



Undercroft Bridge Club Inc

Newsletter September 2026

Tony Martin Teams of Three with Master



1st Mike Bennett, Lisa Evans, Derek Dorward, Jane Adams Master



2nd - Barbara Norman, Aaron Oskay, Trish Christy, David Cowell Master



Best Under 50 mps-Sue McGinnity, Maria Millington, Cherene Johns, Terry Collins Master



Best Under 50 mps - Helen Taylor, Sue Collins, Marian Smedley, Tad Bieganski Master



Convenor Sue McGinnity addressing the members. Great job today, Sue.



Enjoying drinks and nibbles before presentation of prizes. A great day for all.

President's Report – by Bernie Plath



The club has been successful in submitting a request for a Federal Volunteer Support Grant Award. This award is provided by the Federal government. The club will receive \$1000. The money will be spent on replacing worn plastic boards for the cards.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday Evening session has had to be suspended due to lack of numbers. The Thursday and Monday evening sessions will continue. Please support these sessions.

Several weeks ago, our cleaners were verbally abused by some kids. The club takes this issue very seriously and has engaged with the City of Joondalup and our local councillor – Russ Fishwick. It is the club's position that COJ need to, at a minimum, install CCTV coverage around the club. The contributing factor here is clearly the Adventure Hub. Both parties agree the incident is unacceptable, now we just need some action from COJ.

An automated membership form has been deployed. The link to the form is available from the home page on the website. The new system will simplify the approval process. Paper forms are still available, however new members are encouraged to use the new electronic form.

Walk In Swiss Monthly Session

July Winners – Bruce Penhey & Dawn Duly

2nd – Jamie Luxton & Mike Bennett

August Winners – Joan Touyz & Robbie Altmuner

2nd – Aaron Oskay & Andrew Swider



Competitions held around the Club in 2026

UBC CLUB OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP



1ST Terry Collins & Richard Grenside



2nd Mike Mahon & Brian Kaye



**Best <300 mps
Jan Berg & Julie Corrigan**



**Best < 100 mps Anthony Porter &
Sunny Phegan**

GNOT TEAMS CLUB HEAT

1st – Chris Jenkins, Joe Peci, Satish Bedekar, Aaron Oskay

2ND – Pauline & David Coulter, Harry Crosby, Ted Roscoe

3RD – Terry Collins, Tad Bieganski, Jenny Skinner, Judy Havas

DON FRASER SWISS PAIRS



1st Ivan Petrovic & Stella Steer

2nd Andrew Swider & Beata Bieganski

**Best Restricted Jamie Luxton &
Yulia Koh**

LESLIE & RAY ROUTLEDGE SWISS PAIRS



1st Aaron Oskay & Chris Jenkins

2nd Magda & Michael Lawes

**Best Restricted - Miriam O'Brien &
Jamie Luxton**

GWEN JOHNSON TEAMS



1st Ivan Petrovic, Derek Dorward, Stella & James Steer



**2nd – Andrew Swider, David Schokman,
Gwyneira Brahma, Dave Munro**



**Best Restricted – Jeff & Sandy Veling,
Bernie Plath & Sharon Dyball**

Other Club Competition Winners from UBC

BAWA NOVICE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 1st – Aaron Oskay & Trish Christy

2nd – Jo & Nat Wright

3rd – Mike Bennett & Derek Dorward

2026 Metro GNOT Final – 2nd Tuya Cooke, Tad & Beata Bieganski, Andrew Swider

MANDURAH WINTER CONGRESS Welcome Pairs – 1st Yulia Koh & Miriam O'Brien

SPBC WINTER CONGRESS

Open Pairs Qualifying – 1st E/W David Fowler &

Tad Bieganski 2nd N/S Tuya Cooke & Susanne Gammon

Open Pairs Plate – 3rd Jenny Skinner & Judy Havas

NEDLANDS ONE DAY CONGRESS – 3rd Tuya Cooke & Beata Bieganski

BAYSWATER CONGRESS



Open Pairs Qualifying – 3RD Jane Adams & Katrina Adams



Open Pairs Final – 2nd Miriam O'Brien & Jan Berg



2nd Bruce Penhey & Dawn Duly



Novice Pairs Outright - 2nd David Saunders & Aaron Oskay

Open Pairs Qualifying – 3RD Jane Adams & Katrina Adams

Open Pairs Final – 2nd Miriam O'Brien & Jan Berg

Open Pairs Plate – 1st Jamie Luxton & Yulia Koh

2nd Bruce Penhey & Dawn Duly

Novice Pairs Outright - 2nd David Saunders & Aaron Oskay

AUSTRALIA WIDE OPEN PAIRS

Club 1st N/S Mario Rubanathan & Zbigniew Tuleja

1st E/W Jairo Giraldo & Joe Peci

2nd N/S Myrna Suttner & Marilyn Atkins

2nd E/W Janet Khaw & Colleen Stone



Australia Wide Ranking- 5th Jairo Giraldo & Joe Peci

JOAN PRINCE MEMORIAL SWAN RIVER SWISS – Best Restricted Miriam O'Brien &

Yulia Koh

70% Club

William & Wendy Morgan	70.5%	Wednesday Arvo B Section 1 st July
Ivan Petrovic & Peter C Stephenson	72.5%	Thursday Night 2 nd July
Aaron Oskay & Jan Berg	70.0%	Monday Arvo 6 th July
David Fowler & Tad Bieganski	71.0%	Thursday Night 9 th July
Brian & Carol Fensome	70.5%	Saturday Arvo 1 st Aug
Diane Tilvern & Derek Dorward	70.0%	Thursday Night 6 th August
Wendy & William Morgan	76.5%	Wednesday Arvo 12 th August
Pauline Robinson & Sue Grapiglia	70.2%	Wednesday Arvo 19 th August
Joe Peci & Chris Ross	70.7%	Monday Arvo 24 th August
Sally Jowett & Liz McTaggart	72%	Friday Arvo Section B 4 th Sept
Gill & Ross Blakey	72.7%	Saturday Arvo 12 th Sept

GRAND SLAMS

Jerry Vise & Joan Adams	7NT W	Friday Arvo C Section 24 th July
Enid Ginbey & Diana Martin	7NT E	Friday Arvo C Section 24 th July
Kayoko Bredemeyer & Gillian Elder	7NT E	Friday Arvo C Section 24 th July
Mike Mahon & Brian Kaye	7NT E	Friday Arvo C Section 24 th July
Aaron Oskay & Jan Berg	7NT N	Monday Arvo Section A 3 rd August
John Beddow & Peter McCann	7NT S	Tuesday Arvo 11 th August
Aaron Oskay & Chris Jenkins	7NT N	Friday Arvo Section A 11 th Sept
Ivan Petrovic & Jane Adams	7NT N	Monday Arvo Section A 21 st Sept

THANKS TO JANE ADAMS FOR THIS ARTICLE - FALSE ALERT!

Ford checked the weather on his laptop, using one of the few sites the firewall still allowed. Mobile phones weren't permitted down here, so he couldn't use his favourite weather app—the one with the little animated man who trudged across the screen under an umbrella or, on rare occasions, in sunglasses.

It was raining, of course. This was England, after all, and Ford had long since grown accustomed to both the drizzle and the isolation that came with his job as Head of the Office of National Security.

On his desk sat a bright red folder with “URGENT” written in large black letters across the top. Inside, he knew, was information that would either guarantee his organisation's funding for another five years or condemn it to a quiet dissolution, its budget carved up and reallocated to the more fashionable acronyms: MI5, MI6 and GCHQ.

He opened the folder and regarded the contents. The top document was a report from his lead analyst, compiled using their latest artificial intelligence enhancement. Despite some misgivings by his deputy about the accuracy of some of the AI's output, Ford trusted the data implicitly. Originally designed to make sense of garbled telephone intercepts and partial recordings, the system was now being used to capture and reconstruct conversations taking place near compromised Google Home and Alexa devices—a capability the Home Secretary had publicly denied existed.

How these devices had come to be “compromised” was a sensitive political issue—one that his effective boss, the Home Secretary, often reminded him of. Nevertheless, casting the net wide for data to feed into the system had already produced several notable successes, none of which had been made public for fear that investigative reporters might sniff out the story lurking behind them.

Ford needed one more success. Preferably a high-profile one.

He started reading the report, which had been categorised as significant intelligence on an organised crime group (OCG) operating out of Perth, Western Australia—technically one of the UK's allies, but they would never see this information.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT – AI-ASSISTED ANALYSIS

Subject: Organised Crime Group (OCG), Perth, Western Australia

Source: AI reconstruction of compromised smart-device audio

The OCG appears to be using Perth as a low-profile base for international operations involving the shipment of drugs, assassinations and political interference across the globe. They use a simple code system when discussing drugs but are relatively straightforward when talking about specific deals, murders that have taken place, and their interactions with key players inside and outside the organisation.

Drug code system

When referring to drugs we have determined they are using the following code:

- **Clubs** – Cocaine
- **Diamonds** – Downers (benzodiazepines, barbiturates, etc.)
- **Hearts** – Heroin
- **Spades** – Speed (amphetamines or methamphetamine)

There are indications of competition, and the OCG appears to have to “bid” for drug deals.

When they make a purchase, they use the verb “made” followed by the quantity in kilograms. For example, “I made 4 clubs” is a 4-kilo purchase of cocaine.”

We have been unable to determine what their term “no trumps” means, but it is clearly a commodity of great value, as many conversations have been recorded in which participants have stated that they would “rather go 3 no trumps than 5 clubs”—obviously preferring three kilos of whatever “no trumps” denotes, than five kilos of cocaine.

It seems that the quality of the product “no trumps” is not consistent however, as there have been several mentions of “unusual no trump” as well as “wide ranging no trump”, phrases that have not been heard associated with any of the other drugs and likely denote distinct grades or variants.

The OCG seem to be aware of their security, as there have been numerous mentions of being “vulnerable” and requiring caution in their bidding wars.

Numerous names keep occurring and we are checking with other agencies to see if they can be identified:

- Stan Dard – believed to be an American – most of the Group seem to use this supplier.
- Ford Carter-Majors – believed to be English or European – most of the Group don’t have any dealings with this person but others are adamant he is the best.
- Stayman (no first name) – seems to sometimes be controlled by one of the other dealers.
- Blackwood (no first name) – seems to deal in quantities of four no trumps only.
- Gerber (no first name) – seems to be associated with four club (cocaine) deals, pushing for additional bids after an initial 3NT has been made.
- Drury (no first name) – seems to be a bit suspicious of others’ bids and doesn’t get a lot of mentions.
- Bergen (no first name) – seems to be aggressive in their bidding, raising the club (cocaine) and diamond (Downer) bids to higher levels than normal.
- Maltby Tews – a sophisticated dealer but considered not to be very strong, given the many references to “weak Tews”.
- Landy (no first name) – apparently only takes part if the opposition are partaking in no trump deals.

It would also appear that the OCG are also involved in attempting to bid for assassination work, as there are many references to “contracts”, and on one occasion a specific killing was discussed that involved taking out a person called “Dubble”. We have not yet established whether “Dubble” is an alias, codename, or misheard foreign surname.

Additionally, there seems to be some indication of international involvement in government overthrows, yet to be confirmed but flagged for other agencies:

- Vienna Coup – Austrian intelligence informed.
- Bath Coup – Home Secretary already informed.
- Deschappelles Coup – still trying to identify the person involved, possibly a French national.

As far as locations are concerned, we are confident that much of the activity takes place on a regular basis at a venue called “The Club”. We are trying to get a better understanding of what type of club this might be but assume it is a bar or nightclub based on conversations to date, though occasional references to “tables” and “partners” may indicate a gambling establishment.

Of particular concern is the occasional reference to a club at Swanbourne, which we have separately determined is home to Australian Special Air Services regiment, suggesting either awareness of or proximity to military personnel.

Ford sat back in his chair and thought about his next move. What he needed was a high-profile success story based on this AI tool that he could take to the Home Secretary and potentially the Foreign Secretary, given his influence over the Prime Minister.

He picked up the secure phone on his desk and pressed a button labelled “Head of Defence Forces”. After a few rings a strong male voice answered with “Barlow”.

“John, it’s Ford,” Ford began. “I have a job for Special Forces—who do we have in the APAC region?”

“I have two teams on standby in Jakarta,” replied Barlow.

“Good. I’m still confirming the location, but I’m potentially looking at a significant operation Western Australia. Our intelligence suggests the best time to go in is in the afternoon or at a weekend. It’s a club house; home to a large group of people who are all involved in some very nasty activities.” He paused. “Let’s call it ‘Operation Undercroft’.”

There was a brief silence on the line.

“Understood,” Barlow said. “I’ll get the teams ready. We’ll await coordinates.”

THANKS TO JOHN FOR THE ARTICLE - DIRECTOR!

‘To Call Or Not To Call; That Is The Question.’

Bridge is a funny game. It must be the only game in the world which, although it is played very competitively at all levels, and is controlled by some very far reaching and exact (?) rules and regulations, the literally millions of players involved, are not expected to know all the rules. Let me say that again, because this is so unique to the game that we play and love. **“The Players are not expected to know all the rules!”**

So how do we manage? Simply, we get to know enough of the rules to let us get on with the important things in life, like when to deal, how to score, how to prepare a good defence for ourselves in the Postmortems etc, and we appoint ‘experts’ to look after us. After all, who wants to have to wade through a very dry and sometimes convoluted rule book when our main object in life is to just win tricks.

Now all things being equal, (and whenever has that happened?) we would all accept the fact that we don’t know or need to know, all the rules, and so call the Director whenever an infraction, or possible infraction of the rules has occurred at the table. The Director would come along, assess the situation, quickly and succinctly give a verdict, and direct how the auction or play is to continue, then advise all members of their possible future rights or limitations in this particular situation. We as the players would heave a sigh of relief, because now we can get on with the game and not have to clutter our minds with archaic rules etc, and everyone would be happy. Yes? Unfortunately, and Alas and Alack, No! There is a strong perception amongst nearly all bridge players that if your opponents call the Director this is tantamount to being accused of cheating. **Nothing could be further from the truth.**

Let us reflect for a moment. There are 93 different laws governing all procedures for the play of the game. Over 80% of these laws have at least 4 sub sections to them, and some have as many as 8 or more sub sections. For example, one of the most common infractions is the Revoke. This is covered by no less than four laws containing a total of 23 sub sections! Do we really expect players to know all the different nuances and ramifications regarding the revoke? Of course not. After all, **“The Players are not expected to know all the rules!”** But we do expect the Director to know. Which is why we called him/her in the first place? An interesting point is that when the Director is called to the table to sort out a revoke, or a lead out of turn etc, neither the offender or the non-offenders ever consider that cheating has occurred. But if the Director is called

after, say a hesitation, the atmosphere at the table invariably deteriorates into that often encountered at high level diplomatic meetings when suspicion and skulduggery abound, and the players involved are busier trying to justify either calling the Director or defending their actions. In short, a call for the Director in these circumstances is perceived as an accusation of cheating. At the risk of repeating myself; **Nothing could be further from the truth.**

Remember we agreed that it is much more beneficial for 'experts' to have to sit down and study and learn the rules rather than have to be bothered ourselves. Well, let's consider a common situation. We are in a position where because of a possible infraction of the rules, although we are not totally sure which rule and how it applies, we may be disadvantaged. Remember that word 'disadvantaged' it is important. What do we do about it? Well in some sports, say AFL, you might wait until the referee is looking the other way, and then thump the bloke who did this to you. In cricket you might wait for the right opportunity and send down a vicious bouncer. In netball you might accidentally stamp on your opponent's foot. In darts you might miss the board and accidentally spear your opponent. (Don't laugh, I've seen it happen) In bridge you should (by law) call the Director. Why? Well because duplicate bridge especially, is played by many people at the same time. Should you decide not to call the director, but to 'grin and bear it' you may have put yourself in a position that you have not only allowed yourself to be disadvantaged, (there's that word again) but also all the other pairs in the room. Because of course we do not play against one pair, but against several pairs. Therefore the 'misfortune of the one is the misfortune of the many'. So we call the Director, not to accuse anyone of cheating, but merely to clarify a potentially complex situation to the benefit of all, because: **"The Players are not expected to know all the rules!"**

This brings me onto my next point. How do we call the Director? Well shouting "Director" at the top of your voice, which is dripping with malice and overtones of being unfairly wronged, is definitely a No No! In fact, Law 74 states quite specifically that: *'As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from summoning the Director in a manner discourteous to him or other contestants.'* So how do we do call without offending anyone or giving, quite unintentionally of course, the notion that we are accusing anyone of cheating. Because that is the last thing on our mind, isn't it! By far the best attitude to take, is to calmly, and without fuss, advise everyone at the table that something has happened that needs to be clarified and you intend to call the Director to sort it out. As an example, if you think there has been a suspected revoke, then merely say something like: "I'm not sure, but I think there may have been a revoke by South, so I'm going to call the Director to find out." You then call the Director in a pleasant voice merely sufficiently loud enough for him/her to hear. Likewise in a more complex situation like a hesitation, it is surely better to say: "Look, I don't know what I'm supposed to do here so I'm going to call the Director to find out." Again, you call the Director in a pleasant voice. This sort of attitude accomplishes several things: Firstly you have managed to keep the atmosphere around the table below boiling point, secondly you have established yourself as a considerate and well-mannered person, thirdly you have protected not only your rights, but also every other players' rights, including the possible offender, fourthly you have ensured the session will not be disrupted by a possible heart attack following violently stressful claims and counter claims, and fifthly you have added a bit of interest to the Director's normally boring existence. And anyway: **"The Players are not expected to know all the rules!"**

When the Director gets to the table, whoever has called him/her should quite simply state what the perceived problem is without any sort of histrionics or baleful body language. After all, as we have noted several times before, **"The Players are not expected to know all the rules!"** therefore mistakes will happen and players may be disadvantaged. And let us be fixed in our own mind about this. Bridge players make mistakes. Bridge players do not cheat. When the Director arrives, the other players at the table must not interrupt and try and get their own views across, otherwise the situation will rapidly sink to the level of Federal Parliament where the loudest voice tends to dominate. After the Director has listened to the person who called, he/she will normally ask for input from the other players and will then make a decision. Whatever decision is made – even if you think it is wrong - accept it in good grace and get on with the game. If you think you have been dealt with harshly or wrongly, you do have the opportunity to appeal at the end of the session.

Remember, the Director is there to protect all players from their own ignorance of the Laws (**"The Players are not expected to know all the rules!"**) and to prevent players being disadvantaged. This means all the players in the session, and not just the ones at the table. The overriding principle that the Director follows is not to punish offenders, but to eliminate any disadvantage that may have occurred by 'Restoring Equity'. So please, next time you are in a situation that **may have** disadvantaged some pairs, be pleasant to your opponents,

call the Director in as gentle a manner as possible, accept his/her ruling graciously, and get on with the game with the minimum of disruption. The only 'highs' you want at the table are points and successful plays. Not blood pressure!

Lastly, please remember the Golden Rule of Life:

'TREAT OTHER PEOPLE AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO TREAT YOU'

(Including Bridge Players)

John Beddow

Happy 80th Birthday Lorraine



*The group at the Kingsley Tavern celebrating
Lorraine's birthday in August.*

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please forward contributions to the newsletter such as photos
from a significant birthday, holiday, an interesting story or Bridge hand,

to Sharon Dyball at

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