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Undercroft Bridge Club

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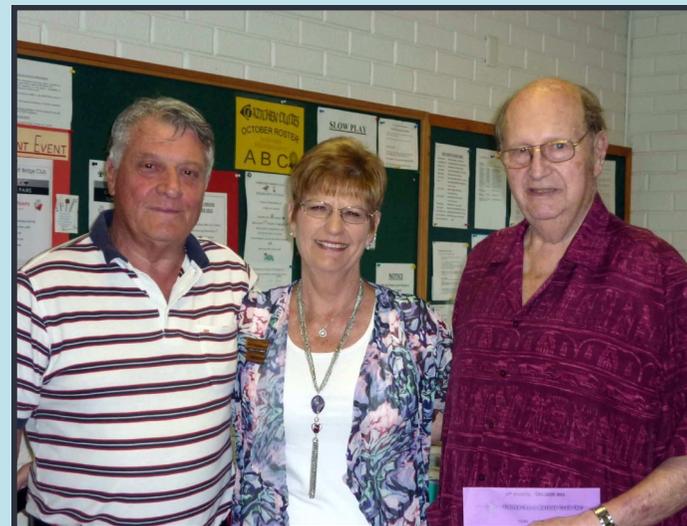
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

Undercroft Bridge Club



27th Annual Congress Winners



Pairs winners: Brian Fensome and John Beyfus with President Ann Hopfmüller



2nd Pairs: Beata and Tad Bieganski



Teams winners: Fiske Warren, David Schokman, Pauline Hammond and Maura Rhodes

President's Report

Here we are again, one month before Christmas! Is it true that time goes faster as we age? Well I must be pretty ancient, although somehow I think it's got more to do with being busy! Either way it's all great fun and I'm enjoying it while I can.

During the past few months we have held four Red Point events. Our members continue to give good support for these, although the Individual Championship competition was a little down on numbers. When planning our club events, apart from the GNOT, we rotate the days on which a particular event is held, from one year to the next. This is to give everyone the chance to participate.

The 2014 programme will soon be available. It will be in the form of an information book, which we are having printed. Margaret Melsom has worked very hard putting this book together and I'm sure you will appreciate it. The first copy you receive is free but if a second one is needed you will be asked to pay for it. Margaret is also the Editor of this newsletter – **thank you** to this wonderful lady!

The annual two day Congress was once again a huge success. Our club was packed out on both days with many players disappointed because they left their entry too late. David Cowell, the Convenor and the Congress Committee of Armanda Torre, Jennifer Bandy, Margaret Melsom and myself were given fantastic support from our members. Thank you all so much – a job well done!

Helen Larsen organised the Melbourne Cup Day this year and everyone who attended appreciated her efforts. As usual the food was amazing, the ladies outfits beautiful, the quiz challenging, the prizes fantastic, the sweeps well organised, the champagne flowed and the bridge was.....? Where else could you go and get all this for \$3.00? Thank you to everyone who took part for the happy day we had at Undercroft.

The Undercroft Bridge Club Committee continues to work hard for the benefit of all members. Recently they have set up a new position of CLUB RECORDER. BAWA and many clubs appoint Recorders. The terms of reference for a Club Recorder can be seen on the notice board but the main object of a recorder is **to receive verbal or written complaints regarding behaviours, or other issues to do with conduct at the playing table on the club premises.** The recorders have a set of procedures to follow but fortunately, at Undercroft, this will rarely happen. Connie Coltrona, Peter McCann and Sheila Parker have been appointed by the Committee as our first recorders. Please speak to one of them or myself if you have any questions.

From Tuesday March 4th 2014 to Friday March 21st 2014 the Undercroft Bridge Club will be closed while the City of Joondalup replace the roof. It is hoped that the work will only take two weeks but the council cannot guarantee this. Perhaps members should take a holiday during this time!

Jenny Bandy and Alan Tolley are in charge of this year's Christmas Parties. The theme is "MUSIC of the SIXTIES, ROCK and ROLL." See all of the details on our notice boards and be prepared for a fun time! The club covers half the cost for members and you can only attend one event – Wednesday 4th or Saturday 7th December.

I wish all members a **happy, safe and blessed** Christmas. The club will be closed on Christmas Day but open at all other times. May Santa grant all of your wishes and your stockings be full of good cheer!



Ann Hopfmueller
President

This quarter has been an extremely eventful one with the many events run like clockwork by the well oiled machine that is *our Committee*. Much has been said about how hard they work and how dedicated they are to improving events and facilities of our club for the members' benefit. This quarter has been no exception and, as new members of the committee, Helen Hyland, Helen Larsen and I are happy to be part of the team.

It has come to our attention that some of our member records are not up to date. We would like to update our records and would ask any member who has had a change of name, address or telephone number to let us know in writing to update all club records.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Margaret Melsom
Newsletter Editor

Partner Coordinator

The role of the Partner Coordinator at the club is to assist members who require a partner either on a permanent or casual basis or to arrange a partner for a member who is available to play at a particular session.

Members are urged to initially organize their own partner, utilizing the list on the notice board and also by making use of the list of members' telephone numbers which is available just outside the kitchen area.

Please only contact the Partner Coordinator if your genuine efforts

have been unsuccessful. Also please be mindful of the time of day that you call.

If all else fails, then please feel free to contact either Alan Tolley (9447 4871) or Jenny Bandy (9447 1019) as we would appreciate as much time as possible to fulfill your request.

Anyone requiring a partner needs to place their details on the list on the Notice Board and it is important to remove your details once a partner has been found.

Alan Tolley



Chris Shawcross with our hat competition winner Joan Nice



Carola Neutgens—winner creative hat competition



Faye Snelling and Marg Melsom



Rusty Warner and Kay



Norma Pears—what a woman!

Thanks to Helen Larsen for her fabulous organization and to all the ladies and gents who brought food or helped in the kitchen/bar and to Des for directing and organizing the Sweep.

A good day was had by all!

Congress Convenor's Report

Saturday Pairs was fantastic starting off well with your President, Ann Hopfmueller and myself winning the N/S Qualifying pairs. David Schokman and Pauline Hammond winning the E/W Qualifying pairs. Sixteen pairs qualified for the final including ten from Undercroft. The successful winners were a couple of Undercroft stalwarts, John Beyfus and Brian Fensome. (front page)

Sunday was another great day of bridge, a very competitive day's bridge with 24 teams taking part. For a long time the Beyfus Team consisting of John Beyfus, Tony Martin, Joanna Tennyson and Jenny Bandy, were going along quite well slogging it out against strong opposition from teams like the Warren, Power, and the Hood team. At the end of the day the Warren team of Fiske Warren, Maura Rhodes, David Schokman and Pauline Hammond came first. Power team, Phil Power, Ravi Soin, Kathy Power and Jan Blight were a worthy second place. In third place were the Hood team, Catherine Hood, Doreen James, Nick Cantatore & Marnie Leybourne. The Cowell team with David Cowell, Ann

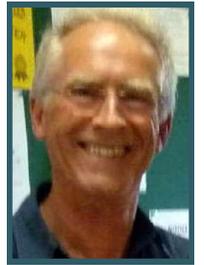
Hopfmueller, Ted Roscoe and Chris Price, were the best Undercroft team in fifth place.

All in all the Undercroft Congress was a great success. We were able to play some good bridge against some of our friends from other clubs, with a very strong contingent of members from our club. I noted that of the twelve prizes awarded on Saturday, seven went to Undercroft club members.

All those helpers in the kitchen and the playing area, all of you who brought along cakes and savouries, it was more than appreciated, a very big THANK YOU to you all! Without your generosity and help this could not have been as successful as it was, the food, flowers, programmes, etc.

Wow I wonder how you all do it!

I have had many compliments from visitors and they are all looking forward to our next Congress. Well done to all of you!



David Cowell

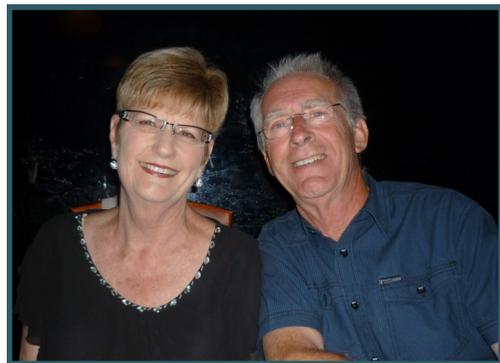


A huge thank you to Terry Farrall for the beautiful flowers for the Congress

Undercroft Players Out and about!



Congratulations to Ian Rowlands, John Reid, David and Pauline Coulter for being the highest placed Restricted Team in the Metropolitan GNOT Final. The team will play in the National Finals at Tweed Heads late November.



David Cowell and Ann Hopfmueller—
2nd at the Nedlands Congress



Helen Larsen and Rusty Warner—
3rd in the Plate at the Kalgoorlie Congress



Jenny Dawson and Helen Larsen 3rd in
the 2013 Hans Rosendorff Memorial
Congress Women's Restricted pairs

Ron's first job out here was as a credit clerk with Ampol but he studied part time and qualified as an Accountant. We had three more children and when the youngest was not quite one, Ampol transferred us to Brisbane for a couple of years, then Sydney for a year. Meantime, Ron saw a job as an Accountant with Hamersley Iron in Perth advertised nationally and after applying, got the job. So back to Perth we all went only to have the accounts section of Hamersley relocated to Karratha two years later.

We had two good years there before being sent back to Perth where Ron stayed until retirement.

Back in Perth with the children all growing up I obtained a casual position as a News Operations Assistant at the ABC and worked there for 20 years which I found much more interesting than banking. I also worked on a casual basis

as a Hansard typist at Parliament House for a couple of years which I enjoyed very Much.

My good friend Pat Cole and I joined Undercroft in 1992 or thereabouts when Pat came back from Sydney, having learnt bridge there as I had in Brisbane. I took over the Secretary's position from Syd Noakes and served for three years then had another stint a few years later for two years.

I have valued the friendship of many at the bridge club and especially the concern and kind wishes of so many both on the death of my husband 12 years ago and when I had a stroke recently. It meant a lot to me.

May the Undercroft Bridge Club continue to flourish and introduce new members to this 'beautiful' game, as I once heard a member so aptly describe it.



Judy's 21st



Judy and Ron en route to Australia 1960

Judy Clear

I was born at Tresillian Hospital in Nedlands in 1932.

When I was two years old my father started country service with his government job. It was to be 16 years before we returned to Perth.

We spent time in Leonora, Beverley, Cue, Wiluna and Kalgoorlie in that order. My father held the position of Clerk of Courts and/or Mining Registrar in those towns.

In Wiluna, we lived on the Moonlight Gold Mine Lease and my two brothers, my sister and I seemed to be allowed to roam at will among the disused mine shafts and slag heaps at the back of our house. What was my mother thinking! Anyway it was a carefree and happy childhood despite money being tight and to this day I still have a hankering for the 'bush'.

I was brought up in a fairly strict Irish-Catholic family with my younger brother going off to the Seminary when he was only 13. However, it seemed to be a true vocation as he ended up being an Archbishop. My mother told me I would never become a Nun because I loved the good life too much! She was probably right.

On leaving school in Kalgoorlie, my first job was at Western Mining as switchboard operator, typist and tea girl. Then I joined the Commonwealth Bank and later transferred to the Forrest Place branch when my parents moved back to the city. After a few years, I took unpaid leave for a year and went with two

friends for a working holiday in London and was able to see some of Europe as well on the cheap – cycling some of the way and hitchhiking the rest. During the year I met Ron Clear and came back to Perth engaged.

Several months later, I set sail for England once more and was married at the lovely old Catholic Cathedral in Arundel, West Sussex, where Ron grew up. Our first daughter was born a year later in the middle of winter and I found it tough with no central heating in our flat and the nappies freezing on the line. I longed for the sunshine of Perth and I missed my family even though I loved certain aspects of England. On seeing my homesickness, Ron said he would give Australia a go and he was able to come out as a 'ten-pound-Pom'. So in 1960 the three of us sailed back to Perth which was my fourth 3½ week voyage in as many years. No wonder I'm not very interested in going on a cruise.



Judy 1935

Congratulations to all our competition winners!



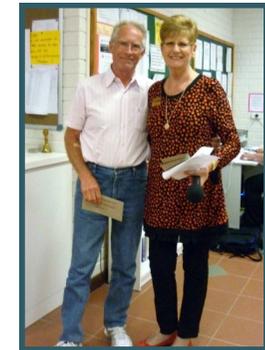
What a thrill to see John and Joanna Tennyson win the inaugural John Beyfus Swiss Pairs event. Very appropriate!



**Undercroft Congress Plate Winners:
Debbie James and Helen Larsen**



**Peter and Russell McCann — 2nd
John Beyfus Swiss Pairs**



**David Cowell—winner of the
Individual championship**



**David Cowell and Ann Hopfmueller
—3rd John Beyfus Swiss Pairs**



Well done to the runners up at the individual championship left to right - Diane Tilvern (2nd) Metka Agrez, Ann Hopfmueller, Jacek Majewski and Alice Wouts (filling in for Graham Milward (3rd), Tony Martin (4th) absent

Saturday Morning Sessions

The Saturday morning Bridge instructional sessions have been going since the middle of the year 2000. They form an integral and major part of the player development program at the club.

John Conway, who has sadly passed away, started teaching bridge in June, 2000 and after a few weeks he asked me to help. I was initially reluctant as I had been playing only three years. However, after one week, I could see that the lecture situation had to be supplemented with lots of practice. John agreed and the format of short lectures and lots of practice was implemented. It wasn't long before John decided that he would withdraw. I searched around for someone to help me and Thelma Hope volunteered. We worked well together as a team and numbers increased dramatically. The only downside of this was the massive increase in preparation. There were no dealing machines at this stage of the program so the boards had to be made up by hand. Because there was a great variation in ability in the group, different sets of boards had to be made up each week. It used to take me hours and hours each week but I got great gratification when I saw how the people were progressing and absolutely enjoying the game of bridge.



Ray Routledge, Leslie Routledge, Allan Doig and Jim Pinington

After a few years I enlisted the help of extra helpers. Wilma Piller was a great help because of her knowledge of basic Acoll and great card play. Val Noble, with her experience in education, was able to give lessons to various groups. A third member in the early days was Dot Stagoll whose knowledge and general helpfulness was greatly appreciated. The sessions went along without any serious hitch but gradually, for various reasons, the helpers left and in retrospect what I consider a masterstroke I managed to persuade Jim Pinington, and Leslie and Ray Routledge to become part of the team.



Ray and Leslie Routledge (front centre) with graduating students November 2013

Leslie does a marvellous job in this area. She has been doing this for seven years now and is ably supported by her husband Ray whose help is invaluable. No task is too menial for Ray.

Jim has been a quiet behind-the-scenes helper for many years. His knowledge of card play is tremendous and he manages to transmit his expertise in a no-nonsense and effective way.

At one stage the numbers were exceeding 100 participants and apart from logistic problems we needed an extra helper. I enlisted the services of Peter McCann. His insightful and meticulous manner in which he explains the various intricacies proved invaluable.

One of the issues that we have been trying to resolve is the high attrition rate. This is being caused to some extent by the increased standard of play at our club. Ten years ago it was fairly straightforward to have a series of lessons and then blend seamlessly into the normal club sessions. To attempt to solve this problem and to provide some sort of intermediary process, we now run supervised sessions at regular intervals on selected days during the week.

I would like to finish this description of the history of Saturday morning sessions by listing some of the highlights.

1. Without any doubt the first thing that comes into my mind is the quality of the participants. It's not so much the Bridge playing ability but the way in which graduates over the years have helped out in various activities necessary to the

smooth operation of our club.

2. Although the attrition rate is high I have felt that the game itself, bridge, is what is important and not whether the participants continue on and join our club. Some of our graduates have joined other clubs and this is often a matter of geography or convenience. What pleases me in particular is the number of people that I see around the place that still play bridge but only at a social level. Bridge has become an integral part of their social life.
3. Over the 13 years the sessions have been operating I have been greatly assisted by the various committees and I have been greatly heartened by the support and offers of help that I have received from the club members.

Allan Doig



Peter McCann



Dorothy Stagoll



Thelma Hope



Val Noble