have died while playing - comedian Buster Keaton and singer Al Jolson also pegged it at the card table.

Cards were freely available in Britain from the 15th century onwards - until April 1940, when the Nazi invasion of Norway interrupted our supply of cardboard. Winston Churchill insisted that playing card manufacture be maintained at any cost, as they were the soldiers' principal form of entertainment in the trenches.

During the Vietnam war, the US Playing Card Company manufactured crates of aces of spades to ship out to troops. Rumour had it that the Vietcong held the card in mortal dread, believing it to be the symbol of death. Rumour was wrong, but airdropping the cards over Vietnamese villages apparently helped the US soldiers' morale.

A few common English phrases taken from the table: on the cards, play your cards right, steal a march (euchre), not my strong suit, streets ahead (cribbage), ace up your sleeve, beats me, call your bluff, high roller, pass the buck, up the ante, when the chips are down,

left in the lurch, raw deal, follow suit, come up trumps.”



Playing in No Trumps - SOLUTION

How many immediate tricks do you have?

1 in spades, 1 in heart, 3 in clubs = 5 certain tricks and can set up four diamonds by knocking out the ace.

At trick 1, East plays the knave of spades.

Will you duck the opening lead and if you do how many times?

You will not have failed to bear in mind the Rule of 7. You possess $3+3=6$ cards in spades. $7-6=1$; you will therefore duck once only and win the second round of spades.

What if fact will happen if you duck the second round of spades?

If West has no entry or if the spades are 4-3, he/she will switch to a heart, a suit in which you only have one stopper. (Remember that the opponents know from the bidding that you have only two cards in hearts.) After taking the ace of spades you will establish the diamonds, hoping that the ace is not in the same hand as the long spades.

If the spades are 4-3, you will lose 3 spades and the ace of diamonds.

East wins the second diamond and exits with heart. Your contract is home with one spade, one heart, four diamonds and three clubs.

The Full Deal

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|---|----|------|
| | ♠ | 1095 | | | |
| | ♥ | A8743 | | | |
| | ♦ | 95 | | | |
| | ♣ | Q109 | | | |
| ♠ | KQ763 | N | ♠ | J2 | |
| ♥ | QJ10 | W | E | ♥ | K96 |
| ♦ | 74 | S | | ♦ | A832 |
| ♣ | 872 | | | ♣ | 6543 |
| | ♠ | A84 | | | |
| | ♥ | 52 | | | |
| | ♦ | KQJ106 | | | |
| | ♣ | AKJ | | | |

Guiding Principle

Do not overlook the advantages of ducking and systematically apply the Rule of 7. In this way you will effectively counter any switch by the defence.



Contributors are Always Welcome

Please feel free to forward material or suggest topics you like to read about to b.bieganski@hotmail.com or Suggestion (Red) Box

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