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Undercroft Bridge Club

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Undercroft Bridge Club

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

New Year Pairs Winners 2014



Allan Doig and David Cowell 1st



Peter McCann and Ian Rowlands 2nd



Tad and Beata Bieganski 3rd

Summer Pairs 2013 Winners



John Beddow and Tad Bieganski 1st



Joanna Tennyson and Lynne Errington 2nd



Dave Munro and David Schokman 3rd

Gwen Johnson Teams 2013 Winners



Christine Jenkins, Marie Sheridan, Beata Bieganski and Carole Fensome 1st



Satish Bedekar, Peter McCann, Margaret Britten and Tony Eardley 2nd



Tony Martin, Jennifer Bandy, John Beyfus and Joanna Tennyson 3rd

President's Report

Welcome to 2014 which is now well under way!

As already announced the Undercroft Bridge Club will be closed from TUESDAY 4TH MARCH to FRIDAY 21ST MARCH. This may be extended into the following week if something unexpected happens during the roof replacement. A notice, to announce the reopening, will be posted on the club room door and on our web page, as soon as the builder gives us a finishing time.



A new, 10 year lease has been agreed to with the City of Joondalup. This involves a commitment by them not to commence any redevelopment during that period. Thus our newly elected Building Extension Committee, made up of Graham Milward (chairperson), Helen Larsen and David Cowell, are working hard towards the aim of more toilets, a larger office and some extra playing space. You will hear more very soon.

Allan Doig and Leslie Routledge still have concerns about the treatment of some of our newer players by a few of the established members. Some strategies are being put in place to try and prevent bullying and intimidation. I would encourage anyone who is treated badly at the playing table to immediately call the Director. There is no excuse for inappropriate behaviour and it is certainly not welcome at the UBC. On the other hand, there are several wonderful members working hard to support and encourage emerging players. Thank you.

This year we are running 15 Red/Gold Point events. It's fantastic to see a large number of entries for these competitions. Please remember that an advertised event closes at least five days before commencement so that the Director can organise the movement and boards can be dealt. If you cannot play at a session, it is up to you to find a suitable replacement, ie a player of similar status. Please contact me if you need help with this task.

Thank you to your committee and all our club workers who continue to keep things "ticking over". A special thank you to David Cowell, who took over the Presidency during my four week break and Margaret Melsom who has again produced the newsletter.

Wishing all members a happy and healthy 2014.

Ann Hopfmüller

Bridge Player's Lament

I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night
It's amen to Staymen, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
and I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my right,
so for now it's all over – I'm off to the back wood
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood.
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again,
so I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night.
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.
My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope,
and when he says "double" I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
he kept on bidding right up to the sky.
We're in seven spades and all my hope fades
when surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick
and I have to admit my partner's a brick,
but I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night.
Farewell to conventions – I give up the fight.
So I leave with few words but some that are true.
Bridge is a game – not for me but for you
so be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek
for it's only a game—Oh yes! I'll see you next week.

Every good wish for the New Year!



Master Point Rankings as at 31 December 2013

Currently Undercroft has 408 members consisting of:

| No. of Members | Rank | Minimum Requirements for MPs | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|------|
| | | Total | Red & Gold | Gold |
| 6 | Grand Masters | 1000 | 700 | 200 |
| 5 | Gold Life Masters | 750 | 450 | 75 |
| 10 | Silver Life Masters | 500 | 300 | 50 |
| 10 | Life Masters | 300 | 180 | 30 |
| 7 | National Masters** | 300 | 150 | |
| 17 | National Masters* | 200 | 100 | |
| 8 | National Masters | 150 | 75 | |
| 25 | State Masters* | 100 | 75 | |
| 20 | State Masters | 50 | 25 | |
| 12 | Regional Masters* | 100 | | |
| 22 | Regional Masters | 50 | | |
| 16 | Local Masters** | 35 | | |
| 16 | Local Masters* | 25 | | |
| 30 | Local Masters | 15 | | |
| 37 | Club Masters | 5 | | |
| 29 | Graduate Masters | 2 | | |
| 138 | Nil Masters | | | |

As you can see from this list, a third of our members are total beginners and have yet to earn a ranking of 2.00 master points.

Perhaps some of the more experienced players out there would like to take a beginner under their wing for a few games to improve their bidding and playing skills and give them confidence to play in a regular club session.

John Beyfus was our star performer for 2013 earning a total of 142.34 MPs. Beata Bieganski was 2nd with 102.10 and Joanna Tennyson 3rd with 97.30. **The McCutcheon Awards** are for players who win the most MPs Australia wide during the year in their master point ranking, which is taken at the start of the calendar year.

Congratulations must go to Chris Jenkins who was 4th overall for a National Master** with 79.13 and Joanna Tennyson, who was 3rd overall for a National Master with 97.30. Well done girls!

Chris Price

Master Points Secretary

cable car several times. Fisherman's wharf is a favourite location for eating out as well as weekend markets—again, we had wonderful weather!

After San Francisco we hired a car and spent three nights driving the coast road south and stayed at Monterey and visited Carmel but did not see either Doris Day or Clint Eastwood although the locals know where they live apparently. We visited a town called Solvang which was founded by Danish immigrants in 1912 and well worth the effort. We also went to Hearst Castle and witnessed the



Alan and Clodagh Tolley

spot where hundreds of sea lions beach themselves to mate and sunbathe before they go back into the sea again. What a hell of a lot of noise they make but it was a wonderful spectacle.

We drove back to San Francisco where the traffic became increasingly more congested and it was with relief when we finally arrive at the airport for our return flight to Perth with another stopover in Auckland. We arrived back home on 26th October.

To sum up, it was a rather full-on holiday and we covered a lot of territory but we are glad that we did it as Canada and America are a long way from Perth. I doubt that we will do a trip of this length again however. It is important to be fit as walking is still the best way to get around.



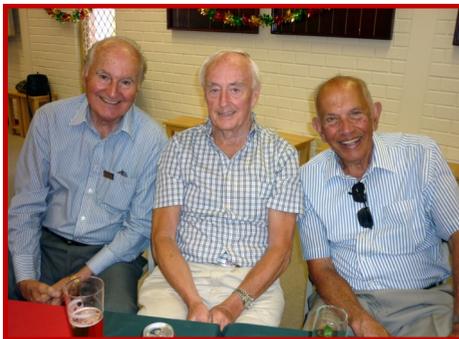
David Cowell and Lorraine Rea presenting Brother Olly Pickett with your raffle cheque for \$600 for Wheelchairs for Kids.

Well done to everyone who participated in the raffle.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the newsletter with their interesting 'tit bits', stories of travel and club history. Any items of interest to members are welcome.

Margaret Melsom
Newsletter Editor

Christmas Parties 2013



Fantastic music, good food and what a bevy of beauties. A great time was had by all!

nights before we set off along the Icefields Highway to Jasper enjoying Columbia Glacier and Athabasca Gorge along the way among other sights. There was a fair bit of snow visible as well along the roadside.

Jasper is a smaller town than we anticipated and we spent three nights there in a nice hotel. Our room was directly above the bar but it didn't cause too many problems. Jasper was the only town that we found a bit on the cold side.

On the way back to Vancouver we stayed a night at Kamloops. The whole trip through the Rockies was almost 2500 kilometres. After we dropped the car off, we spent our final night in Canada close to the airport as we were flying out early the next morning.

The next day we flew to Boston via a stopover in Chicago. We spent four nights in Boston and had a great time becoming disorientated and lost on several occasions but, once again, perfect weather prevailed and we walked many miles. After Boston we hired a car again and spent a further three nights at Cape Cod where we stayed at a lovely old B&B. We took the ferry to Martha's Vineyard which is an island off the coast and we also drove along the Atlantic coast and came across a pretty little town called Chatham.

On the way back to Boston we spent several hours at Newport in Rhode Island visiting some magnificent old mansions. We spent another night in Boston and the next day we boarded a train for a three and a half hour trip to New York.



Pumpkins in church grounds in Chatham on Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Well what can you say about New York— apart from huge, congested and noisy. Talk about a city that never sleeps! We had six nights at a tiny one bedroom apartment in Greenwich Village which is in the heart of the Italian sector. We saw Motown on Broadway, which was one of the highlights of our trip. It was a superb production and we enjoyed it immensely. We walked many miles again as well as getting hopelessly lost on the underground on more than one occasion.

I thought I would take a stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge until I arrived there and found that about ten thousand other people had the same idea. The 9/11 memorial was very moving and the name of every victim is engraved along the memorial pool. We visited Central Park and took the train to Harlem which was rather interesting.

After New York we flew to San Francisco where we spent seven nights in an apartment that was close to the city centre. We visited Alcatraz and walked both ways across the Golden Gate Bridge. We saw the Painted Ladies and rode the

Alan and Clodagh's travels—Canada and America

We flew out of Perth on 7th September for what was to be a fairly major undertaking to Canada and USA for seven weeks or fifty nights to be exact. We flew Air New Zealand to Auckland where we had a fourteen hour stopover before we caught a connecting flight to Vancouver. We were met by my sister and brother-in-law and taken back to their home for the day where we had a family lunch. My mother who is eighty eight was there also and a great day was had by all.

It was an eleven hour flight to Vancouver where we enjoyed a sunny day before we checked into a B&B for the night. The next day we boarded the Norwegian Sun for a seven night inside passage cruise to Alaska with shore excursions at Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. The weather was unseasonably warm and we spent most of the time in shorts and T shirt. The meals, of course, were superb and I spent much time pounding around the outside deck.

We spent another couple of days in Vancouver exploring Stanley Park and riding the gondola up Grouse Mountain where we saw the only wildlife (apart from squirrels) on the entire trip. We also spent a night on Vancouver Island where we spent several hours at the magnificent



Aboard the Norwegian Sun—Glacier

Butchart Gardens. Vancouver is a lovely city and easy to get around. The locals were friendly particularly if we looked a bit lost.

We then hired a car and spent nine nights exploring the Rockies. What a great experience once I overcame the trauma of negotiating my way out of Vancouver driving on the other side of the road. I soon found out that the speed limit on the open road is purely arbitrary. We spent the first night at Kelowna where we stayed at another B&B for the night.

The next day we arrived at Banff later in the afternoon. Banff is also a lovely town and once again we had great weather while we explored the local sights including Lake Louise where we had high tea. We stayed there for four



Lake Louise, Canada



One of us had high tea



Wishing you a very happy New Year



Nellie Van Wonderen



Nellie and Arnold 1947

Nellie was born in Amsterdam in 1922 and was a child of the Great Depression. It was a time of no work and not much to eat. When old enough, she managed to find work in a large department store for 10 cents per hour. It meant a reduction in her father's assistance and it was a very long walk to work. From the department store she succeeded in gaining a job in a fashion house where she became the model maker for dresses and coats and became a favourite of the Jewish community.

In 1945 the German surrender marked the end of the war and we were liberated by our German brothers. There was little food and

little work at this time but a friend found Nellie a place of work in the country where she sewed for a living.

In 1947 we both attended a camp where we first grew close and this was the start of our love affair.

We were married in 1948 in Heemstede and hitchhiked to the Riviera in the winter for our honeymoon. One of our 'lifts' was an empty manure truck that took us to Avancon. Our shoes were rather dirty but we found a nice hotel and a new use for a bidet. Our shoes looked much better afterwards.

We were freezing and decided that we wanted to live in a warmer climate and so, in 1952, we sailed for Australia and settled in Midland, built a house and I worked in the Midland railway workshop and was soon accepted as one of the team and was offered the position of shop steward.



A relaxing moment 1947

How Bridge came into our lives

When we arrived in Australia there was a housing shortage and so we did what many other young married couples did—built a house. Soon after, our new next door neighbours taught us about Auction Bridge.

On a return trip to the Netherlands we discovered Contract Bridge and on returning home we joined Western Australian Bridge Association in an old house in Kings Park where they played Duplicate. It was very casual and there were many characters including one member who would always talk with a pipe in his mouth and who wrote 'How You Can Legally Cheat' and another lady who was knitting all the time.

We did like playing against Mike Hopper and Hans Rosendorff and later Mike Hopper started

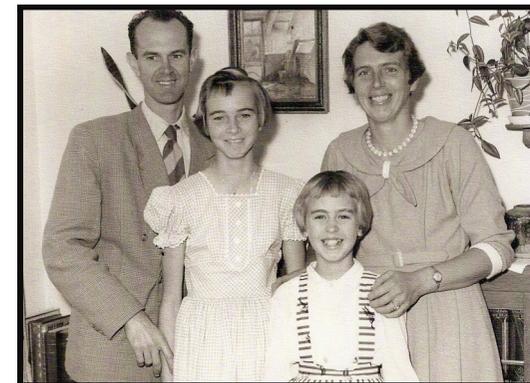
Kalamunda Bridge Club where it was very enjoyable to play.

In 1972 We moved to Marmion. Undercroft was in its second year and Gwen Johnson got three families involved—the Noakes, Sandersons and Van Wonderens. We became committee members. Nellie became the 'computer' of the Club and made curtains to diffuse the noise.

In those days, smoking was a problem, so another room was hired and the smokers were required to only smoke in this room and to close the door and they were to clean their own ashtrays.

Everything was very primitive—a far cry from our current comfortable premises and facilities.

Arnold Van Wonderen



Arnold and Nellie with daughters Mariane and Lina