



# UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020



# Celebrating Don's 90th Birthday

On the 3rd September we woke to a lovely spring morning. Today was a very special one. It was Don Skinner's 90th Birthday and we were travelling down South to celebrate this marvellous milestone in style.

From humble beginnings, this delightful man had become not only a successful businessman, but a true patriarch and this coming gathering of his family was to be testimony to this.

Don and his delightful wife Billie have two children Jeff (my lovely husband) and Lee-Anne their gorgeous daughter.

They in turn have had 3 and 2 children respectively.

A further 5 great grandchildren have since arrived. We celebrated a first birthday as well while we were down there. Not a bad effort.

We spent a delightful long weekend celebrating, reminiscing and rejoicing in the beautiful setting of the Yallingup bush in a massive house and granny flat which accommodated us all.

*Jenny Skinner*



## President's Report

From Connie Coltrona

On the 1st July 2020 the Undercroft Bridge Club welcomed back members to the Club rooms following closure due to the Corona - Virus pandemic.

Bridge Clubs across Australia had closed, and W A clubs were the first to open under strict regulations from Government and Local Government authorities. The condition of entry to the club rooms is to follow the Covid Plan clearly displayed and monitored. Thank you to all members for your patience and assistance in helping to keep us safe.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 28th July 2020 and the Management Committee for 2020 was elected. (The names of the Committee are listed separately).

I would like to sincerely thank members of the 2019 Committee, John Bayly (past President), Linda Reading (Secretary), Nick Jakowyna (Vice President), Elke Gartner, Des Warner, George Beilin, and

Graham Milward who have retired.

The red point events have recommenced for members only, and results for the final day of the Allan Doig Pairs and the Kath Brosnan Pairs feature in the Newsletter.

I would like to make mention of all the Volunteers we have at the UBC, you certainly make the world go round and especially the Club. MANY THANKS

Saturday morning lessons coordinated by Chris Jenkins, Leslie Routledge and their assistants are continuing to be well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Annual Congress on 24th and 25th October is at full capacity.

Happy Bridging everyone ☺

*"I favour light opening bids. When you're my age, you can never be sure that the bidding will get back around to you again."*

**Oswald Jacoby at age 77**

## Our Committee

### **Connie Coltrona--- President**



I have been a member at Undercroft Bridge Club for 26 years and served on the Management Committee as Committee member and Vice President. I have been convenor of Open Red Point events at the Club.

I am a member of the Zonta Club Perth Northern Suburbs and coordinate the Birthing Kit assembly day for Kit Australia, formally known as the Birthing Kit Foundation.

I enjoy playing Bridge of course, as well as gardening, cooking, and looking after my seven grandchildren.

### **Alan Tolley--- Vice-President**



I was born and bred in Auckland, NZ. I married my wife, Clodagh, in 1972. I worked as a prison officer for ten years until we decided to leave for Perth and we arrived with three young children in May 1982.

I worked as a paramedic with the WA Ambulance Service for over 28 years and retired in 2011. I actually spent most of my working life in uniform and doing shift work. I started playing bridge way back in 1998 and feel that one day I might actually master the game!

We now have six grandchildren and are fortunate that all our

family are quite content to live in Perth.

**Debbie James ---  
Secretary**



This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year on the UBC committee, 1<sup>st</sup> as Secretary. My background being in banking and financial management roles is somewhat different to secretarial duties but have managed so far. Hobbies apart from Bridge are walking and reading and love my West Coast Eagles which I am a member. Grandchildren 3 (so far) produced by our two sons. My husband works FIFO for FMG so I have plenty of time to dedicate to the Secretarial role.

**Rupert Dodd ---  
Treasurer**



Rupert Dodd, 68, was appointed Treasurer at the 2018 AGM.

He retired 8 years ago, his last position being Chief Accountant at West Australian Newspapers.

After attending Leslie Routledge's lessons around four years ago Rupert now usually plays Tuesday mornings partnered by his wife Trish (still married).

Rupert's hobbies include walking, cycling, swimming, the gym, gardening, singing in a Barbershop Chorus, travelling (not just now) and of course - Bridge.



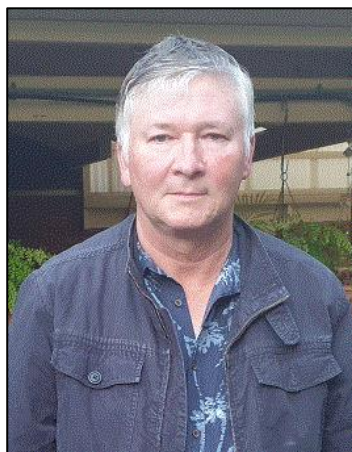
## **Sharon Dyball**



My name is Sharon Dyball. This is my fourth year of membership at the UBC and my third year as a Committee Member. I completed the lessons held at the club at the end of 2016, having never played Bridge before, and am indebted to Leslie and Ray Routledge for allowing me to join the course, a few weeks late, whilst I was on LSL. This ignited in me, a passion for the game, which is not showing any signs of abating. As an emerging member of the club, I have embraced all learning opportunities that have been afforded to me, such as Alan Doig's Saturday morning lessons, mentoring, extension lessons facilitated by club experts and teachers invited to

the club. I see myself playing long into the future and look forward to following in the footsteps of the many amazing members of the club, who provide such positive role models for longevity and mental agility.

## **Bernie Plath**



Bernie Plath is a recent addition to UDC, having joined following retirement in May 2019.

Bernie's work experience is 40 years in Information Systems in the resources sector. Bernie is married to Theila. Theila works with special needs children at Poynter School.

Apart from bridge, interests include bush walking, golf (much the same as bush walking) and grandchildren.

Going forward, focus is on enjoying life and of course playing better bridge.

Favourite Quote: the more you know, the more you realise you don't know.

### **Christine Jenkins**

Hi My name is Chris and I have been playing bridge for around 25 years.

While I was gardening at a complex in Claremont, one of the residents invited me in for a cuppa and a chat. During the conversation she mentioned that she played bridge which sparked my interest. I said that I would love to learn how to play but I don't think I will be good enough. On my next visit, the resident had arranged as a surprise and shock, 6 lessons with a lovely lady called Lynn. Lynn opened up her home to teach 4 of us about basics of Bridge. Her kindness, patience and generosity are things that I will not forget. After the 6 lessons, Lynn decided we were ready to start playing at a club. We were definitely not and turned up on a Saturday morning.

I learnt a lot from Allan and his team. I remember Allan's calm

demeanour, humour and patience. Years later, I was lucky to Have Wilma Pillar as my mentor. Without this mentoring I would not have such an understanding of the game. I realised the importance of mentoring and that is why I'm working on the Mentor Program at our club. More mentors required, please.

After Allan's retirement, I was lucky to take on Saturday morning teaching role which is challenging and rewarding. I have six fantastic helpers that have wealth of knowledge to share with beginners who have just started their journey in this wonderful game of Bridge.

### **Katrina Will**



Hi. My husband, Peter, and I have been members of

Undercroft Bridge Club for about 5 years. We have really enjoyed getting to know people at the club and try to play as much as we can when not working. I work part-time as a nurse at Perth Clinic and enjoy outdoor activities like walking, hiking and swimming at the beach.

### **Bruce Penhey**



Hi, I'm Bruce Penhey. I learned bridge in South Otago, New Zealand in 1980 in four lessons then at the small club of about 7 tables on a good night, once a week. A little later my bridge partner introduced me to Precision. From there I moved on to the Otago Bridge Club in Dunedin. It was a large club of over 800 members and at the time it was very stratified, streaming us into five divisions:

junior, intermediate, senior reserve, senior and open. Each division played twice a week, pairs on one evening and teams on another evening. They only played ACOL, the third system I had to learn. I was also introduced to directing. I had a long break from bridge for 15 years due to work commitments, joining Undercroft about seven years ago. Since then I've served on the committee, as computer manager for a while and directing. When directing I strive to have 3 board rounds whenever possible, the most equitable movement for the numbers attending and overall smooth running of each session.

### **Gwen Kremer --- Masterpoint Secretary**





## Peter Stephenson



I am a retired Fisheries Scientist. I did mathematical assessments for Department of Fisheries on many Fisheries such as Pilbara Trap and Trawl, Shark Bay Pink Snapper, and Western Rock Lobster. I was fortunate to go for work to many interesting places especially in US, NZ, Canada, and Denmark.

**De'arn Alexander ---  
Partner Organiser and  
Membership Secretary**



## 2020 Beginners

A new beginners' course was started in late January this year and several lessons were undertaken until the Covid-19 pandemic hit. The lessons were then postponed until July. I combined the January people with the new July people and the course was restarted. We have now had 9 lessons and the new players will graduate into the supervised play in November.

Once again, we have been lucky to attract 21 friendly people who are having fun learning the basics.



*Leslie Routledge*



## Quiz

### Mollo on Play VIII

*'Card Play Technique or the Art of Being Lucky' by Victor Mollo.*

**Victor Mollo** (17/09/1909 – 24/09/1987) was a British contract bridge player, journalist and author. He is most famous for his "Menagerie" series of bridge books, depicting vivid caricatures of players with animal names and mannerisms through a series of exciting and entertaining deals — bridge fables of a sort.

**Contract: 6S** at IMPs

Lead HJ

Plan the play

	♠	5		
	♥	A6432		
	♦	J1032		
	♣	QJ7		
♠			N	♠
♥				♥
♦		W		E
♣				
			S	♣
	♠	AKQ7642		
8	♥	-		
	♦	AK64		
23	♣	AK		

*Answer on page 18*

## Food for Thought

*We all have our favourites recipe - why not share!*



### Effie's Orange Cake

1½ cups SRF

1½ cups sugar

1½ heaped teaspoons custard powder

1½ heaped teaspoons corn flour

Sift flours, drop in 3 eggs, ¾ cup of mashed and sieved cooked pumpkin (cooled), rind of 1 orange, 1 cup of vegetable oil and 2 tablespoons of orange juice.

Beat together.

Bake in moderate oven for 35-40 minutes.

This cake is perfect in ring tin.

Top with icing made with a dash of orange juice, orange rind or passionfruit. Sprinkle with coconut and enjoy.

# The Gold Coast Bridge Congress 2020

From Ross Blakey



The Gold Coast Congress, which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and went for over a week, was our first interstate congress. They do things a little differently over East and Gill and I were surprised to see no bidding boxes and the auction recorded on paper and left for all to see in the middle of the table throughout each game.

The Gold Coast Congress is the largest of its kind in the Southern hemisphere with over 500 couples attending. There are sessions for all standard of players from Grand Masters to novices. There was a great contingent from Undercroft at the congress and many other recognisable faces from other WA Bridge clubs. Many of our WA pairs did well in their respective competitions, no one more so than David Saunders, who has been playing less than a year and won the Rookie pairs with a partner he had only just met! However, he'll still have to

wait a while before being invited to play with his girlfriend, a Silver Life Master no less.

The weather at the Gold coast wasn't typical for the time of year and umbrellas were in great demand. It was fun to watch couples walking to their respective hotels at the end of the day, with one umbrella and struggling to keep each other dry.

One of the highlights for Gill and I was a dinner where all the Undercroft pairs met for an Italian meal. Unfortunately, in my case, the wonderful NZ bottle of white wine I drank was not conducive to winning Bridge play the next morning. I'm fortunate to have a forgiving partner.

All told we had a wonderful time on the Gold Coast and like the majority who played, came back with gold points. The question is, are bridge points as important as toilet rolls in this time of the Coronavirus? Contrary to popular opinion neither can be used in heaven. ●



## Sunday Rookie Pairs Winners



**Joynne Gissing and  
David Saunders**



## Next Gold Coast Congress

*The 2021 Gold Coast Congress  
is Cancelled due to the  
Coronavirus emergency.*

## 2022 60th Gold Coast Congress

Saturday 19 February to  
Saturday 26 February, 2022

# RESULTS

## Kath Brosnan Pairs



- 1 Gwyneira Brahma - Stella Steer with President Connie Coltrona
- 2 Connie Coltrona - Chris Jenkins
- 3 Joe Peci - Anthony Eardley

## September Swiss Pairs



1. Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside
2. Mike Mahon - Brian Kaye
3. Anthony Eardley - Joe Peci

## Allan Doig Pairs Division 1



- 1 Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside
- 2 Joe Peci - Anthony Eardley
- 3 Satish Bedekar - Brian Kaye

## Allan Doig Pairs Division 2



- 1 David Saunders - Bernie Plath
- 2 Margaret Jenkinson - Val Nicholson
- 3 Sharon Dyball and Lillian Haagenen

## Safety Play - Quiz

By Karen Walker

At matchpoints (pairs) scoring, there's often a big reward for a very small score difference. If you make +650 in your 4H contract and all the other pairs holding your cards are making only +620, you have a top (100%) board. This is why declarers will sometimes adopt a risky line of play to try for an overtrick.

In team events, though, the IMP scoring chart offers only a negligible benefit for these small score differences. It's much more important to play it safe and guarantee your contract. To do this, you can sometimes use what's called a safety play.

A **safety play** is where you play a suit in such a way that it will protect against an adverse distribution of the opponents'

cards. With this line of play, you may give up the chance to make the maximum number of tricks when there's an average break, but you avoid the loss of extra tricks when there's a bad break.

With a little knowledge of safety plays, you can improve -- and sometimes guarantee -- your chances of bringing in the needed number of tricks.

Some of the most common safety plays are in suit combinations that are missing the King and Jack. In the five layouts below, assume that you have no problems with outside entries to either hand and that you need the specified number of tricks to make your contract. How would you play each of these suits in an IMP team event?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<b>North (dummy)</b>	AQ10943	AQ984	Q6543	AQ876	A109765
<b>South (declarer)</b>	2	32	A102	5432	Q432
<b>You need:</b>	4 tricks	3 tricks	3 tricks	4 tricks	5 tricks

*Answers on page 19*

## The Bermuda Incident

From: [https://www.bridgebum.com/bermuda\\_incident.php](https://www.bridgebum.com/bermuda_incident.php)

"The annual Bermuda Bowl world championship saw Italy and the United States playing in the 1975 final. There, American reporter Bruce Keidan would uncover one of the most infamous bridge cheating scandals ever.

While watching one of the Italian pairs, Gianfranco Facchini and Sergio Zucchelli, Keidan noticed unusual foot actions between the two. The reporter found the players tapping each other's feet under the table in an apparent attempt to relay information about their hands. Cheating is, of course, grounds for expulsion from any bridge organization. Keidan's discovery, which was confirmed by several witnesses, was eventually presented to the presiding authorities of the event, who "severely reprimanded" Facchini and Zucchelli for their activity but allowed the players to continue competing in the event. Ironically, although the Italians were allowed to stay, the Bermuda Bowl authorities placed blocks underneath the tables to prevent any further foot contact.

American captain Alfred Sheinwold was angered by the Solomonic decision and stated that his team would resign from the bridge match. Only by threats made to Sheinwold by the United States' governing body, the American Contract Bridge League, was his team coerced into finishing the event. (The ACBL did not want a huge public embarrassment that refusing to play would cause.) Italy won the event, 215 - 189 (International Match Points). By all accounts, Facchini and Zucchelli quickly faded from the international bridge circuit thereafter."

*The Bermuda Bowl is a biennial contract bridge world championship for national teams. It is contested every odd-numbered year under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation, alongside the Venice Cup (women) and the d'Orsi Bowl (seniors).*

## Mixed Raises

By Karen Walker

*This article is reprinted with kind permission of the author.*

A **mixed raise** is a supporting bid that shows length in partner's suit and constructive values. It's stronger than a preemptive raise and weaker than a limit raise. It promises:

- *4+-card support for partner's suit*
- *6-9 pts with some defensive strength*

Mixed raises can provide an accurate description in a few different types of auctions. If you play Bergen raises over partner's major-suit opening bid, your 3C response (a constructive single raise with 4 trumps) is a mixed raise. The most common usage, though, is this jump cuebid after an opponent opens and partner overcalls a suit:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1D	1H	Pass	3D

Your jump cuebid of LHO's suit shows the mixed raise. It says nothing about your holding in diamonds. The same meaning applies if your RHO had made a negative double or responded

1S or 2C. As long as you can **jump** to three of opener's suit, it's a mixed raise.

A mixed raise is sometimes called "semi-preemptive". It differs from a standard preemptive raise in the location of your high cards. In the auction above, if you had jumped to 3H, it's a preemptive raise that shows 4+ trumps, but with no ace or king outside your suit -- a hand such as

♠104 ♥KJ107 ♦6 ♣Q9543.

The mixed raise (a jump to 3D) shows the same trump support and could even be the same number of high-card points, but it promises a trick or so outside your suit - a hand such as

♠104 ♥J1076 ♦64 ♣KQ954.

Note that a jump cuebid is a mixed raise only when:

- ✓ An opponent opens and partner overcalls a suit. If partner opens the bidding, your cuebid of an opponent's suit is a stronger raise (limit or better).



- ✓ The jump cuebid is at the 3-level. In the auction above, a jump to 4D would be a splinter raise that shows shortness in that suit and full values for game in partner's suit.

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### Other Ways to Raise an Overcall

Here's a summary of the ways you can compete and show support after partner overcalls a suit.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1C	1H	1S	?

- Single raise (2H) = 6-9 support points, 3+ trumps.

♠K4 ♥J75 ♦K864 ♣9764

- Jump raise (3H) = Pre-emptive. 3-7 points, 4+ trumps, no ace or king outside trumps.

♠J64 ♥KQ105 ♦108432 ♣4

- Jump raise to game (4H) = Usually 5+ trumps with distributional values and fewer than 9-10 points, but could be a stronger hand.

♠643 ♥KJ1054 ♦K10943 ♣-

- Cuebid of their suit (2C or 2S) = Limit raise or stronger. 10-11+ points, 3+ trumps.

♠K4 ♥K75 ♦AJ104 ♣9764

*Recommended: Agree that the cheaper cuebid (2C) shows 3-card support and the higher cuebid (2S) promises 4+-card support.*

- Jump to three of opener's suit (3C) = Mixed raise. 6-9 points, 4+ trumps.

♠74 ♥Q764 ♦AJ102 ♣863

- Jump to 3 of responder's suit (3S) or 4 of any other suit (4C or 4D) = Splinter raise. Singleton or void in the bid suit, 14+ support points, 4+ trumps.

♠4 ♥KQ75 ♦KJ84 ♣A1064



#### DIAMONDS

*Pentacles  
Courage  
Energy  
Money  
Property  
Earth  
Autumn*



#### CLUBS

*Wands  
Wealth  
Luck  
Health  
Mature  
Fire  
Summer*

**Solution**

	♠	5							
	♥	A6432							
	♦	JT32							
	♣	QJ7							
♠	3	N	♠	JT98					
♥	JT98	W	E	♥	KQ75				
♦	Q85	S		♦	97				
♣	T8652			♣	943				
	♠	AKQ7642							
	♥	-							
	♦	AK64							
	♣	AK							

You could win the HA, pitching a diamond, and take the diamond finesse. This may fail when spades are 4-1 and the DQ is offside, or spades are 3-2 but west has DQxxx, and can give his partner a ruff at trick three.



A better line is to ruff the heart and pull trumps. If trumps are 3-2 then you will try and drop the DQ for an overtrick. If spades are 5-0, hope the opponents are in the same slam. However, things get interesting if trumps are 4-1. If West has the length then you are cold, as long as he has at least one club. Cash three high trumps and the CAK. Now exit with a trump. West must

win and is end-played. If East has the four trumps, then cash the club CAK as before, but now cash the two high diamonds and get out a trump. You are home when East does not have the long diamond.

**GET WELL CARDS TO MEMBERS**

If you know of a member who has had a hospital visit or a serious illness and would like the club to send a get well card, add their name to the “orange covered” GET WELL CARDS TO MEMBERS book located on top of the cupboard under the notice board directly across from the front door.

A card will be sent to cheer them up from their Undercroft Bridge Club friends.

	
<b>SPADES</b>	<b>HEARTS</b>
<i>Swords</i>	<i>Cups</i>
<i>Justice</i>	<i>Love</i>
<i>Death</i>	<i>Youth</i>
<i>Destiny</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Air</i>	<i>Growth</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Water</i>
	<i>Spring</i>

## Safety Play Answers

Here are the recommended safety plays that offer you the best chance of taking the needed number of tricks. The long suit is in dummy (North); the short suit is declarer (South).

### **(1)** AQ10943 facing 2?

*Lead the 2 toward dummy. If your left-hand opponent (LHO) follows with a small card, play the Ace, then lead the Queen. This gives you an 89% chance of bringing in 4 tricks.*

*If you can afford only one loser -- or if you're playing matchpoints -- finesse the Queen on the first round. This gives you a 40% chance of taking tricks and a 2% chance of taking all 6 tricks (when LHO holds KJ doubleton).*

### **(2)** AQ984 facing 3?

*For an 82% chance of taking 3 tricks, finesse the 8, then return to your hand in another suit and finesse the 9. But if you need 4 tricks (only a 33% chance), finesse the 8 first, then finesse the Queen.*

### **(3)** Q6543 facing A102?

*Cash the Ace, then enter dummy in another suit and lead small toward your remaining 102. This*

*is a 96% line for 3 tricks, failing only if the suit breaks 5-0.*

*If you need 4 tricks, the best play is to cash the Ace, then lead small to the Queen, hoping the King (or Jx) is on your left and the suit breaks 3-2.*

### **(4)** AQ876 facing 5432?

*On 78% of the deals, you'll have only one loser if you first cash the Ace, then return to your hand and lead toward the remaining Q876 in dummy. This protects against an offside singleton king.*

*If you must have 5 tricks from this suit, finesse the Queen first (playing for Kx onside, a 20% possibility).*

### **(5)** A109765 facing Q432?

*Lead the 2 and if LHO follows low, play the 10 from dummy. This is one of the few safety plays that works 100% of the time - it guarantees you won't lose two tricks to KJx in either defender's hand (if your RHO has KJx, you'll see LHO show out on the first lead and you can play Ace and low back toward your Queen).*

*If you're playing matchpoints or if you require 6 tricks, cash the Ace first.*

## Contributors are Always Welcome

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

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