

UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER  DECEMBER 2020

WE WISH YOU

a very

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

AND

Happy New Year

UBC October Congress

From Convenor Connie Coltrona

The Undercroft Bridge Club Annual Congress was held on Saturday 24th October (Swiss Pairs) and Sunday 25th October (Teams, sponsored by St. Ives Carine).

Congratulations to Director Dave Parham and assistant Gwen Kremer for two days of excellent work.

Grateful thanks to all the volunteers:

Beata Bieganski (printing booklets), Rupert Dodd (prize money), Nesha Shah (office manager), Sharon Dyball and helpers in the kitchen, Carol De Lobel, Gaye Gaffney, Lesley McGlone, Sunny Phegan, Bev King, Allan Tolley and John Bayley, Lorraine Rea serving drinks. Management Committee members.



Saturday Swiss Pairs



1st Gerry Daly & Trevor Fuller



2nd Gill Dolling (& Chris Cullen)



3rd Lilia Male & Beata Bieganski



4th Pauline Collett & Catherine Hood



Best Undercroft Pair - Gwyniera Brahma & Cassie Morin

Best Undercroft Pair under 300 Masterpoints:

1st Helen Larsen & Jamie Luxton



2nd Magda Lawes & Michael Lawes

Sunday Teams



1st Stella Steer, James Steer, Gwyniera Brahma & Cassie Morin

2nd Gerry Daly, Trevor Fuller, Viv Wood & Martin Doran



3rd Judy Havas, Chris Ross, Luis Klein & Luba Klein



Best Undercroft Team



Tuya Cooke, Carol Fensome,
David Cowell & Brian Fensome

Best Undercroft Team under 300 Masterpoints



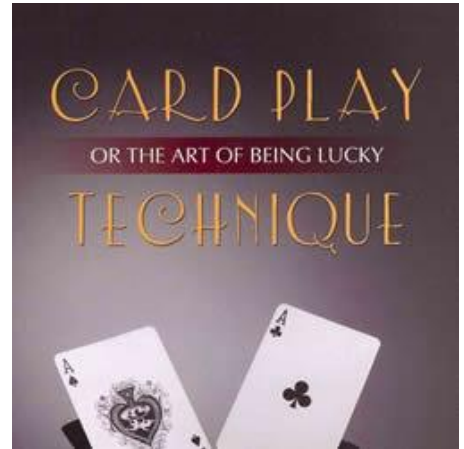
Bernie Plath, David Saunders
(Ky Khan & David Chatman)

Well done all for another
successful Congress. ●



Quiz

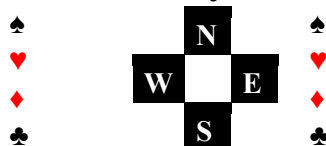
Card Play Technique



You, South are in 3NT, with East having bid spades, West dutifully leading one.

How do you plan the play?

♠ 54
♥ K73
♦ A86
♣ AQ863



♠ A82
13 ♥ A842
♦ K73
11 ♣ 752

Answer on page 19

President's Report

From Connie Coltrona

The Management Committee (MC) has appointed a Tournament Committee (TC) as a sub-committee to the MC. The Terms of Reference of the TC have been documented and recorded by the MC.

The Tournament Committee works with the MC to plan, coordinate and evaluate all red point events for the Calendar year at the Undercroft Bridge Club.

Tournament Committee

- Chairperson – Ross Blakey
- Secretary – Lesley McGlone

Members –

- David Coulter
- Gwen Kremer
- Beata Bieganski
- Peter Stephenson
- David Cowell
- Connie Coltrona (ex-officio)

Thank you all.

On Saturday 21st November I attended the Graduation of the beginners' group.

Congratulations to Lesley Routledge and her assistants, what a delightful and

enthusiastic group of new members. Welcome.

The final red point event for 2020 will be the inaugural Tony Martin Masters and teams of 3 on Sunday 13th December. Tony Martin was a past President of UBC and always promoted bridge especially to the beginners' group.

The Xmas Festivities at UBC have taken a new format this year, Sharon Dyball has put out a Pianola message to members, please join us for some fun, a complimentary drink and eats.

My grateful thanks to the members of the Management Committee for your continued support.

Merry Xmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Beginners' Lessons Report

2020 has been unusual in that we were not able to finish the January intake because of Covid-19. These new beginners were picked up in the July intake with new people and, in November, 22 new players were graduated into the Saturday morning session. My objectives for these lessons are that the new players learn the basics of Acol 4 card majors and Benjamin 2's, understand the etiquette and, very importantly, have fun while learning. I really enjoy starting these new players on their bridge journey. I already have numbers through word of mouth for the new intake that will commence on 30th January 2021.

If you know people who would like to learn then, please phone me and register their names.

Leslie Routledge 045 001 0914

November 2020 Graduation

(Photo courtesy Leslie Routledge)



(Missing – Deirdre Edwards, Enid Ginbey, Anne Fitzgerald and Mary Petrou)

My Friend Betty Thompson

From Luba Klein



I'm here to speak about Betty and Bridge – It started for Betty when they used to visit John (Brian's brother) and his wife Margaret. Betty, Margaret and Brian were given lessons by John and the entry fee was a Stone Green Ginger Wine. The only one that decided to take the lessons seriously was Betty and she said to Brian she is going to keep learning and it will be good for her when she retires.

She often told me about her working life and she had many jobs – worked as an Air Hostess for TAA – Coles in Northam,

Wareana Open Air Theatre in Morley where Myers Galleria is now, Switchboard for an Insurance Company, Berry Fruit Juice. (I am not sure of the order of how long she worked at each company but I know she retired at the age of 70.

I meet Betty 30 years ago at Light Street Bridge Club and her partner was Val Noble – Val was always giving bridge lessons to Betty who sat quietly and didn't object. Both women were excellent bridge players and Betty had already played in many competitions and achieved a high ranking.

One day I asked would she play with me and help me to improve my bridge and that I would promise to be nice to her. She agreed and I played her system and did improve a lot. That was the beginning of my 25-year bridge partnership with Betty.

She often spoke of Noel Moses who had been her regular partner – They started playing at Nedlands Bridge Club forming a top partnership and doing extremely well. Both played in

many competitions and were ranked as top players. Unfortunately, Noel passed away at a young age and left Sati Moses his wife on her own. Sati was also a very cheeky bridge player and many times when she sat opposite me, she completely hoodwinked me and I got bottom boards against her. Ken Smith said to me, just give her a kiss (a double) and she will go down. And that was indeed the case.

We progressed to Undercroft Bridge Club and Betty was my regular Friday partner. We enjoyed many bridge games and my game improved immensely. Another partner was Wynn Norstrand another excellent bridge player. Some years later, Ken Smith asked Betty to play with him on a Thursday and he played with Wynn on a Friday. Betty was his partner for probably 15 to 20 years and that was when Louis and I used to go to Bridge Congresses with Ken and Betty. We formed a strong team winning or being runner ups at Albany, Bunbury, Mandurah and Busselton. Ken used to bring his wife Rena, and Betty would bring her husband Brian (they were not bridge players). We would meet for

meals in the evenings and have a lovely social time. Very enjoyable memorable times.

On one occasion, they invited us to stay with them in a house they rented down south. Their daughter Kylie and her husband Mark and children were with them. Mark was a fantastic cook (eat your hearts out Masterchef) and we had some of the best meals ever. Another memorable time as we could bring our dog Coco (Princess Coco) and she was very well looked after by the family while we played bridge.

Betty and Ken played in many Gold Point and Red Point Congresses at the Gold Coast, Canberra, and Hobart bringing their spouses along for those lovely meals to be had after a hard day in the office playing bridge. Every now and then Betty would complain about all the notes Ken was sending to change this and that and to play new systems (used to drive her mad and now Judy Havas gets those notes).

I have known many people but only a few that I can honestly say I trusted. I could tell Betty anything and she would never repeat it. She never spoke badly

of her partners even when they were wrong in their play. She was a woman with perfect impeccable manners at the bridge table.

She spoilt me rotten with the loveliest gifts for my birthday and at Christmas – even offering to look after my very much loved dog, Coco, when I ran out of dog sitters.

I will miss my dearest friend and she was someone we can respect in every way.

Both Brian and Betty have been blessed with 2 wonderful daughters and son-in-laws who have been so caring during this most difficult time doing everything possible to help Betty to pass peacefully.

Betty – 7NT to you dear friend ●



Lucky New Year's Traditions from Around the World

Source: Reader's Digest <https://www.rd.com/list/christmas-trivia/>

Denmark: Smash plates

In every household, there are some dishes, plates, and cups that, while perfectly acceptable, somehow never get used. Those in Denmark know how to put them to good use. Tradition says you should—affectionately!—shatter them against the doors of your friends' homes to ward off bad spirits and welcome happier vibes in the chaos. Another ritual that doesn't require clean-up is jumping for joy at midnight—literally. As the clock ticks closer to midnight, Danish folk will try to climb to the highest peak they can—on top of chairs, tables, you

name it—and jump into the New Year.

Thailand: Throw water on your friends

Make sure to wear your swimsuit if you're ringing in the new year in Thailand. And we don't mean December 31, when lantern festivals freckle the country, but rather the Songkran Festival from April 13 to 15 for the Thai New Year. During this fun time that attracts crowds worldwide, look out for endless buckets of water flying in every direction. The act of dunking water over someone is seen as a sign of

respect, sending the sentiment of good wishes for the year ahead and symbolically washing away any bad luck.

South Africa: Throw furniture out the window

You better look up if you're touring South Africa for New Year's Eve—as it's not confetti that's sprinkled from the skies, but, um, furniture that catapults to the ground below. Though this is not a widely adopted practice throughout the land, certain areas believe the physical act of tossing unused goods from their window sends a signal to the universe that you have let go of past grievances and are hopeful for the future.

Ecuador: Burn away your grievances

Ecuadorians celebrate Los Anos Viejos, which translates to “the old years”—a tradition in which you want to destroy any of your past demons. You'll see many locals create dolls that resemble scarecrows, some decorated with signs, descriptions of their sins, or images of sinister people. They're often filled with sawdust, newspaper, or clothes, and they might be finished off with a mask. As the clock hits midnight and

celebrations begin, the front yard creations are caught on fire, symbolizing the fiery, smoky embers of one year and inviting good spirits to circle in the new.

Spain: Eat 12 grapes in 12 seconds

Spaniards subscribe to the superstition that the last 12 seconds of the year can determine your fate for the next year, all dependent on how many grapes you can chow down in a short time. In many regions there are 12-second countdown, with each ding representing a month. The idea is to get through 12 grapes before midnight, awarding yourself with luck.

South Korea: Soup for the soul

There's nothing like a hot bowl of soup to warm the soul in the winter, but South Korea's tteokguk, dish made of broth, rice cakes, meat, and vegetables, is imperative to the country's New Year traditions. South Korean New Year, known as Seollal, usually falls in late January or early February, and the soup is believed to bring those who eat it good luck in the New Year.

Continues on page 16

Garbage Stayman

<http://bridge-game.info/learning-hub/for-improvers/1859-garbage-stayman.html>

Written by Greg Quittner

You'd better believe it! It's a convention which works well when it comes up.

You can only use it over 1NT or 2NT (20-21). Responder must have a void or singleton club. It can only be used with simple Stayman.

Garbage Stayman shows 0-7 points. The ideal distribution is 4-4-4-1 or 4-4-5-0, although 3-4-5-1 or 4-3-5-1 is also okay.

Note that a weak hand containing a 5-card major (e.g., 5-4-4-0 shape) should simply use a Jacoby Transfer instead.

Here is an example:

Partner opens 1NT and you hold

♠	8643	♠	5432
♥	9873	♥	6534
♦	K632	♦	65432
♣	4	♣	-

You respond 2C and now pass whatever partner bids (2D, 2H or 2S). With your hand and partner's well defined 1NT bid, playing in any of these two-level contracts has to be better than partner playing 1NT.

Exactly the same would occur if partner opens 2NT. In both situations you know that no trumps would be a disaster.

There's a story about a husband thinking they were playing Extended Stayman and bids 3C over his wife's 2C response to his 1NT opening. At the end of the hand after he went down three in 3NT his wife said to him:

"Okay, I'm sick of taking out the garbage. You can do it from now on."



PS "Garbage Stayman" is more useful opposite a weak NT opening (12-14) as it occurs more frequently and can mitigate very expensive penalties if responder is weak.●

RESULTS

Don Fraser Swiss Pairs



1st Jairo Giraldo & Peter McCann



2nd Tad Bieganski (& Andrew Swider)



3rd Julia Hustad & Harry Crosbie

Gwen Johnson Teams



1st Tad Bieganski - Beata Bieganski -
Carol Fensome & Brian Fensome



2nd Andrew Swider, Lilia Male, Tuya
Cooke & David Cowell



Best Under 300 Masterpoints
William Cox, Peter Wilson
(Alf Surace & Jamie Luxton)

Under State Master



1st Ingrid Fredericks & David Pitts



2nd Colin Walker & Alan Rolls



3rd Lorainne Kay & Karen Darmody

John Beyfus Pairs

- 1st Peter McCann & Trevor Burr
- 2nd Mimi Packer & Linda Coli
- 3rd Gwyneira Brahma & Phil Bapty

Restricted Butler

- 1st Christine Bacon & Jane Adams
- 2nd Sarita Singh & Tomoko Nakamatsu
- 3rd Beryl Morris & Robin Dawson

November Swiss Pairs



1st Gill Dolling & Chris Cullen



2nd Nigel Dutton & Marie-France Merven



3rd Richard Grenside & Sue Grenside



Best Undercroft Pair <300
Masterpoints:
Susan Robertson & Robin Dawson



4th Dave Munro (& David Schokman)



Best Undercroft Pair <100
Masterpoints
David Chatman & Ky Khan



Best Undercroft Pair:
Tad Bieganski (& Andrew Swider)



70 Percenters Club

PLAYERS	%	DATE
Peter Malan & Katrina Will	70.2%	5-OCT-20
Jeanette Fink & Merilyn Letts	72.1%	6-OCT-20
Ian Rowlands & Jairo Giraldo	70.2%	10-OCT-20
Beata Bieganski & David Cowell	70.0%	14-OCT-20
Robyn Giraldo & Jairo Giraldo	73.0%	19-OCT-20
Tad Bieganski & Brian Fensome	70.0%	18-NOV-20
David Pitts & Ingrid Fredericks	73.0%	20-NOV-20
Diane Tilvern & Margaret Szymakowski	70.0%	29-NOV-20
David Cowell & Beata Bieganski	70.8%	2-DEC-20
Satish Bedekar & Brian Kaye	74.8%	4-DEC-20

Undercroft Players Out and About!

Golden West Swiss Pairs (94)

9th Stella Steer & James Steer

SuperVets Pairs (42)

8th Luba Klein & Louis Klein

9th Brian Fensome & Diane
Tilvern

Melville Congress Pairs (58)

8th Tad Bieganski & Andrew
Swider

Melville Congress Teams (22)

1st Tad Bieganski - Andrew
Swider - John Beddow -
(*Egmont Melton*)

4th James Steer - Stella Steer -
Gwyneira Brahma - Phil
Bapty

9th Richard Grenside - Sue
Grenside - Martin Broome
- Valerie Broome

10th Beata Bieganski - Lilia
Male - (*Pauline Collett -
Catherine Hood*)

**WABC Christmas
Congress - Saturday
Swiss Pairs (60)**

3 rd	Tad Bieganski & Andrew Swider
8 th	Stella Steer & James Steer

**WABC Christmas
Congress - Saturday
Swiss Teams (30)**

2 nd	Joe Peci - Anthony Eardley - Ken Smith - Judy Havas
3 rd	Tad Bieganski - Andrew Swider - John Beddow - (Egmont Melton)
5 th	Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside - Martin Broome - Valerie Broome

**WABC Christmas
Congress -
Restricted Pairs EW**

5 th	Katrina Will & Nesha Shah
10 th	Ross Blakey & Gill Blakey



**Lucky New Year's
Traditions from
Around the World**

Philippines: Find 12 round fruits

For a favourable fortune in the Philippines, it's not size or color or texture that matters, but rather shape. Avoid rectangles and triangles. - be on the lookout for anything circular in fashion. The idea is that circles represent coins and bring wealth. Most locals will attempt to get to 12 round fruits, each representing a month of the year.

Brazil: Wear white

It's no secret that Brazil likes to party, but when it comes to New Year's, it's less about the glittery mini-dresses and sequined skirts. Instead, for a year that will promise you luck, wonder, and adventure, your outfit only needs to have one characteristic: white!

Colombia: Lug around an empty suitcase

Many Colombians will take an empty suitcase and run around their block as fast as they can. Legend says if you're in good spirits and do this the right way (perhaps without tripping?),

your next lap around the sun will guarantee at least one traveling adventure.

Turkey: Smash pomegranates

This one feels festive but messy. In Turkey, locals smash pomegranates on their doorways for New Year's. The belief is that your good fortune in the coming year is directly proportional to the number of seeds that fly out of the fruit upon impact, so put some aggression behind that throw!

Finland: Cast some metal

In Finland, locals cast molten tin into water, carefully inspecting the shape it takes once it has hardened. An animal might mean there will be an abundance of food, while a heart could forecast love in the coming year.

Germany: Eat a sugar pig

Germans believe that pigs equal wealth, so for New Year's, it's commonplace to eat glücksschwein, a pig-shaped candy, for a dose of luck in your wallet. Made from marzipan, they're both adorable and sweet.

Japan: Ring a bell 108 times

Romania: Toss a coin

Tossing a coin in a river will bring you luck throughout the year

Bolivia: Bake coins into sweets

Coins are baked into cakes for a festive activity. The person who receives the slice with the coin is thought to have a prosperous year ahead.

Italy: Eat lentils

Burma: Wash away bad luck

The Burmese take part in the Thingyan Water Festival at the start of their New Year, which occurs in April, to wash away any bad luck they may have previously experienced.

Estonia: Eating for seven

Estonians eat at least seven meals on December 31. According to custom, this means that they will harness the strength of seven men in the new year.

Ireland: Bang bread against the walls

Forget coming together to break bread, the Irish believe in banging their carbs against the walls on New Year's. The act is supposed to chase away bad luck and evil spirits, enabling good luck to be invited in. ●

Beginner Corner

4441 Shape

Andrew Robson Bridge

https://www.andrewrobson.co.uk/article/beginner_corner/

“These are very awkward shapes to handle. Bidding has developed such that one-suited hands (six-card suits) and two-suited hands (five-fours) are easy to describe. You bid and repeat the six-card suit; you bid the five then the four.

The 4441 shape cannot be described in two bids. A small lie has to be told.

First, the opening bid. There is no perfect solution, but best, on grounds of economy and simplicity, is ‘TAPS’ where you open 1♥ with a black-suit singleton and 1♣ with a red-suit singleton. ‘H’ and ‘C’ – the taps.

Your problems are only just beginning! Say your partner responds in your singleton (they always do!). Best is this:

12	Pass – don’t open the bidding at all – then you won’t have to worry about your rebid.
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13-14	Rebid your cheapest four-card suit. Lying about your (lack of) fifth card in your first suit is the lesser of evils.
15+	Rebid Notrumps at the appropriate level (15-16: at lowest level; 17-18: with a jump; 19: 3NT)

Which suit would you open with these hands? What is your rebid if partner responds in your singleton?

Hand a)	Hand b)	Hand c)
♠ 4	♠ J 9 4 2	♠ Q 8 5 2
♥ K J 4 3	♥ Q	♥ A Q 7 4
♦ A K J 3	♦ A Q 8 3	♦ 5
♣ K J 9 6	♣ K 7 5 2	♣ A Q 5 2

- (a). Open 1♥ and rebid 1NT over 1♠, showing 15-16 “balanced”. Partner will think you have 2/3 spades. That’s life.
- (b). Pass. Yucky 12-count with two dubious points in hearts. Perhaps an opponent will open 1♥ and you can make a take-out double, describing your hand in one call, when by opening you’d be unable to describe it in two.
- (c). Open 1♣ and rebid 1♥ over 1♦. Hope that your lack of the advertised fifth club will not prove serious”.

Solution

Six top tricks are readily available. For more you must look to the clubs. That involves the risk of letting in East, the dangerous opponent, but this risk must be taken. The SA is held up till the third round and the CQ finessed with trepidation and then relief as it wins. What next?

There is an instinctive tendency to play the CA and then a small club. If West wins the third club trick with the CK, all is well. He has no more spades or the suit breaks 4-4 which is almost as good. But West may have started with CKx only. Then he will drop his king on the ace and control of the suit will pass to East's jack.

The declarer, who thinks ahead and works it out, will make her contract. The others will be "unlucky".

Having brought off the club finesse, the thoughtful declarer returns to her hand with a heart or a diamond and plays towards the CA. If West's king goes up,

she ducks, playing a small card from dummy, not the ace. East, the dangerous opponent, is powerless. He cannot overtake partner's king and has no possible entry outside clubs. As long as clubs break 3-2 declarer is home.

Making the contract depends on two things. Firstly, holding up the SA, so as to make it safe to lose the lead to West, the now harmless opponent. And secondly, visualising the distribution of the five outstanding clubs. To succeed, West must have the king. That is luck. The rest is card play technique.

This hand and most of the text is taken from pages 85-6 of Card Play Technique (or the Art of Being Lucky) by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener (revised edition, 2013). This is a much loved classic and would benefit any interested bridge player.



Contributors are Always Welcome

Please feel free to forward material or suggest topics you like to read about to Beata Bieganski
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